



TANZANIA CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY

RESOLUTIONS ON THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER'S CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE COUNTRY TOWARD 2024-2025 ELECTIONS



HELD ON 22ND – 23RD AUGUST, 2023

DIAMOND JUBILEE, DAR ES SALAAM



NCCR Mageuzi
UTU Itikadi Yetu

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The Conference was organized by the Tanzanian Centre for Democracy (TCD) to foster dialogue, consensus-building and enhance multiparty democracy in the country

The National Stakeholders’ Conference to discuss the state of democracy in the country toward the 2024-2025 elections was held on August 22-23, 2023 at the Diamond Jubilee Hall, Dar es Salaam. The Conference was organized by the Tanzanian Centre for Democracy (TCD) to foster dialogue, and consensus-building and enhance multiparty democracy in the country. The Conference provided a platform for political parties, key democracy stakeholders, and experts to examine the current state of democracy, address challenges, and propose improvements for future elections.

The National Stakeholders Conference was built upon the groundwork laid by a previous conference on Reconciliation, Justice, and Peace held on the 5th and 6th of April, 2022 in Dodoma. The Conference was organised by TCD in partnership with democratic stakeholders to address democratic challenges and promote justice and peace in the country. The conference was officiated by Honorable President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and was attended by key democratic stakeholders including political parties, religious leaders, government officials, civil society organizations, diplomats, development partners, and the media. The conference among other things validated the proposed model bills of the Political Parties Act and National Elections Act. The two proposed bills were submitted to the President and the President presented to the Presidential Taskforce for reference. Therefore, the national stakeholders’ conference discussed the implementation of the resolutions of the national stakeholder’s conference for Reconciliation, Justice and Peace and the future steps towards the 2024 and 2025 elections.

Considering the great efforts that the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, has made in stimulating the growth of democracy in the country, including forming the Taskforce to collect citizens’ opinion with the aim of improving democracy in Tanzania, the National Stakeholders Conference also discussed actions that have been taken in implementing taskforce recommendations that were submitted to the President in October 2022.



CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER'S CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE COUNTRY TOWARD 2024-2025 ELECTIONS

- 1) Concerning the constitution: The constitution writing process based on popular opinion should be revived to produce a new constitution with solid democratic foundations.
- 2) However, the Conference resolved that the government has delayed the process of reviving the new constitution-making processes. As a result, it might be difficult to complete the process of drafting a new constitution by the 2024 Local Government Elections and the 2025 General Election. Thus, the conference urges urgent reforms to the current Constitution to allow for the establishment of an Independent Electoral Commission, as well as other substantial reforms to ensure free and fair elections and increased democratic participation.
- 3) The essential minimal reforms are nearly similar to those agreed upon by fourth-term President Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete with TCD leaders in Dodoma in 2014. The agreements assumed that the process of drafting a new constitution would not be completed before the 2015 General Election, therefore the minimum reforms to the 1977 constitution proposal were to allow;
 - The existence of an Independent Electoral Commission to oversee the Local Government Elections in Tanzania Mainland and the United Republic of Tanzania General Elections. Local Government Elections should not be overseen by the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government Tanzania (PO-RALG).
 - The Independent Candidate to allow individuals who are not sponsored by a political party.
 - The presidential candidate who receives 50 +1 of the total valid votes is declared the winner of the presidential election.
 - The presidential election results to be contested in court.
- 4) The structure of an Independent Electoral Commission should use most of the recommendations from the Presidential Task Force report and other stakeholders' recommendations. The Presidential Task Force recommendations provide the best procedures for establishing an Independent Electoral Commission as compared to the Constitution Draft of the Judge Warioba Commission and the Proposed Constitution.



