DECLARATION OF THE TWELFTH ORDINARY MEETING OF LAKE TANGANYIKA AUTHORITY CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Thursday, 12th December 2024

We, members of the Conference of Ministers of Lake Tanganyika Authority comprising the Republic of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia, meeting in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, on 12 December 2024 on the occasion of the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Lake Tanganyika Authority Conference of Ministers held in accordance with article 24 of the Convention on the Sustainable Management of Lake Tanganyika,

Having examined the important issues affecting the protection and sustainable management of the biological diversity of Lake Tanganyika and its Basin,

Recalling our commitment to support Lake Tanganyika Authority as stated in the resolutions of the First Ordinary Meeting held on April 5, 2007 in Dar Es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania; the Second Ordinary Meeting held on April 25, 2008 in

Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi; the Third Ordinary Meeting held on August 21, 2009 in Uvira, Democratic Republic of Congo; the Fourth Ordinary Meeting held on November 26, 2010 in Lusaka, Republic of Zambia, the Fifth Ordinary Meeting held on February 29, 2012 in Kigoma, United Republic of Tanzania, the Sixth Ordinary Meeting held on November 28, 2013 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Seventh Ordinary meeting held on July 29, 2016 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Eighth Meeting held on February 14, 2020 in Chilanga, Republic of Zambia, the Second Extraordinary Meeting held in virtual mode on November 26, 2020, the Ninth Ordinary Meeting held in Kigoma on December 16, 2021; the Tenth Ordinary Meeting held on December 8, 2022 in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi; the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting held on 17 November 17, 2023 in Lusaka, Republic of Zambia, and the Third Extraordinary Meeting held on October 4, in Dar Es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania,

Deeply concerned that despite many efforts by the Contracting Parties in the sustainable management of Lake Tanganyika and its basin, the degradation of the Lake environment continues and that biological diversity remains threatened,

HAVE:

1. Renewed our strong commitment to support visible impact activities of the programs and projects implemented at national and regional levels by Lake Tanganyika Authority in collaboration with relevant partners and technical Ministries in the four Lake Tanganyika riparian countries;

2. Agreed to continue to undertake resource mobilization activities for implementation of the short, medium and long-term actions to address the rising water in the Lake Tanganyika and its Basin;

3. Emphasised on the important need for the Member States to expedite the implementation of the resolution on dredging of Lukuga River to control the flooding;

4. Took note of the budget allocation in the LTA 2025 Work Plan and Budget to support the undertaking of feasibility on dredging of Lukuga River.

5. Called upon the Cooperating Partners to continue supporting Member States to implement various initiatives to safeguard the ecological integrity of Lake Tanganyika and its basin;

6. Also called upon all Contracting Parties to pursue the implementation of their commitment to pay annual statutory contributions to Lake Tanganyika Authority, in accordance with the resolution of the Second Meeting of the Conference of Ministers held in April 2008, whereby the Contracting States committed to pay their annual contributions of **USD303,900** to the Lake Tanganyika Authority;

7. Congratulated the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for fully settling its outstanding statutory contributions to the Lake Tanganyika Authority amounting to USD1,519,500;

8. Also congratulated the Government of the Republic of Burundi for part-payment of **USD227,986.46** towards its outstanding statutory contribution to the Lake Tanganyika Authority;

9. Further congratulated the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for part-payment of its outstanding statutory contributions amounting to **USD269,765.53** to Lake Tanganyika Authority;

10. Further noted of the commitment made by the Government of the Republic of Zambia to settle its outstanding statutory contributions to Lake Tanganyika Authority once funds are made available by the Treasury in the first quarter of 2025;

11. Approved the 2023 Annual Report and the 2024 Progress Report;

12. Approved the 2025 Annual Work Plan and Budget of **USD 6,129,782.00**;

13. Took note of the progress made by the Lake Tanganyika Authority Secretariat in implementing and adhering to the recommendations of the Audit report of 2020 and 2021 and further directed the Lake Tanganyika Authority Secretariat to fully implement and adhere to the recommendations;

