

**ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR LIBERATA
MULAMULA, THE NOMINATED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES
REGION, NAIROBI 15TH DECEMBER 2006**

**Your Excellency Mwai Kibaki,
President of the Republic of Kenya and Chairperson of the
International Conference on the Great Lakes Region,**

**Your Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the Outgoing Chair
of the Conference,**

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Excellencies

I must admit that I am overwhelmed! I am overwhelmed by the trust and confidence you have bestowed upon me and my country, the United Republic of Tanzania. But, I want to assure all of you that this is the trust and confidence I will never Betray. With the profound gratitude of my country, I accept with humility, the post of Executive Secretary of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region.

Excellencies,

By choosing Tanzania to nominate the first Executive Secretary, you have not only honoured us but also placed an enormous challenge upon us. Allow me to reiterate my country's pledge and commitment to work with Member States and everybody who is associated with this process to yield positive and effective results. We

can either prosper together or sink together. But prosperity is the only option for the Region.

We are therefore all bound by imperative need to embark on transformation and modernization of our Region to overcome poverty and backwardness in the spirit of togetherness. In so doing we can collectively ensure the prevalence of sustainable peace, security, stability and development in the Region.

Excellencies,

You may wish to recall that this process has all along been undertaken as a collective endeavor. I would like therefore to thank most sincerely my colleagues, the National Coordinators, the Group of Friends and the Joint AU/UN Secretariat for their strong dedication to the process and hard work leading to the convening of this Summit. I count on their continued support and cooperation.

Equally I seize this opportunity to thank my immediate family especially my caring and good husband whose support for my work has brought me this far, to my children who have sacrificed a lot for my long and frequent absences as I traveled from capital to capital pursuing this noble process. As a true African daughter, it will be a remiss if I do not recognize the support of my extended family.

I have the honour to pay tribute to my mentor, His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete for believing in me, for trusting me and giving me the opportunity to be seen and recognized.

I thank my sister Hon. Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro for her leadership and encouragement. To my colleagues in the Tanzania Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the dedicated members of our National Preparatory Committee, I am greatly indebted to you for your unrelenting support.

Excellencies,

I pledge to serve you and work with you in meeting the challenges ahead in the greater interest of the Region. I will not hesitate to come to you for guidance and I hope you will keep your doors open for me.

Excellencies,

You have given us a Dar es Salaam Declaration, we now have a peace Pact, we have Programs of Action, Projects and Protocols, we have a Follow-up Mechanism, which you have now put in place; So, what remains for us is to get to work to translate these landmark and documents into deeds. And, get to work we Shall!

I thank you for your kind attention.

**ASANTE SANA
I THANK YOU
JE VOUS REMERCIE
MUITO OBLIGADO
SHUKRAN JAHZILAN!**