



DECLARATION OF THE THIRD EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF LAKE TANGANYIKA AUTHORITY CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

Dar Es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

Friday, 4th October 2024

We, members of the Lake Tanganyika Authority Conference of Ministers comprising the Republic of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia, having met in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania on October 4, 2024 on the occasion of the Third Extraordinary Meeting of the Lake Tanganyika Authority Conference of Ministers, held following the request from the Government of the Republic of Burundi to deal with the rising of water levels in the Lake Tanganyika;

Noting that, the request from the Government of the Republic of Burundi was made in accordance with the provisions of Article 24.3 of the Convention on Sustainable Management of Lake Tanganyika;

Having considered the important issues affecting the protection and sustainable management of the biodiversity of Lake Tanganyika and its Basin and specifically, the dramatic rise in the water levels of Lake Tanganyika, causing enormous damage to infrastructure as well as disruption of livelihoods and loss of life of the riparian communities and the biodiversity of the Lake Basin;

Recalling our commitment to support the Lake Tanganyika Authority as indicated 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, Republic of Democratic Republic of Congo, the Seventh Ordinary Meeting held on July 29, 2016 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Eighth Ordinary Meeting held in February 14, 2020 in Chilanga, Republic of Zambia; the Second Extra-ordinary Meeting held in virtual mode on November, 26, 2020, Ninth Meeting held in Kigoma, United Republic of Tanzania on December 16, 2021; the Tenth Ordinary Meeting held on December 8, 2022 in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi; and the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting held on 17 November 2023 in Lusaka, Republic of Zambia;

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 the biodiversity remains threatened,

HAVE:

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

2. Called upon all the Contracting Parties to continue to implement their commitment to pay national contributions to the Lake Tanganyika Authority, in accordance with the resolution of the Second Meeting of the Conference of Ministers held in April 2008, by which the Contracting States pledged to pay their annual contributions of USD 303,900 (Three Hundred and Three Thousand and Nine Hundred American Dollars) to the Lake Tanganyika Authority;
3. Expressed our desire to continue with our national, regional and international fundraising campaign for the conservation and management of natural resources in Lake Tanganyika and its basin as well as support other regional initiatives to address the problem of rising water levels in the Lake Tanganyika;
4. Approved the following proposed actions to be implemented in the short-term in order to address the impact of the rise in water levels of Lake Tanganyika:
 - i. Setting up of community based early warning systems and development and implementation of local early warning system to quickly alert communities to potential flooding or other risk;
 - ii. Carrying out an urgent feasibility study to ascertain the possibility to construct a dam on Lukuga river in order to regulate water levels in Lake Tanganyika;

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- iii. Dredging of the Lukuga river twice a year for flood control and water security
 - iv. Assessment of the hydro meteorological, hydrological, hydrogeological and other environmental related data) at country and regional levels;
 - v. To put in place an emergency plan in response to disasters.
5. Approved the following proposed actions to be implemented in the medium-term in order to address the impact of the rise in water levels of Lake Tanganyika:
- i. Development of a comprehensive report on the Status of the Lake basin;
 - ii. Initiation of a programme to restore degraded areas through reforestation, soil conservation and erosion control in catchment areas;
 - iii. Mapping of sensitive areas of flooding and drought;
 - iv. Harmonization of the legal and regulatory framework of the buffer zone for the four riparian countries, taking into account the alert levels (the recent 100-year flood levels) and harmonize water quality monitoring procedures and standards; and
 - v. Conducting socio-economic and other scientific studies.
6. Also approved the following proposed actions to be implemented in the Long-term in order to address the impact of the rise in water levels of Lake Tanganyika:

 MRM. 

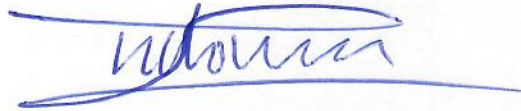
- i. Promoting sustainable land use practices that include: reforestation in the lake catchment areas to reduce erosion and improve water retention and promote sustainable livelihoods (e.g., climate smart agriculture, fish caging, eco-tourism);
 - ii. Inclusion of a component relating to restoration of degraded areas and infrastructure in all new projects; and
 - iii. Restoration of degraded ecosystems (Malagarasi and Rufubu Rivers, lakes, wetlands).
 - iv. Construction of a dam on Lukuga river guided by the result study mentioned in 4 (ii) above.
7. Directed Lake Tanganyika Authority secretariat to continue collaborating with our partners and mobilise resources to implemented the short, medium and long-term actions to address the rising water levels in the Lake Tanganyika and its Basin;
8. Extend appreciation to the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania for successfully hosting the Third Extra-ordinary meeting of the Lake Tanganyika Authority Conference of Ministers on 4th October, 2024 in Dar es Salaam; and
9. Welcomed the acceptance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to host the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Lake Tanganyika Authority Conference of Ministers to be confirmed after the relevant Minister gets approval from the government.

 M.E.M.

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Signed on October 4, 2024 in Dar Es Salaam

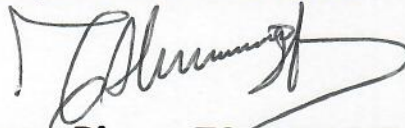
United Republic of Tanzania



Ir NDORIMANA Emmanuel,

Permanent Secretary

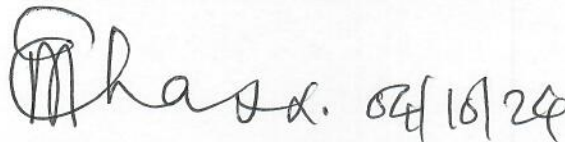
**For: Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock,
Republic of Burundi.**



**H.E Jean Pierre TSHIMANGA,
Minister for Fisheries and Livestock,
Democratic Republic of Congo.**



**Hon. KHAMIS HAMZA KHAMIS
Deputy Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office
(Environment and Union),
United Republic of Tanzania**



**Hon. Mike E. MPOSHA, MP
Chairperson of the LTA Conference of Ministers
Minister of Green Economy and the Environment
Republic of Zambia**