

Statement of UN RC in Tanzania, Zlatan Milisic | World Environment Day | Julius Nyerere Conference Hall, Dodoma | June 5th, 2022

- **HE Kasim Majaliwa Majaliwa, Prime Minister of UR of Tanzania,**
- **Hon. Selemani Said Jafo, Minister of State, Vice President's Office (Union and Environment),**
- **Hon. Anthony Mtaka, Dodoma Regional Commissioner,**
- **Excellencies Ambassadors, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Government Officials,**
- **UN Colleagues, Civil society, Private sector, Youth, Media,**
- **Invited guests,**

Habari za asubuhi,

World Environment Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on accomplishments and renew our resolve in overcoming the increasingly urgent environmental challenges facing Tanzania and the world today. I am grateful to be here and congratulate the Government of UR of Tanzania and all partners in organizing many successful events promoting sustainable environment over the past few days.

2022 is a historic milestone for the global environment community. It marks 50 years since the 1972 UN Conference on Human Environment, which was held in Stockholm and widely seen as the first international meeting on environment.

That Stockholm Conference is where the idea of WED was formalized, with the first one being marked in 1974. This was also where the goals of poverty alleviation and environmental protection started to be linked.

This year WED, attended by HE Vice President of the UR of Tanzania, Dr. Mpango, is being hosted globally by Sweden in partnership with the

UN, under the global theme “*Only One Earth*”, the same theme as in the first Stockholm conference, but carrying even more importance today.

In Tanzania, this theme has fittingly been adapted to the national context, with commemorations being held under the heading: ‘*Tanzania ni moja tu, tunza mazingira*’, or ‘*There is only one Tanzania, take care of the environment*’.

According to the latest *Statement on the Status of Tanzania Climate*, the country’s average temperature increased by more than 0.9 degrees above the long-term average between 1981-2010, higher than the global average. By year 2050, it will likely rise by up to 3 degrees centigrade, unless we see a major global shifts. Days in which temperatures exceed 32°C will become more frequent across the country.

***Tanzania’s National Environment Policy 2021* points out that increase in temperature has critical implications on agricultural production. Climate change is influencing agriculture, a mainstay of the Tanzanian economy, through erratic and unpredictable rain, drought, occurrence of pests and diseases, and extreme weather conditions.**

Your Excellency, the Prime Minister,

The UN family in Tanzania will continue to work with the Government and other stakeholders and support initiatives that promote environmental conservation and sustainable technologies that are more environmentally friendly. We will also continue to support the Government in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national environment and climate action plans, policies and strategies.

We are aware of some specific and localized environmental challenges, including in the areas where substantial numbers of refugees continue to be hosted by Tanzania. The second phase of the UN Kigoma Joint Programme, which will support further the livelihoods and development

of local communities in Kigoma region, will mobilize resources to step up efforts in environmental management and restoration, disaster risk management and promoting sustainable alternative energy solutions.

The Vice President of the UR of Tanzania, Dr. Mpango, recently launched with us the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), which will guide the work of the UN in Tanzania for the next five years. Supporting a greener, more sustainable development path is a key focus area of the UNSDCF.

Our priorities include better access to clean energy and technology to fuel growth, enabling more sustainable management of Tanzania's wealth of natural resources. In this focus area, which is called 'Planet' or 'Sayari', the UN will also cultivate closer partnerships with the Government and communities to mitigate against climate change.

UN Tanzania congratulates the Government for mainstreaming the environment agenda into policy and decision-making. On several occasions we have heard the leaders urge officials nominated for different positions to integrate environmental action in their work. We see the changes. Youth are increasingly engaging in climate action, too.

Trees are being planted and grown all over the country, including here in Dodoma, where Regional Commissioner is implementing a strong tree-planting campaign. Prime Minister, you recently reiterated the Government's commitment to prioritizing forest conservation through tree-planting touting impressive tree-planting efforts with over 160 million trees being grown at the local level in 2020/21. These initiatives are commendable, and UN stands fully behind them and will work with communities at the grassroots level to support them.

We also commend the Government for recently launching strategies and policies that will help conserve the environment and combat

climate change including the *National Climate Change Response Strategy 2021-2026*, *National Environmental Policy (2021)*, and *Zanzibar Blue Economy Policy (2020)*. You will have our full support in their implementation, too.

Tanzania has also shown a renewed commitment to participating in international climate initiatives and I thank the Government for submitting Tanzania's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UN in 2021. This year's COP27 will be held in Egypt and I have no doubt that Tanzania will continue to join other member states in discussing and finding solutions on important climate issues, as it did last year at the COP26 in Glasgow and is doing right now at Stockholm+50.

Tanzania has demonstrated that it is a true partner in protecting our environment and your presence here today, Prime Minister, shows the country is committed to the cause at the highest level. The UN in Tanzania recognizes the partnership and contribution of all partners on the environmental dimension of the SDGs, including in the series of important sensitization and awareness actions leading up to today.

All Tanzanians have the right to a clean, healthy environment - for all and everywhere - including for the generations to come. We remain committed to working with the Government of Tanzania, other governments, and all stakeholders, to ensure that we take collective, transformative action to protect Tanzania's environment.

Thank you all for putting environment first.

Asanteni sana!