

TANZANIA AT THE AFRICAN UNION ASSEMBLY

February 2026
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



39th ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE AFRICAN UNION
ASSEMBLY OF
HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT



HER EXCELLENCY

DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND EAST AFRICAN
COOPERATION



The United Republic of Tanzania
H.E. DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN'S

**PARTICIPATION IN THE
39TH ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE
AFRICAN UNION**

**Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia**

FEBRUARY 2026

*Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation
Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063*





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Foreword



Ambassador Mahmoud T. Kombo

Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation

Tanzania at the African Union Assembly Advancing Pan African Solidarity and the Agenda 2063 Water and Sanitation Priority in Addis Ababa

At a defining moment in Africa's collective journey towards unity, resilience, and transformation, this book is published as the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, participates in the Thirty Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, scheduled for 14 and 15 February 2026 in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Prepared to support this high-level engagement, the book not only outlines the key agenda and strategic issues

before the Assembly, but also offers a glimpse of Ethiopia, the host nation and home to the African Union headquarters, which continues to serve as a centre of Africa's continental diplomacy. In addition, it highlights the longstanding historical bilateral relations between Tanzania and Ethiopia, founded on shared Pan African values and strengthened through successive generations of leadership.

Her Excellency's presence at this eminent continental gathering reaffirms Tanzania's unwavering commitment to Pan Africanism,

principled multilateralism, and active engagement in shaping a prosperous and shared African future.

Convened under the timely theme, “Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063,” the Summit calls for renewed ambition and collective resolve to safeguard one of humanity’s most indispensable resources. Water and sanitation are not only fundamental human rights, but they are also strategic pillars for public health, food security, environmental stewardship, gender equality, and inclusive economic growth. Tanzania stands firmly aligned with this continental priority and continues to champion practical, people centred, and forward-looking solutions that ensure no community is left behind.

Guided by the visionary leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania has achieved significant milestones in expanding access to clean and safe water. National water service coverage has reached 83.4 percent and 91 percent in rural and urban areas, respectively. This achievement reflects the Government of Tanzania’s commitment to

ensuring that no community is left behind, particularly in rural and underserved areas, through sustained investment in resilient water infrastructure, strengthened institutional capacity, integrated water resource management, and innovative service delivery.

Tanzania’s participation in the Summit further underscores its readiness to share best practices, learn from fellow Member States, and foster partnerships that accelerate sustainable water and sanitation initiatives across the continent. Recognising that water transcends borders, the country remains a steadfast advocate for enhanced regional cooperation, climate-resilient planning, and knowledge exchange to address the increasingly complex challenges posed by population growth, rapid urbanization, and climate variability.

As Africa advances toward the aspirations of Agenda 2063, Tanzania remains a reliable partner in building a prosperous, integrated, peaceful, and self-reliant continent. President Samia Suluhu Hassan’s engagement at the Thirty Ninth Ordinary Session of the African Union reflects the nation’s abiding confidence in African-led solutions and its shared responsibility to

secure a healthier, more sustainable future for present and succeeding generations.

President Samia’s leadership has also been distinguished by diplomacy, dialogue, and constructive cooperation, values that resonate profoundly with the founding principles of the African Union. Her participation highlights Tanzania’s proactive contribution to advancing peace, deepening economic integration, promoting sustain-

able development, and strengthening continental institutions.

I remain optimistic that the outcomes of this Summit will inspire strengthened partnerships and decisive collective action toward universal access to sustainable water and safe sanitation systems, an essential foundation for Africa’s long-term transformation, dignity, and prosperity.



Introduction and Overview



Tanzania's Participation and Key Highlights of the Thirty-Ninth African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa

H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, is expected to lead the Tanzania delegation to the Thirty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 14 to 15 February 2026.

The Assembly will be preceded by key preparatory sessions, namely the Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee, to be held from 12 to 30 January 2026, and the Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, to be held from 11 to 12 February 2026. These meetings are intended to prepare the agenda and working documents for consideration by the Assembly. The Permanent Representatives Committee reviews all working documents and proposed agenda items and submits a report containing its delib-

erations and recommendations. The Executive Council considers the Committee's report and other agenda items and submits recommendations to the Assembly for final decision. A separate brief will cover the Executive Council session, while this narrative highlights the Assembly.

The Opening Ceremony of the Assembly is expected to feature statements by key leaders and partners. The programme will include remarks by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, followed by welcoming remarks by the host, H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Statements are also expected from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and the Special Guest, H.E. Giorgia Meloni, President of the Council of Ministers of Italy. The outgoing Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, is also expected to deliver a statement.



Following the Opening Ceremony statements, the Assembly is expected to announce its Bureau for the year 2026, composed of one Member State from each of the African Union's five regions. Consultations indicate that Burundi is expected to assume the Chairpersonship, Ghana is expected to serve as First Vice Chairperson, Tanzania is expected to serve as Second Vice Chairperson, and Angola is expected to serve as Rapporteur, while consultations for the Third Vice Chairperson from the Northern Region remain ongoing.

Tanzania's expected role as Second Vice Chairperson reflects the country's continued contribution to continental leadership and enhances its visibility and participation in the Assembly's procedural and governance responsibilities.

Following the announcement of the Bureau, the outgoing Chairperson, H.E. Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, is expected to deliver an end-of-term address. Thereafter, the incoming Chairperson, H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic

of Burundi, is expected to deliver an acceptance speech.

The acceptance speech will be followed by the presentation and official launch of the African Union Theme of the Year 2026: "Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063."

The Theme originates from an Assembly decision adopted at the previous Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa in February 2025. It prioritizes the importance of water resources and safe sanitation systems as essential foundations for life, public health, resilience, and sustainable development, while reinforcing implementation of Agenda 2063. The Opening Ceremony will conclude with a group photo of Heads of State and Government.

Following the Opening Ceremony, the Assembly will proceed into a Closed Session to adopt the agenda and the organization of work. Heads of State attending the Assembly for the first time are expected to deliver maiden statements, including the

Presidents of Namibia, Malawi, Seychelles, and Guinea. The Assembly will then proceed to consider the substantive agenda items.

Agendas

During the closed proceedings, the Assembly is expected to consider a set of strategic reports that frame the Union's priorities and guide decision-making for the year ahead. Central to these deliberations will be the report on peace and security, comprising an update on the activities of the Peace and Security Council and the overall state of peace and security on the continent from January to December 2025, alongside consideration of a draft Memorandum of Understanding intended to strengthen coordination between the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms.

The Assembly will also receive an update on African Union institutional reforms, to be presented by H.E. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and the designated AU Champion on Institutional

Reforms. In addition, the Summit will take stock of the African Union's participation in the G20 through a briefing by H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the outcomes of the G20 Leaders' Summit held in Johannesburg in November 2025, complemented by a report from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, on the Union's engagement within the G20 framework.

