



Human Rights Council

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Joint Stakeholders' submission on:

Human Rights in the United Republic of Tanzania

Submitted by:

Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI)

(NGO in Consultative Status with ECOSOC)

and

Marist Brothers – Province of Africa Central East (PACE)

And co-sponsored by:

Solidaridad, Educación y Desarrollo (SED)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This stakeholders' report is a joint submission of the above-mentioned organizations. The report highlights key concerns related to **children's rights** in the United Republic of Tanzania, particularly: **(i) modernization and accessibility of the educational system, (ii) healthcare infrastructure and essential services, (iii) protection of human rights and eradication of harmful practices and (iv) infrastructure development and economic empowerment.** Each section conveys recommendations to the United Republic of Tanzania Government.
2. The data and information obtained for this submission came from various sources and includes information from youth, teachers, educators, and other civil society actors living and working in the United Republic of Tanzania. All information concerned the period from November 2021 to May 2026.
3. **Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI)**¹ is an international organization promoted by the Marist Brothers, present in 80 countries. FMSI has 18 years of experience working in the field of international solidarity, advocating for children's rights especially in the field of education. It works at the international level, participating in the UN human rights mechanisms in collaboration with other organizations with similar interests. It has been accredited by ECOSOC since 2011.
4. **The Marist Brothers – Province of Africa Central-East**². The Marist Brothers are a religious congregation of consecrated men within the Catholic Church, dedicated primarily to the education and holistic formation of children and young people. The Province of Central-East Africa is an administrative unit of the Marist Institute, comprising communities and personnel living and working in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Kenya, Rwanda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. Across these countries, the Marist Brothers are engaged in formal education and in social and pastoral initiatives that provide essential support to vulnerable children and youth, particularly through schools and community-based programs.
5. **Solidaridad, Educación y Desarrollo (SED)**³ is a non-profit, state-wide, non-governmental development organization (NGO). It works mainly to promote the right to education in Africa and Latin America, as well as in some countries in Asia and Europe. SED's three objectives are: development cooperation, education for development and the promotion and training of volunteers. Its headquarters are in Madrid. It has four regional delegations in Barcelona, Valladolid, Pamplona and Seville. In Spain it works in the field of Development Education and Social Advocacy.

¹ For more information, visit the FMSI website: <https://fmsi.ngo/en/>

² For more information, visit the Marist Brothers website: <https://champagnat.org/en/marist-institute/our-presence/>

³ For more information, visit the SED website: <https://sed-ongd.org/>

II. GENERAL REMARKS AND COOPERATION WITH THE UPR MECHANISM

6. The United Republic of Tanzania underwent its third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in November 2021 during the 39th Session of the Working Group. This coalition notes the significant evolution in the State's engagement compared to the second cycle in 2016, where it accepted 131 recommendations and 2 in part. According to the Matrix of recommendations⁴ for the 39th session (UPR39), the United Republic of Tanzania's position now includes approximately 160 Supported recommendations, 65 Noted recommendations, and 20 recommendations categorized as both Supported and Noted. These range from accelerating the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to considering the ratification of the Convention against Torture.
7. The United Republic of Tanzania has demonstrated a commitment to integrating human rights into its broader developmental framework, specifically through the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union. A vast majority of the supported recommendations are directly linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing SDG 16 for peace and justice, SDG 5 for gender equality, SDG 10 for reduced inequalities, SDG 3 for health, and SDG 4 for quality education⁵. The State is currently implementing its third national five-year development plan to ensure that economic and social progress aligns with its voluntary human rights commitments.
8. While the United Republic of Tanzania is a party to six of the nine core international human rights treaties, it faces a critical backlog in reporting to treaty bodies. The United Nations country team and national stakeholders have observed that reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) remained unsubmitted as of late 2021. Consequently, the State has supported recommendations to request technical assistance from the OHCHR to resolve these overdue obligations and align its national legal system with international standards⁶.
9. Finally, we acknowledge the State's successful implementation of its first National Human Rights Action Plan (2013–2017). However, the adoption of the second plan (2018–2022) has been delayed and was still awaiting review by the National Assembly as of early 2021. This delay has hindered the effective mainstreaming of human rights into national budgeting. We urge the government to expedite the adoption of this plan

⁴ Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/tz-index>

⁵ Cf. Thematic list of recommendations: 145.3, 145.22, 145.68, 145.84 at UPR39.

