

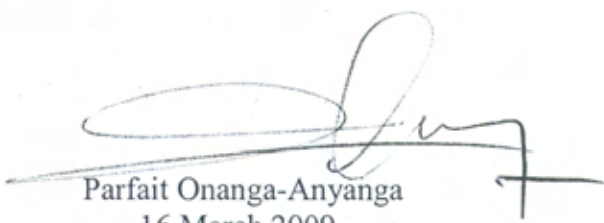
ODSG

Barlet  
John

**Note to Mr. Nambiar**

Re: Deputy Secretary-General's visit to Dar-Es-Salaam

1. Please find attached copies of news articles covering the Deputy Secretary-General's visit to Dar-Es-Salaam from Monday 9 to Friday 13 March 2009 where she attended the "Changes - Successful Partnership for Africa's Growth Challenge" meeting jointly convened by the Government of Tanzania and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. The unofficial transcript of the Deputy Secretary-General's press Conference with local and international news agencies, held on Thursday 12 March 2009, is also attached for ease of reference.
3. It is worth noting that the Deputy Secretary-General's interaction with the press was instrumental in clarifying the rotation in the leadership at United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON).



Parfait Onanga-Anyanga  
16 March 2009

cc: Mr. Akasaka  
Mr. Kim  
Mr. Meyer  
Ms. Montas  
Ms. Okabe





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**UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE UN DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL, ASHA-ROSE MIGIRO PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DAR ES SALAAM, 12 MARCH 2009, AT 1000 HOURS.**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The press conference started with a word of welcome from the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Mustapha Mkulo, who gave a short bio of the UNDSG and welcomed her to address the media.

The UNDSG started by giving a short brief of her visit in the country which included:

- Her attendance at the IMF-Tanzania Conference on Africa where she gave a keynote address. She gave a brief breakdown of the key message in her keynote speech.
- Courtesy call on President Kikwete, where they discussed national, regional and global issues. The UNDSG expressed the UN Secretary-General's profound gratitude to the Government and people of Tanzania for the warm welcome they accorded him and his delegation when he visited the country a few weeks ago. She also discussed with the President on the importance to continue to ensure the country strives to attain the MDGs even at this time of a global financial crisis. She added that with the Delivering as One initiative (DAO) in progress in this country, Tanzania had a unique opportunity to attain the MDGs. The killings of people with albinism was also among issues discussed with the President, who assured the UN that the government was determined to stop the killings.
- Meeting with the Vice President, Dr Mohamed Shein and Minister of State (environment), Dr Batilda Burian. Where she discussed various environmental issues including climate change. The Vice president for example said the country had started to feel the impact of climate change with unreliable rainfall. They discussed the country's strategy to respond to climate change.
- Meeting with the Minister of Finance to discuss the effects of global financial crisis to the country. The Government assured her that in the coming budget, agriculture would be given priority as well as the Ministry of Gender and Children to ensure economic empowerment for women.

**QUESTIONS:**

On the ICC warrant of arrest on President Al Bashir, Africa's perspective is very clear that it does not support this indictment. The Africans even have a different view from the ICC and believe what President (George) Bush of USA did in Afghanistan and Iraq is more serious than what is happening in Darfur. It seems that the ICC is biased because the issue in Darfur involves an African President! What is your view on the African stance? Do you agree with Africa's view that Al Bashir should be left free?



**ANSWER:**

The UN and the Secretary-General acknowledges the independence and authority of ICC. ICC is not part of the UN, it is an independent entity. The SG has called upon the Sudanese President and his government to cooperate with the ICC. The UN will continue with its mission in Sudan which includes humanitarian and peacekeeping efforts. The SG has called for assurance of the safety and security of all the people working in Darfur. The UN believes that justice and peace go together and this should also apply to the situation in Sudan.

**QUESTION:**

Why has the SG replaced Prof Tibaijuka as head of UNON? I have seen a number of correspondences by UN staff in Nairobi who have complained about this and an underground syndicate trying to remove Prof. Tibaijuka. Taking into consideration that she was the only woman who was heading a UN office outside the UN HQ and that she has indeed done a good job there, why was she removed and replaced by a junior officer compared to her?

**ANSWER:**

Prof Tibaijuka is the Executive Director of UN\_HABITAT. When the UNSG made this change, he wrote a letter to her and thanked her for a job well done at UNON. The SG has put mobility and rotation especially for senior officers as his policy. Nairobi has two UN agencies, UNEP and UN-HABITAT, and he decided to rotate the two heads. The UNSG will continue to rotate officials in other offices.