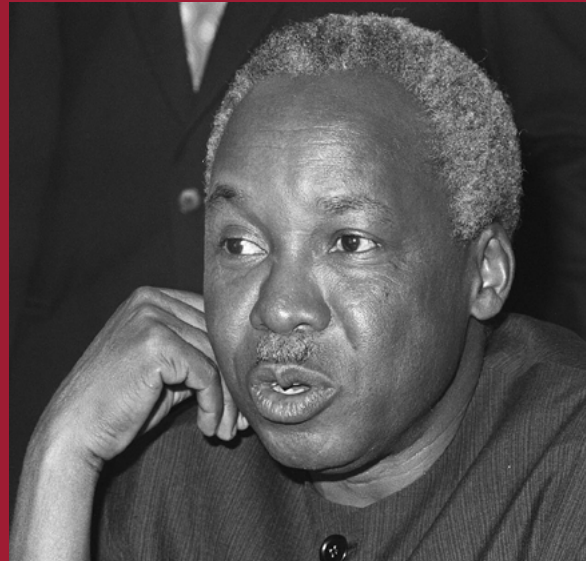
Further, the Chairperson of the Commission is expected to present the Commission's annual report, including annexed reports from designated Champions, followed by reports from the Committee of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. The Assembly will then move to adopt the Decisions and Declarations of the Session, bringing these strategic considerations to a formal conclusion. More detailed guidance on these strategic items will be provided to H.E. SSH through a separate closed brief.

From the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union (AU): Africa's Journey Towards Unity and Integration

Amid Africa's struggle for independence, visionary African leaders joined hands to lay the foundation for the liberation and unity of the continent. In May 1963, more than thirty African Heads of State and Government convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and established the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The founding fathers of independent Africa recognized the urgent need to free the continent from colonial domination and to collectively address the enduring challenges of poverty, disease, ignorance, and illiteracy. Beyond political liberation, they envisioned a united Africa capable of advancing the dignity and prosperity of its people.

Africa's divisions extended beyond colonial borders to differences in language, culture, and ethnicity. The formation of the OAU, therefore, embodied a commitment not



only to freedom but also to Pan Africanism, the belief that Africa's strength lies in unity, solidarity, and shared purpose, transcending geographical and linguistic boundaries.

As Africa's political, economic, and social realities evolved, the limitations of the

OAU became increasingly evident. These changing circumstances necessitated stronger institutions and deeper integration. Consequently, African leaders resolved to transform the OAU into the African Union (AU) to better respond to contemporary challenges and aspirations.

This decision was adopted during the Thirty Eighth Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly, held in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002, marking a new chapter in Africa's continental integration.





Tanzania and the African Union

*A Legacy of Liberation Solidarity
and Continental Leadership*



The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was the first continental structure for African cooperation, established to lead the fight against colonialism and apartheid and to promote unity among African states. Its successor, the African Union (AU), was designed to go beyond political liberation and to focus on deeper integration and development across the continent.

Before the OAU was established, two ideological blocs emerged in 1961, namely the Casablanca Group and the Monrovia Group. While the Casablanca Group advocated immediate political union of Africa, the Monrovia Group preferred a gradual, step by step approach to integration. These differing visions were reconciled through a compromise reached in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 25 May 1963, which culminated in the creation of the Organization of African Unity.

The United Republic of Tanzania was among the founding members of the OAU, now the African Union, and has actively

participated in OAU and AU activities since 1963. Shortly after the OAU was established, Tanzania was selected to host the Headquarters of the Liberation Committee in 1964, and the Late Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, became its chairman. Through this Committee, Tanzania supported liberation movements in Southern Africa, including FRELIMO in Mozambique, ZANU PF in Zimbabwe, SWAPO in Namibia, MPLA in Angola, and ANC in South Africa. Many of these organizations were based in Tanzania during the 1970s and 1980s.

Tanzania's contributions have also been reflected in the leadership roles held by its nationals within continental institutions. Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Tanzania's first President, served as Chairman of the OAU from 1984 to 1985. In July 1989, a Tanzanian diplomat, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, was elected Secretary General of the OAU and served a record three terms until 2001, when the OAU was transformed into the AU.



Another Tanzanian diplomat, Mrs. Getrude Mongella, was elected the first President of the Pan African Parliament in March 2004 and served in that office until May 2009. Tanzania continued to shoulder key responsibilities within the African Union in subsequent years. In January 2008, H.E. President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete was elected Chairman of the African Union, serving until January 2009.

The country also hosts the Headquarters of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption, and the Pan African Postal Union in Arusha. In 2026, H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, will become the Second Vice Chairperson of the African Union.



The United Republic of Tanzania occupies a respected and enduring place in Africa's collective political history. Its engagement with the African Union, rooted in the ideals of the OAU, has been defined by sacrifice, solidarity, and principled leadership. From the early years before independence, Tanganyika, now Tanzania, emerged as a frontline state in Africa's liberation struggle. Under the leadership of the founding father,

Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the country became a steadfast advocate for the total liberation of the continent from colonialism, apartheid, and minority rule. Tanzania played a central role in the OAU Liberation Committee, providing diplomatic support and hosting liberation movements despite the political and security risks involved.

These efforts transformed Tanzania into a hub of Pan African solidarity, where liberation was pursued as a shared continental responsibility. This legacy established Tanzania's national identity as inseparable from Africa's broader struggle for justice and self-determination, an enduring source of credibility within the African Union.

In the post OAU era, Tanzania has remained an active contributor to the AU peace and security architecture, participating in peacekeeping, mediation, and conflict prevention initiatives. Its contributions are marked by professionalism, respect for sovereignty, and a strong commitment to dialogue-based solutions. Guided by the Pan African philosophy of Mwalimu Nyerere, emphasizing unity, moral leadership, and African led solutions, Tanzania continues to engage the African Union as a credible, stabilizing, and unifying partner. This legacy continues to shape Tanzania's role in

advancing Africa's peace, development, and sustainable management of shared resources.

Tanzania as a Member of the AU Peace and Security Council

The United Republic of Tanzania has recently concluded its tenure as a valuable member of the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC), reaffirming its steadfast commitment to promoting peace, security, and stability across the African continent. Throughout its term, Tanzania approached its PSC responsibilities with a strong sense of duty, guided by the foundational principles of the AU Constitutive Act, which include respect for sovereignty, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and the promotion of African-led solutions to African challenges. This engagement reflects a balanced and principled approach that emphasises dialogue, prevention, and consensus-building.



