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# **JOINT CSO'S 4TH UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) CYCLE TANZANIA REPORT - 53<sup>RD</sup> SESSION**

**Prepared by 141 human rights organizations under the coordination of  
the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Tanzania Human Rights  
Defenders Coalition (THRDC) and Save the Children Tanzania**

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## **Introduction**

This joint submission by Tanzanian Civil Society Organizations to the Fourth UPR (November 2026) evaluates implementation of the 187 recommendations accepted in 2021, organized across eight thematic areas. It reviews legislative, budgetary, and practical measures, identifying both measurable progress and persistent shortcomings, and advances targeted recommendations to strengthen human rights protection.

Although Tanzania Development Vision 2050 signals a long-term development agenda, civil and political rights remain constrained. The 2025 general elections were marked by reported violence, restrictions on assembly, killings, internet shutdowns and intimidation of journalists, HRDs and observers. Key reforms to media, cyber, and democratic process laws remain inadequate. However, human rights defenders continue to face arbitrary arrest and prolonged pre-trial detentions.

At the same time, socio-economic progress is evident, including operationalization of the Universal Health Insurance Act in 2026 and an 80% decline in maternal mortality. Nonetheless, delayed gender law reforms, land insecurity affecting pastoralist communities, and involuntary repatriation of refugees and camp closures underscore enduring structural and protection gaps. Children continue to face corporal punishments in schools, and the law still supports child marriage.

## THEMATIC AREA ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Women's Rights

**1.1 Recommendations No:** *145.8, 145.20, 145.21, 145.22, 145.23, 145.29, 145.31, 145.36, 145.37, 145.38, 145.39, 145.57, 145.73, 145.78, 145.82, 145.84, 145.85, 145.86, 145.87, 145.88, 145.89, 145.90, 145.91, 145.92, 145.93, 145.94, 145.95, 145.96, 145.97, 145.98, 145.99, 145.100, 145.107, 146.4, 146.5, 146.7, 146.9, 147.43, 147.44, 147.111, 147.112, 147.114, 147.116, 147.117, 147.118, 147.119, and 147.120.*

### 1.2 Assessment

Tanzania has adopted significant policy and institutional measures to advance the rights of women and children, including implementation of National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children - I (NPA-VAWC I) and the launch of NPA-VAWC II (2024/25–2028/29), which enhance coordination, monitoring, and public reporting on implementation of the NPA-VAWC II.<sup>1</sup> Establishment of Women and Children Protection Desks, adoption of the 2023 National Policy on Gender and Women Development,<sup>2</sup> and the recognition of violence against women in politics as an electoral offence. The National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2025),<sup>3</sup> Women Development Fund, and a TZS 200 billion bank-based empowerment scheme further demonstrate commitment. However, access to funds remains limited by stringent conditions, weak oversight, and low public awareness, while enforcement of protective laws is uneven.<sup>4</sup>

Prioritization of maternal health under the Tanzania Development Vision 2050<sup>5</sup> and the Health Sector Strategic Plan (2021–2026),<sup>6</sup> reducing preventable maternal and newborn deaths through expanded safe deliveries, postnatal care, and a 2025/2026 ten-point health reform agenda focused on prevention and equitable access.<sup>7</sup> However, disparities in quality service persist, with Tanzania Demographic Health Survey.<sup>8</sup> Data shows timely postnatal care is higher in urban (women 60%; newborns 63%) than rural areas (women 47%; newborns 51%).<sup>9</sup> Child mortality remains significant, with perinatal conditions (8.7%) among the leading causes of death in 2024 underscoring ongoing systemic gaps.<sup>10</sup>

While FGM prevalence has declined by 10% nationally,<sup>11</sup> regional rates remain alarmingly high in Arusha (43%) and Mara (28%) due to entrenched social norms and weak legal enforcement, and despite criminalization of sexual offences against children and Female Genital Mutilation alongside improved inter-agency coordination, justice outcomes remain inconsistent.<sup>12</sup> Notably, Section 169A of the Penal Code only recognizes FGM against children under 18, leaving adult women legally unprotected.<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, despite persistent civil society advocacy, the Government has yet to enact a comprehensive Anti-GBV law to unify legal protections and strengthen response mechanisms. Gender is integrated in climate and land reforms, including the Land Act, Village Land Act and operationalization of the Revised National Land Policy (2023).<sup>14</sup> yet, the Local Customary Law (Declaration) Order, 1963 continues to undermine women’s inheritance rights by recognizing discriminatory customary rules that prioritize male heirs over females.