**QUESTION:**

When the UNSG was in Tanzania, he expressed his worry that if the ICC warrant was issued it might delay the peace process, jeopardize the security there and affect humanitarian efforts that are on going on in Darfur. Now that some humanitarian groups have been expelled, do you see the peace and security situation deteriorating? Are UN troops there at risk? What kind of support are you expecting from Arab and African nations like Tanzania for their push to at least get the delay of this warrant from the Security Council?

**ANSWER**

The SG recognizes the authority of ICC. It is an independent institution. When the whole process started the SG did engage with the Sudanese government and President Al Bashir, in bilateral talks and even through UN officials who have been interacting with the government. He told them that if the ICC was going to issue this warrant, then the Sudanese government should cooperate and ensure that the objective of the warrant was met. But we also recognize that the UN has a big presence in Sudan both in terms of the peacekeeping mission and humanitarian groups, and that their security and civilians' would not be put at risk. So far that has happened. The President had assured the SG that the security of these people would not be at risk. I am aware that the Arab league of states and the African Union have maintained a position on this, but it is the view of the UN that peace and security should go together and that there should be no sequencing. Peace itself depends very much on justice, so the two go together. As to what support the Arab league and AU will get, this depends on the decision of the Security Council because this is a matter of member states, In 2005 the Security Council, through resolution 1593 referred the situation in Darfur to the Prosecutor of the ICC.

### QUESTION

On President Al Bashir again, I want to know for sure if the UN supports the ICC warrant. Do you then still recognize him as the legitimate President of Sudan? If you don't recognize him, what are you telling the African countries whose stance is that a sitting President cannot be served with such a warrant and so they will not help in arresting him during his visit to their countries? What strategy does the ICC have to arrest him but also ensuring that peace is not at risk in Sudan? Secondly, yesterday in your keynote speech you challenged developed countries to honor their commitments to Africa but even African countries themselves have failed to honour their Maputo agreement which calls upon them to increase their agriculture budget to 10 percent. Tanzania has only allocated 6 percent. What are you telling these African countries?

### ANSWER

On Sudan I repeat that the UN recognizes the independence of ICC, This court is not part of the UN but we recognize its authority. Sudan has a responsibility to ensure that it complies with the ICC and respect Security Council resolution 1593. All member states by virtue of this resolution are also obliged to comply with ICC decisions. On agriculture, the Minister here has assured me that they will keep on increasing the agriculture budget. Maybe he can explain further to you. Our call to African countries has always been to encourage them to increase investment in agriculture because one of the most critical challenges that the continent is facing is shortage of food and this affects other sectors like education, health and productivity. The 1<sup>st</sup> Goal in the MDGs might not be attained if there is no investment in agriculture. The SG has formed a high level Task force on Food and as I said in my speech yesterday, the Task force has already given out its recommendation on how to revive the agricultural sector. Our emphasis is that African countries must continue to increase investment in the agricultural sector. The Minister briefed us on the strategies that the government has on this area, and I am sure you will hear more about this during the budget session.

### QUESTION

On ICC again, some permanent members of the Security Council are not part of the Rome Statute and do not want their citizens to be prosecuted by the ICC even if they commit serious offenses like mass murder. But the same countries have now been on the fore front to support the ICC warrant against President Al Bashir. Don't you think this is double standards in international law and this actually diminishes the moral voice of the UN?

Secondly, IMF has been blamed for discriminative economic prescription to poor countries. Even when countries pull up their socks to meet their target and conditions, still their treatment depends on what extent a country is favoured or not favoured by influential nations. The burden to poor countries has continued to be heavy, and they are the same people who have organized the just ended meeting in here (Dar es Salaam) to advise Africa on how to fight the global crunch. Do you really think Africa will succeed in its efforts under these double standard rules of IMF?

### QUESTION

On the ICC, the day when the warrant was issued, I heard an interview of the Sudan Permanent Representative to the UN through BBC who said that they don't recognize ICC, but the UN was calling upon the Sudanese government to cooperate with the ICC. So how can they cooperate with an institution that they do not recognize? Do you think this warrant will bring any change to Sudan or it will just fuel chaos?

### QUESTION

When you were appointed to this new post (UN DSG) you promised that one of your priorities would be to push UN member states to abolish capital punishment in their countries. How far have you gone on this?



