



Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**STATEMENT BY**

**HON. DR. AUGUSTINE PHILIP MAHIGA,  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND EAST AFRICAN COOPERATION  
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**DURING THE 71<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 26TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

307 East 53rd Street, 5<sup>TH</sup> Floor, New York NY 10022  
Tel. No. 212-697-3612 | Fax. No. 212-697-3618

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REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT THE 71<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Your Excellency, President of the Seventy**

**First Session of General Assembly of the United Nations;**

**Your Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations;**

**Your Excellencies Heads of State, Government and Delegation;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

First and foremost, allow me to convey to you greetings from H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania who due to pressing engagements at home could not attend this session. He reaffirms the commitment of Tanzania to the United Nations and wishes this Assembly successful deliberations.

**Mr. President,** On behalf of the People and Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, I congratulate you for your election, as the Seventy-First President of this General Assembly. My delegation wishes you and your team a successful tenure as you preside over our collective global agenda. Tanzania pledges its support and cooperation in discharging your duties and responsibilities.

Equally, we wish to laud your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the Seventieth Session of the General Assembly for his tireless efforts in sustaining momentum in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Mr. President,** I assure this Assembly of Tanzania's continued support to our shared commitment in addressing the myriad challenges facing the world

including but not limited to poverty, injustices, climate change and violent extremism.

### ***Ending poverty***

**Mr. President;** the United Republic of Tanzania counts on your leadership in mobilising the world to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Now that the global indicators framework is already in place, the onus is on us to ensure effective implementation of the agenda. We welcome the theme adopted by member states **“the Sustainable Development Goals: a universal push to transform our world”**. We recognize it is an ambitious agenda and that much is at stake. We admit that national efforts need to be stepped up to make the agenda implementable.

In Tanzania we have integrated the SDGs in our National Development Plans and Strategies, and in collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, have taken various steps to ensure effective implementation at the national level.

Our Second National Five-year Development Plan whose theme is “nurturing industrialization for economic transformation and human development” launched in June 2016, as well as the new Poverty Reduction Strategy for Zanzibar (MKUZA 2016 – 2020), were informed by both the outcomes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union. These are the basic frameworks in our efforts to increase the welfare of Tanzanians and to ensure that No One is Left Behind.

In spite of our national efforts and a significant drive towards domestic resource mobilization in implementing the 2030 and the African Union 2063 Agenda, we have learnt that on our own we cannot timely realize these ambitious goals. Individual and collective efforts at the local, national and international levels are imperative. We have an international and regional

obligation in discharging our commitments in keeping with Goal 17; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on the Financing for Development; and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

### ***Gender Equality and Women Empowerment***

**Mr. President;** gender equality and women empowerment has now become an enduring theme of mankind's pursuit for equality and justice, a scale for measuring social progress, and an important goal in realizing sustainable development.

Women's political and economic participation in leadership roles and decision making strengthens democracy, equality and the economy. This is the essence of Goal 5. Moreover, while women's empowerment and full participation in society are important goals in themselves, they are vital for reducing poverty, achieving universal education, improving maternal and child health, and fulfilling other development goals.

Economic empowerment is also a strategic tool to expand women's political participation and leadership. Without the capacity to generate their own incomes, women face considerable barriers to reaching the higher levels of education, health care and the autonomy to participate in politics. Collectively, and universally, women represent more than half of human resource, potential skills and talents available to human kind.

Tanzania is committed to promoting women empowerment at all levels. We are striving to engage more women in formal sectors through capacity building programs and advocacy. We have removed discriminatory laws and policies to empower women including reforming our land laws to permit inheritance and equal access to land for all.

Tanzania has continued to take actions to ensure more representation of women in decision making. During the 2010 general elections 126 women were elected whereas 2015 elections the number increased to 142 which constitutes 36.9 percent of all parliamentarians.

It was during the 2015 elections that, President Magufuli elected the first ever woman Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania which happened to be me. This reaffirms my country's determination to see more women on key decision making positions and to continue scaling up these initiatives in Tanzania women empowerment is now owned by the women themselves.

