STATEMENT BY H.E AMB. PROF. KENNEDY GASTORN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON BEHALF OF H.E. DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SEVENTY FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK.

Theme: “The Future we Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism - confronting COVID 19 through effective multilateral action”

NEW YORK, 29 SEPTEMBER 2020
Your Excellency, President of the General Assembly;
Your Excellency Secretary-General of the United Nations;
Excellencies Heads of State and Government;
Distinguished Delegates,

Mr. President,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, who could not virtually join this August Assembly due to the ongoing General Elections Campaign in the country.

H.E. President Magufuli is vying for the Second Presidential Term at the elections scheduled on 28th October, 2020.

The Government of Tanzania would like to renew its resolve in ensuring that this year’s campaigns and elections are conducted in a democratic, peaceful, credible, fair manner and transparently, as Tanzania has done in all her elections without fail, since 1965.

Mr President,

The United Republic of Tanzania extends its warm congratulations to you, on your assumption of the presidency of the General Assembly. I assure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation in discharging your noble mandate. I also pay tribute to your predecessor, H.E. Prof. Tijjani Muhammad Bande for his excellent leadership and commitment, as demonstrated during his tenure of office in the face of the difficult times.

Mr. President,
It is with great sadness that in July, 2020 Tanzania lost one of its great leaders, the late Benjamin William Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania. At this juncture, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for the messages of condolences.

Mr. President,

This Year’s General Debate hinges on multilateralism which matches very well with our major pre-occupation to ensure that no one is left behind. We welcome and fully endorse the theme for this General Debate.

You are taking on the presidency during challenging times as the World is battling through the COVID-19 pandemic. This is unprecedented.

The outbreak and spread of COVID-19 in the World remind us that, we need to enhance solidarity within the multilateral system to confront our global challenges. The pandemic has drastically claimed a lot of lives and distorted economies of individual countries and the World at large.

I would hereby like to convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and relatives of those who have passed on, and wish quick recovery to those who are undergoing treatment.

In the same context, Tanzania appreciates all initiatives, within the United Nations System, to mobilize efforts to confront the pandemic, including sharing necessary practices to avoid its further spreading.

At the National level, the Government has taken concerted and decisive actions to mitigate and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

These measures have so far provided positive results in fighting the pandemic in our country. Today, all socio-economic activities have resumed to normal.
Despite the success, we cannot deny the adverse impacts of the pandemic in our country and the World at large, especially to least developed and developing countries. We express our sincere appreciation to the Development Partners, including International Financial Institutions that have complimented our national efforts in the fight against the pandemic through debt relief, postponement of debt payments and provision of grants.

In the same spirit, Tanzania further urges International Financial Institutions and Development Partners to devise mechanisms to provide resources to compliment efforts of least developed and developing countries in the fight against the pandemic through unconditional terms.

This includes but should not be limited to further debt relief measures to enable these countries to revamp their economies more speedily.

**Mr President,**

As we mark the 75th Anniversary of our organization, the United Republic of Tanzania would like to reaffirm our shared commitment in maintaining the pillars of the United Nations; peace and security, human rights and development.

The independence of Tanzania remains one of the remarkable testimonies of the commitments of the United Nations to ideals of its Charter. The UN was instrumental in facilitating our independence.

Tanzania remained a committed member of the UN, and through the Committee on Decolonization, Tanzania has supported many liberation struggles for other fellow states to regain their independences.
Equally over the years, Tanzania has participated in promoting the pillars of the United Nations in matters of peace and security and in working towards a sustainable future that we all foresee.

We are proud to have participated under the umbrella of the United Nations in peace keeping operations. Currently, we have over 2,303 peace keepers in 6 missions. Tanzania believes that Peace and security are the cornerstone of our socio-economic development.

Mr. President,

There is no doubt that multilateralism is an important tool for collaboration among Nations, as the United Nations has demonstrated. As we enter the decade of action for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we continue to believe that the United Nations is ultimately the right platform to address global challenges.

In implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the current Government of Tanzania has accomplished a number of achievements in various sectors.

Our national economy is growing at a rate of 6.9 percent as compared to 6.2 percent in 2015.

Indeed, COVID-19, has resulted in a lower growth projection to 5.5 percent, hence the need for relief to support a more vibrant economic growth projection.

Inflation rates have remained stable at a single digit of 4.4 percent and recorded lowest rate of 3.4 in 2019.

As a result, on 1 July 2020, the World Bank announced the upgrade of Tanzanian economy from least-developed to lower-middle income status, five years before the envisioned time in the year 2025 under the National Development Vision.
This milestone has been as a result of different national measures mainly focused on clamping down corruption, improving public administration and proper management of public and natural resources.

This achievement has also been possible because of the Government’s reforms and partnership with various development partners. We would therefore wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the United Nations through its specialised Agencies, Funds and Programmes and other development partners.