## QUESTION

On Security Council permanent membership and Africa's representation, why does Africa, which has more than 50 countries, not have a permanent seat in the Security Council? How does the UN view this?

Back to ICC, you are now talking about security of peacekeepers and humanitarian groups in Darfur but we now know that some humanitarian groups have been expelled from Sudan. How is the UN helping victims of this humanitarian crisis that has been a result of this warrant?

## ANSWERS

On ICC questions that all three of you have asked I would like to say the following. As I have said earlier, the importance of ensuring that the warrant is implemented is a result of two facts. First; there are countries who are party to the Rome Statute which resulted in the establishment of the ICC. These have an absolute mandate to implement the ICC orders. But there are other countries which are not party to Rome Statute like Sudan, but these are UN members and by virtue of that they are bound to comply with Security Council resolutions, among them is resolution 1593 which referred the situation in Darfur to the ICC Prosecutor who later gathered evidence which resulted in this warrant against President Al Bashir. So since this matter originated from the Security Council then UN member states, including Sudan, are obliged to comply with it.

On IMF; I want to say that there have been significant changes in terms of attitude and operations of these international financial institutions- IMF, the World Bank and other UN institutions dealing with the economy. In the past these international financial institutions were behaving like doctors who only come in when a patient is in critical condition. But now, these institutions have changed their operation style; they sit with a needy country, review together strategies, plans and policies to ensure that they have in place effective strategies and policies that can assure economic growth. They have discovered that prevention is better than cure; this is very different from how they used to operate in the past. IMF also has established a Shocks facility fund that aims to assist countries that are in need.

Also IMF together with the World Bank are now mobilizing funds in order to help with challenges facing poor countries and to put in place mechanisms that will assure easy accessibility of the funds by poor countries. We see how the WB is in the front line in dealing with various global crises including the food crisis. All this shows how these institutions have changed.

On Security Council representation, there has been on going discussion about this issue especially to ensure Africa's representation on key institutions including international financial institutions like the World Bank among others. This shows that Africa's voice is being heard and we are on the right track. African leaders have been leading this way by negotiating with key leaders. On Africa's representation in the Security Council, there is a clear Africa stance on this issue as per the Ezwilini Agreement which calls upon a specific number of Africa's representation in the Security Council permanent seats and also in the rotational ones. The General Assembly (GA) President has appointed a team to look into that issue of Security Council representation where Africa and other continents' needs will all be looked at as part of an effort to reform the Security Council.

On expelled humanitarian groups in Sudan, we are saddened by the move and the SG has called upon the Sudanese government to reverse that decision since the humanitarian support is needed in Sudan. It is our hope that the Sudanese government will take this plea seriously.

On Capital punishment, I don't remember making that promise, but nevertheless, the GA has passed a resolution that calls upon member states to suspend implementation of any pending executions. This was because there are diverse views on this issue. There are countries which are supporting capital punishment and others that are against it. So the consensus among member states for now is to temporarily suspend implementation of any executions until an agreement is reached.

*The press conference was concluded by a vote of thanks from the UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Oscar Fernandez Taranco.*

## **Interview - UN poverty goals key as crisis hits poor**

Reuters. [Interview]. Lesley Wroughton 03/12/2009.

Interview with U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rosa Migiro

DAR ES SALAAM, March 12 (Reuters) - The U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals was an ambitious agenda for reducing global poverty from the day it was endorsed in 2000, critics say, and may now appear altogether unrealistic as the world grapples with the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

Not true says U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rosa Migiro. If anything, the goals, which include halving global poverty by 2015, have become more important to protect the world's poor from the effects of the global crisis, Migiro said.

So far, no country in Africa is on track to reach all of the MDGs on health, education, poverty eradication, human rights, equality and the environment.

"The MDGs were supposed to have a focused roadmap towards achieving sustainable development and they shouldn't be reset," Migiro said in an interview with Reuters on Thursday.

"If anything, they need to be reaffirmed, re-emphasized, because this is a time of crisis and at a time of crisis there really is a risk of people starting to reprioritize."

She said governments needed to have as their vision MDG-based plans and strategies, which would help to mobilize resources.

"Those resources from rich donor nations will be critical to preserving more than a decade of socio-economic gains in Africa where countries are already hard hit by the global economic slowdown affecting demand for their goods."

"The question arising now is, are we likely to get those resources especially for Africa which depends to a large extent on donor support?" said Migiro, who has called on industrial nations to honour repeated promises of increased aid to Africa.

