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Statement

The United Republic of Tanzania

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**PERMENENT MISSION OF
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
GENEVA**

**TALKING NOTES FOR DR. HASHIL T. ABDALLAH, PERMANENT
SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE, THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA DURING THE 9TH UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

General Statement – On 11th July 2025

***Report on the implementation of the set of Multilaterally Agreed
Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business
Practices, including a brief assessment of 20 years of voluntary peer
review of competition law and policy.***

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Mr. Vice President,

I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to the Almighty for allowing us to gather here today. It is a great honor to be part of this historic conference.

On behalf of the Minister of Industry and Trade of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Selemani Jafo, who is unable to join us due to other commitments, I extend our sincere appreciation to UNCTAD for organizing this important event. We are here to engage in meaningful discussions on competition and consumer protection at national, regional, and international levels, in line with the General Assembly resolution.

Mr. Vice President,

In 2012, the United Republic of Tanzania took part in a UNCTAD's Voluntary Peer Review of its competition law and policy. This initiative involved collaboration with Zambia and Zimbabwe, forming a tripartite review process. Independent experts assessed the legal frameworks and performance of each country.

The independent expert group recognised Tanzania's robust legal and institutional foundation, noting its adherence to international best practices. However, they also identified areas for improvement. Their recommendations aimed to enhance the effectiveness of Tanzania's competition regime by **strengthening the legal framework, boosting institutional capacity, and improving the enforcement environment.**

Mr. Vice President,

The review highlighted several key areas for enhancement. We have made improvements in six categories based on the recommendations provided:

Legal and Legislative Improvements;

Institutional Capacity and Independence;

Enforcement and Investigative Powers;

Advocacy and Awareness;

Regional and International Cooperation; and
Consumer Rights under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1963.

Firstly, regarding Legal and Legislative Improvements, amendments to the Fair Competition Act (FCA) were recommended to address joint dominance and clarify jurisdictional overlaps.

Major amendments to the FCA were conducted in 2024 through the Parliament of United Republic of Tanzania whereas a number of provisions were amended including adding a joint dominance as per recommendations. In addition, issues of jurisdictional overlaps have been addressed through advocacy by joint meetings and continuous engagements.

Concerning Institutional Capacity and Independence, it was recommended to secure stable funding for the FCC, enhance human resource capacity, and strengthen the Fair Competition Tribunal (FCT). The budgets for the FCC, FCT, and ZFCC has been increased; and staffing at the FCC has increased from 58 in 2012 to 113, with three zonal offices established.

For Enforcement and Investigative Powers, improvements were suggested for detecting and enforcing against hard-core cartels, such as bid-rigging and price-fixing; strengthening investigative techniques, and developing clearer merger notification thresholds and ensure better transparency in merger review decisions.

Since 2012, five investigations into cartels have been conducted. In 2018, new Competition Rules were developed, and in 2017, the Merger Notification Threshold Order was updated, following SMEs policy amendment. The 2024 FCA amendments introduced leniency provisions as part of strengthening investigation and enforcement of cartels.

Mr. Vice President,

It was also recommended to intensify advocacy campaigns to raise awareness among **businesses, consumers and government officials** - on (1) compliance and consumer obligations, (2) rights and reporting of anti-competitive conduct, and (3) understanding the value of competition policy in broader economic governance, respectively, and encourage academic inclusion of competition policy in law and economics curricula at universities.

Advocacy campaigns have been intensified to raise awareness among businesses, consumers, and government officials. From 2021/22 to 2025/26, the FCC implemented five advocacy programs, conducting 60 sessions nationwide.

Mr. Vice President,



*Tanzania did also receive recommendation to strengthen her participation **in regional competition initiatives**, especially through EAC Competition Authority, COMESA Competition Commission and share enforcement experiences and participate in cross-border case handling.*

Regionally, Tanzania has strengthened its participation in regional competition initiatives. The EAC Competition Commission (EACCA), established by the 2006 East African Competition Act, through ongoing regional efforts, is a fast-moving regional Competition instrument expected to deal with cross border restrictive trade practices.

Tanzania also signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with the EAC Competition Authority in 2023, marking a move toward enhanced cross-border cooperation, joint investigations, and capacity building within the East African Community. Furthermore, Tanzania has been actively engaging in the competition protocol of the African Continental Free Trade Area, demonstrating its commitment to enhancing trade collaboration across the continent.

Tanzania is also working on the recommendation that **the** Merchandise Marks Act, 1963 should provide a right for a consumer to submit their complaints where there is reasonable suspicion of harmful counterfeit or offending products as the current status only owners of intellectual property can submit.

Efforts are underway to draft new Anti-Counterfeit legislation to improve consumer redress mechanisms.



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Mr. Vice President,

For United Republic of Tanzania to ensure there are smooth implementation of the set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices there is a need to;-

- Translate peer review recommendations into legislative updates and consistent funding remains crucial;
- Fast-track legislative drafting process of the new Anti-Counterfeit legislation to address issues raised in the 2012 peer review against the Merchandise Marks Act, 1963;
- Conduct more joint investigations and capacity building across the EAC region;
- Continue involvement with UNCTAD and APRM forums to support periodic reviews to monitor progress over time; and
- Incorporate emerging issues such as digital e-commerce and platform markets which currently are not sufficiently addressed under our Competition and consumer protection laws. This calls for technical assistance funding in those area of which currently we lack capacity of enforcing them.

I thank you.