

TANZANIA GENDER NETWORKING PROGRAMME (TGNP)

**OPENING SPEECH BY MS CONSOLATA MONGELLA
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(TO BE HELD AT THE TGNP GENDER RESOURCE CENTRE FROM
8TH TO 19TH MAY 2006)**

MAY 2006

The Course organizer;

(Tanzania Gender Networking Programme)

- Course participants;
- Invited Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Morning to you all.

I am greatly honored to be amidst you this morning to officiate at this auspicious occasion that has drawn trainers and development actors from various Institutions and Organizations.

Distinguished participants

We live in a world where development challenges have never been so intense. As a country we are experiencing an era of globalization, with its socio- economic and political context that has a lot of pervasive effects on gender inequalities. These include impoverishment, deteriorating social provisioning, environmental degradation, limited democratic participation and gross human rights abuse at various levels of society (especially those of women, children and poor people). This situation therefore calls for development of a critical mass of gender trainers with conceptual and analytical skills that will guide social transformation at all levels.

I am happy that, this TOT on gender and development is designed to equip trainers from various levels with basic conceptual clarity on theoretical issues related to gender and development. The course also equips trainers with facilitation capacities and methodologies for organizing for transformation at all levels.

TGNP has been offering various gender trainings geared towards strengthening capacities of the Civil Society and the organization's strategic partners in the process of social transformation of society. Gender trainings for transformation plays a strategic role within the larger social movement, which challenges gender and other social

hierarchies and the corresponding power relations that have led to, and maintains women's subordination.

Within the growth of Gender Training Institute, TGNP has developed various regularized courses including the Training of Trainers (ToT) course. Unlike other conventional Trainings of Trainers (ToT), The ToT on gender and development is about transforming the learning process and interrogating power structures that locate women in lower positions. The course is designed to deconstruct knowledge through challenging the conventional methods of generating, using/sharing and repackaging that knowledge for transformative purposes.

The course has brought participants from various Institutions/ Organizations with diverse background and experiences in training and facilitation of gender and related activities. It is a participant focused that values commitment and equal involvement of "trainers" and "trainees". The course will be facilitated by a **team of seasoned gender trainers, all veterans and activists**, with a good grasp of the animation philosophy, participatory methodologies and approaches.

It is expected that, at the end of the ToT Course participants would have:

- Contributed to the expansion of transformed gender facilitators who are able to lead and facilitate gender training that challenge oppressive social structures and gender inequalities;
- Developed/strengthened the skills and capacities of trainers and facilitators on gender animation philosophy; and participatory facilitation methods and techniques;
- Internalised and articulated common gender analytical frameworks and apply them to development policies programmes and transformation processes
- Developed forward looking strategies networked and shared information;

Dear participants, we understand that policy changes and policy implementation results from sensitized communities, focused leadership and strong strategies. But let me say with utmost conviction that, the foundation of this lies in the preparedness, willingness and commitment of transformed leaders and facilitators, a role which you have been playing through offering gender training and facilitation of various development processes in your own settings.

I believe you will take this opportunity to share your own experiences, learn and be motivated to take a leading role, facilitating actions directed at demystifying and eventually dismantling patriarchy and other social structures and ideologies that foster oppressive and discriminatory power relations.

With these remarks, allow me now to declare this ToT course open and to wish you all the best in your work.

Thank you for your attention and Good luck.