Her call comes as Group of 20 leaders from developed and developing countries prepare to meet in London on April 2 to discuss responses to the global financial crisis.

The crisis has pushed industrial economies -- which are the world's biggest aid givers -- into recession and significantly slowed growth in emerging market countries like China and India.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is expected to press countries not to forget the needs of Africa and to increase resources for the International Monetary Fund, which as the world's lender of last resort is at the frontlines of aiding countries in trouble.



But Migiro said Africa also needs to play its part by putting its house in order, which not only means becoming more accountable to its people but also cutting wasteful spending in its budgets to make more room for investment in health and education.

"They have to reposition themselves and their economies," she said, adding: "Some countries are not making good use of the little that they have." (Reporting by Lesley Wroughton; editing by Katie Nguyen) (For full Reuters Africa coverage and to have your say on the top issues, visit: <http://af.reuters.com/> )



# Migiro seeks to explain Tibaijuka 'demotion' at UN Nairobi office

SAYUNI KIMARO

Dar es Salaam

THE United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Dr Asha-Rose Migiro, yesterday spoke out about the removal of Prof. Anna Tibaijuka as head of the UN office in Nairobi (UNON), describing it as a routine exercise in personnel rotation.

Ms Migiro sought to dismiss widespread suggestions that the move amounted to a demotion of Prof. Tibaijuka sanctioned by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

The UN deputy chief was speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday in the wake of reports, quoting several sources particularly women groups in Nairobi where Ms

Tibaijuka is based, that she was unfairly removed from the post of UNON director general.

According to the reports emanating from the Kenyan capital, certain "powerful individuals with vested interests" conspired to remove Prof. Tibaijuka from the post because of her determination to tackle allegations of corruption and procurement

fraud at the UN's Nairobi office.

The Tanzanian, who still holds her post as executive director of UN-Habitat, is understood to have been questioning serious fraud that appeared related to the construction

...Continues on page 2

PROF. TIBAIJUKA: Still UN-Habitat chief



UN Deputy Secretary General Dr Asha-Rose Migiro addresses a news conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. She is flanked by Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Mustafa Mkulo (right) and the UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania, Oscar Fernandes Taranco.

PHOTO/JOHN BADI

## Migiro seeks to explain Tibaijuka 'demotion' at UN Nairobi office from page 1

of a \$25m project to upgrade the UN headquarters at Girigiri in Nairobi.

However, Dr Migiro yesterday asserted that the replacement of Prof. Tibaijuka as UNON boss was merely part of a UN staff rotation policy introduced by secretary-general Ban. "Before she (Prof. Tibaijuka) was moved, the UN secretary-general wrote to her, acknowledging her impressive contribution and efficiency during her leadership of UNON," said Ms Migiro.

The former Tanzanian foreign affairs minister added that "there was no conspiracy against Prof. Tibaijuka that led to her removal, and what is important is that Ms Tibaijuka continues to serve as executive director of UN-Habitat."

Prof. Tibaijuka is understood to have been replaced as head of UNON by Achim Steiner, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Director in Nairobi, effectively from the beginning of the month (March).

She has been in Nairobi since 2001 when she was appointed to head UN-Habitat, and was in September 2006 named by the then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to also take up the reigns of UNON leadership.

She was the only woman so far appointed to head a major UN duty station, and her tenure as UNON boss was originally to

end in 2010.

Meanwhile, according to Ms Migiro, not a single African country is presently on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

She said the UN and its partners are taking measures to strengthen international support for Africa's development.

"We need to build on these efforts. What we don't need is more promises. According to MDGs Africa steering group, existing commitments are enough to secure the MDGs in Africa. But these commitments must be fulfilled," she insisted. Ms Migiro noted that private external finance has become frozen, leaving African countries with little option but to raise more domestic revenue.

"Unless there is a genuine effort to deliver on existing commitments, further instability and human suffering could result," she said earlier this week in a keynote address to delegates at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) conference in the city. She said there is no need for more aid beyond the \$62bn which the Group of Eight developed countries (G8) have promised to lend to Africa by 2010.

African leaders fear these pledges will be forgotten as developed countries pump billions of dollars into their own economies, in a bid to lift them out of the deepening worldwide recession.

THIS DAY Newspapers

Friday 13 March 2009



# Surrender to ICC, Migiro tells Bashir

She says Sudan president has no option but to cooperate with the court



UN deputy secretary general Asha-Rose Migiro addresses the media in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

**T**op United Nations official Asha-Rose Migiro yesterday called on Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to surrender to the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has issued an arrest warrant for him.

