WELCOMING ADDRESS BY MR. FELIX NTIBENDA, REGIONAL COMMISSIONER FOR ARUSHA, DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 54TH AFRICAN REGION ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ARSO) COUNCIL MEETING ARUSHA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER (AICC), ARUSHA, TANZANIA, 20TH JUNE 2016

Dr. Eve Gadzikwa, ARSO President-Elect,
Mr. Booto A Ngon Charles, ARSO Vice President,
Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, ARSO Secretary General,
Mr. Joseph Masikitiko, Director General, Tanzania Bureau of Standards,
Mr. Khatib Mwadini Khatib, Director General, Zanzibar Bureau of Standards,
Members of the ARSO Council,
Members of the press,
Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, I would like to take this opportunity, to welcome you to Tanzania. Also, on behalf of the people of Arusha, I would like to express my sincere appreciation, for considering Tanzania and particularly Arusha Region, a place suitable for convening the 54th ARSO Council meeting. We, the people of Arusha, feel greatly honoured and priv

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will recall that, this is a second Council meeting to be held in Arusha as the 47th ARSO Council meeting was held at Naura Springs Hotel here in Arusha from 22nd to 23rd October, 2012. It is our hope that you enjoyed being in
Arusha the last time you came. At this juncture, I would like to assure you, on behalf of the Government, that the 54th ARSO Council meeting will also be a success. I believe also that you will appreciate Tanzanian hospitality during and after the meeting hours.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to say a word or two about this country. Tanzania is historically known to be the Cradle of Humankind owing to the location of the prehistoric site of the Olduvai Gorge, one of the most important paleoanthropological sites in the world. Tanzania is a beautiful and peaceful country, blessed with beautiful tourist attractions well located almost throughout the country. These attractions include national parks located
close to Arusha, the hub of tourism in Tanzania. These are the Serengeti National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro Crater, Manyara National Park and Arusha National Park. I have been informed that, many delegates have showed interests in visiting these places. Therefore, we thank and welcome you to visit these exceptional tourist attractions available in Arusha. We assure you that logistical and security arrangements have been put in place to provide you with memorable moments in Tanzania. Upon leaving the country, it is our hope that you will not forget Tanzania as you will go home with memorable experiences.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
I am informed that ARSO was established as a regional body for standardization with the objectives of standards harmonization to facilitate trade among African countries as well as to promote the harmonization of the views of its members and their contribution and participation at the international level in the field of standardization. Today, it is evident that ARSO is achieving its objectives in line with the strategic framework 2012 – 2017.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Tanzania would like to reiterate its commitment to this process and urge Tanzanian experts to engage fully in the harmonization of African regional standards in order to facilitate trade in the continent for the benefit of our country and Africa at large.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank ARSO members, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) for organizing this year’s ARSO Council and General Assembly meetings and the African Day of Standardization here in Arusha. I thank also all ministries and Government departments that took part in the preparation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I once again thank you and all members of the Council for this precious moment and wish you fruitful deliberations, pleasant stay in Arusha and bon voyage back home.
I now declare that the 54th ARSO Council meeting is open.

Thank you for your attention.