Contributions to Peace and Conflict Prevention

During its tenure, Tanzania actively engaged in PSC deliberations, addressing the continent's major peace and security challenges. The nation consistently championed initiatives focused on early warning mechanisms, preventive diplomacy, and mediation, recognising that sustainable peace is best achieved through timely and inclusive political solutions. Furthermore, Tanzania underscored the importance of post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation, advocating for strategies that tackle the root causes of conflict and promote long-term stability.

Support for the AU Peace and Security Architecture

Tanzania's engagement within the PSC significantly contributed to strengthening the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The nation supported initiatives to enhance the effectiveness of AU peace support operations, improve coordination with Regional Economic Communities, and strengthen partnerships between the AU and the United Nations. Crucially, Tanzania emphasised the need for predictable, sustainable financing for AU-led peace

operations, aligning with the principles of African ownership and shared responsibility.

Advocacy for Inclusivity and Human-Centred Security

In line with its national values, Tanzania promoted inclusive approaches to peace and security. The nation actively supported the meaningful participation of women and youth in peace processes and highlighted the importance of protecting civilians, particularly in conflict-affected situations. Moreover, Tanzania recognised the growing interconnections between peace, development, climate change, and humanitarian concerns, advocating for integrated responses to emerging and non-traditional security threats.

A Legacy of Neutrality and Constructive Engagement

Tanzania's role on the PSC has been characterised by neutrality, credibility, and constructive engagement. Drawing upon its historical record in peacekeeping and diplomacy, Tanzania has served as a trusted voice, working diligently to build consensus among member states while upholding the continent's collective interests.



As Tanzania concludes its term on the PSC, it remains steadfastly committed to supporting the African Union's peace and security agenda. The nation will continue to contribute to continental peace efforts through diplomatic engagement, peacekeeping, mediation, and capacity-building, in close collaboration with the AU and its member states.

Looking Ahead: Candidature for the United Nations Security Council

As Tanzania completes its role on the PSC, it is important to note that the nation is now vying for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2029-2030 term, with elections scheduled

for June 2028. This represents a significant opportunity for Tanzania to enhance its influence on the global stage while continuing to champion peace and stability across Africa.

Tanzania's completion of its term on the PSC stands as a testament to its enduring commitment to peace, stability, and African solidarity. While its formal tenure has concluded, the nation's dedication to the objectives of the objectives and the broader vision of a peaceful and prosperous Africa remains unwavering. As Tanzania transitions from its role in the PSC to its aspirations for the UNSC, it reinforces its pledge to uphold the ideals of peace and security that resonate throughout the African continent.

Recent Events

On February 18, 2024, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, witnessed the inauguration of the Statue of Tanzania's founding father, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, at the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The statue was erected in collaboration with SADC in recognition of Mwalimu Nyerere's contribution to the liberation of southern

African countries, the establishment of the OAU in 1963, which is now the AU, as well as his contribution to maintaining peace and unity in Africa.

In January 2017, the late President, Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, alongside other African Heads of States and Governments, witnessed the unveiling of the Julius Nyerere Peace and Security Building at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.





Tanzania's Focus on 2026 AU Theme on Water

*Advancing Water Security
and Safe Sanitation: Tanzania's
Leadership Under the African
Union Theme of the Year 2026*



The African Union Theme of the Year 2026, focusing on “Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063,” will be unveiled during the Opening Ceremony of the Thirty Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly. The Theme reflects a shared continental commitment to addressing one of Africa’s most urgent development challenges. Within this framework, H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, has distinguished herself as a leading advocate for securing clean and safe water, drawing directly from Tanzania’s tangible national progress in the water sector.

Under H.E. President Samia’s leadership, Tanzania has recorded significant achievements in expanding access to clean water, particularly in both rural and urban areas. The Government has prioritized

large scale water infrastructure projects, rehabilitation of existing water systems, protection of water sources, and improved governance in the water sector. These efforts have resulted in a steady increase in the proportion of Tanzanians accessing safe and reliable water services, reflecting the impact of strong political commitment and sustained investment.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been honoured with the Presidential Global Water Changemakers Award 2025, the highest recognition in the global water sector, in acknowledgement of her outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to advancing water sustainability. The award is conferred by the Global Water Partnership, in collaboration with the African Union, and reflects Tanzania’s growing leadership in promoting equitable access to safe water and sanitation.

The award was formally presented to Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan on 26 October 2025 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, at a ceremony held at the State House in Tunguu, Zanzibar. This honour underscores President Samia's role as a continental steward of water sustainability and reinforces Tanzania's contribution to advancing the African Union's water agenda under Agenda 2063.

The award was initially presented during the African Union Africa Water Investment Programme Africa Water Investment Summit 2025, held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 13 to 15 August 2025. It was presented by President Duma Boko of the Republic of Botswana, Chairperson of the Presidential Global Water Changemakers Awards 2025, and received on President Samia's behalf by H.E. James Bwana, Tanzania's High Commissioner to the Republic of South Africa.



H.E. President Samia's national approach aligns seamlessly with Agenda 2063, which envisions an Africa that is prosperous, environmentally sustainable, and resilient. Her experience demonstrates that water security is a strategic enabler of development, supporting public health, agricultural productivity, industrial growth, education outcomes, and gender equality. At the continental level, she has used Tanzania's progress as a practical example of how focused leadership can translate policy into results.

Furthermore, Tanzania's progress reflects President Samia's call for partnerships and innovative financing. Through collaboration with development partners, local communities, and the private sector, Tanzania has advanced, sustainable and community-owned water projects. At the African Union level, she advocates for scaling such collaborative models, particularly in the management of shared and trans boundary water resources.





H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan as Pan African WASH Champion Advancing Water Security and Safe Sanitation

H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan made history in March 2021 as Tanzania's first female President and the first woman to lead in East Africa. A strong advocate for economic growth, gender equality, and universal access to WASH services, she has focused on improving living standards through infrastructure, healthcare, and education. President Samia's leadership continues to enhance public health and quality of life for Tanzanians, grounded in a commitment to sustainable development and regional cooperation.

As the Pan African WASH Champion, President Dr. Samia will play a pivotal role in advocating for increased prioritisation and financing of water, sanitation, and hygiene across the African continent, especially for healthcare facilities and climate resilience WASH.

With only five years remaining to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals on water and sanitation, the urgency of action is clear. Africa continues to face a significant WASH and climate crisis, with over 400 million people still lacking access to safely managed drinking water and 800 million without safe sanitation services. Inadequate financing and insufficient political prioritisation have hindered progress, leaving a significant funding gap that requires urgent attention.

In conclusion, President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts illustrate how national achievements can inform and strengthen continental action. By aligning Tanzania's water sector successes with the Summit Theme, she reinforces a clear message: Africa can achieve the goals of Agenda 2063 by translating political will into practical solutions that secure clean water and safe sanitation for all.