In remarks, in which she broke ranks with the official position of her home country, Tanzania, and many other African states, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General told journalists in Dar es Salaam that Mr Al-Bashir had no option but to co-operate with the court.

She added: "The ICC is not a part of the United Nations Secretariat, but the UN recognises and respects its decisions as a legally instituted authority. Therefore, President Al-Bashir must cooperate with the court."

Speaking at the ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs' Conference Hall, Dr Migiro said the position of the UN was that Mr Al-Bashir was bound by a resolution of the Security Council to comply with the ICC requirement.

Restating a position taken by her boss, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the issue, Dr Migiro said the Sudanese government and other countries must respect the ICC's decision.

She was confident that Mr Al-Bashir would cooperate with the ICC without adversely affecting the ongoing peace process and the humanitarian relief effort in Darfur.

The UN's position also echoes a call by a top Sudanese opposition leader, Dr Hassan al-Turabi, who was detained after calling on Mr Al-Bashir to surrender to the ICC. He was released last week after two months in detention.

Speaking after his release, Dr al-Turabi, 76, said he had not changed his view that the President should give himself up to the international court.

...continued on page 2

PHOTO: FIDELIS FELIX

THE CITIZEN newspaper  
Friday 13 April 2009



# Surrender to ICC, Migiro tells Sudans' Bashir

on page 1

"Of course, no doubt about it," Dr Turabi said at his home, where scores of well-wishers had gathered, adding: "The more justice we have...the more we improve our international relations."

The ICC issued the arrest warrant against President Al-Bashir on March 4, for crimes against humanity in Darfur.

But Khartoum immediately dismissed the move, as thousands of Sudanese poured into the streets in protest. And Mr Al-Bashir's allies, including the African Union and Russia, said the move could further undermine the peace efforts.

Announcing the decision, ICC spokeswoman Laurence Blairon told a press conference: "He (Bashir) is suspected of being criminally responsible for intentionally directing attacks against an important part of the civilian population of Darfur."

The African Union, Tanzania, other African nations, and the Arab League have opposed the bid to arrest Mr Al-

Bashir, warning that it would jeopardise the peace process in the troubled Darfur region in southern Sudan. Tanzania has reiterated its opposition to having the Sudanese President indicted over alleged genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

Last month, Deputy Foreign minister Seif Ali Iddi told reporters that Tanzania would not support the ICC move.

"There are very many problems in Darfur, which the international community ought to immediately address instead of concentrating on plans to arrest the Sudanese leader," he said, adding: "This will not solve the problem."

ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo has accused the Sudanese leader of being the mastermind of the violent campaign in Darfur that has claimed 350,000 lives and displaced 2.5 million people. But Mr Al-Bashir dismisses the allegations, defiantly declaring that the ICC has no jurisdiction over Sudan.

Last October, the Minister for

Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Mr Bernard Membe, told ambassadors and high commissioners in Dar es Salaam that the Tanzanian Government was opposed to the plan to arrest the Sudanese leader.

He said the bid to indict Mr Al-Bashir when the UN was just about to deploy the remaining 17,000 UNAMID forces in Darfur, was ill advised.

For UNAMID to succeed, he added, the full co-operation of the Sudanese leader would be needed.

Since arrest warrant was issued, Mr Al-Bashir has expelled a number of humanitarian aid organisations from Sudan and vowed to throw out more.

Yesterday, Dr Migiro said: "It's disappointing that the Sudanese Government has barred these organisations at a time when the humanitarian effort poses a significant challenge to the country and Darfur region, in particular."

She added: "We hope the Sudanese leader will reconsider his position on peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in his country."

While the African Union and Arab League tried to shield Mr Al-Bashir, Dr Migiro stressed that the UN was for the upholding of peace and justice.

ICC Prosecutor Moreno-Ocampo first sought a warrant to arrest Mr Al-Bashir on July 14, last year.

This followed an investigation into the violence in Darfur, which he launched on June 1, 2005.

More than 300,000 people have been killed, thousands raped, and millions displaced since the armed conflict broke out in Darfur in 2003.

The decision to arrest Mr Al-Bashir was reached by the Pre-Trial Chamber of the ICC last month.

Sudanese Cabinet minister Ahmad Harun and Janjawid militia leader Ali Kushayb also face similar charges.

