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**Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the
World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international
level, in particular WSIS+20 review**

Statement by

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STATEMENT BY THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ON THE REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANF FOLLOW UP TO THE OUTCOMES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY AT THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVAL IN PARTICULAR WSIS+20 REVIEW

DELIVERED BY MS. HAWWAH MBAYE, DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WORKS, COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT OF ZANZIBAR

1. **Honourable Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**, it is a great honour to be here with you at this 28th Session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

2. **The United Republic of Tanzania through the visionary of o**ur beloved President, her Excellency Hon. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan has shown a strong political will and Vision of driving the country into a transformed knowledge-based society, and has a firm commitment towards the implementation of WSIS actions line. Just to mention few of the attained achievements as follows:

   (i) To ensure Government and other stakeholders play a crucial role in the promotion of ICT for development, Tanzania has a 10 year Digital Economy Strategic Framework 2024- 2034 that aims to widen the use of ICT for development in all sectors of economy. Tanzania has a well defined Digital Public Infrastructure which support innovative solutions that enhance service delivery to the Citizens. Currently, Tanzania is working towards reviewing its National ICT Policy and ICT Act to include the current ICT advancements.

(ii) Tanzania has built an interoperable data exchange platform namely *Jamii X-Change* to support data exchange for service delivery. The platform can also be used for cross-border data sharing. We have also established an Integrated Data Repository which is a national digital repository and a centralized platform for accessing a wide range of scientific research outputs, including publications, reports, datasets and other scholarly materials.

(iii) Tanzania has installed a National fibre Optic Cable broadband backbone connecting 109 districts out of 139, and the work is ongoing to complete 100% by the end of this year 2025. The mobile broadband covers 88% of the population coverage. In addition, Tanzania has established six internet exchanges and four Tier 3 Data Centres. In order to bridge the digital divide, Tanzania has managed to construct and operationalize 2,158 cell towers, in 1,974 wards, which is 5,111 villages that benefits 23,799,848 citizens mostly in remote and disadvantaged area, thus promoting digital inclusion.

(iv) To support innovation and startup ecosystem, Tanzania is now in the process of preparing a Startup Policy, and construction of Digital Technology Institute in the capital of Dodoma that will see youth regardless of qualification, acquire knowledge especially on emerging Technologies. To promote digital literacy, Tanzania is coordinating and equipping the innovation hubs and centers to be able to provide support and encourage youths, women and government officials to access ICT.

(v) Tanzania has enacted the Personal Data Protection Act (DPA) for the protection of personal data and establishes the principles guiding and conditions for collection and processing of personal data. The DPA is expected to play a vital part in ensuring the security of data

hence increasing user confidence while in the cyberspace. In ensuring that this act is operational, the Government has established Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC)

3. Chairperson, I believe the WSIS+20 review will assess the progress on its implementation at both regional and international levels. We recognize the achievements so far in bridging the digital divide and promoting ICTs for sustainable development. We also take cognizant of the Global Digital Compact which addresses the emerging technologies, environment issues and foster inclusivity.

4. Chairperson, I wish to note the challenges at hand that are hindering Tanzania and other developing countries in attaining WSIS goals such as the persistent inequalities in digital access and participation remain a concern in the Global South. The Emerging technologies, such as AI and big data, present both opportunities and challenges for equitable digital transformation.

5. Further, we propose the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism on the assessment of the impact of ICTs on sustainable development and human rights as well as address the evolving digital landscape and its implications for global governance.

6. In conclusion Chairperson, the United Republic of Tanzania remains committed towards the engagement of UNCTAD through the CSTD in its mandate and looking forward for a mutual and realistic outcome.

Thank you for your kind attention