

**COMMEMORATION OF AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY, 2013 ON 20TH NOVEMBER
2013 AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM HALL**

**TALKING NOTES BY MR. THOMAS DANIELEWITZ FROM THE WORLD BANK
(WB) ON BEHALF OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

For a long time, Development Partners (DPs) have been supporting various statistical development programs in Tanzania and generally they are pleased on the marked improvements that have begun to materialize.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Office of Chief Government statistician (OCGS) have been quite exposed in developing statistical processes by setting a strategic course for statistics in this country through Tanzania Statistical Master Plan (TSMP). The importance of quality data cannot be underestimated because data is knowledge and knowledge is power, power to achieve the objectives, whether it is to improve Government services, to start business, to find information about schools or health centers, etc.

Quality data can be defined with respect to relevancy, timeliness, accuracy and accessibility. DPs believe that without quality data planning could be impossible and that is why development partners are strongly struggling to open data initiative in Tanzania in order to open access to decision makers and other stakeholders at all levels and all sectors (private and public) the information needed for appropriate decision making. If successful, the open data initiative can create new businesses as well as jobs and make the Government more transparent and accountable and help lift up Tanzania economy and eventually poverty reduction.

I thank the NBS under the leadership of Director general Dr. Albina A. Chuwa for organizing this event. I emphasize on the important role to strengthen Tanzania Statistical System for the benefit of main statistical users within and outside the country.

Finally, I congratulate the Government of Tanzania on the decision made to pursue an open data agenda equally to the open data initiative and I believe the Government will move up with that promise to make sure that the citizen of Tanzania benefit from more access to data and information.