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- 5) Given the short time remaining before the upcoming elections in 2024 and 2025, the Constitutional Amendment Bill should be tabled in the next Parliament session alongside the Independent Electoral Commission Bill, the National Elections Act Bill and other proposed Bills, as was done in 1992 during Tanzania's reintroduction of multiparty. Both Bills were tabled to the parliament at the same time. The TCD-organized National Conference on Reconciliation, Justice, and Peace in April 2022 in Dodoma, presented and submitted the model bill to the government for consideration.
- 6) The National Elections Act should be amended to remove the financial cost requirements for candidates to be nominated to run for leadership posts in elections.
- 7) The time available for an Independent Electoral Commission to organize elections is quite limited. The government should accept grants from Development Partners such as UNDP and others to improve the performance of an Independent Electoral Commission.
- 8) Prior to the 2025 general elections, the Zanzibar government and political parties should demonstrate political will in implementing and preserving the concept of reconciliation.
- 9) Zanzibar requires an Independent Electoral Commission, and elections should be held in one day rather than two days as was in 2020. In the run-up to the 2025 elections, democratic stakeholders should convene a conference on the state of democracy in Zanzibar to keep the concept of reconciliation and conflict resolution alive.
- 10) The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties shall continue to provide education and increase awareness on compliance with the rules governing political parties in order to strengthen political parties and multiparty democracy. However, it is critical to change the Political Parties Act of 2019 in order to promote political party independence and democracy. The TCD-organized National Conference for Reconciliation, Justice, and Peace, held on April 5th and 6th, 2022, presented and submitted to the government a model bill for the Political Parties Act. The model bill should be considered during the preparations of the bill before it is tabled in the Parliament.
- 11) Amendments to the Political Parties Act should include mandated quotas for women, youth, and people with disabilities in leadership positions and decision-making bodies within political parties.
- 12) Amendments to the Political Parties and Electoral Laws should consider removing barriers to civic and voter education provided by civil society organizations.



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- 13) The government should provide a timeframe and work plan for the important events of the amendment of the Constitution and other relevant laws proposed i.e. National Elections Act, the Independent Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Act.
- 14) Democratic stakeholders should promote civic education for society to foster a culture of dialogue and consensus building. This should serve as the foundation for preparing Tanzanians to effectively participate in the country's national conversation.
- 15) The government should encourage and promote dialogues between political parties, civil society organizations, and other democratic stakeholders to secure a shared viewpoint on competition and cooperation in the run-up to the 2024 and 2025 elections.
- 16) The government should reform the Public Service Act that requires the public servant nominated by the Independent Electoral Commission to resign. This Act has a considerable impact on women's participation in leadership positions. The Act should allow candidates to return to work after losing an election.
- 17) The government should reform the Police Force Act so that it is consistent with the democratic concept of competition. There have been complaints about its conduct from political parties and democratic stakeholders in the country.
- 18) The government should create and nurture a favourable environment to stimulate, promote and protect freedom of expression and opinion among citizens, political party leaders and civil societies.
- 19) Political parties should create rules and guidelines to define and govern the nomination of candidates for special seats that reflect the principles of transparency, equality, and the democratic process.
- 20) Political party leaders should refrain from using abusive language, discrimination, humiliation, misleading and manipulative language in pursuit of their political goals. Instead, they should focus on professionally debating policies.
- 21) The funds allocated by the government for civic education provision in the Tanzania Constitution of 1977 should be given to CSOs to do so. Civic education in the country should be a continuous process throughout the entire process of amending the constitution. In addition, the Judge Warioba Commission's report and its annexes, especially the draft constitution, should be used in providing civic education.

These resolutions have been issued by the conference and signed by the Chairman of the Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD) Prof. Ibrahim Lipumba on 30 August 2023



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OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the National Stakeholders Conference was to contribute to strengthening multiparty democracy in Tanzania. The specific goals of the Conference were as follows:

1. To provide a dialogue platform for political parties and key stakeholders to critically discuss the achievements and challenges of multiparty democracy in the country and chart a way forward for improvement towards the 2024/2025 local and general elections.
2. To deliberate on the implementation status of the resolutions from the national conference for reconciliation, justice and peace; and build up on the previous recommendations provided by stakeholders to improve the political environment, especially during the coming 2024/2025 local and general elections.
3. To promote and strengthen multiparty dialogue as a means of consensus building.
4. To develop a set of recommendations and agree on the advocacy strategy.

PARTICIPANTS

The Conference was closed by the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi. A total of 201 participants (76 women and 125 men, including 49 youths) attended the event. Participants included political party leaders, representatives from Ministries and government institutions, religious leaders, civil society organizations, eminent persons, representatives from the media, ambassadors and diplomats, developmental partners and representatives of TCD's district dialogue platforms.

The event was also made accessible to a wider audience through online broadcasting, allowing for broader public engagement. The conference was streamed live through The Chanzo YouTube channel, Jambo TV YouTube channel, Jamii Forums live tweets and TCD social media networks.

