



UNITED NATIONS  
TANZANIA



SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

## Highlights

International Women's Day  
Commemorations in Zanzibar

International Women's Day  
Commemorations in Arusha

Ring the Bell on International  
Women's Day at Dar es Salaam  
Stock Exchange



## ZANZIBAR



## International Women's Day Commemorations in Zanzibar

The United Nations joined the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, key stakeholders and members of the general public to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) in Zanzibar where the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan was the guest of honour.

The global theme of this year's IWD was '*Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow*' and at the national level this was adapted to '*A Generation of Justice and Equality for Sustainable Development, Come Forward to be Counted*'.

The commemorations in Zanzibar brought

together over 6,000 people to highlight the unique role women play in advancing sustainable development, with particular emphasis how women are affected by, adapt to and address climate change under the special theme of '*Focus on Gender Equality to Address Climate Change for Sustainable Living*'.

H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan highlighted how crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have heightened the need for enhanced efforts to empower women economically; also, the Government's commitment to the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights which she formed last year as one of the key avenues it will use. "The main goal



is to uplift women, and by doing so we will uplift families, communities, and the nation as a whole," she said.

The President outlined the key climate change challenges that Tanzania is experiencing which affects access to clean water, agricultural productivity, infrastructure and health systems. She emphasized that women and children are disproportionately affected by these challenges. She stated that the national Five-Year Development Plan addresses climate change, among other areas, as well as disaster management and called on citizens to also play their role in combatting climate change by planting trees and taking other actions.

On his part, the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, H.E. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, said that the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar will do everything in its

power to support women.

"We will economically empower women, as we have been doing. We will promote women's leadership and increase the number of women leaders, and I pledge to continue efforts to address violence against women. We will also support rural women, increase access to social services, reduce maternal deaths, and bring water closer to them. I have no doubt that if we tighten efforts we will succeed," he said.

In a solidarity statement, UN Women Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, Dr. Maxime Houinato, underscored the urgent need for more climate-responsible patterns of production, and the need to empower women and girls to use their voice and agency. "UN Women will continue to advocate for gender equality and the inclusion of women and girls' voices in policy dialogue spaces and programming on climate change,

as well as all areas that are critical to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” he added.

UN Resident Coordinator a.i. and UNICEF Representative, Ms. Shalini Bahuguna, called on stakeholders to use the occasion to appreciate women. “Today, we celebrate women in all their diversity. We celebrate women from all over the world, women of Tanzania, and women of Zanzibar,” she said. Ms. Bahuguna recognized the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in highlighting the differentiated impacts of climate change on women at the COP26 Glasgow Women’s Leadership on Gender Equality and Climate Change panel.

Ms. Bahuguna said that those challenges would require gender perspectives integrated into climate, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, and that this requires ensuring women, girls and marginalised persons are included in key leadership and decision-making spaces.

Commemorations in Zanzibar included a 4-day exhibition for women small-business owners and key stakeholders, including a booth for the UN in Tanzania which showcased the work that agencies are doing to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in the country.

“The main goal is to uplift women, and by doing so we will uplift families, communities, and the nation as a whole”

**H. E. Samia Suluhu Hassan**

President of the United Republic of Tanzania



ARUSHA



## International Women's Day Commemorations in Arusha

IWD commemorations in Mainland Tanzania took place at the regional level this year, under the theme '*Generation Equality for Sustainable Development: Let us Participate in the Forthcoming Census*'.



Celebrations were kicked-off on March 6th with an exhibition and culminated with a climax event on March 8th at the Sheikh Amri Abeid football stadium, where over 1,000 participants gathered to celebrate women and call attention to the issues that need to be addressed to realize gender equality.

The event showcased women in non-traditional occupations, such as steam roller operators and electrical workers, and featured the launch of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Group's Women in Leadership Database. The database will serve as an online platform to access profiles of women professionals and experts who are qualified to hold Government leadership positions and track the ratio of men and women in decision-making positions across the public sector.



Commemorations in Arusha were officiated by the Regional Commissioner, Mr. John Mongella who visited exhibition pavilions to view different products being displayed by women's groups. Mr. Mongella thanked the UN for participating in the commemorations in Arusha and commended the good work that the UN is doing to support the Government in relation to women and children in Tanzania.

UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Christine

Musisi, represented the UN system at the event and urged everyone to continue taking action to achieve gender equality. Ms. Musisi said that, despite the gains that have been made, many challenges remain; women still carry a larger burden of unpaid home care work, experience high rates of violence and abuse, and have greater rates of poverty compared to men. "With stepped up action on gender equality, every part of the world can make progress towards sustainable development, leaving no one behind," she said.





## Ring the Bell on International Women’s Day at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange

Tanzania’s Minister for Investment, Trade and Industry, Hon. Dr. Ashatu Kijaji officiated the 2022 **‘Ring the Bell’** for Gender Equality Conference during the International Women’s Day commemoration held at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

The event was organized by the DSE as part of a global campaign by stock exchanges across the world to **‘Ring the Bell’** for Gender Equality simultaneously at 10 a.m. on every International Women’s Day.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Ashatu said, “Tanzania has made huge progress towards achieving Gender Equality. We have a female President,

Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan and in Parliament; 36.8% of the Members are women.” The Minister added that, “As we head towards achieving the agenda 50-50 on Gender Equality, society should check if this equality has a positive impact on our environment.” She further challenged women to seek greater investment opportunities that would address Climate Change matters.

The United Nations was represented by the Head of the Resident Coordinator’s Office, Ms. Shabnam Mallick, who called on stakeholders to reaffirm their commitment to achieving gender equality. “If we are to realize Gender Equality by 2030, urgent action is required including from the private sector,” she said, “Women should not have

to experience discrimination in any workplace because of their gender and they should be treated as equals to their male counterparts.” Ms. Mallick elaborated that this should mean, “equal pay for equal work and equal consideration for promotion and leadership positions.”