Mr President,

In efforts to integrate the economic and human development, progress has been made in improving infrastructure necessary for provision of social services.

For instance, in the last five years a total of 1,769 health facilities around the country that range from dispensaries to referral hospitals have been constructed.

Additionally, the construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructures has led to improved access to clean and safe water by 70.1 percent in rural areas and 84 percent in urban areas.

Rural electrifications has enabled a total of 9,112 out 12,268 villages in Tanzania to have electricity.

Mr President,

Twenty five years since the Beijing Platform, inequality still remains in the world. Despite the challenges which still exist, Tanzania has been able to put in place different national frameworks to guide implementation of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls; including
mainstreaming of gender equality objectives in all government policies and programmes.

In terms of promotion of the right to education, the Government has also overseen major construction and rehabilitation of learning and teaching facilities, as well as, the provision of free education in Primary and Secondary Schools.

This has raised Primary School enrolment from 1 Million in the year 2015 to 1.6 Million in 2020. As a result, the number of Secondary School enrolment has increased from 1.6 Million in the year 2015 to 2.1 Million this year.

The government has enhanced inter-connectedness and has managed to construct 3,500 kilometres of roads and numerous large bridges in the past five years.

Moreover, the Government has managed to rehabilitate major Ports and other transport facilities ranging from the Standard Gauge Railway that runs through Central Tanzania, and the revival of other railway transport facilities in the Eastern Corridor.

Other milestones include construction and rehabilitation of ships to improve water transport and connectivity in areas surrounded by water bodies. The Government has also overseen the procurement of 11 Aircrafts out of which 8 are in operation for commercial purposes.

Mr. President,

In an effort to build industrial economy in Tanzania, we have embarked on the establishment of 8,477 new industries of large, medium and small categories.
This has gone hand in hand with the construction of a major Hydro-electric Power Plant in the Rufiji river that will have a capacity to provide 2,115 Megawatts of electricity enough to boost up energy supply in industries.

Our blueprint for industrial economy and human development seeks to address the infrastructure and regulatory hurdles and thereby create a smart, functional and fair investment and business regulatory regime.

May I, therefore, make use of this opportunity to invite and encourage International Investors to come and invest in different sectors in Tanzania. We have a stable and favourable investment environment and look forward to welcome you all.

**Mr. President,**

At this point I would like to expound on a number of issues that my Government feels require particular international attention and therefore necessary to voice out.

We ought to remind ourselves that the credibility of the United Nations rests on a well-represented and responsive Security Council. In this respect, we wish to reiterate the common African position as elaborated in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration.

**Mr. President,**

On 17th August 2020, Tanzania handed over the Chairmanship of the Southern African Development Community to Mozambique. Tanzania is proud to have served SADC for a period of One Year amidst a number of challenges encountered and accomplished milestones in the peace and security, democracy and good governance, financial integration and social development spheres.
These achievements are telling of the commitment that Tanzania has always had and continues to spearhead in deeds on regional integration and international relations.

Mr. President,

On 25th October 2019, Tanzania joined other SADC countries to commemorate the Solidarity Day against sanctions in Zimbabwe.

We continue to call for the removal of all forms of unilateral coercive measures in form of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe to pave way for socio-economic transformation and economic development of the country.

Mr. President,

The swearing in of H.E. Everiste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi in June 2020 culminated the long awaited presidential elections in Burundi. With this peaceful conclusion of the elections, Tanzania urges the International Community to compliment the new Government by providing much needed assistance for economic and social development of the citizenry of Burundi and the region at large.

Mr. President,

Tanzania reiterates its position of support for a stable, peaceful and prosperous Democratic Republic of Congo. We commend the efforts, made so far, by the United Nations, SADC Region and the whole International Community in making it happen.

In this regard, we would further like to stress that continued and pragmatic engagement is crucial in order to accommodate SADC’s position to the reconfiguration of the Force Intervention Brigade, in order to maintain its
effective defence capability, the operational effectiveness and its Unit of command and control.

Mr. President,

Tanzania has always expressed that the economic embargo imposed on Cuba in 1960 has outlived its relevance.

Tanzania encourages both Parties to engage in constructive dialogue towards the total removal of these embargoes.

Mr. President,

On the question of Palestine, we continue to support the Resolution of conflict between Israel and Palestine which hinges on the two-state solution, living side by side, in peace and security.

Mr. President,

I wish to conclude by pledging before this Assembly, that Tanzania will continue to render necessary support to the United Nations in ensuring success in all important Global agenda, including promotion of equality and self-determination of nations, peace and security, human rights, development, implementation of Agenda 2030 and the UN reform process.

Once again, the United Republic of Tanzania reiterates its commitment to multilateralism and calls upon all member states to embrace it for a just and better world.

God Bless the United Republic of Tanzania,
God bless Africa,
God bless the UN.
And God bless you all!!
I thank you for your kind attention.