### **1.3 Recommendations**

- 1.3.1** Repeal the Local Customary Law (Declaration) Order (G.N. No.36/1963) to align with the revised Land Laws and Policies.
- 1.3.2** Amend section 169A of the Penal Code to comprehensively criminalize all forms of FGM and introduce a new provision to criminalize marital rape, ensuring full legal protection for all women.
- 1.3.3** Enact comprehensive Anti-GBV law to strengthen legal protection and response mechanisms.
- 1.3.4** Increase sustainable investment in maternal health services, particularly in rural and underserved areas.
- 1.3.5** Enhance coordination, monitoring, and public reporting on implementation of the NPA-VAWC II and the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

## **2. Child Rights**

**2.1 Recommendations No:** *145.8,145.102, 145.29, 145.45, 145.57, 145.76, 145.77, 145.84, 145.86, 145.90, 145.91, 145.94, 145.98, 145.99, 146.10, 146.12, 147.44,*

*147.111, 147.112, 147.114, 147.117, 147.121, 147.122, 147.123, 147.124, 147.125, 147.126, 147.127, 147.128, 147.129, and 147.130.*

## **2.2 Assessment**

Tanzania has strengthened child protection through the Child Protection Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2024,<sup>15</sup> which updated the Law of the Child Act and the Cybercrimes Act to address offences relating to child sexual abuse and exploitation through technology, and the Mining Act (R.E. 2023), which prohibits hazardous labor. Institutionalization of the NPA-VAWC II in both Mainland and Zanzibar.<sup>16</sup> The implementation of previous plans contributed to a 26.5% decline in lifetime violence against children as recorded by the 2024 Violence Against Children and Youth Survey Report.<sup>17</sup> However, effectiveness is severely hampered by a 93.7% shortage of social welfare staff and the absence of dedicated budget lines for local-level implementation.<sup>18</sup>

Tanzania's education sector has seen major reforms, including Education Circular No. 2 (2021), the 2022 Re-entry Guidelines that enabled 10,239 pregnant girls to return to school,<sup>19</sup> digital education strategies (2023–2030), the Education Sector Development Plan 2025/26–2029/30, and the National Strategy for Inclusive Education 2021/22–2025/26; yet implementation gaps remain, as re-entry is not codified in the Education Act, stigma and a two-year waiting period persist, rural digital divides limit access, girls' participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is low,<sup>20</sup> support for deaf and blind learners is inadequate, and corporal punishment continues under 1979 regulations despite a constitutional challenge in the High Court.<sup>21</sup>

Sections 13 and 17 of the Law of Marriage Act, 1971 remain in the statute despite the 2019 Court of Appeal of Tanzania decision declaring them discriminatory and unconstitutional for permitting child marriage.

Tanzania is implementing NPA VAWC II, treating child labor as violence and coordinating government and community stakeholders. The Labour Laws (Amendments) Act, 2025, strengthens worker protections and clarifies contracts. Despite Zanzibar's expanded cash transfers under the 2021–2026 Development Plan, child labor persists in industry, mining, informal businesses, and bars during school hours, highlighting the need for a more

comprehensive strategy.<sup>22</sup>

By 2025, birth registration centers expanded dramatically from 139 in 2012 to over 12,025,<sup>23</sup> supported by the simplified One-Step Process and revisions to the Births and Deaths Registration Act (2002) and the Law of the Child Act (2009) to strengthen mandatory registration. For the first time, refugee children were included in the national system, with more than 13,500 children under five in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps receiving certificates.<sup>24</sup>

## **2.3 Recommendations**

**2.3.1** Establish a mandatory budget line and budget codes for NPA-VAWC II across all ministries and local government authorities to ensure predictable domestic financing and easy tracking of accountability.

**2.3.2** Invest in an integrated data management system linking all VAWC-related ministries and agencies to eliminate data fragmentation and enable evidence-based decision-making.

**2.3.3** Allocate dedicated resources and budget to strengthen law enforcement and support Children’s Councils at national, regional, district, and ward levels, ensuring consistent child participation and protection.

**2.3.4** Implement the Court of Appeal decision on age of marriage.

**2.3.5** Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the 2021/22–2025/26 National Inclusive Education Strategy and use the findings to effectively implement the national standards for inclusive education.

**2.3.6** Amend the Education Act and its regulations to explicitly guarantee the right of pregnant girls and young mothers to return to school and prohibit corporal punishment in all schools.

**2.3.7** Fully digitalize the civil registration system, eliminating manual data entry and enabling real-time birth and death registration nationwide.

**2.3.8** Invest in AI-driven assistive technologies, such as automated sign-language-to-speech and text-to-braille software, to provide personalized learning for children with disabilities in mainstream classrooms.

**2.3.9** Enforce mandatory mining inspections at the local government level to eliminate child labor and ensure compliance with the Mining Act (Cap 123 R.E. 2023).

### **3. Minority Rights (PWDs, Elderly, Refugees)**

#### **3.1 Previous Cycle Recommendations**

**Recommendations No:** *145.1, 145.24, 145.29, 145.30, 145.32, 145.33, 145.34, 145.35, 145.40, 145.41, 145.42, 145.43, 145.44, 145.45, 145.46, 145.62, 145.63, 145.66, 145.75, 145.76, 145.84, 145.106, 145.107, 145.108, 146.1, 146.2, 146.3, 146.11, 146.12, 147.10, 147.12, 147.43, 147.74, 147.75, 147.77, and 147.132.*

#### **3.2 Assessment**

Tanzania has taken steps, including disability-disaggregated data collection in the 2022 Census,<sup>25</sup> enactment of Zanzibar's Persons with Disabilities Act (2022),<sup>26</sup> adoption of the National Assistive Technology Strategy (2024–2027),<sup>27</sup> aimed at expanding access to wheelchairs, hearing aids, and other essential devices and launch of the National Action Plan on the Rights and Welfare of Persons with Albinism (2024/2025–2028/2029),<sup>28</sup> which responds to longstanding challenges of violence, discrimination, and stigma affecting persons with albinism.