14. Directed the Lake Tanganyika Authority Secretariat to conduct audits for 2022, 2023 and 2024 financial years and present the audit reports to the Conference of Ministers at its Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting to be held in 2025;

15. Also Directed the Lake Tanganyika Authority Secretariat to conduct annual audits of its financial statements, accounting practices, internal controls including the organization performance in accordance with generally internationally accepted standards;

16. Took note of the progress made by the member States on the ratification of the Protocol on Aquaculture Development for Lake Tanganyika and its Basin;

17. Encouraged the Member States to expedite the national consultations and ratification processes at national level and deposit the instruments of ratification with the depository;

18. Directed the LTAS to provide additional funds to support the national processes/consultations related to the ratification of the Protocol on Aquaculture Development for Lake Tanganyika and its Basin;

19. Took note of the progress made by Member States on implementation of the Fish Ban on Lake Tanganyika observed annually by all riparian countries of the LTA from May 15 to August 15 in accordance with Article 14 of the Regional Charter of Member States of Lake Tanganyika Authority on measures for the Sustainable Management of Fisheries in the Lake Tanganyika and its Basin adopted by the Conference of Ministers on 16th December, 2021;

20. Encouraged all Member States to implement the provisions of Article 15 of the Regional Charter on measures for the Sustainable Management of Fisheries in the Lake Tanganyika and its Basin;

21. Approved the report on the Lake-wide Fisheries Frame Survey of Lake Tanganyika;

22. Approved the report on the study on the Restoration of Degraded areas in the Lake Tanganyika Basin;

23. Approved the Administrative, Accounting, Financial and Procurement procedures manual

24. Noted the progress made by the LTA Secretariat to integrate the Permanent Secretary structure in the Convention and directed the LTAS to undertake further comparative analysis on the possibility of including only One Permanent Secretary from each of the four riparian countries and report to the next Conference of Ministers to be held in October, 2025;

25. Directed the Lake Tanganyika Authority Secretariat to develop the Strategy for engagement of its partners for resource mobilization and/or programme development;

26. Encouraged the Lake Tanganyika Authority Secretariat to mobilize resources in consultations with donors and organize an International Conference on Lake Tanganyika in 2025;

27. Requested the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to initiate national process to identify a suitable candidate for appointment as the new Executive Director for the Lake Tanganyika Authority for an initial three-year renewable Contract effective 2nd March, 2026;

28. Directed the Lake Tanganyika Authority Secretariat to formally inform the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania on the need to initiate national processes to identify a suitable candidate for appointment as the Executive Director as the Contract of the current Executive Director expires on 2nd March, 2026 and present the candidate to the 13th Ordinary meeting of the Lake Tanganyika Authority Conference of Ministers to be held in 2025;

29. Extended appreciation to the Government and the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo for successfully hosting the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Lake Tanganyika Authority Conference of Ministers on the December 12, 2024 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo;

30. Also extended appreciation to the outgoing Chairperson of the Lake Tanganyika Authority Conference of Ministers from the Government of the Republic of Zambia, Hon. Mike MPOSHA, MP, Minister of Green Economy and Environment, for his diligence in serving the four riparian countries;

31. Congratulated the in-coming Chairperson of the Lake Tanganyika Authority Conference of Ministers from the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, H.E Jean Pierre TSHIMANGA, Minister for Fisheries and Livestock, Democratic Republic of Congo;

32. Also congratulated the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania on the occasion of celebrating its 63rd anniversary of its independence on December 9, 2024; and

33. Welcomed the offer by the Government of the Republic of Zambia to host the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Lake Tanganyika Authority Conference of Ministers in October, 2025;

Signed on December 12, 2024 in Kinshasa

Ir. Ndorimana Emmanuel
Secrétaire Permanent
For the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock,
Republic of Burundi.

Hon. Khamis Hamza, MP
For the Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Environment and Union),
United Republic of Tanzania.

12/12/2024

Hon. Mike MPOSHA, MP
Minister of Green Economy and Environment,
Republic of Zambia.

H.E Jean Pierre TSHIMANGA,
Chairperson of the LTA Conference of Ministers
Minister for Fisheries and Livestock,
Democratic Republic of Congo.