2026 UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HLPF)
NEW YORK, 07 -15 JULY 2026

Presentation of Tanzania's Third Voluntary National Review (VNR)

Tuesday, 14th July 2026, From 1610hrs to 1710hrs
CR 04, UN Headquarters

Statement by Hon. Prof. Kitila A. Mkumbo, Minister of State, President's Office – Planning and Investment

---

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to present the United Republic of Tanzania's Third Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Our 2026 Voluntary National Review comes at a defining moment. With only four years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Tanzania is moving from reporting progress to accelerating implementation. The Review assesses our achievements, identifies the remaining challenges, and presents the priority actions that will drive implementation during the final stretch to 2030.

Our strategic direction is anchored in Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (Dira 2050) and the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP IV), which commenced on 1 July 2026. Together, these frameworks position Tanzania to accelerate inclusive economic transformation, strengthen resilience, deepen industrialization, and ensure that no one is left behind.

Mr. President,

This year's High-Level Political Forum focuses on SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17.

Under SDG 6, Tanzania has made significant progress in expanding access to clean water and sanitation. Rural access to safe water increased from 72.3 percent in 2020 to 85.3 percent in 2025, while access to piped water in regional towns reached 92.5

percent. Continued investments in climate-resilient water infrastructure are improving water security and strengthening resilience against climate-related shocks.

Under SDG 7, electricity access increased from 78.4 percent to 86.2 percent during the same period, while installed generation capacity more than doubled to 4,504.9 megawatts. Expansion of transmission and distribution networks, together with increased investment in renewable energy, is strengthening energy security and supporting productive sectors of the economy.

For SDG 9, Tanzania continues to invest in transformative infrastructure that supports industrialization and regional integration. Railway passenger traffic increased from 1.2 million to more than 4.1 million, maritime freight expanded substantially, internet penetration increased to 85 percent of the population, while strategic investments in transport, digital infrastructure and logistics continue to improve national competitiveness and connectivity.

Regarding SDG 11, Tanzania is promoting sustainable urban development through improved public transport, better urban planning, expanded solid waste management and strengthened disaster risk management. As urbanization accelerates, our priorities remain affordable housing, integrated urban planning and climate-resilient infrastructure capable of supporting inclusive and sustainable cities.

Under SDG 17, partnerships remain one of Tanzania's greatest strengths. More than 824 civil society organizations and over 1,000 private sector institutions actively contributed to preparing this Voluntary National Review, demonstrating our whole-of-society approach to sustainable development. At the same time, budget self-reliance increased from 58.3 percent in 2020/21 to 78 percent in 2025/26, reflecting continued progress in domestic resource mobilization while maintaining strong partnerships with development partners, academia, local communities and international institutions.

Excellencies,

Beyond the HLPF focus Goals, Tanzania continues to register encouraging progress across many areas of sustainable development. Poverty continues to decline, maternal mortality has reduced significantly, primary school completion has improved, women's representation in Parliament has increased, climate-responsive investment has expanded, and undernourishment has continued to fall. These achievements demonstrate that sustained investment in people, institutions and infrastructure delivers measurable development outcomes.

Our Review also places Tanzania's progress within the global context. Globally, only about 15 to 18 percent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets are currently on

track to be achieved by 2030, while many others are advancing too slowly, have stalled, or are regressing. Against this backdrop, Tanzania's performance demonstrates encouraging momentum. Our assessment shows that four Sustainable Development Goals are on track, while nine are making moderate progress. Tanzania has recorded its strongest gains in health, clean water, affordable and clean energy, infrastructure connectivity, digital transformation and domestic resource mobilization. At the same time, we recognize that progress remains uneven. Environmental sustainability goals require greater attention, while data gaps continue to constrain comprehensive assessment of some Goals. These findings reinforce our determination to accelerate implementation during the remaining years to 2030 through targeted investments, strengthened institutions and effective partnership.

Mr. President,

One important lesson emerging from our experience is that infrastructure is not an end in itself, it is the foundation for transformation.

Investments in the Standard Gauge Railway, modern ports, airports, clean energy, industrial parks and the National ICT Broadband Backbone are creating the conditions for industrial value addition, competitive enterprises, productive employment, higher incomes and more resilient communities. Through Dira 2050 and FYDP IV, Tanzania is focusing on ensuring that these strategic investments translate into inclusive growth and improved quality of life for all citizens.

Nevertheless, we recognize that significant challenges remain. Poverty reduction must accelerate further. Manufacturing requires greater value addition. Rapid urbanization continues to increase demand for infrastructure and public services. Climate change and environmental degradation threaten development gains, while youth employment, productivity and access to clean cooking require sustained attention.

To accelerate progress during the remaining years to 2030, Tanzania has identified seven national acceleration priorities:

i. Industrial transformation;
ii. Agricultural modernization;
iii. Blue Economy development;
iv. Climate resilience;
v. Digital transformation;
vi. Skills development; and
vii. Domestic resource mobilization.

These priorities form the core of implementation under Dira 2050 and FYDP IV and represent Tanzania's pathway towards inclusive, resilient and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Tanzania remains fully committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and to the principle of Leaving No One Behind. However, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires strengthened global solidarity and renewed international cooperation.

We therefore call for greater access to affordable development finance, expanded climate finance, enhanced technology transfer, strengthened capacity building, fair international trade and stronger multilateral partnerships that enable developing countries to accelerate implementation.

Together, through strategic investment, innovation, evidence-based policies and strong partnerships, we are confident that we can accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, realize the aspirations of Dira 2050, and build a prosperous, resilient and sustainable future for all.

I thank you for your kind attention

.