Inclusive education reforms (2023) and regulatory guidance on accessibility further reflect progress.<sup>29</sup> However, gaps remain in enforcement, budget allocation, and monitoring. The State Party has yet to submit its report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, lack of legislative reforms to address trafficking in body parts and insufficient access to social protection schemes.

Tanzania hosts 229,446 refugees and asylum seekers,<sup>30</sup> yet despite obligations under the 1951 UN Convention<sup>31</sup> and the 1969 OAU Convention,<sup>32</sup> the Government has announced closure of Nduta and Nyarugusu camps by March and June 2026, respectively;<sup>33</sup> while officials cite improved conditions in countries of origin, reduced services, dismantled shelters, and limited access to asylum procedures and legal aid raise serious risks of coerced repatriation and refoulement, undermining international protection commitments.<sup>34</sup>

The operationalization of the Universal Health Insurance Scheme, prioritizing elderly, Zanzibar's Elder Persons Affairs Act (2020)<sup>35</sup> and launch of the Ministry of Health's Five-Year Strategic Plan (2021/2022–2025/2026) are indicative movement toward stronger

protection of elderly. Nevertheless, Mainland Tanzania lacks a specific legal framework for elderly, leaving protection fragmented.

The revised National Education Policy (2023) and Early Identification Guidelines for Children with Disabilities (2023) represent progress toward inclusive education.<sup>36</sup> In parallel, the NPA-VAWC II, reinforces broader protection of women and children, including PWDs against violence. The 2021 amendment to the Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act now mandates accessible formats for the visually impaired per the Marrakesh Treaty.<sup>37</sup> Economic and political inclusion have also been strengthened through the 2024 Council Loan Guidelines allowing PWDs to apply for loans individually,<sup>38</sup> and the 2024 Political Parties Affairs Law (Amendment) Act,<sup>39</sup> which requires dedicated PWD desks and social inclusion policies. Furthermore, the 2024 Revised National Ageing Policy enhances the welfare and protection of older persons across the United Republic. Yet, significant implementation gaps persist, as PWDs face low school enrollment, inaccessible infrastructure, and a shortage of specialized teachers. These challenges are compounded by limited access to assistive devices, uneven social protection, and additional barriers for refugees in accessing disability-sensitive health and education services.

## **Recommendations**

- 3.2.1** Strengthen enforcement mechanisms, including addressing trafficking and violence against persons with albinism.
- 3.2.2** Halt shelter demolitions and service withdrawals to ensure voluntary refugee returns, while guaranteeing timely birth certificate issuance for refugee children.
- 3.2.3** The international community must honor its "burden-sharing" commitment by providing the necessary funding to make refugee return zones viable, ensuring returnees have access to land, justice mechanisms, and basic services to prevent secondary displacement.
- 3.2.4** Involve Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in legislative and budgetary processes.
- 3.2.5** Strengthen disability inclusion by improving public awareness and providing capacity building for public officials to deliver equitable and inclusive disability-competent services.

- 3.2.6 Full implementation of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights decision on the protection of the persons with albinism.<sup>40</sup>
- 3.2.7 Submit the State Party overdue report on the situation of people with disability to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 3.2.8 Enact a law on the rights of elderly in Tanzania Mainland.
- 3.2.9 Expedite the review and amendment of both the National Policy on People with Disabilities and the Persons with Disabilities Act to align national legislation with current international human rights standards.
- 3.2.10 Expedite the ratification of the African Disability Protocol and ILO Convention No. 159 to strengthen the legal framework for the rights and employment of PWDs.

#### 4. Civil and Political Rights

##### 4.1 Previous Cycle Recommendations

**Recommendation No** 145.18, 145.27, 145.49, 145.50, 147.2, 147.24, 147.28, 147.33, 147.37, 147.39, 147.68, 147.69, 147.75, 147.76, 147.78, 147.81, 147.82, 147.83, 147.84, 147.86, 147.87, 147.88, 147.89, 147.91, 147.92, 147.93, 147.95, 147.96, 147.97, 147.98, 147.101, 147.102, 147.104, 147.105, 147.106, and 147.107.

##### 4.2 Assessment

Between 2022 and 2025, implementation of recommendations on civil and political rights reflected mixed progress, despite institutional frameworks remaining in place tangible expansion of civic space, media freedom, and full political participation has been limited. Tanzania amended its anti-corruption legislation,<sup>41</sup> expanding corruption offences and strengthening the powers of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau, and adopted the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan Phase IV (2023–2030) to reinforce prevention and enforcement. Institutional support and capacity-building efforts have continued. However, recurring Controller and Auditor General reports still highlight procurement irregularities and public fund mismanagement.<sup>42</sup> Despite the strengthened framework, measurable improvements in accountability and rule of law safeguards remain inconsistent.