- 01 **Political Parties**
ACT- Wazalendo, CCM, CHADEMA, CUF, NCCR- Mageuzi, CHAUMMA, AAFP, NLD, UPDP, NRA, ADA-TADEA, TLP, UDP, SAU, CCK, ADC, DP, UMD na Demokrasia Makini
- 02 **Government**
Ilala District Commission, Police, Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC), Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance, Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, PO-RALG, and Law Review Commission of Tanzania.
- 03 **Embassies**
US Embassy, Swiss Embassy, Netherlands Embassy, Germany Embassy, British High Commission, Embassy of Denmark, European Union, Embassy of France, Norwegian Embassy, Embassy of Finland, Embassy of Ireland, Egypt Embassy, High Commission of Canada, Embassy of Sweden, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium ,and UN System.
- 04 **Developmental Partners**
UN Women, UNDP, FES, United Nations, IRI, NDI, Hanns Seidel Foundation and IFES
- 05 **Religious Leaders & Eminent**
Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), BAKWATA, BARAZA KUU, Inter- Religious Council for Peace Tanzania (IRCPT) and Shura ya Maimamu
- 06 **CSOs & Media owners**
Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Women Fund Tanzania (WFT), Tanzania Women Cross- Party Platform (TWCP), Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA), Jukwaa la Katiba Tanzania (JUKATA), Jamii Forums, The Chanzo, Tanzania Citizens Information Bureau (TCIB), Women in Law and Development (WILDAF), SHIVYAWATA, Youth partnership Centre (YPC), African Child, Focus on Tanzania, BEEM Fleet, Twaweza, Mwananchi Communication, Jukwaa la Wahariri and EAT.
- 07 **Academics & DDFs**
University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), TCD's District Dialogue Forums for Ilala, Ubungo and Temeke
- 08 **Media**

OPENING REMARKS

Day one of the conference started with a welcoming remark from the Executive Director of the Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD). This was followed by a word of solidarity from the Office of Registrar of Political Parties delivered by Hon. Assistant Registrar of Political Parties. In his greetings, he acknowledged the recent meeting among political parties which discussed several topics concerning religion in politics, the language used in political platforms and political parties' security personnel dressing in security forces. Broadly he articulated the significant role of his office in nurturing political parties. Finally, he appreciated TCD for organizing the conference which aimed at sustaining political dialogue, peace and consensus building towards future elections.

The conference was officiated by the TCD Chairman, Hon. Prof. Ibrahim Lipumba. The Chairman commenced by acknowledging the support of the US Embassy which enabled TCD to convene the National Stakeholders Conference. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the objectives of the conference noting that democracy is the only means of governing society and platforms for discussion and dialogues contribute to the strengthening of democracy. Prof Lipumba pointed out the historical transition of multiparty democracy in the country and emphasized on the challenges that the country has gone through in recent years. He commended the direction that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has given through the 4Rs and some of the important actions she has taken to improve democracy in the country.

Prof. Lipumba also emphasized the need for legal and constitutional reforms in order to allow democratic principles to flourish in the country.



From left: TCD Chairman Hon. Prof. Ibrahim Lipumba, Assistant Registrar of Political Parties Hon. Sisty Nyahoza and Executive Director of TCD Ms. Bernadetha Kafuko speaking during the conference

Conference themes

Topic I: Discussing the state of democracy in the country: success, challenges and discussing the 2024 and 2025 local government and general elections respectively



Panel session– TCD Leaders

This topic was conducted in the form of a panel discussion involving top leaders of TCD member political parties followed by a contribution/ discussion session from the participants. The session was moderated by the Executive Director of the Tanzania Citizens Information Bureau (TCIB).

The session discussed the challenges of democratic systems, especially those related to elections and the shortcomings in electoral laws and citizens' rights. Many contributors were convinced that there is a need for reforms of electoral laws to have a peaceful, free and fair election, but those reforms must be in line with minimal reforms to the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania. Participants noted that reforms will be possible only if there is a political will and a sincere desire for dialogue. Enjoy watching the session via this link: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTwwNLDsv7M&t=22460s>)

Topic II: Assessing the participation and inclusion of special groups in the democratic processes.

The topic began with a presentation by Dr Consolata Sulley, a lecturer from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), who provided an assessment of the current situation in the country on the issue of representation of women, youth and people with disabilities in decision-making bodies. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion constituted of TCD member political parties' Women Wings leaders, the Executive Director of Women Fund Tanzania (WFT) and the Executive Director of Tanzania Women Cross-Party Platform (TWCP). The session was moderated by the Executive Director of Women in Law and Development (WiLDAF).

Broadly, the discussion focused on the challenges and opportunities for the participation of these groups in politics and elections. The conference participants discussed several factors that hinder their participation, including lack of funding, unsupportive legal frameworks within and outside the political parties, discrimination, and traditional gender roles. They also discussed a number of opportunities to increase their participation, such as quotas, a transparent and democratic system for special seats candidates, reforms and, civic and voters' education.