⁶ Cf. Human Rights Council. Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Thirty-ninth session. 1–12 November 2021. Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on United Republic of Tanzania. Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/3. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/3>

and continue ensuring a safe and enabling environment for civil society, human rights defenders, and political parties.⁷

III. METHODOLOGY FOR DATA COLLECTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE TOPIC

10. The methodology for the United Republic of Tanzania submission involved a consultative and active engagement process with adolescents and youth in the regions of Mwanza and Masonga in Mara region, consistent with the State's commitment to broad-based consultations with civil society. A total of approximately 200 children and adolescents participated in focused group discussions, with ages ranging from 11 to 18. The majority were male, with about 50 being female. These consultations allowed for the collection of diverse perspectives on human rights, education, and social welfare, providing a comprehensive view of the challenges faced by young Tanzanians in rural and urban settings.
11. This report also integrates the direct voices of children and youth to illustrate the human rights situation in the United Republic of Tanzania. These testimonies presented “*in italics and within quotation marks*,” are the result of meticulous listening sessions during the fieldwork in both regions. These authentic expressions serve to validate and ground the theoretical advocacy work conducted by the presenting organizations, ensuring that the recommendations reflect the lived realities and aspirations of the youth. By highlighting these perspectives, the submission reaffirms the necessity of youth-led dialogue in the Universal Periodic Review process, aligning with the national priority of using technology and engagement to promote the right to development.

OVERVIEW:

12. **Modernization and Accessibility of the Educational System.** Tanzanian youth manifest that the national education system must transition toward a technologically driven environment. They explain that “*quality education*” requires the integration of computers, projectors, and modern laboratory apparatus to move away from theoretical teaching to “*learning by doing practically*”. Furthermore, they highlight a critical shortage of teachers and classrooms, particularly in rural areas, and advocate for an inclusive system that accommodates children with disabilities and offers education in English to better prepare students for the future.
13. **Expansion of Healthcare Infrastructure and Essential Services.** The youth explain that the right to health is severely compromised by a significant lack of hospitals and doctors in rural sectors. Their manifestation emphasizes the urgent need for the government to provide “*medical instruments, medicine, syringes, and gloves*” to combat common diseases like malaria. They further identify that the effectiveness of healthcare

⁷ Cf. Human Rights Council. Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Thirty-ninth session. 1–12 November 2021. National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21. United Republic of Tanzania. A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/1 <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/1>

is intrinsically linked to the availability of reliable "electricity and water supply" within clinics, which currently remains a major challenge.

14. **Protection of Human Rights and Eradication of Harmful Practices.** Tanzanian children manifest a strong demand for the protection of girls and women against negative cultural practices such as *"Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Early Marriage and Forced Marriage"*. They explain that the government must maintain equality where *"no one is above the law"* and protect vulnerable groups, including orphans, refugees, and street children. Additionally, their manifestations include a call for *"Good leadership"* to eliminate corruption and ensure *"Free and Fair elections"* to preserve national peace.
15. **Infrastructure Development and Economic Empowerment.** The youth identify that *"poor Infrastructure such as roads and bridges"* hinders personal and national development. They manifest a deep concern regarding graduate unemployment, explaining that the government should provide jobs for skilled youth and invest in manufacturing industries to process the country's natural resources. Finally, they explain that talents in sports and arts should be recognized as professional opportunities and require better funding and facilities to reach their full potential.

IV. MODERNIZATION AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

16. Regarding the modernization and accessibility of the educational system, children and adolescents from Tanzania have clearly stated that enrollment is not enough without the integration of *"Technology, especially using Computers, Projectors and Tablets"*. While the Tanzanian National Report highlights the success of the fee-free education policy, which increased primary enrollment to 95.7 percent in 2020⁸, the State admits that achieving national development goals requires an education system that is more "responsive to the developmental needs of individuals"⁹. The youth emphasize that for education to be effective, the government must move away from purely theoretical methods and provide *"good education and long life learning by doing practically"*.
17. However, stakeholders have noted that the rapid increase in student numbers has not been matched by a sufficient supply of resources, stating that "teachers, classrooms, desks and textbooks have been insufficient to accommodate the increase in school enrolment"¹⁰. This matches the children's concerns about the *"lack of good and enough classes"* and the need for *"laboratory, libraries, [and] computer rooms"* to support their studies. Furthermore, while the State reports that reading comprehension improved from

⁸ Human Rights Council. Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Thirty-ninth session. 1–12 November 2021. Compilation on the United Republic of Tanzania. Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/2. N. 51.