Tanzania maintains judicial structures and a legal aid framework, with courts operational and reforms under discussion. However, civil society reports persistent issues, including prolonged pretrial detention, non-bailable offences, and delays in politically sensitive cases. For instance, in *Republic v Alex Manyanza & 3 Others*,<sup>43</sup> the accused spent nearly 10 years in remand before release. Similarly, Sheikh Said Mohammed Ulatule and his family were held for years on terrorism-related charges, with Sheikh Ulatule dying in custody in 2023.<sup>44</sup> While legal safeguards exist, their consistent application, especially for activists, journalists, and opposition figures, remains a concern.

From 2022 to 2025, the Media Services Act (Cap 229), Cybercrimes Act, and Political Parties Act saw no major reforms to meet international standards, continuing to restrict online speech, public gatherings, civil society, and media. Media suspensions, arrests over online content, and controls on assemblies show civic space remains tightly regulated.<sup>45</sup>

Although the Government has at times expressed openness to dialogue and discussions on electoral reforms,<sup>46</sup> Reports indicate persistent restrictions on opposition activities and independent monitoring, with limited progress in securing a political environment free from intimidation. The lack of comprehensive electoral reform contributed to post-election violence in 2025, causing unprecedented mass civilian deaths, property damage, and more than 2,045 people were arrested,<sup>47</sup> detained, some charged with un-bailable offences such as treason and armed robbery.<sup>48</sup>

The wave of abductions, torture, and enforced disappearances has become increasingly common in Tanzania,<sup>49</sup> yet no accountability or credible investigations have been undertaken despite sustained public demand.<sup>50</sup> Over the past four years, more than 200 cases of enforced disappearance have been reported, reflecting a deeply troubling pattern of impunity.<sup>51</sup>

Unfortunately, the National Human Rights Action Plan (2018–2022) lapsed without implementation, and the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2025/26–2029/30) remains unlaunched, underscoring weak operationalization of policy commitments. This reporting period reflects partial implementation of civil and political rights recommendations.

### **4.3 Recommendations**

- 4.3.1** Ratify the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol, and domesticate their provisions to strengthen safeguards against torture, ill-treatment, and arbitrary detention.
- 4.3.2** Abolish the death penalty in law and practice by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, and reform mandatory sentencing laws to ensure judicial discretion and proportionality in line with international standards.
- 4.3.3** Amend or repeal restrictive provisions in the Media Services Act, the Electronic and Postal Communications Act and its Regulations, Cybercrimes Act, and Political Parties Act to ensure full compliance with ICCPR protections on freedom of expression, assembly, and association, including giving full effects of the decision of the East African Court of Justice.<sup>52</sup>
- 4.3.4** Review and update the National Information and Broadcasting Policy 2003 to align it with the current digital media environment and international standards on freedom of expression, and to strengthen protections for media independence and the safety of journalists.
- 4.3.5** Abolish non-bailable offences and guarantee the right to bail for all offences. In practice, non-bailable offences have frequently been used against activists, journalists, and members of the political opposition, resulting in prolonged pre-trial detention.
- 4.3.6** Ensure transparent, accountable, and effective transitional justice mechanisms in response to human rights violations related to the 2025 electoral period, including thorough independent investigations,<sup>53</sup> prosecution of perpetrators, and adequate remedies for victims.<sup>54</sup>
- 4.3.7** Ensure peaceful assemblies and political gatherings proceed without undue restrictions.
- 4.3.8** Lift arbitrary suspensions or closures of media outlets and online platforms and ensure that regulatory bodies operate independently and free.
- 4.3.9** Strengthen measures to prevent, investigate, and eradicate enforced disappearances by fully cooperating with the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and ratify the convention on enforced disappearances.

- 4.3.10** Undertake comprehensive electoral and political reforms to ensure political parties, candidates, observers, and CSOs operate freely and safely throughout the electoral cycle.
- 4.3.11** Ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and align national laws to reinforce democratic governance, electoral integrity, and political rights.
- 4.3.12** Implement African Courts decisions on independent candidates and the right to challenge presidential election results, adopting necessary legislative and institutional reforms to give them full effect.<sup>55</sup>
- 4.3.13** Develop and operationalize the National Human Rights Action Plan and launch the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2025/26–2029/30) and allocate adequate resources.
- 4.3.14** Develop and operationalize the National Action Plan for the Safety and Security of Journalists. The Government should finalize, adopt, and implement the National Action Plan that was jointly developed in December 2023 by CSOs, UNESCO, and the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology
- 4.3.15** Finalize the New Constitution Making Process as proposed by CSOs through an inclusive and transparent process.

