

**SPEECH OF HONOURABLE ENG. MARYPRISCA MAHUNDI (MP), DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WATER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT IN THE NINTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE 1992 CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021**

- Your Excellency Mr. Danido Turk, Chair of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace, former President of the Republic of Slovenia;
- Honourable António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations;
- Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the UNECE Under-Secretary-General;
- Honourable Ministers;
- Colleagues;
- Invited Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

In a forefront, allow me to extend greetings to all of you from The United Republic of Tanzania and in a special way from Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Similarly, I am sending best wishes and submitting apologies from Honourable Jumaa Aweso (MP), Minister for Water of the United Republic of Tanzania who was not able to make it to the meeting.

**Distinguished Chairperson;** The United Republic of Tanzania is home to transboundary water bodies such as Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa. Fortunately, geography has positioned the country in three major Transboundary Basins in African Continent: the Congo, the Nile and the Zambezi. As a result, Tanzania is part to several bilateral and multilateral Transboundary Water Conventions, Protocols, Agreements, and Memoranda.

**Distinguished Chairperson,** the theme of the meeting is meaningful; ***water is a catalyst for peace***. This truth needs to be embraced, lived and advocated. Indeed, transboundary water is a unifying factor. Naturally, water connects people and nations. Water is a source of harmony and peace. Water provides food and energy security and ecosystem integrity. These are catalysts that nurtures peace of mind and international cooperation.

**Distinguished Chairperson,** as we all know, the area of transboundary water basins is almost half of the earth surface, hosts

about 60% of world fresh water, parts to at least 145 countries and is home to more than two billion people. It is through transboundary water cooperation; we, the International Community maintain peace between nations and people. Therefore, while The United Republic of Tanzania reaffirms her regional and international commitment towards sustainable water cooperation, it calls for enhancement of water diplomacy in order to bridge between science and policy and to cultivate peace, trust and win-win situation.

**Distinguished Chairperson,** before I conclude, please allow me to thank and commend the organizers of the meeting for availing a space to the United Republic of Tanzania to give a speech. I reiterate that, The United Republic of Tanzania will continue to be an agent of peace through taking part in national, international and multilateral cooperation in the area of transboundary waters. The United Republic of Tanzania looks forward to join the 1992 Water Convention. I urge and remind all participants that, ***water should connect and not divide us.***

Thanks for your kind attention.