Shabnam also commended the DSE for approving new rules that came into effect on March 1st, 2022, which require companies enlisted on the DSE to report and be accountable on the status of environmental, social and governance sustainability through their annual reports. She also praised a recently approved social-impact bond targeting the financing of women’s empowerment initiatives.

The Chief Executive Officer of the DSE, Mr. Moremi Marwa educated the audience about the importance of financial systems like the DSE. Ms. Marwa said that “Financial systems and markets underpin strong economies, make it easier for people to transact, helping people to raise capital for their businesses but also for personal use.

Financial systems and markets also help people to save resources for the future. They also help people in mitigating, managing and spreading various forms of risks.”

Mr. Marwa also spoke about the new accountability rules and the strong need for finance to progress further and contribute to the well-being of humanity highlighting that all these will promote gender equality.

The Resident Representative of the International Financial Corporation (IFC), Mr. Frank Ajilore gave statistics from the banking sector which relate to Gender Equality and women’s empowerment to support Climate Change. He revealed that, “research from the bank group shows that climate change can generate 23 trillion dollars in investment opportunities and can create 213 million cumulative jobs and achieve 4 billion tonnes of CO2 in developing countries.” Mr. Ajilore encouraged investment in climate smart agriculture, infrastructure, renewable energy and more. He advocated for women to play part in







Climate mitigation and adaptation measures.

on the principles of Women's Empowerment and ways women can engage in Climate Change

The informative event also had a panel discussion issues.

“Opportunities have no gender, It is up to women to see and grab the opportunities arising.”

**Hon. Dr. Ashatu Kijaji**

Minister for Investment, Trade and Industry

# Ensuring Women and Girls Count for Generation Equality

## Joint message from the United Nations Resident Coordinator, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF Representatives, and the Ambassadors of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Norway, Spain and Sweden on International Women's Day

According to the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report of 2021, it will take at least another 135 years for the world to achieve gender parity. At this rate, no one alive today is likely to see a world where gender equality is realized. The good news is that some countries will get there faster through committed leadership, investment and public policy.

International Women's Day, celebrated on the 8th of March every year is an opportunity for us to reflect on the efforts that have been made thus far, and what more needs to be done to accelerate progress towards a more gender-equal world.

There have been some positive gains for women and girls in recent decades, yet today, women still experience numerous challenges. Women are still more likely to be poor than men, experience high rates of violence and abuse, and carry the greater burden of unpaid care work in the home. They continue to be underrepresented in leadership and decision-making, as well as science and technology fields, with persistent gender biases serving as barriers to women's progress. Women living with disabilities are especially vulnerable, face even more forms of discrimination, and are further left behind.

Tanzania's theme for International Women's Day this year is "Generation Equality for Sustainable Development: Let's participate in the forthcoming census". This is an important and timely reminder that women and girls need to be counted

and visible in the census. We need to understand their potential and their realities to inform national planning, and specifically to implement Tanzania's [Generation Equality Forum](#) commitments to promote women's economic justice and rights. In short, Tanzania needs solid data and evidence on women and girls in order to deliver on its commitment to achieve gender equality by 2030.

In a country where women and girls make up the majority of the country's workforce, it is imperative to collect and analyze comprehensive data on women and girls. This data will help to shape gender-responsive policies, laws, plans, programmes and budgets to uplift women and girls across the country.

Population censuses provide official data on how many people live in a country, where they live, the breakdown of age and sex, as well as key social and economic characteristics of the population. Various fundamental assistance programs that support improved protection, education, health and economic security outcomes for women and girls rely on census data to inform them. Census data also aids the country in understanding the different needs and characteristics of the nation. It is vital that everyone, especially women and girls, take part to determine where to focus development efforts.

To ensure that the census is as inclusive as possible, and delivers the gender data that is needed, both women and men, girls and boys need to

understand why it is important. This includes adolescent girls. As adolescence is a tipping point in a girl's life, this data will help ensure they can access the right resources and opportunities so that the girls of today can become the leaders, entrepreneurs, and change makers of tomorrow.

It is also critical to identify and address existing gender biases in data collection. Women and girls who work outside the market economy have historically been invisible in official statistics due to discriminatory social and cultural norms and attitudes. These biases need to be tackled head-on to ensure that the census takes into account women and girls' contributions to their families' livelihoods and the economy, and that this data reflects their lived realities.

Focusing on the census this International Women's Day further demonstrates the government's commitment and resolve to ensure that the census is gender-responsive, and to improve the production and use of gender statistics more broadly.

The government has also made commendable

progress in recent years in making gender data more available and accessible, which has translated into a number of important publications including the *Social Institution and Gender Index* (SIGI) Tanzania, which provides evidence on how discriminatory social norms and practices continue to limit women's and girls' access to opportunities and rights.

Generation Equality envisions a world where all people have equal rights and opportunities. Where there is equality in political leadership, classrooms, corporate boardrooms, and farm fields. Where women and girls, including those with disabilities, are safe and have equal access to economic opportunities. On this International Women's Day, let us ensure that we enhance our collective efforts to make that vision a reality. Keeping all women and girls visible in national data sources can propel us in the right direction.

We are proud to be accompanying Tanzania on its journey towards gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment. A journey that, with good data to guide our choices, does not need to last 135 years.





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**United Nations Tanzania**

182 Mzinga way, Off Msasani Road  
Oysterbay, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

P.O.Box 9182

Tel: +255 22 219 9200/209

Fax: +255 22 266 8749