African Union and Economic Diplomacy

In an increasingly interconnected global economy, economic diplomacy has emerged as a central instrument through which states advance national development objectives while engaging constructively with regional and global partners. For the United Republic of Tanzania, economic diplomacy extends beyond the pursuit of trade and investment and serves as a strategic tool for strengthening regional integration, promoting shared prosperity, and advancing Africa's collective development agenda.

The African Union, as Africa's premier continental institution, provides a critical policy and institutional framework through which Tanzania conducts its economic diplomacy. Tanzania's engagement within the African Union reflects deliberate alignment between national development priorities and continental aspirations, particularly those articulated in Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

*Tanzania's Economic
Diplomacy Through the
African Union Framework*

Trade Integration and the African Continental Free Trade Area

A cornerstone of Tanzania's economic diplomacy within the African Union is its participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area. Through AfCFTA, Tanzania advances the African Union objective of expanding intra African trade, reducing reliance on external markets, and building resilient regional value chains.

Tanzania seeks to leverage AfCFTA to expand market access for its agricultural produce, manufactured goods, and mineral resources, while positioning itself as a strategic trade and logistics gateway for landlocked countries in East and Central Africa. At the same time, Tanzania advocates a balanced and phased approach to trade liberalisation, one that safeguards sensitive sectors and supports domestic industrial development. This position is consistent with the African Union emphasis on inclusive integration that recognises structural differences among member states.



Alignment with Agenda 2063

Tanzania's economic diplomacy is firmly anchored in the vision and priorities of Agenda 2063, the African Union long term blueprint for Africa's transformation. Diplomatic engagements at continental and international levels consistently emphasise industrialisation, value addition, infrastructure development, and sustainable economic growth.

By aligning national development strategies with Agenda 2063, Tanzania reinforces policy coherence and enhances its credibility as a committed African Union member state. This alignment strengthens Tanzania's voice in continental policy discussions and ensures that national priorities are advanced within a shared African framework.



Infrastructure Diplomacy and Continental Connectivity

Infrastructure development occupies a central place in Tanzania's economic diplomacy and mirrors the African Union strategic focus on connectivity and integration. Major national projects, such as the modernisation of the Port of Dar es Salaam and the development of the Standard Gauge Railway, are promoted not merely as domestic initiatives but as continental assets that facilitate regional trade and integration.

Through African Union mechanisms and regional cooperation frameworks, Tanzania mobilises diplomatic support and financing from continental and international partners, including African financial institutions. These efforts contribute to the African Union goal of creating efficient transport corridors that support the free movement of goods, services, and people across the continent.



Peace Stability and Economic Confidence

Peace and stability are widely recognised as prerequisites for sustainable development. Tanzania's longstanding commitment to peacekeeping, mediation, and regional stability strengthens its economic diplomacy by projecting the country as a stable, predictable, and reliable partner. This reputation enhances investor confidence and complements the African Union peace and security objectives, underscoring the intrinsic link between political stability and economic progress.

Collective Engagement with External Partners

Tanzania's economic diplomacy also benefits from collective engagement through the African Union. By acting within African Union frameworks, Tanzania partic-

ipates in joint negotiations on trade, climate finance, development cooperation, and global governance reforms. This collective approach amplifies Tanzania's negotiating power and mitigates the structural asymmetries that individual states often face in bilateral engagements with major global actors.

Tanzania's economic diplomacy is deeply interwoven with the African Union continental integration and development agenda. Through active participation in AfCFTA, alignment with Agenda 2063, promotion of infrastructure connectivity, commitment to peace and stability, and engagement in collective diplomacy, Tanzania utilises the African Union as a strategic platform to advance national development objectives. In doing so, the African Union serves as a force multiplier for Tanzania's economic diplomacy, demonstrating how national interests and continental integration can be mutually reinforcing in Africa's pursuit of sustainable and inclusive development.

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense green forest. A wide, light-colored clearing or path runs through the center of the forest, leading towards the background. In the far distance, a range of blue mountains is visible under a clear sky. The overall scene is bright and vibrant, showcasing the natural beauty of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia at a Glance

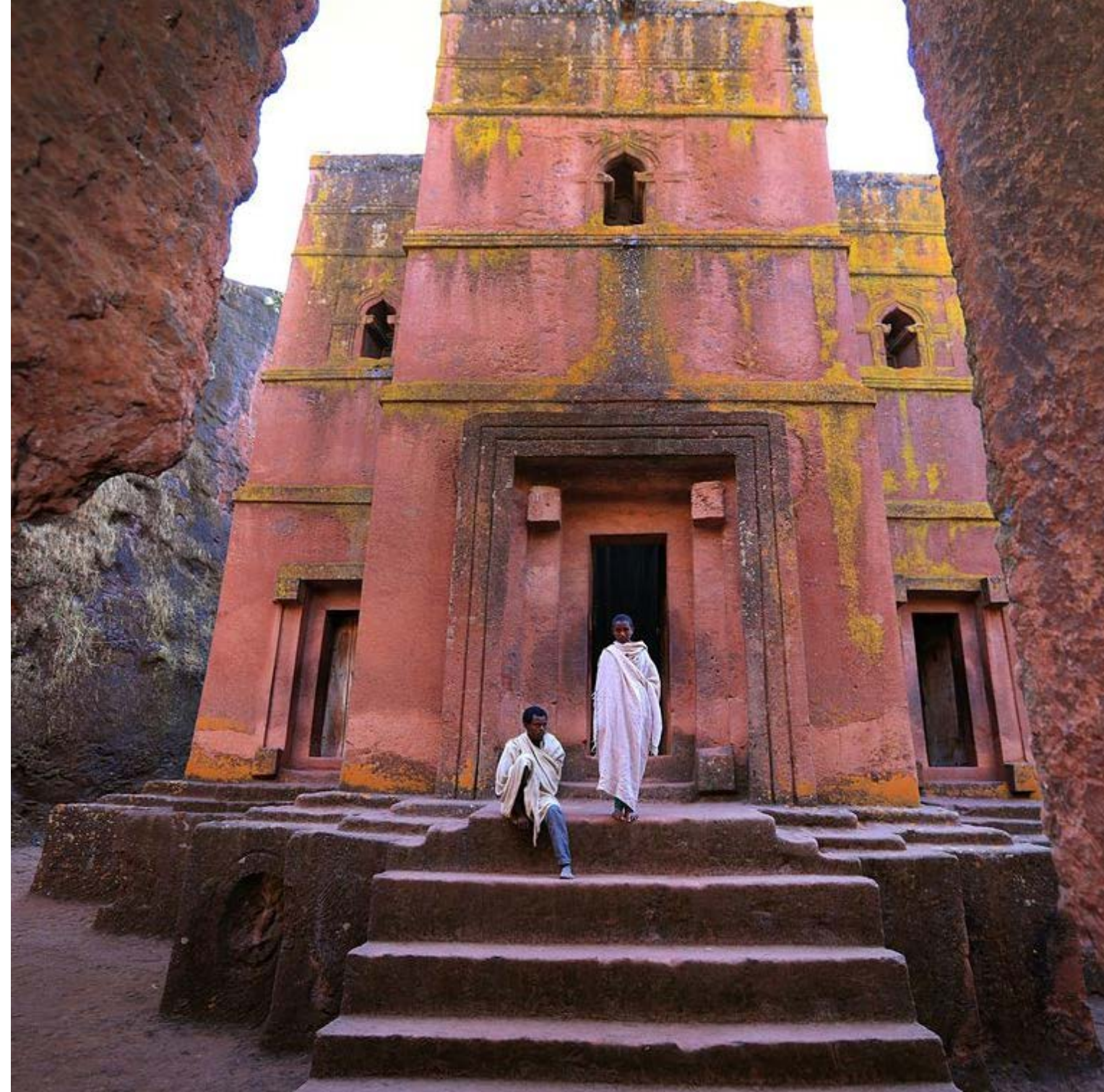
*Ethiopia: Ancient Roots,
Modern Ambitions, The Home
of the African Union*

Ethiopia is a country of extraordinary depth and distinction. Located in the Horn of Africa, it is one of the world's oldest nations, renowned for its uninterrupted history of statehood and for successfully resisting long-term European colonization. Widely regarded as the cradle of humanity, Ethiopia continues to captivate the world through its heritage, diversity, and growing regional influence.

The country's geography is among the most dramatic in Africa. The Ethiopian Highlands often called the "Roof of Africa" give rise to major rivers such as the Blue Nile, while the Great Rift Valley carves a path through fertile lands and scenic lakes. From these

highlands to the otherworldly Danakil Depression, one of the hottest and lowest places on Earth, Ethiopia's landscapes shape its culture, livelihoods, and history.

Home to more than 120 million people, Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous nation and one of its most culturally diverse. Over 80 ethnic groups and more than 90 languages form a vibrant social tapestry. Religion remains central to national life, with centuries-old traditions of Christianity and Islam coexisting side by side. A predominantly young population offers enormous potential, particularly as access to education and urban opportunities continues to expand.

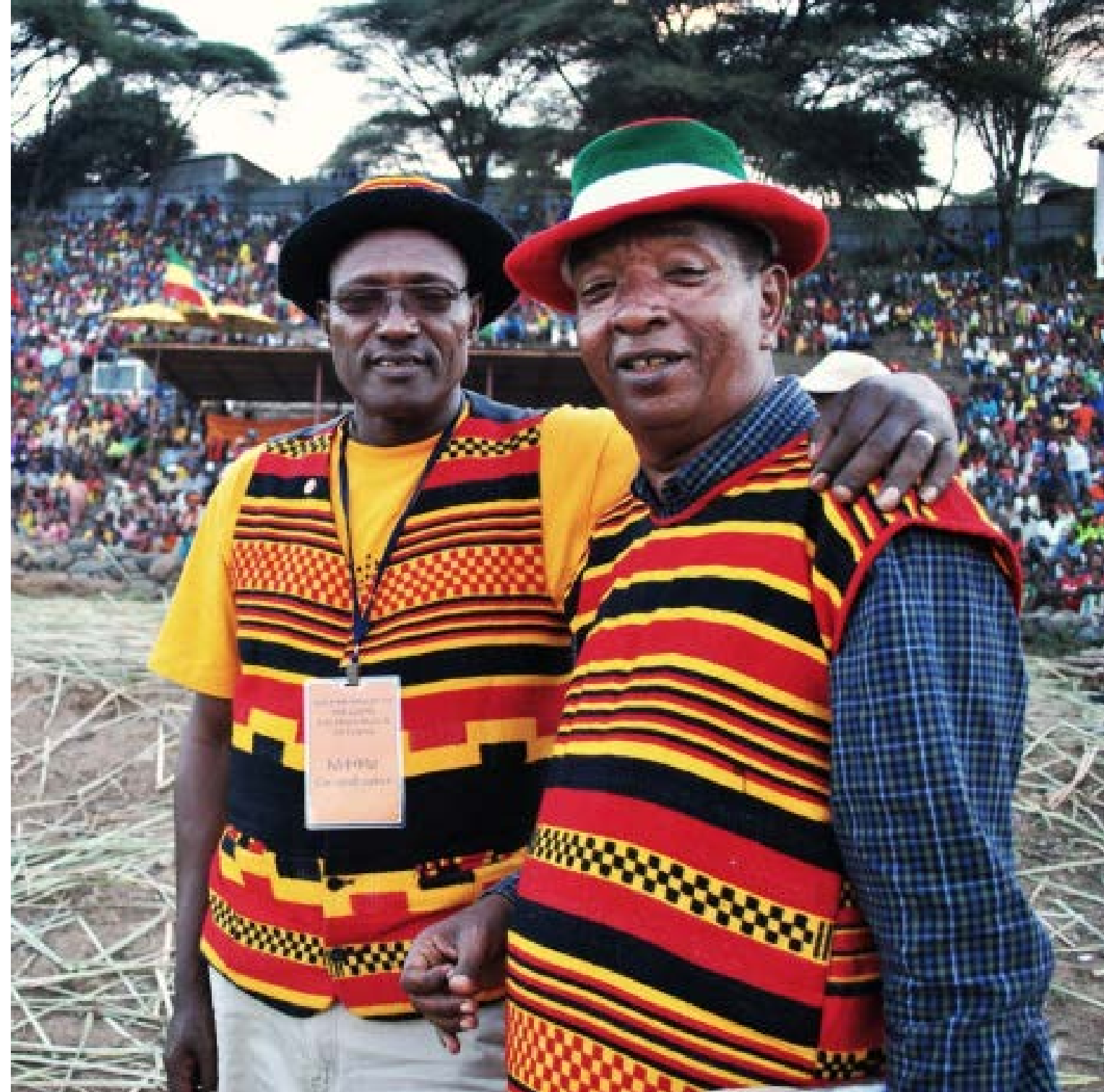


Politically, Ethiopia is a federal parliamentary republic, structured to recognize its ethnic and cultural diversity. While the country has faced governance and security challenges, ongoing reforms aim to strengthen institutions, promote inclusion, and support long-term stability.

