

Canada – Africa  
Parliamentary Association



Association parlementaire  
Canada – Afrique

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## **Report of the Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association**

### **Observation Mission on the Margins of the African Union Summit in Ethiopia and its Bilateral Mission to the United Republic of Tanzania**

**Addis Ababa, Dar Es Salam, Dodoma and Zanzibar**

**From February 17 to 23, 2024**

# REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

The Canada–Africa Parliamentary Association (the Association) travelled to Ethiopia to attend meetings on the margins of the annual African Union (AU) Summit 2024 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 17 to 18 February 2024. The Association was represented by its co-chairs, the Honourable Amina Gerba, Senator, and Brenda Shanahan, MP, and accompanied by Freddy Bobo Mukinayi, Association Secretary. The group then joined the other members of the delegation in the United Republic of Tanzania on a bilateral mission, from 19 to 23 February 2024: the Honourable Salma Ataullahjan, Senator, Vice-Chair of the Association; the Honourable Ratna Omidvar, Senator; Heather McPherson, MP and Vice-Chair of the Association; and Taleeb Noormohamed, MP. The delegation was accompanied by André Léonard, Advisor.

## OBJECTIVES

The delegation's objectives in Ethiopia were as follows:

- To engage in discussions with the President of the Pan-African Parliament to explore collaboration opportunities and better understand the role of Parliament;
- To reconnect with the Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives of Ethiopia, who visited the Association in February 2023 in Ottawa; also to meet with the President of the House of Federation (Senate). These meetings were meant to update the delegation on the economic and political situation in Ethiopia that has prevailed since the signing of a peace agreement in November 2022 between the government and rebels in the Tigray region;
- To meet with Canada's new Permanent Observer to the AU to better understand his role and Canada–AU relations;
- To inform members about AU bodies, their mechanisms and functioning; and
- To inform the delegation about the various topics to be discussed at the Summit, which touch on the current economic, political and social situation in Africa, such as the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), economic development, cooperation, security, human rights, conflicts, environment, migration, health, education, etc.

The delegation's objectives in Tanzania were as follows:

- To follow up on the Association's bilateral mission in 2015 and to inform its members about the political and economic situation in Tanzania;
- To meet with parliamentarians, including members of parliamentary committees in various fields, including foreign affairs, to better understand the challenges faced by parliamentarians in Tanzania, and to learn about

political developments in Tanzania and the role played by women in the National Assembly;

- To learn about the constitutional reform process, including the division of powers between the central government and the Government of Zanzibar;
- To gain a better understanding of the functioning of the East African Community (EAC), headquartered in Arusha, and to learn about Tanzania's views on the direction the EAC will take;
- To understand the impact of the AfCFTA roll-out on Tanzania, the opportunities it offers for the region and the challenges of implementing it locally;
- To learn about the institutions that oversee and hold government accountable, such as the Office of the Auditor General (National Audit Office);
- To learn about economic development in Tanzania and the role of youth and women in this development;
- To receive information on corporate social responsibility in the mining sector in Tanzania, in which several Canadian companies operate;
- To take stock of challenges involving population growth, particularly in cities, and the relocation of some government positions (and their staff) from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma;
- To become informed about the challenges related to conservation, anti-poaching and environmental protection, which are closely linked to tourism, a very important economic sector for Tanzania;
- To meet with civil society organizations working to promote human rights, including the rights of people with albinism, which was discussed during the Association's last mission to Tanzania in 2015;
- To learn more about Canada's support to Tanzania (one of Canada's largest recipients of international assistance) in the areas of human dignity, growth for all and inclusive governance;
- To learn about the level of security and Canadian support for security, particularly in areas where armed groups are active and where Tanzanian military and security forces are conducting counter-insurgency operations, such as in the Mtwara region;
- To engage with United Nations agencies working in the field of economic and social development in the region and support for migrants; and

- To understand the health situation of the country, including the situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic and HIV/AIDS.