Panel session on progress

Topic III: Reviewing the implementation status of the TCD national conference recommendations of 5th-6th April 2022 and those of the Presidential Taskforce submitted in October 2022

The third topic was presented by Professor Alexander Makulilo, a professor of political science at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM). His presentation touched on the implementation of the resolutions of the conference on Justice, Peace and Reconciliation, which was organized by the Tanzania Democracy Center (TCD) on April 5-6, 2022, and the recommendations of the Presidential Task Force, which worked to gather public opinion on democracy issues in the country and submitted its report in October 2022. The professor showed what has been accomplished, emphasizing that the intention and willingness to implement the resolutions and recommendations is clear, but the pace of implementation has been questioned by various stakeholders.



Prof. Alexander Makulilo, a professor of political science at the University of Dar es Salaam

Topic IV: What should be done to improve the forthcoming 2024/2025 local government and general elections respectively



Panel discussion – TCD Member Political Parties Leaders together with the Assistant Registrar of Political Parties

The topic was conducted through a panel discussion composed of leaders of TCD member political parties and the Office of Registrar of Political Parties followed by a discussion session with the participants. The session was moderated by the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).

This topic discussed fundamental issues related to democracy, electoral system reforms, and constitutional amendments, taking into account the limited time remaining before the upcoming 2024 Local Government Elections and the 2025 General Elections. The discussion touched on the steps to be taken to ensure that constitutional amendments are carried out in parallel with amendments to the Election Act, Political Parties Act, Police Force Act, Public Service Act, Constitutional Amendment Act, and the drafting of the Independent Electoral Commission Act if stakeholders consider it important for the Commission to have its law. In addition, participants discussed the need for redefining rules and regulations for the representation of women, youth, and people with disabilities in various decision-making positions.

Taking into account the remaining short time toward civic and general elections, participants proposed a strategy for constitutional amendments to be tabled to the parliament together with electoral laws reforms to ensure the existence of a levelled political environment for peaceful, free, and fair elections in the coming elections. With great importance, stakeholders touched on the importance of continuing the culture of dialogues for a common understanding of how to address issues of national interest.

CLOSING SPEECH

THE PRESIDENT OF ZANZIBAR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, H.E. DR. HUSSEIN ALI MWINYI



In his speech, H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi conveyed gratitude to the TCD leadership for allowing him to close the meeting on behalf of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and congratulated the leaders of political parties and the government, religious leaders, civil society organizations, development partners, and ambassadors for participating in this important event noting that their participation signifies the presence of unity and solidarity in the country. He said, *"The act of TCD member parties continuing the tradition of convening together with other stakeholders and reflecting on matters that concern them is sufficient evidence of the existence of unity and solidarity; the existence of political maturity and civilized politics within our nation."*

In recognition of the conference objectives, challenges facing the electoral system in the country, and the efforts that the government has been making to improve the democratic environment in the country, President Mwinyi assured the participants that the government would take into consideration the recommendations from this conference. He further the participants to focus on reflecting on the role of the multi-party democratic system in promoting democracy, as well as other issues and societal issues such as the economy and people's development, and reflecting on how to maintain peace, stability, patriotism, and promote national unity. President Mwinyi concluded his speech by assuring the participants that the government would carry on its efforts to strengthen democracy in the country. You can watch his full speech at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66ZHTHYgMXI>



In addition, His Excellency the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi led participants in launching the project “Strengthen multiparty dialogue and enhance participation of women and youth in political and electoral processes” implemented by the Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD) with funding from the US Embassy and the Swiss Embassy.



A section of participants



VOTES OF THANKS TO DEMOCRACY STAKEHOLDERS.

Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD) would like to express heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to H.E Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, for concluding the National Conference to discuss the state of democracy in the country ahead of the local government elections in 2024 and the general election in 2025, held on August 22 and 23, 2023 in Dar es Salaam at the Diamond Jubilee hall.

We also thank all stakeholders who attended the conference (physically or virtually) on all days, including leaders of all political parties, civil society organisations, academia, development partners, religious leaders, ambassadors, government institutions, prominent people, media, and representatives of District Dialogue Forums. Your contributions are change agents in the run-up to the forthcoming elections.

Thank you very much.

Issued by:

Ms. Bernadetha Kafuko,
Executive Director,
Tanzania Center for Democracy (TCD).



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