⁹ The United Republic Of Tanzania Ministry Of Education, Science And Technology Education Sector Development Plan 2025/26 – 2029/30. <https://www.moe.go.tz/sites/default/files/ESDP%202025-26%20hadi%202029-30%20Final-%2026%20February%202025.pdf>

¹⁰ A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/3. N. 78

8.1% in 2013 to 38.7% in 2019, stakeholders argue that a "stronger focus on learning outcomes" is essential to ensure that children acquire the "skills and competencies critical for employment".¹¹

18. Tanzania supported UPR recommendations to "increase the information and communications technology-related infrastructure" (145.78. India) and to develop the "National Strategy for Inclusive Education," (145.76. Bulgaria) particularly for children with disabilities. However, there is a strong call for inclusiveness to ensure that no child is left behind. Stakeholders are deeply concerned about the "expulsion of pregnant schoolgirls"¹² and the practice of "invasive pregnancy tests without prior consent,"¹³ recommending that the State ensure these young mothers can "re-enter the formal education system" (145.77. Bulgaria). This demand for equality is echoed by the youth, who insist that "*people should be treated equal*" and that "*people with special needs should be included in both primary and secondary school*".
19. Following the strategic roadmap presented in the Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP) 2025/26 – 2029/30¹⁴, the United Republic of Tanzania intends to implement a comprehensive reform of its educational system to align with national and international development goals. This plan, underpinned by a Theory of Change, focuses on five thematic areas: expanding access and equity, promoting gender equality, enhancing quality and relevance, strengthening governance, and ensuring sustainable financing. The ESDP is designed to respond to persistent challenges such as infrastructure deficits and the need for a curriculum that meets the demands of a modern, technology-driven economy.
20. The strategic vision for this period is centered on human capital development as a pillar for national progress. According to the strategic document, the primary objective is to produce "an educated Tanzanian, with the knowledge, skills, and positive attitudes necessary to contribute to the sustainable development of the Nation" (Education Sector Development Plan - Para. 122). To achieve this, the government plans to integrate technology-driven solutions to address teacher shortages and modernize teaching methodologies, ensuring that students acquire the competencies required for the global labor market. Furthermore, the plan emphasizes inclusivity, specifically targeting marginalized groups, girls, and children with disabilities.
21. In alignment with international frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Tanzania pledges to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" (Education Sector Development Plan - Para. 69). This commitment involves establishing robust quality assurance mechanisms

¹¹ A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/2. N. 51.

¹² A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/2. N. 52. A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/3. N. 84

¹³ A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/3. N. 84.

¹⁴ United Republic of Tanzania. Ministry of Education, Science and Technology: <https://www.moe.go.tz/sites/default/files/ESDP%202025-26%20had%202029-30%20Final-%2026%20February%202025.pdf>

and a multi-sectoral financing program to bridge the funding gaps identified in previous implementation cycles.

22. Regarding the modernization and accessibility of the educational system, children and adolescents from Tanzania provided a clear vision for a more technologically advanced and inclusive environment. Their testimonies underscore the urgent need for modern tools, practical teaching methods, and expanded school infrastructure to ensure quality education for all.

- *“By using Technology, especially using Computers, Projectors and Tablets”.*
- *“By using modern tools for teaching like computers, projectors and etc.”.*
- *“The government should provide good education and long life Learning by doing practically”.*
- *“Primary schools should be taught in English but not in Kiswahili for the benefit of the students when they reached secondary schools”.*
- *“In our country we need other school we speaks English language not Swahili”.*
- *“Through the use of Advanced technology in learning [for] Example; use of computers in learning”.*
- *“Through improving infrastructures especially school infrastructures [such as] classes, laboratory, libraries, computer rooms, Dinning halls and Dormitory”.*
- *“Increasing modern tools for education e.g. Computers”.*
- *“Bringing new sources of learning like computers and projectors that simplifies and reduces the use of harmful material like chalks”.*
- *“There must be increasment of government schools mostly in rural areas [because] childrens are totally not going to school since they have no schools to go to”.*

23. **Aiming to improve the educational situation in the United Republic of Tanzania and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4, our coalition suggests the following recommendations:**

