

**REMARKS BY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA IN
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION H.E MAJ GEN (RTD) SIMON M. MUMWI DURING
THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF DECLARATION ON DECOLONIZATION OF THE
AFRICAN CONTINENT**

**Your Excellencies,
Conference Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It is with great pleasure that I am addressing this august Conference, to commemorate 60 years after the UN Declaration on Decolonization in Africa and other colonies. I wish to thank the organizers, the Institute for African Studies and The Russian-Tanzanian Cultural Centre, for coming up with this important initiative, not withstanding the restrictive conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic across the Globe.

2. Allow me ladies and gentlemen to thank and commend the Russian Federation and their precursor, the then USSR, for their important role they played in our struggle against colonialism and apartheid system in Southern Africa. You are indeed part of our history, and you deserve to celebrate this occasion with us.

3. Ladies and gentlemen, the world has witnessed tremendous human development during the past sixty years, but comparative development progress on African continent is very minimal. Africa has successfully attained political decolonization during the period under review, but we still have a long way to go to achieve economic and social decolonization.

4. Briefly we can divide the period of sixty years of Declaration of Decolonization in two phases; phase one being the first 30 years from 1960 to 1990 which were typically dedicated to struggle for political independence and bipolar politics, in which the then USSR, played a key role to the newly independent African States, in terms of providing scholarships to young leaders whom were later to take higher responsible and functional positions in their respective nation-states. We thank you very much for being part of this positive history of Africa. The second phase, started from 1990 to date, which mainly characterized by the end of cold war politics and the period in

which Russia and Africa lost each other for a decade and then restored their relationship. This period was also coupled with extensive technological breakthrough and developments particularly on information technology, which has ushered globalization impacts and trends to unprecedented levels. Again, on this one Africa has not achieved much.

5. While we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Decolonization of Africa, I wish to commend the Russian Federation for successfully hosting the Russia-Africa Summit in Sochi in October last year. The Summit came out with an inspiring Declaration regarding cooperation on political, economic, social, legal, security, scientific and cultural spheres.
6. It is therefore imperative to envisage our common vision in the next 40 to 60 years from today. This conference is an important forum that can inform us where we came from and what success strides have we achieved so far. Africa needs to leapfrog on its development agenda, I kindly submit my humble opinion that the conference should also review the aspirations of Africa continent, as reflected in the African Agenda of 2063, together with the new Russian approach of coming back to Africa, as was clearly reflected last year during the Russia -Africa Summit, in Sochi.
7. Referring to the Sochi Declaration, there is a great opportunity for African countries and the Russian Federation to promote public as well as cultural diplomacy as the new instruments of soft power in order to strengthen their positions of sovereignty and hence further decolonization. I am pleased to note that the Russian Federation through its various Ministries and Agencies is outreaching bilaterally to African countries by extending scholarships to African students as well as facilitating business interests between private sectors of Russian and Africa.
8. With regard to Tanzania, I am happy to share with you some key information that Tanzania under the presidency of H.E Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, has embarked on industrialization Agenda since 2015, with a view to leap frog her level of economic development to middle level income country by the year 2025 which we may regard as a part of “economic decolonization”. I am happy to inform this conference that according to World Bank Reports, this year we have entered the middle-income country’s bracket, five years earlier before the set period.

9. Further to the above, allow me ladies and gentlemen, to leave you with one important message that, Tanzania is fast becoming a new investment hub in Africa. The country has many competitive advantages compared to other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including geostrategic location (that is along the maritime commercial sea lanes), endowment of natural resources, abundant wildlife, peace, political stability, and friendly environment for investors, just to mention a few. I therefore wish to appeal to the trade and investment businesses community and policy analysts from both Russia and Tanzania, to capture the opportunities availed by these trends and make informed decisions accordingly.

10. In conclusion ladies and gentlemen, I once again, thank the organizers of this conference and I wish you a fruitful review of the past 60 years and aspirational deliberations in the next 40 to 50 years to come.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION