

JOINT OPENING PLENARY 2010



MRS ANNA KAJUMULO TIBAIJUKA

UN UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UN-HABITAT

Mrs Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka is the first African woman elected by the UN General Assembly as Under-Secretary-General of a United Nations programme. She is currently serving a second, four-year term as Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT. A Tanzanian national born to smallholder banana-coffee farmers in Muleba, Tanzania, she was educated at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science in Uppsala. She has served as a Member of the Commission for Africa established by British Prime Minister Tony Blair which resulted in the cancellation of multilateral debt for several African countries by the G8 Summit in 2005 at Glen Eagles, Scotland. In July 2005 the Secretary General appointed Mrs. Tibaijuka as his Special Envoy on Human Settlements Issues in Zimbabwe following massive evictions of the poor in urban areas. She is currently a member of the World Health Organization Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, and is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor, co-chaired by the former US Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, and the Peruvian economist Hernando de Soto. Last year, she was named one of three co-winners of the *Göteborg Award for Sustainable Development*, widely known as the “Nobel Prize for the Environment”. Her term of office ends during the course of this year.