- a. **Accelerate the digital transformation of the education system by equipping schools with modern tools. Ensuring that teachers are adequately trained in science and technology to improve the quality and relevance of education for all students.**
- b. **Increase the number of primary and secondary schools, especially in rural areas, providing them with the necessary staff, infrastructure and essential services to bridge the urban-rural disparity and ensure accessibility for children who currently have no schools to attend.**
- c. **Strengthen inclusive education through the provision of reasonable accommodation and specialized assistive devices. Training tutors in inclusive pedagogies to ensure that children with disabilities are fully integrated into both primary and secondary schools without stigmatization or physical barriers.**

- d. Guarantee the right to education for pregnant schoolgirls and young mothers by strictly implementing re-entry policies, ending discriminatory practices, and ensuring that adolescent mothers can complete their studies in a safe and equal environment as required by international human rights obligations.**

V. EXPANSION OF HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- 24.** Regarding the expansion of healthcare infrastructure and essential services, children and adolescents from Tanzania expressed a pressing need for a system that provides “*good treatment*” regardless of geographic location. Their testimonies emphasize that a lack of facilities and professional staff in remote regions “*directly lead[s] to the loss of peoples life*”. This grassroots concern aligns with the State’s international commitments; during the 39th UPR session, Tanzania supported recommendations to “continue expanding the health infrastructure” (145.67. Cuba) and to “ensure equal access to quality health services... in both urban and rural areas” (145.68. Djibouti).
- 25.** In its national report, the State documented its significant efforts to fulfill these commitments, reporting a 10.1% increase in the number of total health facilities, which grew from 7,680 in 2016 to 8,458 in 2020. This expansion included constructing 8 new referral hospitals and rehabilitating 23 others across various regions. Additionally, the government accepted recommendations regarding inviting to provide “non-discriminatory universal health coverage” (146.8. Mauritius) and to prioritize specialized care (145.66. Botswana).
- 26.** However, stakeholders have noted that critical gaps remain between these high-level acceptances and the reality on the ground. In the previous UPR, civil society¹⁵ reported that the national health budget allocation stands at only 7.8 percent, which is far below the 15 percent pledge made in the Abuja Declaration¹⁶, and the situation has not improved since then. This financial shortfall mirrors the children's demands for the government to provide basic “*medical instruments, example medicine, syringes, [and] gloves*”, as well as ensuring the “*availability of electricity*” in all rural health centers.
- 27.** The Government of Tanzania has expressed a firm commitment to enhancing the health of its population by providing high-quality services through the implementation of the Health Sector Strategic Plan V (HSSP V)¹⁷. The Ministry of Health defines its overarching vision as a desire “to have a healthy and prosperous society that contributes fully to the development of individuals and the nation” (page 1). To achieve this, the Ministry aims to “provide sustainable health services with standards that are acceptable to all citizens without financial constraints, based on geographical and gender equity”

¹⁵ Center for Reproductive Rights, Nairobi, Kenya and Legal and Human Rights Centre, Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania). Joint Submission 11. A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/3

¹⁶ A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/3. N. 69.

¹⁷ The United Republic Of Tanzania. Ministry Of Health. <https://www.moh.go.tz/storage/app/uploads/public/687/898/0bd/6878980bd6288955206400.pdf>

(page 1). This strategic focus is designed to align the country's health outcomes with Tanzania's Development Vision 2025 and the global Sustainable Development Goals.

28. In terms of physical expansion, the Ministry reports significant growth in the country's medical infrastructure and emergency response capabilities. Official data indicates that "health facility numbers increased by 6.9% from 11,041 in 2022 to 11,805 in 2023" (page 6). This expansion is complemented by a major investment in pre-hospital care, where the procurement of 613 "new ambulances have increased the ambulance availability from almost 40% to 84.7% of the total needs in the country" (page 102). Furthermore, the government has prioritized specialized care, noting that the number of facilities equipped for cervical cancer screening rose from 750 in 2022 to 997 in 2023. (Cf. page 20).
29. The report also highlights substantial improvements in maternal and child health indicators, which serve as a benchmark for the system's overall efficacy, such as the better performance of the Maternal Mortality Ratio and a notable rise in the utilization of formal health services, with institutional delivery coverage increasing from 81.1% in 2022 to 85.8% in 2023. According to the Ministry, the "high performance displayed by these labour and delivery indicators is an indication of an increased trust in the health system by the population" (page 37).
30. Regarding the expansion of healthcare and essential services, youth from Tanzania highlighted a critical disparity between urban and rural medical access. Their testimonies emphasize the necessity for better-equipped facilities, adequate medical supplies, and more professional staff to treat common diseases and ensure the right to health for every citizen.
- *"The government should have better program on building different hospital in our country so that every citizen should get good treatment example in rural areas"*.
 - *"Because in our country we lack doctor and hospitals in rural areas"*.
 - *"The government should improve health facilities in both urban and rural areas"*.
 - *"The government should provide medical instruments, example medicine, syringes, gloves, pair of scissors"*.
 - *"There should be availability of electricity [in health centers]"*.
 - *"government should plan how to supply water in the country especially in rural areas in Tanzania"*.
 - *"The government should provide clean water and proper sanitation in schools, hospitals, [and] societies"*.
 - *"In Tanzania most of the places are lacking health sectors mostly in rural areas... this directly lead to the loss of peoples life"*.
 - *"To increase the number of doctors, nurses and facilities used in the hospital"*.
 - *"You can get some of the childrens suffering from communicable diseases like Malaria"*.

