

## THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



High Commission of the United  
Republic of Tanzania,  
P.O. Box 47790-00100,  
**NAIROBI**

**VERY  
URGENT**

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The High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania presents its compliments to the Office of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi and has the honour to forward herewith a Statement of the United Republic of Tanzania at the Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021. The Statement will be delivered by H.E. Dr. John S. Simbachawene, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Republic of Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP.

The High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Office of the Executive Director of the United  
Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),  
**NAIROBI.**

**Nairobi, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021**





**STATEMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT THE 5<sup>TH</sup>  
**MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY OF THE**  
**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**  
**TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. DR. JOHN S. SIMBACHAWENE,**  
**HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND**  
**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UNEP****

***H.E. Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn***

*President of UNEA and Minister of Environment and Climate of Norway.*

***Your Excellences Vice Presidents of UNEA - 5***

***Your Excellency Ms. Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of the UN Environment;***

***Honorable Ministers,***

***Excellences Distinguished Delegates***

***Ladies and Gentlemen***

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Almighty God for blessing us with good health that has enabled us to meet here today despite the Global Pandemic which has limited our common practice as global community to discuss crucial issues on environmental conservation and sustainable development.

I feel honored for this privilege today to address this Fifth UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. We are indeed pleased to be part of this February, 2021 assembly through virtual convergence in the wake of the COVID 19. At this juncture, I wish to inform this Assembly that my Delegation aligns itself with the African Group as well as the G-77 and China statements.



***Mr President,***

Tanzania shares the recognition that COVID-19 pandemic has put more pressure in the World's socio-economic development and efforts to achieve sustainable development and eradicate poverty as the world depends on its environment and natural resources. Undoubtedly, this pandemic has put at stake our efforts to attain our desired conservation and sustainable development goals. Tanzania is optimistic that we shall overcome this great peril of our time.

To this end, we recognize and appreciate all the individual and collective efforts undertaken by each member state to ensure that this pandemic is effectively addressed and the livelihood of our people and the economies are revived. In this context, we highly commend the ongoing initiatives by UN-Environment and you Mr. President in particular considering post-COVID 19 recovery measures as one of the agenda items for this meeting which will also contribute to the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

***Mr President,***

As you may recall the theme for UNEA - 5 "***Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals***"; we as a global community are called to strengthen our actions to protect and restore nature and use the nature-based solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in its social, economic and environmental dimensions by 2030.

Tanzania recognizes the importance of Biodiversity and the benefits it renders to the human well-being at national and global level. We take note of the ongoing progress by CBD on the preparation of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. It has continued taking ambitious steps to conserve and protect the environment including development and implementation of relevant national



policies, legislation, strategies and plans; engagement of non-state actors in biodiversity conservation and management; conservation and designation of new protected areas. The Government will soon embark on reviewing its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in line with post 2020 Global Biodiversity framework and call for international community to provide support in implementation of the strategy.

The country has also undertaken different initiatives that significantly support in addressing challenges associated with pollution in both terrestrial and aquatic environments. The initiatives lie on managing Persistent Organic Pollutants, Mercury, and hazardous waste including plastics. To effectively address challenges associated with plastic pollution, the Government have taken a solid measure to **ban production, importation, exportation, sale and use of plastic carrier bags as well as developing the regulations to ensure the enforcement of the ban.** We believe that pollution is a complex, multi-dimensional, multi-sectoral and transnational environmental problem that warrants urgent and effective joint policy and abatement measures to be put in place in a view of achieving pollution free planet. In this context we call for international community to support developing countries to implement their pollution control instruments.

***Mr President,***

Regarding the efforts to reduce the impact of climate change, the country has taken some steps envisioned to address challenges associated with climate change as outlined in our National Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. We also implement projects which aim at building resilience to climate change impacts in various areas. Furthermore, the Government has



established the National Carbon Monitoring Centre (NCCM) at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro Region. The centre among others is aimed at developing, maintaining, analyzing and updating carbon database to facilitate taking stock of country's contribution in carbon sequestration. Furthermore, the country is implementing the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) system and the establishment of the large Hydro-electricity generation with the capacity of over 2000 MW at Mwalimu Nyerere Hydropower project (Stigler's Gorge) which contribute to enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in the transportation and energy sectors.

These initiatives aim at reducing the greenhouse gases emissions as well as enhancing the national capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change and enhance resilience of the country.

***Mr President,***

Before concluding my statement, I wish to recall to the delegates to the meeting of the African Ministers of Environment held on the 8<sup>th</sup> Special Session of AMCEN virtually on 4 December 2020 with the theme "***Enhancing environmental action for effective post-Covid-19 recovery in Africa***", in which the Ministers reaffirmed commitment to continue efforts to conserve, protect and enhance the resilience of Africa's environment and natural resources as part of their determined efforts in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tanzania supports the decisions made at AMCEN towards the implementation of the programme as an integral part of Africa's socio-economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and enhance resilience in the face of future crises, while remaining cognizant of challenges and commitments made before this pandemic. We therefore request financial, technological and personnel capacity support

from bilateral and multilateral partners for successful implementation of the program.

***Finally, Mr. President***

I wish to emphasize that Tanzania is fully committed to global efforts towards strengthening actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals"; however, tackling environmental challenges with the current global pandemic impedes our efforts. Therefore, there is a need to increase support including facilitating access to finance, technology and innovative solutions to help developing countries build more resilient and inclusive economies in a post-COVID-19 era.

I look forward to the fruitful deliberations and outcomes of this Special Session.

**I thank you all for your kind attention.**