Economically, Ethiopia is among Africa's fastest-growing countries. Agriculture remains the backbone of the economy, supporting millions of livelihoods, while manufacturing, services, and construction are steadily expanding. Strategic investments in industrial parks, infrastructure, and energy especially hydropower are driving economic transformation, even as the country works to address poverty, inflation, and infrastructure gaps.

Ethiopia's influence extends well beyond its borders. Addis Ababa, home to the African Union headquarters, has earned the country recognition as Africa's diplomatic capital. Ethiopia is also a leading contributor to peacekeeping missions and maintains balanced relations with major global partners.

From Ethiopian Airlines' rise as Africa's leading carrier to major transport and energy projects, the country continues to strengthen its connectivity and global reach. Rooted in ancient civilization yet focused on the future, Ethiopia stands as a nation of resilience, diversity, and evolving opportunity.





Tanzania–Ethiopia Bilateral Relations

*Tanzania and Ethiopia, a Historic
Partnership Rooted in Pan African
Solidarity and Strengthened
Through Modern Cooperation*



Tanzania and Ethiopia enjoy cordial and long-standing bilateral relations. These relations were built on a solid foundation laid down by the late Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere of Tanzania and the late Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. The two leaders cooperated during the African Liberation Struggle and were among the thirty-two founding members of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963.

Tanzania has maintained its Embassy in Ethiopia since 1963. It is noteworthy that the late Emperor Haile Selassie was the first foreign Head of State to address the independent Tanzanian Parliament in 1964. The successive generation of leadership

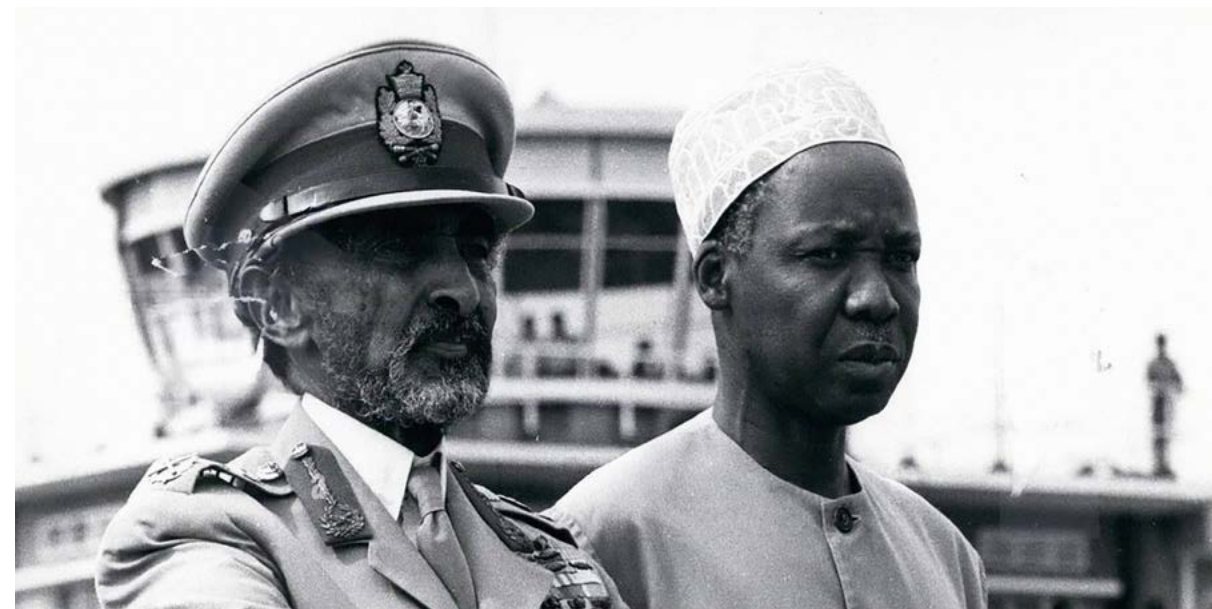
maintained and continues these bilateral ties. The relations between Tanzania and Ethiopia have received a boost with the exchange of visits by the successive generation of leadership of the two countries.

In August 2005, H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa, the then President of the United Republic of Tanzania paid a visit to Ethiopia. During the visit, the former President and the then Prime Minister of Ethiopia, the late Meles Zenawi signed the General Cooperation Agreement. The signing of this Agreement was to be followed by the signing of Partnership Agreement to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

In March 2017, the then Prime Minister, H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn paid a visit to Tanzania. During the Visit, the two sides, among others, signed the General Agreement for the Establishment of a Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC). The inaugural session of the JPC was earlier planned to take place in 2021 but was postponed due to COVID-19 and Ethiopia's General Elections. In 2018, Ethiopia opened her Embassy in Dar es Salaam.

In January 2021, H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, then President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, visited Tanzania.

During the bilateral talks with Her H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, the two leaders emphasized the importance for the two countries to hold the JMC. Consequently, the 1st JMC meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 2024. During the session, the two signed six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) covering Livestock Production, Processing and Research, Trade Cooperation, Industrial Cooperation, Migration Matters, Aviation and Tourism Training Institutes.





TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Despite the excellent ties, trade and investment between the two sides remain minimal. The table below shows trade volume between the two sides since 2017:

Trade Statistics between Tanzania and Ethiopia from (2017 - 2024) (Amount in TZS million)

YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Export	7,616.20	7,862.52	12,839.78	5,663.44	978.73	3,205.83	8,476.37	9,642.70
Import	432.04	549.16	714.27	5,071.59	8,664.65	255.33	423.11	138.74
Volume of Trade	8,048.24	8,411.68	13,554.05	10,735.03	9,643.38	3,461.16	8,908.48	9,781.44
Balance Of Trade	7,184.16	7,313.36	12,125.51	591.85	(7,685.92)	2,947.50	8,053.26	9,503.96

Source of Data: NBS and TRA

Regarding investments, between 1990 and 2022, the Tanzania Investment and Special Economic Zones Authority (TISEZA) registered 15 projects originating from Ethiopia, totalling USD 17.28 million. These projects have generated approximately 718 employment opportunities across the manufacturing, construction, transportation, and tourism sectors.

AIR TRANSPORT

Ethiopia is the most successful nation in Africa within the aviation sector, possessing a continuous history spanning over 70 years. Ethiopian Airlines has distinguished itself as a leading airline on the continent, offering the broadest range of destinations both within Africa and internationally.

Tanzania and Ethiopia signed a Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) on 18th December 1977. Subsequently, they signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) concerning air transport cooperation in 2001 and 2004. These agreements and MoUs have facilitated Ethiopian Airlines, which commenced its inaugural flights in 1966, to operate daily direct flights to three principal cities in Tanzania: Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, and Zanzibar.