But the issuing of the arrest warrant against Mr Al-Bashir has triggered diplomatic tension, with African countries and Arab League rallying behind him. States not affiliated to the ICC have also questioned its authority and jurisdiction.

Yesterday, Dr Migiro clarified that all UN member states were bound to implement Resolution No. 1593 (2005).

The resolution, which was adopted by 11 members of the Security Council against four abstentions (Algeria, Brazil, China, and the United States), referred the Darfur conflict to the ICC prosecutor.

The council ruled that Sudanese Government and the other parties to the conflict must cooperate fully with the ICC prosecutor.

Under the same arrangement, the AU is bound to facilitate the court's work, including the possibility of conducting proceedings in the region.

The resolution stresses the need for international cooperation with domestic efforts to promote the rule of law, protect human rights and combat impunity in Darfur.

Dr Turabi, President Bashir's close political and religious ally until a split in 1999-2000, had suggested that President submit to the ICC to save Sudan from sanctions and the political turmoil he feared would follow if he resisted.

## Migiro clarifies Tibaijuka's relegation

By Ezekiel Kamwaga

THE former Director General of the United Nations Offices in Nairobi, Prof Anna Tibaijuka, was replaced as part of a wider and newly-introduced rotation and mobility policy, Dr Asha-Rose Migiro told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Dr Migiro said the policy would be used all over the world and was a brainchild of UN General Secretary Ban Ki-Moon.

"Few days before the decision was announced, Ban Ki-Moon wrote to

Cont. Pg 2

## Migiro clarifies relegation

**From Pg 1** Prof Tibaijuka and told her how the UN was appreciating the marvelous work she had done in Nairobi.

"Around UN circles, Prof Tibaijuka is highly rated and the decision was not based on performance. It was purely on rotation and mobility policy and that is how it is," she told the packed press conference. In the rotation and mobility policy, heads of various UN offices will be heading the office interchangeably as deemed fit by the Secretary General.

Prof Tibaijuka, who is also the Director General of UN-HABITAT, was replaced on March 1, this year by Head of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi Achim Steiner.

Dr Migiro, the second highest

ranked official in the UN, maintained that Tibaijuka's position with UN-HABITAT still made her one of the highest ranked official in the world body.

The replacement was not well received among UN staff in Nairobi and the African diplomatic corps who, it is said, was aware of the move even before it was announced.

A week ago, some UN staff in Nairobi demonstrated openly in the city, protesting the removal of Tibaijuka, who they claimed had done a commendable job since she took over the office in 2006.

Director General of UN at Nairobi office (UNON) is merely a coordinating portfolio and the holder of the office is appointed by UN Secretary General.



# How powerful vested interests schemed to shunt Tibaijuka aside

**SCAPEGOAT:** The irony is that those found to have been named in a \$25m construction project audit are still on board and earning salaries

## NO ROUTINE RESHUFFLE

Certain people were from the start uncomfortable with Mrs Anna Tibaijuka's 2006 appointment to head the UN Office in Nairobi. Picture: Leonard Magomba



By JOHN MBARIA  
Special Correspondent

**T**he removal of Mrs Anna Tibaijuka from the helm of the United Nations establishment in Nairobi was far from being the routine administrative exercise it was claimed to be.

*The EastAfrican* has learnt that certain people had from the start been uncomfortable with Mrs Tibaijuka's 2006 appointment to head the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON).

"When it became evident that she was to be appointed to the post, they initiated an investigation against her, claiming that she had misused her official vehicle, and reported the matter to the former UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan," said a UN official who declined to be named, citing the risk to his job.

But Mr Annan ignored the claim as he appointed Mrs Tibaijuka to head UNON until 2010.

A clique of officials who worked under Mrs Tibaijuka at UNON appear finally to have managed to convince current UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, that she was to blame for the serious issues documented in an audit report published last year affecting, among other things, procurement for the construction of a \$25 million project to upgrade the UN headquarters at Gigiri, Nairobi.

The irony is that those who were found to have been directly involved in the scandal are still on board earning salaries, and have not been asked to resign.

**FULL REPORT, PAGE 2**



CHANGE OF GUARD 'RESHUFFLE' AT UN

# Powerful interests plotted Tibaijuka abrupt removal

There is evidence that her days were numbered the moment she started questioning serious fraud. JOHN MBARIA reports

**P**owerful vested interests within the United Nations are suspected to be behind the removal of Mrs Anna Tibaijuka from the helm of the United Nations establishment in Nairobi.