## **5. Human Rights Defenders**

### **5.1 Previous Cycle Recommendations**

**Recommendation No** *147.2, 147.24, 147.28, 147.33, 147.39, 147.67, 147.68, 147.69, 147.75, 147.76, 147.78, 147.81, 147.88, 147.91, 147.96, 147.98, 147.101, and 147.102.*

### **5.2 Assessment**

Despite President Samia Suluhu appreciating the works of the Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) during the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of THRDC in 2022, developments during this period indicate that challenges to HRDs persist in practice. Reports from CSOs point to continued instances of arrests, prosecutions, administrative measures affecting activists, journalists and opposition figures.<sup>56</sup> HRDs have raised concerns about intimidation, surveillance and the use

of criminal charges in ways that may discourage public advocacy. As a result, the operating environment for HRDs has remained constrained, with protective measures not yet fully realized in practice.

Additionally, CSOs reports documented arbitrary arrests, prolonged pretrial detention, and the use of non-bailable offences against activists and political actors. Weak accountability systems and limited legal reforms further undermined a safe and enabling environment for HRDs. During the 2025 general elections, the targeting of HRDs intensified, forcing many to flee and seek asylum in neighboring countries.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

- 5.3.1** Enact and implement a dedicated legal and policy framework on the protection of HRDs, aligned with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, guaranteeing their right to operate freely and without reprisals.
- 5.3.2** Establish an independent, impartial and transparent mechanism to investigate arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, torture and threats against HRDs, journalists and political actors, with public reporting on outcomes.
- 5.3.3** Issue high-level public directives affirming the legitimacy of HRDs' work and prohibiting state harassment, backed by mandatory law enforcement training on HRDs rights based on international standards.
- 5.3.4** Revise the NGO Policy and the Regulatory framework to align with the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania to ensure that NGOs operate and access funding without undue administrative interference.
- 5.3.5** Strengthen judicial independence and safeguard due process, including limiting prolonged pre-trial detention and ensuring timely, fair and public hearings for all individuals, including HRDs and political activists.
- 5.3.6** Institutionalize regular dialogue between government and broader stakeholders to ensure that democratic processes are conducted in an open civic environment free from intimidation.

## **6. Land and Pastoralists' Rights**

### **6.1 Previous Cycle Recommendations**

## **Recommendations No: 147.131.**

### **6.2 Assessment**

While the Land Act 1999 and Village Land Act 1999 recognize customary and communal land rights, Indigenous and pastoralist communities continue to face significant challenges in fully exercising land ownership and usage rights, including insecurity of tenure, land use conflicts, and limited participation in land governance and decision making processes. Recent measures including the June 2022 designation of 1,502 km<sup>2</sup> of Loliondo village land as a game reserve without consultation, forced evictions, and restricted access to water and grazing in Ngorongoro have undermined traditional livelihoods.<sup>57</sup> Although some services were restored after protests in August 2024, ancestral land rights remain insecure.<sup>58</sup>

Systematic alienation of pastoralist lands through proposed land-use changes (2023–2024) threatens to dispossess 70% of districts with pastoralists, risking displacement of 390,000 residents across 90 villages. Relocation schemes, such as Msomera, fail to respect cultural realities of polygamous Maasai families, leading to family disintegration and collapse of communal economic systems.

In 2024, the Government issued G.N No. 673, effectively abolished Wards, Villages and Hamlets in Ngorongoro, Bahi, Chemba, Kasulu, Kakonko, Hai and Rombo to facilitate conservation transitions, initially disenfranchising residents from the Local Government Elections.<sup>59</sup> Although the subsequent administrative reversals halted the process following CSOs' and international pressure,<sup>60</sup> the move signaled a precarious shift toward administrative erasure of ancestral lands. G.N No. 600/2025 abolished Wards, Villages and Hamlets in Tanganyika, Msimbo and Kaliua.

The Government continues to disregard judicial decisions favoring pastoralists, notably the cases of the Barabaig in Vilima vitatu (Babati) and communities in Kiteto (Emborleye Murtangus), where subdivision orders were issued contrary to Court of Appeal rulings.<sup>61</sup> 2600 people were evicted from their land at Bombo Village - Tanga Region in February 2025.<sup>62</sup>

### **6.3 Recommendations**

**6.3.1** Rescind G.N No. 421/2022 and G.N No. 604/2022 which designated 1,502 km<sup>2</sup> of

Loliondo village land as game-controlled area and game reserve respectively.

- 6.3.2** Rescind G.N No. 600/2025 and G.N No. 673/25 which abolished Wards, Villages and Hamlets in Ngorongoro, Bahi, Chemba, Kasulu, Kakonko, Hai, Rombo Tanganyika, Msimbo and Kaliua.
- 6.3.3** Review the National Livestock Policy (2006) to recognize mobile pastoralism as a legitimate production system.
- 6.3.4** De-gazette Game Controlled Areas overlapping registered village lands.
- 6.3.5** Enforce judicial decisions on land restoration and investigate human rights violations by game scouts through an independent commission.
- 6.3.6** Formally recognize the Hadzabe, Maasai, Barabaig (Datoga), and Akie as Indigenous Peoples in law and policy to align national frameworks with international human rights and land rights standards and to strengthen the protection of their cultural, land, and livelihood rights