## **MISSION TO THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT**

### **A. The African Union**

The AU is made up of the 55 African countries.<sup>1</sup> It has the following objectives:

- To achieve greater unity and solidarity between African countries and their people;
- To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States;
- To accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent;
- To promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples;
- To encourage international cooperation;
- To promote peace, security and stability on the continent;
- To promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance;
- To promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments;
- To establish the necessary conditions that enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations;
- To promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies;
- To promote cooperation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of African peoples;
- To coordinate and harmonize the policies between the existing and future Regional Economic Communities for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Union;
- To advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields, in particular in science and technology;
- To work with relevant international partners in the eradication of preventable diseases and the promotion of good health on the continent;
- To ensure the effective participation of women in decision-making, particularly in the political, economic and socio-cultural areas;
- To develop and promote common policies on trade, defence and foreign relations to ensure the defence of the continent and the strengthening of its negotiating positions; and
- To invite and encourage the full participation of the African Diaspora as an important part of the continent, in the building of the African Union<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Its members include the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (better known as Western Sahara), which is considered by the [United Nations to be a Non-Self-Governing Territory](#).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

The main organs of the AU are as follows:

- The Assembly of Heads of State and Government (the Assembly). As the AU's supreme organ, it determines the AU's policies, establishes its priorities, adopts its annual program and monitors the implementation of its policies and decisions. On peace and security matters, the Assembly delegated its powers to the Peace and Security Council when the Council became operational in 2004;<sup>3</sup>
- The Executive Council. Composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States, it determines the issues to be submitted to the Assembly for decision, coordinates and harmonizes the policies, activities and initiatives of the AU in areas of common interest to Member States, and monitors the implementation of the Assembly's policies and decisions;
- The Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC). Made up of Permanent Representatives (Ambassadors) and other representatives of AU Member States, it prepares the Executive Council's work;
- The AU Commission. The Commission is the AU's permanent secretariat and is composed of a chairperson, deputy chairperson and eight commissioners, plus staff. The current chairperson is [Moussa Faki Mahamat](#) from Chad. He was elected by the Assembly in 2017 and re-elected in 2021 for a four-year term;
- The Pan-African Parliament (PAP). Composed of five members (including at least two women) from each of the AU Member States, it works to ensure the full participation of African peoples in the governance, economic development and integration of the continent. The PAP sits in Midrand, South Africa, and held its inaugural session in 2004. It is scheduled to meet at least twice a year. It consists of 10 permanent committees and 1 ad hoc committee. The objectives and functions of the PAP include:
  - Facilitating and overseeing implementation of AU policies, programs and objectives;
  - Promoting human rights and consolidating democratic institutions and principles, good governance, transparency and the rule of law by all AU organs, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States;
  - Participating in creating awareness among the peoples of Africa on the: AU's objectives, strategies and programs; strengthening of continental solidarity, cooperation and development of the continent; promotion of peace, security and stability; and pursuit of a common economic recovery strategy;
  - Contributing to the harmonization and coordination of Member States' legislation;
  - Promoting the coordination of REC policies, measures, programs and activities;
  - Preparing and adopting its budget and Rules of Procedure;

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<sup>3</sup> AU, [The Assembly](#).

- Electing its Bureau members; and
- Making recommendations on the AU budget.<sup>4</sup>
- Several legal bodies, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the [Extraordinary African Chambers](#) AU Commission on International Law, the AU Advisory Board Against Corruption, and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child<sup>5</sup>; and
- The AfCFTA Secretariat, which has a mandate to coordinate the implementation of the AfCFTA, whose goal is to create a single market in Africa. It is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063: Africa’s blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future, and “the concrete manifestation of how the continent intends to achieve this vision within a 50-year period from 2013 to 2063.”<sup>6</sup>

## **B. African Union Summit 2024**

This year, the 47th meeting of the PRC took place from 15 to 26 January 2024 in Addis Ababa. The 44th meeting of the Executive Council and the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government were held in the same location from 14 to 15 February and 17 to 18 February respectively.<sup>7</sup>

In 2024, the theme of the AU and Summit is “Educating an Africa fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, qualitative, lifelong, and relevant learning in Africa.”<sup>8</sup>

Until the 2024 Summit, the AU chairperson was the President of the Union of the Comoros, Azali Assoumani. The chairperson for 2024 is the President of Mauritania, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.