It appears that certain people had from the start been uncomfortable with Mrs Tibaijuka's 2006 appointment to head the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON).

"When it became evident that she was to be appointed to the post, they initiated an investigation against her, claiming that she had misused a her official vehicle, and reported the matter to the former UN secretary general, Kofi Annan," said a UN official who declined to be named, citing the risk to his job.

But Mr Annan ignored the claims as he appointed Mrs Tibaijuka to head UNON until 2010.

A clique of officials who worked under Mrs Tibaijuka at the UNON appear finally to have managed to convince current UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon that she was to blame for the serious issues documented in an audit report published last year.

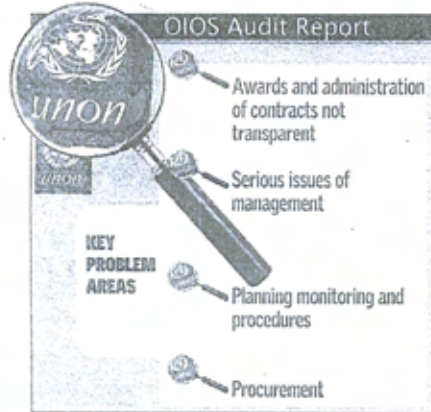
Last week, the media carried reports that Mr Ki-moon had appointed the current Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Achim Steiner, to replace Mrs Tibaijuka at UNON.

The Tanzanian national was appointed by Mr Annan to replace a former head of Unep, Dr Klaus Toepfer, whose term of office ended on March 31, 2006. Like her replacement, Dr Toepfer is also a German national who had headed the country's environment ministry before starting his term at Unep.

But according to a long trail of confidential documents made available to *The EastAfrican*, it would seem Mrs Tibaijuka was penalised over things that happened before she took office at UNON.

There is also evidence that her days were numbered the moment she started questioning serious fraud affecting, among other things, the procurement for the construction of a \$25 million project to upgrade the UN headquarters at Gigiri in Nairobi.

Commencing in 2001, UN



headquarters in New York had been providing a stream of funds for the job. However, there appear to have been delays that Mrs Tibaijuka, as the head of UNON, was asked to explain. "But she did not have an answer because all along, she had been kept in the dark," said a highly placed source at UNON who did not want to be named.

*The EastAfrican* has also seen documents showing that the director in-charge of UNON's procurement, Alexander Barabanov, had been reporting directly to an Under-Secretary General at UN Head Office in New York, Angela Kane, a German national.

**T**he same official had formally authorised Mr Barabanov to oversee all financial and procurement services at UNON as per a letter dated May 19, 2005. So, by the time Mrs Tibaijuka assumed headship of UNON, Mr Barabanov had been in charge of procurement for a year.

It appears that immediately Mrs Tibaijuka assumed office, she ordered the audit, which was to cover the period between 2004 and 2006, when UNON was headed by Mr Toepfer. When the report was released on February 28, 2008, it detailed serious fraud.

Conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services' Internal Audit Division, the audit report said UNON could have lost as much as Ksh10 billion (\$130 million) in procurement and administrative

irregularities over the period. The scandal was blamed on employees who were alleged to have had links with companies given contracts by both Unep and UN-Habitat who grossly inflated costs of goods and services procured by the UN body.

The audit report came shortly after the UN headquarters in New York had been told how poor management and inadequate accountability had hampered construction work meant to upgrade the Nairobi Office to the same status as the Geneva and Vienna offices.

*The EastAfrican* has also seen documents showing that after she received the audit report, Mrs Tibaijuka acted by separating UNON's procurement arm from its support services. This is contained in an information circular she released on August 4, 2008.

However, the head of procurement, Vibeke Gravind, reacted by writing to Mr Ki-moon on September 26, 2008, challenging Mrs Tibaijuka's decision.

Interestingly, the UN boss did not write formally to Mrs

**The UN boss did not write formally to Mrs Tibaijuka revoking her 2006 appointment by Annan**

Tibaijuka revoking her 2006 appointment by Annan. She is said to have learnt about the decision from her successor via e-mail. She thereupon wrote to the Secretary General on February 28 seeking to know her official status.

Upon receiving Tibaijuka's letter, Mr Ki-moon wrote back the same day confirming that he had indeed replaced her. "I hereby confirm my decision communicated to you (by Steiner)..." Even so, this letter did not outright say whether he had revoked her appointment.

Since the matter came into the limelight, observers have been questioning not just the behaviour of the secretary general, but also the roles that Germany, Russia and, apparently, Kenya have played in the matter.