## **7. Socio-Economic Rights**

### **7.1 Previous Cycle Recommendations**

**Recommendations Nos.** *145.7, 145.14, 145.16, 145.25, 145.67, 145.68, 145.78, 145.80, 145.81, and 145.82.*

### **7.2 Assessment**

On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025, the Government of Tanzania launched the Tanzania Development Vision 2050, which sets long-term economic goals.<sup>63</sup> The Universal Health Insurance (UHI) Act, 2023 entered into force on 26 January 2026,<sup>64</sup> with government financing for an estimated 1.4 million vulnerable beneficiaries, including the elderly, PWDs, and pregnant women.<sup>65</sup> Currently, Tanzania operates 13,803 health facilities, including 28 regional referral hospitals and 1,372 health centres in Mainland,<sup>66</sup> Zanzibar built new 11 district hospitals, 4 regional hospitals and 2 referral hospitals. Nonetheless, maintenance of advanced diagnostic equipment in rural areas remains constrained by high servicing costs and limited biomedical expertise.

The education sector has introduced key reforms to expand access and quality, including the 2022 re-entry circular,<sup>67</sup> the Education Sector Development Plan (2025/26–2029/30)

prioritizing Technical and Vocational Education and Training,<sup>68</sup> and the National Digital Education Strategy (2024/25–2029/30) integrating ICT and Artificial Intelligence.<sup>69</sup>

Several Policy revisions and guidelines have been made to strengthen rural and technical education,<sup>70</sup> while Zanzibar allocated TZS 864 billion in 2025/26 for school and vocational infrastructure. However, gaps persist in inclusive education for children with disabilities due to limited Educational Support Resource and Assessment Centres (ESRAC), inaccessible infrastructure, inadequate specialized materials, and insufficient investment in modern agribusiness and climate-smart skills in rural areas.<sup>71</sup>

Under the Digital Economy Strategic Framework,<sup>72</sup> telecom infrastructure expanded from 9,745 to 10,029 towers, contributing to 87.11% mobile penetration and 91% high-speed internet coverage by 2025 through the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF),<sup>73</sup> alongside establishment of 11 rural ICT centres in Zanzibar. However, smartphone penetration remains at 41.82%, data bundle costs are still high for many users, and concerns over periodic internet restrictions and shutdowns continue to limit affordable, reliable, and open access.<sup>74</sup>

### **7.3 Recommendations**

- 7.3.1** Review and renegotiate supplier contracts to include mandatory long-term maintenance and subsidized repairs, ensuring health facilities can sustain advanced equipment despite limited operational revenue.
- 7.3.2** Decentralize ESRACs to the ward level to provide assistive devices for children with disabilities.
- 7.3.3** Strengthen universal internet access under the UCSAF to prioritize underserved rural, low-income, and marginalized communities.
- 7.3.4** Ensure adequate resources in ICT integration and comprehensive implementation of digital inclusiveness in all sectors to align with e-governance.
- 7.3.5** Develop a comprehensive strategy on modern agribusiness skills in schools including agri tech, climate smart, basic finance and record keeping.
- 7.3.6** Refrain from interfering with internet access.

## **8. Environment and Climate Justice**

### **8.1 Recommendations Nos. 145.26, 145.29.**

#### **8.2 Assessment**

Tanzania Development Vision 2050 incorporates climate change under Pillar 3. This pillar is central to achieve carbon neutrality and part of the implementation of the zero-carbon strategy by 2050. It provides for environmental integrity and climate change resilience. The Environmental Management (Amendment) Act No. 5 of 2025 added climate change as one of the areas in ensuring legal commitment towards climate change. It redefined "Environment" to include "Climate Change" and established the National Carbon Monitoring Centre.<sup>75</sup> As a strategic roadmap The National Adaptation Plan 2025–2035 was launched in 2025, focusing on health, water, food, energy, and ecosystems.<sup>76</sup>

Further, the Zanzibar Environmental Management Act No. 5 of 2025 empowers the Zanzibar Environmental Management Authority to monitor Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). Complementing this, the Zanzibar Joint Programme (2024–2027), with a budget of USD 8.36 million, promotes coastal resilience and seaweed farming, benefiting 15,000 households. In 2025, about 100,000 adolescents were also trained in climate adaptation.<sup>77</sup>

Furthermore, lack of transparency and the exclusion of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) in current carbon-credit investment disrupts traditional grazing. In addition, it undermines indigenous climate adaptation strategies and violate human rights under the guise of environmental conservation.

#### **8.3 Recommendations**

- 8.3.1** Expand climate risk insurance for agricultural activities including seaweed farmers and fishers.
- 8.3.2** Amend the Carbon Control and Management Regulations to expressly mandate and enforce Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and a mandatory public awareness programme for all projects.
- 8.3.3** Establish accessible public registries for all carbon trading agreements and benefit-sharing, ensuring transparency through local languages and inclusive formats for women, PWDs, and youth.
- 8.3.4** Enforce national guidelines for equitable benefit-sharing between investors, communities, and the Government in all carbon projects.