## **C. Canada and the African Union**

In May 2023, the Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, welcomed Albert M. Muchanga, African Union Commissioner for Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry and Minerals, to the inaugural Canada–African Union Commission Trade Policy Dialogue (TPD).<sup>9</sup>

On 6 June 2023, Ben Marc Diendéré was appointed Canada’s Permanent Observer to the AU.<sup>10</sup>

## **D. Meetings in Addis Ababa**

### **1. Briefing by staff of the Embassy of Canada to Ethiopia**

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<sup>4</sup> AU, [The Pan-African Parliament](#).

<sup>5</sup> AU, [Judicial, Human Rights & Legal Organs](#).

<sup>6</sup> AU, [Agenda 2063: Overview](#).

<sup>7</sup> AU, [37th AU Summit](#).

<sup>8</sup> AU, [“Peace, integration and development among top agenda items \[at\] the African Union summit,”](#) Press Release, 15 January 2024.

<sup>9</sup> Global Affairs Canada, [Minister Ng successfully concludes first Trade Policy Dialogue with African Union Commission](#), News release, 17 May 2023.

<sup>10</sup> Global Affairs Canada, [Announcement of new diplomatic appointment](#), News release, 6 June 2023.

The delegation began its observer mission with a briefing led by Canada's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Joshua Tabah, and his staff. The session also highlighted the role of the Canadian mission in Ethiopia, which is expanding its services to Canadians in Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan and South Sudan.

The delegation was briefed on the political, economic and social situation in Ethiopia, as well as the mission's activities in consular services, cooperation, trade, immigration and diplomacy. It was also briefed on the conflict in the Tigray region and the progress made in the implementation of the ceasefire agreement between the parties concerned.

In addition, the delegation was briefed on regional tensions involving Ethiopia and its neighbours, particularly with regard to access to the Red Sea. Clarification was also provided on the Government of Canada's commitment to support Ethiopia in its quest for stability and prosperity for its people and the region as a whole.

## **2. Meeting with the Honourable Fathi Mahdi Wezir, MP, Vice-Chair of the House of the Peoples' Representatives Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs, and the Honourable Demeke Achiso Hirgeto, Chair of the Ethiopia-Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group**

The co-chairs, accompanied by the Ambassador of Canada to Ethiopia, Joshua Tabah, met with the Honourable Fathi Mahdi Wezir, MP, Vice-Chair of the House of Peoples' Representatives Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs; and the Honourable Demeke Achiso Hirgeto, MP, Chair of the Ethiopia–Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group; also in attendance were the Honourable Halimo Mohammed, MP, and the Honourable Fantaya Keggesa, MP. The discussion focused on strengthening bilateral relations, sharing experiences in parliamentary democracy, food security, achieving sustainable development, humanitarian assistance and mutual nationalism in the two countries.

The Ethiopian parliamentarians expressed interest in strengthening cooperation in the fields of trade, industry, investment, minerals and energy. In addition, they discussed the establishment of a National Advisory Council to resolve internal conflicts.

The co-chairs highlighted the long-standing historical relationship between Canada and Ethiopia, affirming that Canada will stand by Ethiopia to ensure lasting peace and security, as well as to expand the democratic and human rights platform and eradicate poverty.

Ambassador Tabah stated that Canada stands ready to support the National Advisory Council established to resolve issues in Ethiopia. He added that Canada will continue to stand with Ethiopia to strengthen democratic institutions, provide humanitarian assistance, protect human and democratic rights, promote the expansion of technology and investment, and ensure food security.

Finally, during the discussion, participants discussed the strengthening of the friendship group between Ethiopia and Canada and the exchange of experiences with a view to improving diplomatic and parliamentary relations between the two countries.

## **3. Visit to the Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development**

The co-chairs paid a visit to the Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD). This project is funded by the Government of Canada through the Women's Voice and Leadership program. This program was created to meet the needs of local women's organizations in developing countries.

Maria Munir, Founder and Executive Director of AWSAD and prominent women's rights activist, presented an overview of the Association's activities, history, objectives and key programs.

Founded in 2003 as the first shelter for women and girls experiencing violence in Ethiopia, AWSAD operates shelters for survivors of female violence across the country.