### ***Combating Corruption***

**Mr. President;** Goal 16 of the SDGs recognizes that corruption undermines efforts to combat poverty and gender inequality. It denies access and acts as a tax to poor families when it comes to accessing their rights to public services.

It is in this sense the Government of Tanzania has waged a war on corruption by mainstreaming transparency, accountability and effectiveness in the delivery of services by public institutions. We have instituted mechanisms to promote ethical standards and ensure those holding public offices recognize that their primary responsibility is to provide quality and timely services to the public. We have also complimented this undertaking by enhancing public awareness.

The national efforts to curb corruption cannot yield sustainable results unless supported by the international community. Developed countries must hold their investors and multinational companies accountable by paying due taxes. They must also be ready to return assets and funds stolen from developing countries and hidden in their countries so that they can contribute in financing our development endeavours.

## ***Employment and Youths***

**Mr. President;** it is well known that youth are of great importance to the development of a nation. They are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but also the partners of today. Ignoring them can result in a catastrophe as they are easily lured into activities that are non-beneficial and detrimental to the society such as drug trafficking; and joining radical groups and terrorist cells.

With the large proportion of our population being youths, we are taking measures to empower this crucial group which we believe to be the champion of our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To that effect, we have established Youth Development Fund whereby until March 2016, a total of TZS. 1.6 billion was already lent to 284 youth groups. We therefore call upon our development partners to complement our efforts for the same cause.

## ***Education***

**Mr. President;** achieving inclusive and quality education for all is a priority of the Government of Tanzania. We believe that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. The Government is working tirelessly to ensure that all girls and boys obtain free primary and secondary education. The Government has reformed its curriculum to improve provision of quality education to address the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Additionally, the education policy and strategy aim at reaching specific vulnerable and marginalized populations, including girls, women and the disabled.

Upon the assumption of Office, H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania declared primary and secondary

education to be free for all children. The Government has set aside more than TZS. 263 billion to cover the full cost of guaranteeing free primary and secondary education for all. In this regard, the Government has demonstrated its commitment to provide free and quality primary and secondary education to its people. The objective is to ensure our fulfilment of the target on Sustainable Development Goal 4 requiring States to ensure that everyone “completes free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education”.

### ***Environment***

**Mr. President;** climate change is poised to undermine national efforts to reduce poverty. Losses of human, natural, financial, social and physical capital caused by the adverse impacts of climate change are indeed of great concern to Tanzania as it strives to attain sustainable development. That is why we have made climate change adaptation a national priority.

Due to these impacts, we prepared the Tanzania National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and subsequently, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to identify immediate and long term actions to address climate change through the National Climate Change Strategy. It is our hope that the Green Climate Fund and other Funds will provide financial resources needed to address adaptation needs as their unavailability limits the delivery of national obligations.

Our modest estimates show that we need about USD 500 **million** annually to address the already vivid impacts of climate change. It is therefore important for the UNFCCC to enhance efforts to address barriers to access financial resources from those Funds so as to allow developing countries particularly the LDCs to access the needed resources urgently and without conditionalities.

### ***UN Paris Climate Agreement***

**Mr. President;** the Adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015 was truly historical. As we are in the process of ratifying the Agreement, Tanzania was among the first countries to submit their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) on both adaptation and mitigation under the Paris Agreement. It was a demonstration of our strong commitment to fulfil our obligations to protect the planet and mankind.

Our INDCs cover both adaptation and mitigation in the context of our national development vision. In essence with over 48 million hectares of forested land which is more than 54 percent of our land area, Tanzania is already making a great contribution to the global community in terms of carbon sink.

However, we are concerned that our collective NDCs as a global community under the Paris Agreement are not adding up to the numbers that will make this world safe for human kind. Those countries with more responsibility and capacity have to take the lead by reducing their emissions; otherwise, the Paris Agreement will be meaningless.

### ***The World Drug Problem***

**Mr. President;** Tanzania has not been spared by the world drug problem. Illicit drugs trafficked from other regions are crossing our borders and some remain in our communities. During his inaugural speech of the current Parliament, my President made a strong commitment to fighting illicit drug dealers and traffickers. Bringing top dealers to justice will be amongst his top most agenda. With a clear knowledge that grand corruption is a barrier to fighting this menace, as stated earlier, we are determined to tackle both evils concurrently. Our resolve will remain unshaken and the Government will continue to strengthen the control of trade and use of drugs. In this endeavour, we need international cooperation in fighting international crimes.



## ***Combating Terrorism***

**Mr. President;** the horrific terrorist attack in 1998 on the American Embassy in our soil in Dar es Salaam is a tragedy our people is unforgettable. The increasing rate of the spread of such attacks by terrorist and other radical groups has culminated in gross loss of lives of thousands of innocent people and destruction of properties. These acts continue to undermine national, regional and global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

Tanzania is cooperating with the international community to address the global terrorist threat and has thus devised practical steps such as enacting the Prevention of Terrorism Act No. 21 of 2002, the Prevention of Terrorism Regulations of 2014, the Money Laundering Act of 2006 and the Amendment of Money Laundering Regulations of 2013. A Financial Intelligence Unit in the Ministry of Finance is also in place to combat the financing of terrorism. Furthermore, the Government established a National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) which is an inter-agency entity that coordinates counter-terrorism efforts. It is becoming increasingly evident that Tanzania and Eastern Africa are part of international terrorism grand strategic plans.

While strengthening our legal framework as well as our capacities to confront the menace, we continue to enhance international cooperation to fight terrorism. If we do not take stern measures now, we risk delaying attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

## ***Conflicts – Burundi and South Sudan***

### ***Burundi***

**Mr. President;** Tanzania is concerned with the ongoing conflict in Burundi and its effects on the lives of people. It has caused loss of lives and properties, displacement, and refugee influxes to neighbouring countries.

The East African Community Member States are working hard to ensure the return of Burundi to peace and stability. We believe under the able leadership of H.E. Kaguta Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, we will be able to resolve the conflict in the near future.

In this regard, we reiterate the need for the parties to the conflict to continue embracing an inclusive political dialogue as the only feasible way to resolve the conflicts.

### ***South Sudan***

**Mr. President;** Tanzania joins the international community in condemning the recent resumption of conflict in South Sudan. The situation has derailed the progress we had made towards settlement of the conflict and re-unification of the SPLM.

We call upon the parties in conflict in South Sudan to continue working together in honour of the August 2015 IGAD Peace Agreement.

As the current Chair of the East African Community (EAC), Tanzania convened an Extra-ordinary Summit early this month to address the ongoing political impasse and security crisis in both Burundi and South Sudan. It is my hope

that both countries will put their national interests and that of their people first and end the conflicts.

### ***Non-Self Governing Territories***

**Mr. President;** the Security Council and the General Assembly have adopted numerous resolutions on the Palestine and Western Sahara that demand attention and action.

The non-implementation of those decisions erodes the credibility of this institution. As members of the United Nations, we must ensure that we put into practice what we deliberate and agree on.

### ***Unilateral Sanctions and Embargos***

**Mr. President;** Unilateral sanctions and embargos imposed on countries are a hindrance to development and affect innocent civilians. While we welcome the resumption of bilateral relations between the US and Cuba, we continue to reiterate the total elimination of embargos for the betterment of the peoples of both countries. The early lifting of sanctions and embargoes will strengthen relations for the mutual benefit of both sides.

### ***Election of the Next Secretary General of the United Nations***

**Mr. President;** we are currently witnessing a unique process of electing the next Secretary General. We welcome the hearings of the GA on all aspirants. This process has shown that it is possible for the new SG to be elected transparently and democratically by all Member States.

Furthermore, my delegation is of the view that, the Security Council should submit more than one name to the GA for voting.

In addition, Tanzania wishes to reaffirm the decision of the AU Summit during its 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in July 2016 that, the election of the SG should respect geographical rotational principle and take into account gender balance.

The election of the SG this year will send a clear signal globally that permanent members of Security Council are ready and willing to undertake the long overdue reforms of the Security Council. This process will be one of the processes that will enhance the credibility of the United Nations and contribute to the long overdue reform process both in the Security Council and the General Assembly.

**I thank you.**