Additionally, Tanzania has benefited from extensive training programs for Aircraft Engineers and other personnel at the Ethiopian Airlines Aviation Academy in Addis Ababa. Between 2016 and 2023, 75 pilots and 25 Aircraft Engineers from Tanzania received training at various levels through the Academy. Presently, 37 Tanzanians are undergoing training in multiple disciplines

at the Addis Ababa Aviation Academy. These training initiatives are crucial to Tanzania's efforts to rehabilitate its national carrier, Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL). Furthermore, the two nations have recently undertaken a review of the BASA Agreement.

COOPERATION IN DEFENSE

In July 2019, the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) and the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (ENDF) formalised their cooperation through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Subsequently, in March 2022, both entities ratified a Joint Action Plan to facilitate the implementation of their agreements, which delineates areas of collaboration, including scholarship provisions and training initiatives. Consequently, approximately 20 Tanzanian military officers are currently undertaking studies at various defence colleges across Ethiopia, while 02 Ethiopian officers are pursuing studies in Tanzania.

IMMIGRATION

Tanzania and Ethiopia continue to cooperate in the area of migration, particularly in addressing the challenge posed by

irregular migrants in both nations. In this context, as part of efforts to prevent illegal immigration, Tanzania abolished the referral visa regime for Ethiopians in February 2023. Furthermore, the two countries, in partnership with the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), work jointly to facilitate the repatriation of Ethiopian nationals from Tanzania. As a result of these initiatives, the number of Ethiopians detained in Tanzania has markedly decreased from over 4,000 in 2022 to fewer than 200 currently.

TOURISM

In 2017, the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) and Ethiopian Airlines entered into a Marketing Cooperation Agreement, enabling TTB to promote Tanzania's tourist attractions through Ethiopian Airlines. In return, TTB endorses Ethiopian Airlines through its media outlets, including its website. The abolishment of the referral visa regime for Ethiopian nationals, resulted in a rise in the number of Ethiopians visiting Tanzania.

The table below shows the statistical data of tourists from Ethiopia between 2015 and 2025, as illustrated:

Statistical Data for Ethiopian Tourists in Tanzania from (2015 - 2025)

YEAR	TOURIST
2015	1935
2016	1673
2017	2575
2018	2408
2019	83
2020	752
2021	787
2022	2016
2023	4192
2024	5938
2025	8259

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

In February 2022, the University of Dar es Salaam and Addis Ababa University formalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning collaboration in academic and research initiatives. This agreement covers the instruction of Kiswahili in Ethiopia. Additionally, Ethiopian Airlines plans to implement a Digital Kiswahili Language Training Programme aimed at its personnel and other stakeholders in Ethiopia.

OTHER POTENTIAL AREAS FOR COOPERATION

Agriculture: Similar to Tanzania, Agriculture sector is the largest contributor to the Ethiopian economy which accounts around 40% of total GDP and 80% of employment. The two countries are also major producers of coffee, honey and horticulture in Africa.

Tanzania could cooperate with Ethiopia in the agricultural sector, and gain Ethiopia's

experience and expertise in irrigation, application of technology (Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation) and the use of new seeds that guarantee maximum productivity. Other areas of cooperation include research and development in agriculture sector, irrigation techniques, and the establishment of agricultural infrastructures such as agro-parks and storage facilities.

Livestock sector: Ethiopia has the largest livestock population in Africa estimated over 65 million Cattle, 40 million sheep, 51 million goats, 8 million camels and 49 million chickens. Ethiopia exports Dairy and Dairy Products, Meat and Live Animals, Poultry and Eggs to countries in the Middle East, Europe, America and Africa. In addition, Ethiopia has made progress in value addition of livestock products for instance dairy products and leather industry through the establishment of small and medium value addition industries.



The fact that Tanzania ranks second after Ethiopia in livestock population in Africa is an opportunity for Tanzania to learn the experience of Ethiopia in the sector. In addition, cooperation can be strengthened in the areas of research, breeds improvement, construction of modern abattoirs, sharing market information, and management of challenges related to animal diseases.

Energy Sector: Ethiopia is making great progress in its energy sector. The current installed capacity is more than 10,000

megawatts. Projects to generate more Megawatts are ongoing. The country is currently exporting electricity to Djibouti, Kenya, and Sudan. Negotiations to supply electricity to Tanzania are at the final stages.

Health Sector: Ethiopia has been making strides in both plastic surgery and reconstruction. On the other hand, Tanzania is making great progress in cardiology and oncology. This present opportunity for the two countries to forge cooperation and collaboration.

Ambassador's Message



H.E. Innocent Eugene Shiyo

Tanzanian Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Tanzania Reaffirms Strong Continental Engagement And Strategic Partnership With Ethiopia

The United Republic of Tanzania continues to advance its robust continental engagement and enduring partnership with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, firmly anchored in the cherished Pan-African values of solidarity, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. Guided by a common commitment to peace, stability, and sustainable development, Tanzania remains devoted to fostering cooperation that strengthens unity and contributes meaningfully to the realization of Africa's collective aspirations.

As Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Djibouti, and Permanent Representative to the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), I am pleased to reaffirm that relations between Tanzania and Ethiopia remain excellent, cordial, and multifaceted. Cooperation between the two countries spans political dialogue, trade and investment, regional peace and security, people-to-people relations, and close collaboration within regional and continental frameworks, including the African Union. Both countries continue to work closely in promoting African unity, multilateralism, and African-led solutions to shared challenges.

The Mission's mandate is firmly anchored in further strengthening bilateral relations with Ethiopia, while simultaneously advancing Tanzania's strategic interests within the African Union and other multilateral institutions headquartered in Addis Ababa. In this regard, the Mission engages regularly and constructively with the Government of

Ethiopia, the African Union Commission, diplomatic missions, and international partners to articulate Tanzania's priorities and to deepen cooperation aligned with national development objectives and continental frameworks, notably Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

As Tanzania's foreign policy continues to evolve, priority is accorded to economic diplomacy, regional integration, peace and security, climate action, and sustainable development. These priorities guide Tanzania's engagement within the African Union and UNECA, as well as its broader cooperation with regional and international partners.

Tanzania's commitment to continental peace and security is further demonstrated through its active and successful membership in the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) for two consecutive terms from 2022 to 2026. During this period, Tanzania has consistently supported preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention, African-led peace support



operations, and post-conflict reconstruction and development. Notably, Tanzania hosted the commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the African Union Peace and Security Council in Dar es Salaam on 25 May 2024, which culminated in the adoption of the Dar es Salaam Declaration.

The Declaration underscored the need for African Union Member States to strengthen governance institutions, accelerate socio-economic development programmes, comprehensively address the structural root causes and drivers of

conflicts, including governance deficits, and to redouble investments in infrastructures for peace. It further emphasized the importance of responding more effectively to the legitimate grievances of populations, thereby reinforcing the critical nexus between peace, security, stability, and development. Tanzania continues to uphold its steadfast commitment to the implementation of these principles, ensuring their translation into tangible actions that advance both national priorities and continental objectives for peace, security, and sustainable development.