31. Aiming to enhance the healthcare system in the United Republic of Tanzania and ensure equitable access to quality health services for all, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3, our coalition suggests the following recommendations:
- a. Allocate an enough national budget to health expenditures to effectively implement the Health Sector Strategic Plan and universal health coverage, ensuring that out-of-pocket payments do not limit access for the most vulnerable members of the population.
 - b. Expand healthcare services and staff in remote areas by building more hospitals and hiring more skilled professionals to address workforce shortages and eliminate differences in treatment based on geography.
 - c. Guarantee a consistent supply of essential medicines and medical instruments at all levels of care, while ensuring that rural facilities have reliable access to electricity and safe water to provide high-quality treatment and reduce the risk of communicable diseases.
 - d. Strengthen maternal and neonatal health outcomes by scaling up emergency obstetric care services to all health centers and providing specialized training to health workers to sustain the reduction of mortality rates and meet national health targets.

VI. PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ERADICATION OF HARMFUL PRACTICES

32. Regarding the protection of human rights and eradication of harmful practices, Tanzanian youth urgently call on the government to “*fight against bad cultural Practices*” such as “*Female genital Mutilation (FGM), Early Marriage and Forced Marriage*”. They emphasize that the state must “*avoid child labour*” to ensure “*equal treatment*” for all citizens and improve national security by “*stopping sexual harassment*”.
33. In the national report for the previous cycle of the UPR the United Republic of Tanzania affirms its commitment to "promoting, protecting and realising human and peoples' rights"¹⁸ through the implementation of the "National Plan of Action to end Violence Against Women and Children", which aimed to reduce such violence by 50% by 2022¹⁹.
34. During the UPR39 session, various nations proposed specific recommendations to address remaining gaps. Italy recommended that Tanzania "eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation" (145.90, Italy). Austria called for enhanced "protection of girls and women of all ages" from FGM and the conclusion of

¹⁸ A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/1. N. 1.

¹⁹ A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/1. N. 39.

amendments to the Law of Marriage Act (146.9, Austria). Additionally, Malawi urged the State to "complete the reforms necessary to raise the minimum legal age of marriage... to 18 years" (147.126, Malawi), while Mozambique suggested that the government "continue to enhance efforts to prevent child labour" (145.105, Mozambique).

35. While the United Republic of Tanzania has demonstrated a commitment to improving its human rights framework, recent documentation suggests that significant challenges remain in fully reaching the established goals for the protection of its citizens. Sources indicate that while progress has been made, implementation gaps persist regarding the safety of the person and the eradication of long-standing harmful social norms.
36. The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) ²⁰ assessed that the "overall situation of human rights in Tanzania slightly deteriorated in 2021 compared to the previous year"(page 15). Their report highlights that major issues continue to include "gender-based violence (GBV), violence against children (VAC), child labour & exploitation, and right to life violations" (Cf. Chapter five. Rights of vulnerable groups). The LHRC also documented specific concerns such as "mob violence, witchcraft-motivated killings, IPV violence and killings," as well as "violations of fair trial rights (especially lengthy pre-trial detention)" and "FGM" (page 5). These findings emphasize that "violations of property and inheritance rights" (page 5) also remain a significant barrier to the security of vulnerable members of society.
37. In its 2024 report on Tanzania, Human Rights Watch²¹ also draws attention to a marked increase in human rights violations. The political opposition has been subject to a range of human rights violations, including violence, arbitrary detentions, and forced disappearances. Concurrently, the forced displacement of indigenous communities persists. Moreover, online and offline expressions continue to be subject to significant restrictions through social media censorship and the enforcement of punitive cybercrime legislation. Furthermore, the nation is confronted with a paucity of comprehensive data privacy regulations, and members of the LGBT community encounter pervasive online censorship and physical violence. Despite recent amendments to child safety legislation, the legal framework remains inadequate in adequately safeguarding children from corporal punishment and underage marriage.
38. Concerning the protection of human rights and the eradication of harmful practices, adolescents expressed an urgent need for legal safeguards against gender-based violence and traditional discrimination. Their manifestations call for a society where the rule of law is respected, gender equality is realized, and special protection is afforded to vulnerable groups like orphans and refugees.