**8.3.5** Promote community-led climate initiatives, including agroecology and ecosystem restoration.

**8.3.6** Strengthen institutional monitoring of carbon markets to prevent land conflicts and human rights violations.

### **Conclusion**

Reports of abductions, torture, and enforced disappearances especially around the 2025 elections remain a major human rights concern. Despite public outcry and detailed documentation by civil society, no credible or independent investigations have been carried out, allowing impunity to persist. Addressing these violations urgently is essential to restore trust in state institutions, ensure accountability, and uphold Tanzania's human rights obligations.

## Annexes

### Annex 1: List of Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> [The National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children \(NPA – VAWC II 2024/25 – 2028/29\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> The [National Policy on Gender and Women Development, 2023](#).

<sup>3</sup> See: UN Women – Africa “[Involving women in peace and security: Good practices in the implementation of 1325 National Action Plans in East and Southern Africa](#)”.

<sup>4</sup> The Chanzo, “[Government Issues Sh200 Billion for Economic Empowerment of Youth and Women](#)”.

<sup>5</sup> [Tanzania Development Vision 2050](#).

<sup>6</sup> [Health Sector Strategic Plan \(HSSP V\) 2021-2026](#).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> [Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey \(TDHS-MIS\)](#).

<sup>10</sup> Ministry of Health 2024 facility report.

<sup>11</sup> The Demographic and Health Survey 2022.

<sup>12</sup> URT “[Thirtieth Anniversary of The Fourth World Conference on Women And Adoption of The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action \(1995\)](#).”

<sup>13</sup> Section 149A of [the Penal Code](#).

<sup>14</sup> Tanzania, “[Revised National Land Policy](#)”.

<sup>15</sup> [The Child Protection Laws \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Act, 2024](#).

<sup>16</sup> National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC 2017/18-2022/23) in Mainland, and The Zanzibar National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) 2017-2022.

<sup>17</sup> Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups and Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children. Tanzania Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) 2024: Full Report. Tanzania, 2025.

<sup>18</sup> Performance Audit Report on the Management of Measures for Eliminating Violence Against Women and Children in Tanzania, The Office of Controller Auditor General, March 2023.

<sup>19</sup> [2022 Re-entry Guidelines](#).

<sup>20</sup> The [National Strategy for Inclusive Education 2021/22-2025/26](#).

<sup>21</sup> *Samwel Maduhu Mangu versus Minister of Education, Science and Technology and the Attorney General*; Miscellaneous Civil Cause No. 32373 of 2025.

<sup>22</sup> HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS REPORT [2023/24 Mainland Tanzania](#).

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> UNHCR, [Refugee twins among the first to receive birth certificates in Tanzania](#).

<sup>25</sup> Ministry of Finance and Planning, National Bureau of Statistics – Tanzania, and the Office of the President – Finance and Planning, Office of the Chief Government Statistician Zanzibar. [2022 Population and Housing Census: Preliminary Results. Dodoma, Tanzania](#). October 2022.

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- <sup>26</sup>Zanzibar, [the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2022](#).
- <sup>27</sup>[NATIONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY-2024-2027](#).
- <sup>28</sup>[Tanzania’s Historic Milestone: Adopting a National Action Plan on Albinism - Africa Albinism Network](#)
- <sup>29</sup> See: the [National Strategy for Inclusive Education 2021/22-2025/26](#), prioritizes equitable, quality, and free education for all children, particularly focusing on those with disabilities, special needs, and marginalized groups.
- <sup>30</sup> [UNHCR Tanzania Operational Update November 2025](#).
- <sup>31</sup> [Convention Relating to Status of Refugees, 1951](#).
- <sup>32</sup> [OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa](#).
- <sup>33</sup> EATV (2025). [KAMBI ya Wakimbizi Nduta yenye Wakimbizi wa Nchi ya Burundi kufungwa ifikapo March 31 mwaka 2026](#).
- <sup>34</sup> [5.1.1 Annual Results Report](#)
- <sup>35</sup> [Zanzibar’s Elder Persons Affairs Act \(2020\)](#).
- <sup>36</sup> [EDUCATION AND TRAINING POLICY 2014, 2023 EDITION | Wizara ya Elimu, Sayansi na Teknolojia](#)
- <sup>37</sup> See: the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment of the Schedule) Order, 2021.
- <sup>38</sup> Regulations on the Issuance and Management of Loans for Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities Groups; GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NO. 230 of April 4, 2025.
- <sup>39</sup> [The Political Parties Affairs Laws \(Amendment\) Act, 2024](#).
- <sup>40</sup> [African Court Concludes Public Hearing in Application No. 019/2018, Centre for Human Rights and Others vs. Tanzania on Alleged Human Rights Violations of Persons With Albinism in Tanzania](#).
- <sup>41</sup> [The Prevention and Combating of Corruption \(Amendment\) Act, 2024](#) introduced among others the corruption in elections offences.
- <sup>42</sup> See: [National Audit Office Reports](#).
- <sup>43</sup> [Republic v Alex Manyanza & 3 Others](#), (Criminal Session 34 of 2017) [2024] TZHC 1656 (16 April 2024).
- <sup>44</sup> [LHRC calls for DPP to either drop charges against six members of the same family charged with terrorism or produce them in court](#).
- <sup>45</sup> See: [THRDC Situational Report on HRDs and Civic Space in Tanzania 2024](#).
- <sup>46</sup> See: [Revised Electoral Laws](#); [Electoral Regulations](#); [Electoral Guidelines](#); [Electoral Directives](#).
- <sup>47</sup> See: [Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Statement for October 29, 2025 Violences Detainees](#).
- <sup>48</sup> For context see: Tanzania Election Observers Reports in both 2024 and 2025 Elections. [Tanzania SEOM 2025 - Preliminary Statement](#); [African Union Election Observation Mission to the 29th Tanzania General Election](#); [A coalition of 17 Western diplomatic missions in Tanzania joint statement](#) expressing deep concern over violence, human rights abuses, and electoral irregularities following the October 29, 2025, general elections.
- <sup>49</sup> LHRC Human Rights Report 2024 “[Resurgency of Unknown Assailants](#)”.
- <sup>50</sup> The Chanzo “[Unyielding Quest for Justice: One Year After a Ali Kibao's Murder](#)”.
- <sup>51</sup> See: For instance as of 15 June 2025, UN report indicates that more than 200 people have been enforced disappeared in Tanzania. “[Tanzania: UN Experts alarmed by pattern of enforced disappearance and torture to silence opposition and critics](#)”;
- <sup>52</sup> [Media Council of Tanzania and Others v Attorney General of the United Republic of Tanzania](#) (Reference 2 of 2017) [2019] EACJ 2 (28 March 2019).

