

## Opening Speech During the Launch of the Conference

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The Acting Chairperson of IRDP Governing Council, Ms. Mugabe Mtani; The Lord Mayor of Dodoma City, Honourable Prof. Davis Mwamfupe; Dodoma City Director, Mr. Godwin Kunambi; The Acting Rector of IRDP, Prof. Hozen K. Mayaya; Key note Speakers from around the world; Presenters of various papers; Delegates of this International Conference; Members of the Press; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning.

It is my pleasure to be here for this important occasion of launching this International Conference on Planning and Development. I understand that for these three days, you will have an intensive discussion on issues related to *Industrialization in the Global South, focusing on Making Rural Regions Inclusive*. I congratulate you for this brilliant idea of pioneering the thinking on how we can make the rural population integral part of our efforts to industrialize.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am particularly pleased that IRDP has decided to convene this International Conference on Planning and Development to provide a forum where issues of mainstreaming rural people in our industrialization strategies can be discussed. Indeed, as mentioned earlier by the IRDP Acting Rector in the recent past many policy and academic discussions on industrialization have been undertaken in Africa and within Tanzania; but their focus were not so much on the dimension of this Conference. This means that the contribution of this conference should not be taken for granted. Many African Governments, including the fifth phase Government

of Tanzania has decided to embark on Industrialization as means to achieve their development goals for the betterment of their citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen, no one will deny the fact that majority of citizens in the global south; Tanzania inclusive resides in rural regions. Thus, your gathering in a conference like this to discuss on how the majority of these citizens can be an integral part of the direction we are heading to as nations; is of paramount importance. I argue you delegates to put your heads together; strive to provide us with useful insights on how the majority of citizens can be made active actors in the industrialization process.

Ladies and gentlemen, the selection of your sub-themes, as outlined by the IRDP Acting Rector gives me comfort that you are going to have comprehensive discussions on the key elements that support industrialization project. Your focus on appropriate planning practices; the question of land and industries spatial dimension; the question of production, market, and distribution; and the sociology of industrialization, is indeed multi-dimensional and potential for coming up with resolutions that will inform our current policies and strategies.

These sub-themes further reflect the true meaning of industrialization, which if I am to use words of one of the academician (Wen, 2016) “*Industrialization is not only a revolutionary change in mode of production at the firm level, but also an endeavour of state building. It requires the greatest coordination of all social classes and interest groups and the mobilization of all grassroots population (especially the peasants)*” End of quote.

It is my sincere hope that through various presentations and discussions organized under the four themes; this conference will contribute to a creation of appropriate model for coordinating all social groups and of mobilizing all grassroots population to play their part in the industrialization process.

Ladies and gentlemen, I may not be very certain of how other governments in the global south are committed to the inclusion of rural people in the industrialization process; but I want to assure you that Tanzania Government has and will never do it without the consideration of the rural populations. Since independence, through various slogans such as “freedom is work” (*Uhuru ni kazi*) to our “African socialism” (*Ujamaa*) and the current emphasis on hard working (*Hapa kazi tu*) we see no option other than working with all segments of our society. Nevertheless, this is not to ignore the fact that; there is a need for us to promote increase of private sector and rural households’ involvement in investment, trade, and industrial development.

This is the reason I consider this conference an important avenue for providing inputs for improvement of our industrialization strategy. The Tanzania Government is always ready to receive technical advice to improve her policies and strategies.

Therefore, I take this opportunity to argue you to use this forum effectively to provide proper direction on among others, the appropriate ways to engage the Private Sector and Foreign Direct Investment in the current industrialization process. The appropriate model for operating cooperative societies; ways of improving small industries development; best practices on business development services; and the best ways to emancipate majority of our rural populations from the subsistence world view.

Ladies and gentlemen, I understand that this International Conference is set to produce four different outcomes; Policy brief, Conference proceedings, Special issues, and Online poster book. It is my hope that these outcomes will not remain on papers, instead deliberate efforts will be made to ensure that all targeted actors are furnished with their respective recommendations. I therefore, argue the organizers to design a strategy for wider dissemination of the conference outcomes in various forms; including hard and soft copies.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me wind up with a word of thanks. I know that this International Conference is a result of joint efforts of so many people here in Tanzania and beyond. I acknowledge the diversity of participants attending this conference who have come from various institutions and nations that come from different stages of industrialization. I understand that in this conference, there are researchers and teaching staff at universities; Non-Governmental Organizations, and other civil society movements; representatives from international and national development; interested in rural development, urban-rural linkages, and land issues. I understand you are busy persons who have foregone pending issues at your desks

and decided to come and join us in rethinking the mainstreaming of rural populations in the industrialisation process. Actually, as I said earlier, it is not that the rural people had not been included in the industrialisation processes, but it's time we need to see that they receive their optimum attention and become equal beneficiaries in the whole process of industrialization.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I close my remarks, I wish to challenge IRDP that it is my sincere hope that this is just the beginning. I hope you will continue with the culture of preparing such scholarly and policy related conferences. With this note, I am, therefore waiting for another invitation to launch another conference of this kind. I must admit that my knowledge on IRDP usefulness and expertise has increased ever since I was invited to this conference, I, therefore, guarantee my full support and collaboration with IRDP, and I assure you that I will be one of your ambassadors wherever I find opportunity to talk about your potentials.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, once again I appreciate your attendance to this important event. With these remarks, it is my honour and privilege to declare that the 2018 International Conference on Planning and Development under the theme "*Towards Industrialization in the Global South: Making Rural Regions Inclusive*" is officially launched.

Thank you and God bless you.