²⁰ Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) https://humanrights.or.tz/storage/user_storage/627b6ffec2dba.pdf

²¹ Human Rights Watch *Tanzania Events of 2024* <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/tanzania>

- *“Governments should make by laws that may protect girls against bad cultural practices like Female genital Mutilation (FGM), Early Marriage and Forced Marriage”.*
- *“People should be treated equal especially when Women doesn't given their right”.*
- *“In our country we should protect the human right in order to prevent child abuse and child labour”.*
- *“Avoiding child labour... so that every citizen can get good human right and proper or equal treatment”.*
- *“People should support special group example orphan, refugees, street children”.*
- *“Their should be good leadership in order for people to live in peace and harmony in the country”.*
- *“To obey ruler of law or to respect ruler of law”.*
- *“Because [we need] to avoid corruption to our country in time of election”.*
- *“No one is above the law”.*
- *“The government should maintain equality... there will be equal provision of social services example water supply, Transportation and education”.*

39. Aiming to strengthen the protection of human rights and eradicate harmful practices in the United Republic of Tanzania, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 and Goal 16, our coalition suggests the following recommendations:

- Finalize the amendment of the Law of Marriage Act to establish eighteen years as the minimum age of marriage for both boys and girls without exceptions, to protect children from early and forced marriage and ensure their continued access to education.**
- Effectively enforce national legislation and strategies to eradicate female genital mutilation by increasing funding for police gender and children’s desks and conducting community-based awareness campaigns to challenge deep-rooted social norms that facilitate these harmful practices.**
- Strengthen enforcement of the Child Labor Law and the National Strategy for the Elimination of Child Labor to effectively remove children from work, while ensure their successful reentry into formal education and provide social support to their families.**
- Protect the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly widows, persons with disabilities and children, by reforming discriminatory customary laws that lead to property grabbing and eviction, and by ensuring proper accountability.**

VII. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- 40.** Regarding infrastructure development and economic empowerment, Tanzanian children have expressed an urgent need for the *“improvement of Infrastructure”* such as *“roads, railway and pipeline”* to facilitate the movement of people and commodities. They specifically call for a reliable *“electric supply”* and *“water supply”* to support

development and request that the government “*employ people who completed their studies*” to strengthen the national economy.

41. In its National Report, the State highlights that Tanzania successfully "leaped from a poor country to the lower bracket of the middle income country"²² in 2020. To bolster this transition, the government has "embarked on improving its transportation infrastructure" through the construction of a "Standard Gauge Railway (SGR)" and the completion of "37,000KM of tarmac roads"²³. Additionally, the State reports being a "leading country in Africa in achieving rural electrification at 74% coverage"²⁴ while establishing over "8,477 industries" to address issues related to employment.²⁵
42. During the UPR39 session, member states offered specific recommendations to ensure these gains reach all citizens. China recommended that the State "increase investment in the construction of communication facilities and infrastructure in rural areas" to promote social development (145.25). To further economic empowerment, Malawi urged Tanzania to "improve conditions for farmers, small businesses and investors to thrive" (145.60). Furthermore, India suggested measures to "improve the provision of clean drinking water and sanitation facilities to rural areas" (145.64), while the Syrian Arab Republic encouraged the continued implementation of the legal framework for the "effective use of natural wealth and natural resources" (145.26).
43. While the United Republic of Tanzania has made significant progress in national development, the full realization of a robust infrastructure and broad economic empowerment remains an ongoing endeavor. This landscape is currently defined by a government's long-term blueprint, "Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (DIRA 2050)."²⁶ The document acknowledges that while foundations have been laid, sustained efforts are necessary to ensure that growth is inclusive and that essential services reach every corner of the nation.
44. According to DIRA 2050, the nation aims to transform into a "knowledge-based, upper-middle-income country" (page 5) by prioritizing "advanced modern infrastructure development"(page 5). A key driver of this change is "Integrated Logistics," which seeks to leverage the country's strategic location by "upgrading infrastructure such as railways, ports, and roads" (page 11) to facilitate the "seamless movement of goods and people" (page 36). To ensure economic empowerment, the vision sets a target for "at least 50 per cent of Tanzanians" to hold "decent jobs in the formal sector," (page 9) while guaranteeing "universal access to safe and clean water" (page 9) and a "reliable, affordable, and clean energy system" to power socio-economic transformation. (page ix).