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<sup>53</sup> See: [Petition against Commission of Inquiry \(Mwakitwange et al.\)](#); Challenging the President's discretion in forming the commission and its lack of independence.

<sup>54</sup> The steps taken i.e formation of the Inquiry Committee inappropriate.

<sup>55</sup> For Reference see: Application 011/2011 - [Rev. Christopher Mtikila vs United Republic of Tanzania](#); Application 018/2018 - [Jebra Kambole vs United Republic of Tanzania](#).

<sup>56</sup> See: [State of Fear: Inside Tanzania's Enforced Disappearances - BBC Africa Eye Documentary](#).

<sup>57</sup> See: Freedom House, Tanzania Country Report 2025 (Maasai Voter Registration and August 2024 Protests).

<sup>58</sup> See: Joint Submission by Pastoralists and Hunter-Gatherers Organizations in Tanzania for the 3rd UPR Cycle (Execution of Court Judgments and Livestock Policy Gaps).

<sup>59</sup> See: [The Local Government \(District Authorities\) \(Division of Administrative Areas\) \(Amendment\) Order, 2024](#).

<sup>60</sup> TALA, "[Final TALA Statement on Abolition of Villages in Ngorongoro](#)".

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> [NYUMBA ZA WANANCHI HAWA ZATEKETEZWA KWA MOTO ,WAONDOLEWA KWA NGUVU, WALALA NJE KWENYE MATURUBAI](#)

<sup>63</sup> See: [President Samia Launches Tanzania Development Vision 2050 Targeting USD 1 Trillion Economy and Top 3 Rank in Africa for Investment](#).

<sup>64</sup> See: [Business Insider Tanzania](#); The Citizen, [Universal Health Insurance rolls out nationwide today](#).

<sup>65</sup> See: Tanzania: [Universal Health Insurance for Vulnerable Populations at the Doorstep](#).

<sup>66</sup> See: [Health Facilities Registry](#).

<sup>67</sup> See: the Women and Child Rights above.

<sup>68</sup> [EDUCATION SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN 202the 5/26](#).

<sup>69</sup> [National Digital Education Strategy, 2024/25 - 2029/30](#).

<sup>70</sup> [Budget Speech 2024/2025| Ministry of Education, Science and Technology](#); See: several guidelines for inclusive education such as National Guidelines for Identification and Assessment of Children with Special Educational Needs (2023).

<sup>71</sup> Daily News "[ESRAC \(Educational Support Resource and Assessment Centre\) - there are limited centers](#)".

<sup>72</sup> See: the National Digital Education Strategy (2024–2030) and the Digital Economy Framework (2023); TMC analysis on the Tanzania National Digital Education Strategy.

<sup>73</sup> Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), [Quarterly Communications Statistics Report, October–December 2025](#).

<sup>74</sup> TMC "[ADVOCACY BRIEF: THE DIGITAL BLACKOUT: State Control, Violence, and the Silencing of Tanzania's 2025 General Election](#)."

<sup>75</sup> [The Environmental Management \(Amendment\) Act, 2025](#).

<sup>76</sup> Climate Change Laws of the World "[United Republic of Tanzania National Adaptation Plan \(2025-2035\)](#)."

<sup>77</sup> [United for Change: Driving Inclusive Growth and Climate Action in Zanzibar](#).