As Tanzania concludes its tenure on the African Union Peace and Security Council, having had the distinct honour of serving two consecutive terms from 2022 to 2026, I wish, with profound humility and heartfelt appreciation, to convey our sincere gratitude to the Member States of the African Union for the exceptional trust and confidence they placed in the United

Republic of Tanzania by entrusting it with this noble responsibility for two successive terms. We are deeply grateful for this vote of confidence and, as we look ahead, we extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the ten new members to be elected during the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. Wishing them every success

in the collective pursuit of peace, security, and stability across our continent.

Looking ahead, the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union is scheduled to take place from 14 to 15 February 2026, following the 48th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council from 11 to 12 February 2026. The Summit will be held under the theme “Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063.” This theme reflects the continent’s shared priority of strengthening water governance, enhancing climate resilience, improving access to safe sanitation, and mobilizing sustainable financing to support inclusive and resilient development.

In addition to the Summit theme, African leaders are expected to deliberate on other key continental priorities, including peace and security, climate action, and accelerating economic integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), as a critical driver of industrialization, trade, and job creation.

H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, is expected to participate in the Summit, joining fellow African Heads of State and Government in shaping Africa’s collective responses to current and emerging challenges. Her participation underscores Tanzania’s continued commitment to continental solidarity, cooperation, and the strengthening of African institutions.

The Tanzania Mission in Addis Ababa reaffirms its steadfast commitment to nurturing and strengthening the bonds of cooperation with the Government of Ethiopia, the African Union, UNECA, and all esteemed partners. In full alignment with the noble aspirations of Agenda 2063 and the collective vision of our continent, the Mission remains devoted to contributing constructively toward the advancement of peace, the deepening of regional integration, and the promotion of shared prosperity across Africa.

Ambassador's Message



H.E. Fekadu Ayana
Ethiopian Ambassador to Tanzania

ETHIOPIA

Statement by the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Fekadu Ayana

Ethiopia and Tanzania A Friendship Forged in Solidarity and Strengthened Through High Level Engagement and Connectivity

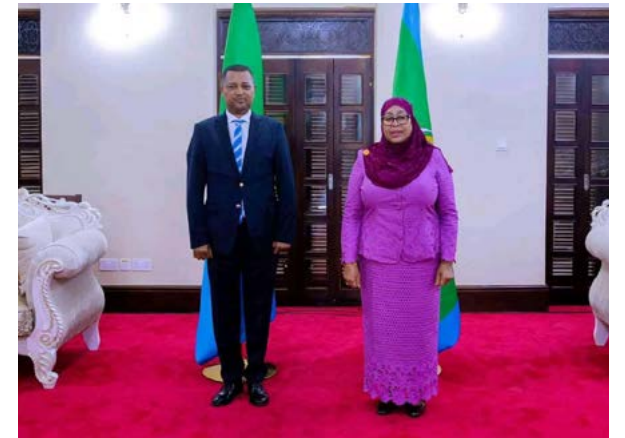
It is a profound honour to reflect on the long-standing and cordial relations between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania. Our relationship transcends formal diplomacy; it is deeply rooted in the shared history of solidarity and common struggle against colonialism, which laid the foundation for enduring friendship and cooperation.

From the visionary leadership of our forefathers, His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I and Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the exchange of high-level visits and mutual support has continued to this day. Notably, Emperor Haile Selassie I became the first Head of State to address the inaugural Parliament of Tanzania following independence, symbolizing Ethiopia's unwavering support for Tanzania's nationhood. Furthermore, President Mengistu Haile Mariam made his first official state visit to the United Republic of Tanzania upon assuming office, reaffirming the depth of our bilateral ties.

In recent years, the visit of H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed to Tanzania marked a significant milestone, further strengthening and elevating our bilateral diplomacy to new heights. These high-level engagements continue to demonstrate the strong political will shared by both nations to enhance cooperation across multiple sectors.

In the economic sphere, Ethiopian Airlines remains a cornerstone of connectivity between our two countries. As the largest foreign airline operator in Tanzania, Ethiopian Airlines currently operates

over fifty flights per week to Tanzania's international airports. Beyond facilitating passenger travel, the airline plays a critical role in bridging our economies, fostering trade, tourism, investment, and cultural exchange between our peoples.



The convening of the Joint Ministerial Commission in December 2024 in Addis Ababa marked another historic achievement, elevating Ethiopia–Tanzania relations to a strategic level. This platform consolidated bilateral agreements in key sectors including trade, electricity, livestock, agriculture, industry, and commerce, reinforcing our shared commitment to sustainable development and mutual prosperity.

As Ethiopia and Tanzania continue to work closely within regional and continental frameworks, including the African Union, our partnership stands as a testament to African solidarity, cooperation, and a shared vision for peace, integration, and development across the continent.



Conclusion

As this Visit Book concludes, it stands as both a record and a reflection of Tanzania's purposeful engagement at the Thirty Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa. It has outlined the key agenda and strategic issues before the Assembly and situated Tanzania's participation within the wider context of Africa's collective pursuit of unity, peace, and sustainable development under Agenda 2063. Convened under the Theme of assuring sustainable water availability and safe sanitation systems, the Summit reinforces a shared continental understanding that water security is not only a development priority but also a foundation for human dignity, public health, food security, and resilience.

The Visit Book has also provided a glimpse of Ethiopia, the host nation and home of the African Union headquarters, whose role as Africa's diplomatic capital continues to shape continental dialogue and cooperation. It further highlights the longstanding and cordial bilateral relations between Tanzania and Ethiopia, rooted in shared Pan African values and strengthened through successive generations of leadership, high level exchanges, and expanding cooperation across strategic sectors.

Guided by the leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania approaches this Assembly with a legacy of principled continental service and a clear readiness to contribute solutions that are

practical, inclusive, and people centred. Tanzania's national progress in expanding access to clean and safe water, alongside its commitment to peace, regional integration, and economic diplomacy, reflects the country's broader contribution to the African Union vision. The messages from the Ambassadors of Tanzania and Ethiopia further underscore the enduring strength of this partnership and the shared commitment to African led solutions. In

this spirit, Tanzania remains committed to working with fellow Member States, the African Union Commission, and partners to translate the decisions and declarations of the Assembly into measurable progress. The path to Agenda 2063 demands unity of purpose, sustained political will, and strengthened cooperation, and Tanzania stands ready to play its part in building a peaceful, integrated, and prosperous Africa for present and succeeding generations





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