²² A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/1. N. 153.a

²³ A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/1. N. 153.h

²⁴ A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/1. N. 153.f

²⁵ A/HRC/WG.6/39/TZA/1. N. 153.e

²⁶ United Republic of Tanzania. (2025). Tanzania Development Vision 2050. Dodoma; National Planning Commission.
<https://www.planning.go.tz/uploads/documents/en-1752762713-THE%20TANZANIA%20DEVELOPMENT%20VISION%202050.pdf>

45. Regarding infrastructure development and economic empowerment, young participants emphasized that improved transportation and industrial growth are essential for national progress. They manifest that the government should prioritize job creation for skilled graduates and invest in manufacturing to process natural resources, thereby reducing unemployment and improving living standards.
- *“In our country we need provision of employment because... goverment is not provided employment to people who are skilled”.*
 - *“So that we can manufacture our natural resources like minerals and raw materials”.*
 - *“The goverment should employ people who competed their studies... this may help to improve different sectors like hospitals and schools”.*
 - *“Through improving infrastructure like roads, railway and pipeline will enable transportation of people and commodities”.*
 - *“In our country we have poor infrastructure such as road, electricity”.*
 - *“We need to improve social services and through making price of goods cheap and specifically in transportation”.*
 - *“To reduce the amount of transportation cost and increase more vehicles”.*
 - *“We can improve our daily lives communication with another country”.*
 - *“Talents help us to get employment”.*
 - *“By repairing the roads and provision of vehicles which will enable people of Tanzania to travel from one city to another”.*
46. **Aiming to foster sustainable economic growth and develop resilient infrastructure in the United Republic of Tanzania, in line with Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9, our coalition suggests the following recommendations:**
- a. **Strengthen the provision of universal access to safe water and sanitation particularly in rural regions, by leveraging integrated logistics and sustainable resource management to ensure that environmental integrity supports long-term prosperity and the well-being of all citizens.**
 - b. **Increase investment in rural infrastructure and communication facilities to promote inclusive social and economic development, ensuring that the movement of goods and people between remote areas and urban centers is seamless and efficient through upgraded road and rail networks.**
 - c. **Prioritize the expansion of reliable and clean energy systems to rural schools, clinics, and small businesses to empower local communities, reduce poverty, and generate high-quality employment opportunities for the energetic youth population in accordance with national vision targets.**
 - d. **Enhance conditions for farmers and small enterprises to thrive by providing easier access to commercial credit and supporting the formalization of jobs, aiming to increase the percentage of the workforce in the formal sector through value-added processing and marketing.**

VIII. CONCLUSION.

47. As members of civil society, our coalition is grateful to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for accepting many of the recommendations made during the last cycle. We commend the development of policies such as the National Plan of Action to end Violence Against Women and Children and the commitment to the Tanzania Development Vision, and we encourage the Government to persevere in its efforts to overcome implementation gaps to achieve the goals proposed for the betterment of the Nation's citizens.
48. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Government for taking into consideration the concerns voiced by members of civil society, particularly those of children and young people. The youth from Tanzania are the present and the future of the Nation, and their calls for "*equal treatment*" and the "*improvement of infrastructure*" represent an essential roadmap for development. Their active engagement and responsible protagonism are vital to transform the present and ensure a secure future for every citizen.
40. Finally, we are grateful for the opportunity provided by the United Nations to participate through the UPR mechanism, which allowed us to raise the direct voices of adolescents regarding the protection of human rights and eradication of harmful practices. We recognize that the interconnected challenges of poverty and limited resources necessitate a multi-sectoral approach involving the government, civil society, and communities. Collaborating through this international framework ensures that the rights of all are guaranteed in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.