

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EAST AFRICAN COOPERATION**



**OPENING REMARKS FOR
HONOURABLE *AMBASSADOR* MAHMOUD THABIT KOMBO (MP.), MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EAST AFRICAN COOPERATION ON THE
OCCASION THE ORGAN TROIKA MEETING
ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR**

15TH AUGUST 2025

Honourable Nancy Tembo (M.P), Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi and Incoming Chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO);

Honourable Mulambo Haimbe, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Zambia and Outgoing Chairperson of the SADC Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO);

Honourable Ministers;

Your Excellency Elias Mpedi Magosi, SADC Executive Secretary;

Amb. Dr. Samwel W. Shelukindo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the Senior Officials of the SADC Organ.

Prof. Kula I. Theletsane, Director of the Organ;

Senior Officials and Heads of Defence and Security Organs;

Distinguished Delegates;

Good afternoon;

Habari za mchana;

It is both an honour and a profound privilege to stand before this esteemed assembly as we gather in the beautiful and historic Island of

Madagascar. On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and indeed my own behalf, I wish to extend our deepest gratitude to the government and people of Madagascar for the exceptional hospitality extended at our disposal.

Allow me to yet again express my profound appreciation to the SADC Secretariat and its leadership for coordinating this critical meeting. In the same vein, I wish to commend our Senior Officials led by Amb. Dr. Samwel Shelukindo, Chairperson of the Senior Officials of the Organ for their tireless efforts and for coming up with solid recommendations that provide a strong foundation for our deliberations. Your unwavering support ensures these engagements remain focused and aligned with our regional objectives.

Honourable Ministers;

Distinguished Delegates;

We convene at a pivotal moment when our region is at crossroads marked by both opportunities and challenges. The SADC region has long been a beacon of stability, cooperation, and progressive integration in Africa. It has always been a frontliner in promoting peace and security in the region and beyond. These remarkable credentials had set the region way above the rest making it a first point of reference in that endeavour.

Yet, as we are all acutely aware, we continue to face complex security, political, economic, and social challenges in certain parts of the region that demand our collective wisdom and decisive actions. Just like our forefathers came together to fight for our liberations, we are compelled to bring our minds together to critically address these varied challenges.

I admit, this is a herculean task that demands constant engagements geared towards finding amicable solutions. This is mainly the reason for us convening regularly, be it physically or virtually, to adopt concrete measures in resolving emerging challenges. We are all aware that this MCO Troika had met extraordinarily more than five times to deliberate on pressing matters of security concern.

Honourable Ministers;

Today's meeting takes on added significance since it builds upon the recent MCO deliberations in Dar es Salaam, where we addressed pressing peace and security matters central to our mandate. Therefore, this Meeting will specifically delve on selective MCO matters that warrant our Principals' attention for onward submission to the Summit as the Report of the Chairperson of the Organ. These focused agenda reflect our Troika responsibility to provide strategic direction in conflict prevention, management and regional stability.

Honourable Ministers;

We will once again take stock of the progress made in the past year when Tanzania assumed the mandate of the Chair of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. This period demonstrated our collective commitment in resolving regional conflicts, strengthening democratic governance, and enhancing security frameworks. Notably, under the able leadership of H.E. President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation, we successfully convened five (5) Extraordinary Summits Heads of State and Government to address critical regional peace and

security challenges. Furthermore, Tanzania expertly led SADC Election Observation Missions (SEOMs) in Mozambique, Botswana, Mauritius, and Namibia, with eminent Tanzanians spearheading these delegations to ensure credible and transparent electoral processes. At this juncture, I allow me to express our profound gratitude to you fellow Troika members for working closely and standing tall with us as we discharged our mandates. Your enduring support will always be cherished and we commit to also extend the same to you.

Distinguished Delegates;

Our peace efforts have taken many shapes and forms from peacekeeping missions to diplomatic engagements, particularly in the Eastern DRC. The Joint EAC-SADC Summit and subsequent withdrawal of the SADC Mission in the DRC (SAMIDRC) marked a turning point and reaffirmed our belief in the power of dialogue. I express our sincere gratitude to all Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) for their dedication, resilience and bravery during deployment up to the exit from the theatre of operation.

Honourable Ministers,

As we re-orient ourselves towards enhanced political and diplomatic engagements, we ought to ensure that our resolves are not just in words but in deeds. In other words, we must translate all agreed initiatives into concrete actions. We would certainly do a disservice to our people in the region if we keep losing sight of our direction. In this regard, we fully support the joint EAC-SADC initiatives that birthed a merged Nairobi-Luanda Peace Process founded on the ideals of African solutions to African problems. We understand that availability of adequate resources

for implementation may somewhat be problematic, but we are comforted by the intrinsic determination of our leaders to resolve the protracted conflict in Eastern DRC.

On the other hand, we need to pay close attention to the emerging threats which adversely affect our region. SADC stands at a critical juncture where terrorism, cybercrime, transnational organized crime, and climate-induced disasters demand urgent and coordinated response. These multifaceted challenges require evolved strategies, enhanced intelligence-sharing, joint operations, and proactive diplomacy.

Honourable Ministers;

Distinguished Delegates;

Our strength lies in unity and solidarity. As the famous African saying state *“it takes a village to raise a child”*, it really does take all of us to make impactful change in our region. Each one of us has a role to play in fostering peace and security for the ultimate purpose of having a stable and prosperous region. In essence, everything that we aspire to achieve in the SADC region BEGINS WITH US and ENDS WITH US.

Dear Colleagues;

Distinguished Delegates;

Finally, allow me to once again express my deepest appreciation to all of you for your presence and unwavering support. Let us deliberate with the seriousness of purpose, guided by the spirit of African solutions to African problems. With that, I hereby declare this SADC MCO Troika officially opened.

**Asanteni sana,
I Thank you,
Merci beaucoup,
Muito obrigado.
Zikomo kwa mbiri.**