**I**t is said that Russia has been unhappy that Mrs Tibaijuka's effort to reform UNON appeared to target its national, Mr Barabanov. Germany, through its national, Mr Steiner, has been the main beneficiary. On its part, Kenya — particularly one of the partners in the Grand Coalition government — is said to have been silently uncomfortable with Mrs Tibaijuka's role in inviting Kofi Annan to mediate the National Accord.

It appears that Kenya had officially complained against Mr Barabanov over remarks the latter had made against the country. According to a letter written by Kenya's Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary, Thuita Mwangi, to Mrs Tibaijuka on March 20, 2007, Kenya was angered by Mr Barabanov for questioning "the country's ability to handle arrangements" for one of the organisation's regular meetings. It appears that Mrs Tibaijuka took this as a serious breach of UN diplomacy for she escalated the matter by reporting the latter to the UN Secretary General.

Moreover, an internal UN investigation says that Mr Barabanov "acknowledged that he improperly" had the UN Chief of Security issue him a UNON firearm and a temporary firearm permit; the Office of Internal Oversight Services had recommended action against him.

## Tanzania accepts national's dropping



**DEMOTION:** Security fears prompted extra-tight security for the visit of UN boss Ban Ki-moon

By WILFRED EDWIN  
Special Correspondent

**T**he Tanzanian government has signalled its acceptance of United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's decision to demote Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Anna Tibaijuka.

Although it has not been confirmed if indeed the matter was discussed between President Jakaya Kikwete and Mr Ki-moon when the latter visited the country in the week preceding Prof Tibaijuka's demotion, high-ranking officials said the government has accepted the decision.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Seif Ali Idd told *The EastAfrican* in Dar es Salaam last week that Tanzania has accepted the change, and that it was within the Secretary General's powers and prerogative to make it.

**M**r Idd said it was important to note that Mrs Tibaijuka continues to serve at the UN as the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, a position endorsed by the UN General Assembly, while the UNON post is the prerogative of the UN Secretary General.

Others Tanzanians in the UN system include former foreign minister Dr Asha-Rose Migiro, who is currently serving as Deputy Secretary General, the third Deputy Secretary-General to be appointed since the post was established in 1997.

It also appears that Tanzania provided extra-tight security for the official visit of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon because there was a plan to protest over leaked information that Mrs Tibaijuka had been demoted.

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# Govt to lift agriculture budget

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

**THE Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs, Mr Mustafa Mkulo, said yesterday that the government intends to allocate seven per cent of its next budget to the agricultural sector, up from 6.2 per cent in the current financial year.**

He said the move was aimed at boosting production in the sector, in line with the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa.

Under the Declaration, African countries agreed to adopt sound policies for agricultural and rural development and committed themselves to allocating at least 10 per cent of their national budgets to agriculture within five years.

Mr Mkulo said the government was committed to reaching the target, but he cautioned that attainment of the target was a long process.

The minister was briefing journalists shortly after a press conference of the UN Deputy Secretary General, Dr Asha-Rose

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*Deputy Secretary General Dr Asha-Rose Migiro flanked by Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Mustafa Mkulo addresses a news conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Dr Migiro attended the International Monetary Fund/Africa High-Level Conference which ended on Wednesday. (Photo by Bernard Rwebangira)*

## Govt to pump more cash to farms

Continued from Page 1  
Migiro, held at the Treasury yesterday.

During the press conference, Dr Migiro had called upon African governments to honour the Declaration, to boost their economies and reduce poverty.

"We're committed to reaching the target but this is a process, we allocated 5.9 per cent in 2006/07, 6.2 per cent in this budget and we may reach seven per cent next financial year.

"So this is a process...the Declaration did not mean that the government should allocate 10 per cent at once," he added.

The budget for agriculture sector in 2002/03 was 4.0 per cent and was increased to 5.6 in 2003/04, but went down to 4.8 per cent in 2004/05. It was however raised to 5.9 per cent in 2005/06 and to 6.2 per cent in 2007/08. Mr Mkulo said that the government was taking various measures to tackle challenges facing the agriculture sector, including increas-

ing access to credit to farmers, subsidizing fertilizer and recruitment of extension officers. Others include provision of improved seeds, development of irrigation schemes and rural infrastructure to smoothen effective rural-urban linkages.

On her part, Dr Migiro said that it was important for African countries to invest heavily in agriculture because it was the only sector with direct impact on other productive sectors.

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