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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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STATEMENT BY HON. SAM K. KUTESA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DURING THE THIRD SESSION OF THE JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Your Excellency, Dr. Palamagamba Kabudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania

Colleagues, Hon. Ministers here present,

Your Excellencies the Ambassadors,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of my delegation and I, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm reception and hospitality that has been accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Dar es Salaam.

Uganda and Tanzania share a lot in common. We share a common land border stretching 243 miles and transboundary resources. We have communities on both sides of the border that not only speak the same language but also share the same culture, values and traits. These communities share water, pasture and other resources from time to time. This commonality between our two countries forms a good basis for cooperation for the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples.

Your Excellency,

We cannot have a comprehensive discussion of the political history of Uganda without speaking about Tanzania. As you will recall, Tanzania played a critical role in the liberation of Uganda during the turbulent times of the past. We therefore pay tribute to the late President Julius Kambarage Nyerere, whom we fondly refer

to as Mwalimu, not only for his role in the founding of this United Republic of Tanzania, but also for our own liberation.

Your Excellency,

The bilateral relations between Uganda and Tanzania are excellent. This is manifested through the exchange of high-level visits including at the level of Heads of State. H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and H.E President John Pombe Magufuli share a deep bond of brotherhood and friendship and have consulted each other from time to time on matters of key strategic importance. President Museveni has been a regular visitor to Tanzania. Indeed, in July 2019, President Museveni visited President Magufuli at his country home in Chato. It is therefore our duty to translate not only the goodwill, but also the directives and decisions provided by these two great statesmen into tangible programs and projects that can structurally transform our two peoples without undue delay.

Your Excellency,

Our two countries continue to work together in various fora, including at the level of the East African Community; the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region; and the African Union, on matters of Peace, Security, Stability and Development. We applaud the United Republic of Tanzania for successfully hosting the 39th SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government. In the same vein, we congratulate H.E President Magufuli for his election as Chairperson of SADC. This is a demonstration of the confidence that the SADC member states have in the ability of H.E the President to steer this August Organization to greater heights.

Uganda is cognizant of the importance of peace and security. We also recognise the fact that peace and security are not an end in themselves. It is important to create a nexus between peace, security; and development in order to ensure that there is inclusive and shared prosperity aimed at promoting increased household incomes and alleviating poverty. For that to happen; it is necessary to undertake deliberate steps to promote trade and investment between our two countries with the view to ensuring structural transformation and industrialisation. According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, the volume of trade between

Uganda and Tanzania is approximately USD 355,633,000 (Three Hundred and Fifty-Five Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand USD Only) as at 17 May 2019. We believe, however, that there is still room for improvement. One of the ways we can do this is by diversifying and granting market access to a range of products of export interest to both of our countries and address any trade restrictive measures including on harmonising issues of standards and free movement of natural persons.

We therefore welcome the convening of the Joint Business Forum that is due to take place tomorrow 06 September 2019. This is an opportunity for members of the private sector to interact with the view to building partnerships; identifying opportunities; and highlighting challenges that may be brought to our attention for redress. The forum will also allow us to get feedback on what we are doing right and what needs improvement. We believe that it is our duty as Ministers to create a conducive environment for members of our private sector to flourish. H.E President Museveni is looking forward to attending the Joint Business Forum and engaging with members of the private sector. We also propose that such fora should be standing agenda items whenever we convene meetings of the Joint Permanent Commission.

Your Excellency,

I am happy to note that the meetings of the JPC are being held regularly and on schedule. Our two countries have concluded a number of cooperation frameworks including but not limited to: Trade; Agriculture; Education; Energy; Defense and Security; and Transport, etc. During the last session of the Joint Permanent Commission held in Kampala in August 2018, we agreed on a number of key decisions. Our preliminary assessment indicates that progress has been mixed. In some instances, we have moved. In others however, a lot of work remains to be done. The decisions we adopt have the potential to cause a direct and positive impact on the lives and livelihoods of our people. We therefore need to create a direct linkage between decision making and implementation. The third session of the JPC therefore provides us with an opportunity to:

- (i) Take stock of progress made in the implementation of the various decisions, Agreements and or Memoranda of Understanding;
- (ii) Address all outstanding issues or agree on an appropriate way forward in fast tracking progress on earlier decisions.

- (iii) Pay more attention on establishing an effective coordination and implementation mechanism to follow up on the timely implementation of all decisions arising out of our meetings. I am aware that our respective High Commissioners are already doing a lot of work in following up on the implementation of the decisions of the JPC. I commend them for this good work; and
- (iv) Explore new areas of cooperation between our two countries;

With these remarks, I once again thank you for convening and hosting this meeting. I wish ourselves fruitful deliberations.

I thank you
