

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**



**STATEMENT BY**

**HON. PROF. PALAMAGAMBA JOHN AIDAN MWALUKO KABUDI (MP),  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EAST AFRICAN COOPERATION**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE  
43<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020  
GENEVA-SWITZERLAND**

---

**Madam President,**

On behalf of my delegation I congratulate you on your election as the President of the Human Rights Council and I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

**Madam President,**

The promotion, protection and realization of human rights in the United Republic of Tanzania is of paramount importance in the Government's development agenda.

The year 2020 marks another milestone in Tanzania in realizing the fundamental human right of freedom to participate in public affairs and in upholding democracy as we hold General Elections in October. As is customary, Tanzania will hold free, fair and transparent elections and in the spirit of adhering to international principles and standards, Tanzania will extend invitations to local and international Election Observers.

Tanzania cherishes the role that political parties play in the political life of the country. In this regard, the Parliament amended the Political Parties Act in 2019 in order for each and every Political Party in Tanzania to further uphold the union of Tanzania as well as commit to the promotion of democracy, good governance, anti-corruption, national ethics and core values of patriotism, secularism, national peace and tranquility, gender, youth and social inclusion in the formulation of and implementation of the policies of political parties. With this in place we are assured of broad participation and relevant party objectives focused on the development of the people and the nation.

**Madam President,**

The United Republic of Tanzania remains steadfast in adhering to its human rights obligation. This is buttressed by a development agenda underpinned with the fundamental human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination. Therefore, the United Republic of Tanzania has indeed embarked on a human rights based approach to development with a specific focus on increasing access and bringing essential services closer to the people, thereby, ensuring full realization of economic, social and cultural rights to all Tanzanians while concurrently strengthening the enjoyment of civil and political rights.

**Madam President,**

Tanzania appreciates the role of media in social, political and economic development as a shield of democracy and a watchdog of public interest against malpractice and promoter of public awareness. In this respect, the Parliament enacted two pieces of legislation namely the Access to Information Act, 2016 and the Media Services Act, 2016 which provide a conducive environment for journalists by addressing their welfare, particularly low wages and lack of job security as well as risk insurance and social security cover, among others.

**Madam President,**

Upon gaining independence in 1961, the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere declared poverty, ignorance and diseases as the three enemies of our nation impinging upon the social and economic rights of our people. As part of progressive realization of these rights, over the past four years, the Government under the leadership of H.E Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania has placed the right to education, the right to health, right to clean, safe and portable water and poverty eradication on top of its agenda.

On the realization of the right to health, in the last four years substantial investment has gone into the construction and rehabilitation of health facilities including construction of 423 dispensaries, 451 health centres and 70 district hospitals. In addition, 13,479 health workers have been recruited to improve the quality of health services in Tanzania.

The Government is also focused on increasing access to health services through its two major public health prepaid schemes, namely the Community Health Fund and the National Health Insurance Fund. The number of beneficiaries of both funds has increased from 20 percent of the population in 2015 to 33 percent in January 2020.

**Madam President,**

I am pleased to inform this esteemed Session that, significant achievements have also been registered in promoting the right to education for all without any discrimination. For the past four years, the Government has been providing free public primary and secondary education and it spends a total of 23.8 billion shillings monthly (equivalent to USD10.3 Million) in this endeavour. As a result of free education registration of children in primary schools has increased from 78% in 2012 to 83% in 2019. This initiative has proven beneficial to children from very poor household, and those with disabilities.

**Madam President,**

Poverty eradication remains high on the Government agenda and is critical in the realization of the right to decent life and right to development. Tanzania has adopted several poverty reduction initiatives which have resulted in decreasing poverty of basic needs from 39% in 1990/91 to 26.4% in 2017/18 and decreasing poverty in food from 19.7% to 9.5%. The 2019 Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment Report issued by the World Bank Group indicates that

poverty has decreased from 34% in 2007 to 26.4% in 2018 and records Tanzania as the fastest country reducing poverty in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Madam President,**

On good governance, the Government has over the past four years worked towards strengthening key human rights institutions in the country. We believe a strong justice system is crucial in ensuring equality before the law and equal protection by the law. In this connection, there have been significant reforms in the justice sector with the Judiciary at the helm of providing access to justice for all. A mobile court system has been introduced to take judicial services closer to the people, the aim is to reduce the case load in primary courts especially in areas with high population, economic activities and inadequate number of primary courts. Our partnership with Civil Society Organisations in increasing access to justice through legal aid provision has proved to be successful in protecting the rights of citizens.

In the last four years Tanzania has registered remarkable achievements in the fight against corruption, embezzlement of public resources, money laundering and drug trafficking. The Transparency International – Global Corruption Barometer Report for Africa, 2019, and the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) for 2018 both report on the progress made by Tanzania on matters of Good Governance and fight against corruption.

**Madam President,**

With respect to vulnerable groups, over the years we have introduced and implemented a number of initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Women and Children Committees have been established at both national, regional and local government levels. These committees provide a platform for discussion for the promotion of women and children and their welfare.

As we commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Program of Action, Tanzania remains committed to safeguarding women empowerment politically, economically and socially. The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania guarantees representation of women in Parliament by designating a minimum of 30 percent special seats for women. Currently, the number of women in Parliament stands at 36.89 %. There has also been concerted efforts to increase the number of competent female judges and magistrates in the Judiciary; with women comprising of 41.2% in the Court of Appeal, 55% in High Court, 48.9% in the Resident Magistrates' Courts and 41.3% in the Primary Courts.

The Government has also taken huge strides in creating a conducive environment for women economic participation. The Government continues to address the issues of inclusion of women in the formal economy and several empowerment funds have been launched giving women access to business capital.

**Madam President,**

The Government believes in strong collaborations, partnerships and support of all the stakeholders in its pursuit of the realization of human rights. As such and in compliance with the Paris Principles, the Tanzania Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance continues to play a pivotal role in realization of human rights and good governance. The Chairman and 5 Commissioners of the National Human Rights Institution were appointed In September 2019.

The Government also values the significant role that Civil Society Organizations play in complementing Government's efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. It is for these reasons the Government works to ensure the legal and institutional framework available provides a conducive environment for NGOs to perform their duties. However,

as a growing democracy in a complex world, Tanzania is faced with multiple challenges of, among others, money laundering and proceeds of crime. To address these challenges and in implementing the recommendations by the International Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Combating the abuse of Non-Profit Organisations, the Parliament amended the Non-Government Act in 2019. The amendments is also aimed at enhancing accountability and transparency through regular activity reports.

**Madam President,**

In conclusion, these are unparallel times in the United Republic of Tanzania as we are moving at a tremendous pace to fulfill our development agenda. The Government as the main duty bearer remains committed to ensuring that civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights are treated at par, and that all Tanzanians fully enjoy these rights without discrimination as enshrined in the Constitution, polices, laws, traditions and culture of our country.

Tanzania stands ready to engage with relevant stakeholders on how to further improve efforts of the Government towards the promotion and protection of human rights as well as enhancement of development and welfare of our citizens.

**I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION**