

**WELCOMING REMARKS OF MS. NURU MILLAO THE DEPUTY PERMANENT  
SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM TO  
WELCOME THE HON. EZEKIEL MAIGE (MP) MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND TOURISM AT THE OPENING OF UNWTO REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR FOR  
EAST AFRICA ON TOURISM POLICY AND STRATEGY,**

**SEA CLIFF HOTEL DAR ES SALAAM,**

**12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2011**

**Hon. Ezekiel Maige (MP)** Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism,

**Mr. Helder Tomas**, Deputy Director, Programme for Africa (UNWTO),

**Mr. Steve Noakes** Seminar facilitator from THEMIS UNWTO,

**Mr. Adrien Chatenay** Seminar facilitator from THEMIS UNWTO,

**Seminar Participants from participating countries,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**All protocols observed,**

**Good morning,**

May I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the official opening of UNWTO Regional Training Seminar for East Africa on Tourism Policy and Strategy.

**Honourable Minister**, It is a great honor and privilege for Tanzania to the UNWTO Seminar on Tourism Policy and Strategy for East African countries. I wish to thank you for working together with UNWTO to bring this Seminar to Tanzania. I extend my appreciation to staff who worked tirelessly both at the UNWTO and in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to make sure that this Seminar takes place with great success.

**Honourable Minister**, We are all appreciating the good work of UNWTO towards tourism development. The UNWTO has been in fore front to assist member states in various tourism matters such as provision of technical and financial support. In terms of technical support, Tanzania has benefited from two projects of Sustainable Tourism for Eliminating Poverty (STEP) initiatives.

**Honourable Minister**, This is a third seminar to be conducted in Tanzania in collaboration with UNWTO. The first seminar was on Tourism and Poverty

Alleviation held in 2003 and the second was on Sustainable Tourism Development in 2006. Both seminars were held in Arusha.

**Honourable Minister,** This regional seminar on Tourism Policy and Strategy is being attended by 60 participants from Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Sudan and Tanzania. The trainers are from UNWTO and THEMIS particularly from Spain, Australia and Reunion. Participants from Tanzania are coming from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government (Regions and districts that have employed Tourism Officers) and other relevant stakeholders from different parts of the country.

**Honourable Minister,** The objective of this seminar on tourism policy and strategy for East Africa is to enable participants to acquire skills and share experience on policy formulation, development of strategies to deliver on the results of development of sound tourism industry. It is my hope that, presentations, field trips and group discussions during the seminar will shade lights to some of the challenges facing the industry in our destinations.

**Honourable Minister,** With these few remarks, it is my honour to welcome you to officially open this Seminar.