

**STATEMENT OF HON. DR. TULIA ACKSON (MP), SPEAKER OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TANZANIA, 144TH IPU – BALI, INDONESIA, 20TH –
24TH MARCH 2022.**

**THEME: GETTING TO ZERO: MOBILIZING PARLIAMENTS TO ACT ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Hon. Chair of this session,
Hon. Speakers,
Members of Parliaments,
Dear colleagues and friends,**

It is an honour for me to address this august Assembly for the first time in my capacity as the Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania. Having assumed this position few months ago or two months to be more precise. Please accept warm wishes from the Members of the Parliament of Tanzania.

We are gathered here today at the time when the planet earth stands at a perilous point. This August Assembly comes a few months after the critical meeting of COP26 in Glasgow. The world is reeling from the devastating effects of COVID-19 pandemic. All this come in the backdrop of the climate crisis that has speared no part of the Globe. As we reflect on how we come together and build back better, let us cease this moment to discuss the critical role of Parliaments to support governments in achieving net zero to save the planet.

Madam Chair, Hon. Speakers, Members of Parliaments, Dear colleagues and friends,

Seven years ago in the landmark Paris Agreement, countries made commitments to address the vagaries of climate change through various measures, adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage, financing and developing nationally determined contributions. Since then, some milestones have been achieved. However, the threat to planet earth remains huge and real. As fast as the click of the clock we have witnessed the surging of the consequences of the climate crisis, severe floods, prolonged draughts, sea-level rise, declining crop yield and food insecurity. All of which have adversely affected human lives.

It was against this backdrop that COP26 was held in Glasgow. Given the importance of that meeting, the United Republic of Tanzania was represented at the highest level by Her Excellence the President Madam Samia Suluhu Hassan. The President shared Tanzanian's efforts in addressing climate crisis and reaffirm our country's commitment to attain net zero. Speaking to the urgency of the matter, President Samia Suluhu Hassan called on other world leaders to take actions without any further delay. Indeed, in that meeting it became crystal clear the world is at tipping point. Our failure to act timely means failure to preserve planed earth for our generation but also future generations.

Madam Chair, Hon. Speakers, Members of Parliaments, Dear colleagues and friends,

One of the areas that are still lagging to attain our set objectives is climate financing. At this point in time, Parliaments must take their rightful positions particularly in achieving net zero. Priorities must be given to support enactment of budgets that aim at curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

In my own native country of Tanzania, the Parliament has undertaken an historic position in approving the construction of a huge hydropower dam to meet the country's energy needs sustainably. It has also approved budgets for the development of a rapid transport system and construction of a standard gauge railway. All of which will further enhance the country's commitment to using clean energy to reach the long-term objective of attaining the net zero.

There is no doubt that national parliaments have a huge role to play in their own countries in combating climate change. Additionally, international partnership will be absolutely critical. To full address the climate crisis of our time we need to bring disjointed efforts together and form new partnerships. In our unit, parliaments should support Governments to fulfil their targets and goals of the 2030 agenda to combat climate change and its impact. In particular, we have to urge in one voice that developed countries to keep their promise of providing \$ 100 Billion for climate action by 2023, a goal that could not be fulfilled by 2020.

Madam Chair, Hon. Speakers, Members of Parliaments, Dear colleagues and friends,

At this juncture, I would like to call all parliaments to fully exercise our oversight role in ensuring that our governments meet their commitment of addressing climate change by providing sustainable solutions. Getting to net zero can be done!

Our Father of the Nation Julius Nyerere affectionately called Mwalimu a Swahili word for Teacher, always inspired us with the words "IT CAN BE DONE PLAY YOUR PART". I am happy to be his voice today to motivate this august Assembly by saying "IT CAN BE DONE LET'S PLAY OUR PART".

I thank you for your attention.