She explained to the co-chairs that the lack of adequate service providers to meet the needs of survivors means that women are vulnerable to staying in an abusive environment due to a lack of comprehensive support. AWSAD aims to fill this gap by providing quality and holistic rehabilitation, medical care, psychological support, legal follow-up, education, empowerment activities, shelter living, skills training and reintegration services to survivors.

The co-chairs were moved by the stories and testimonies of survivors, who demonstrated courage and resilience by sharing. They gladly shared their experiences to encourage these women to persevere in their struggle and to remain hopeful.

#### **4. Participation in the African Union High-Level Dialogue organized by the Government of Ethiopia on the margins of the 37<sup>th</sup> African Union Assembly**

The co-chairs attended the AU High-Level Dialogue, hosted by the Government of Ethiopia on the margins of the 37<sup>th</sup> AU Assembly. The President of Ethiopia, Her Excellency Sahle-Work Zewde, representatives of various countries and heads of international organizations were also present to discuss the role of digital technology in Africa's economic and social development

In her opening speech at the forum, President Sahle-Work highlighted the importance of the digitalization agenda for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. She stressed the need to harness the potential of digitalization to mitigate the impacts of climate change. President Sahle-Work stated that her country is implementing the Ethiopia Digital Strategy 2025 to develop a digital economy, and she announced ongoing efforts to increase access to telecommunications services, digital financial services, artificial intelligence and Internet coverage nationwide. She also stressed the importance of digitalization in accelerating investment.

The panelists, including Professor Landry Signé, Fregiwot Tamiru, Dare Okoudjou and Salomon Kassa, made recommendations on the digital transformation, in alignment with the 2063 Agenda for a Prosperous Africa and an Inclusive Digital Africa. They highlighted the importance of developing human capital, of having resources and of having universities play a key role. Stressing that technology alone is not enough for the development of the African continent, they reiterated the importance of taking into account the human aspect, skills and policies. Ms. Tamiru stressed that this process is a journey in which all elements must be deliberately taken into account.

In conclusion, the panelists expressed a desire to promote more positive economic impacts for Africa rather than overly relying on humanitarian assistance on the continent.



They affirmed that the call to action should involve collaboration between governments, collaborators, innovators, tech startups, financial institutions and educational institutions, with the aim of preparing Africa's youth for jobs that have yet to be created.

## **5. Meeting with Awa Ndiaye Seck, former Special Representative of UN Women to the African Union, and Grace Kabayo, Secretary General of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Pan African Women's Organization**

To conclude their mission to Addis Ababa, the co-chairs, accompanied by Canada's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Joshua Tabah, and Canada's Permanent Observer to the AU, Ben Marc Diendéré, met with Awa Ndiaye Seck, former Special Representative of UN Women to the AU, and Grace Kabayo, Secretary General of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Pan African Women's Organization.

Participants discussed the role of women in politics, highlighting the crucial importance of their active participation in decision-making processes to ensure equitable representation and inclusive governance. They also highlighted the need to support the younger generation of women to encourage them to become more involved in politics and take up leadership positions, with the aim of creating a more equal and inclusive future.

In addition, the delegation was made aware of the situation of women in conflict zones in Africa, with a focus on the specific challenges they face, including sexual violence, marginalization and limited access to basic services.

Members of the delegation discussed Canada's initiatives and policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, both domestically and internationally. They shared examples of good practices and explored opportunities for collaboration and partnership to strengthen efforts to promote women's rights and gender equality across the African continent.

## **BILATERAL MISSION TO TANZANIA**

### **A. Overview of the country**

#### **1. Brief history**

The United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania) was established in 1964 by the union of Tanganyika (mainland Tanzania) and Zanzibar. The 1965 Interim Constitution established a one-party regime, the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) in mainland Tanzania and the Afro-Shirazi Party in Zanzibar. In 1977, the two parties merged to form the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM or Revolutionary Party), and a permanent Constitution was adopted by the National Assembly. This Constitution has been amended several times, including in 1992 to legalize opposition parties.

Despite the existence of other parties since the 1995 elections, Tanzania has had only TANU or CCM presidents, namely Julius Kambarage Nyerere (1964–1985), Ali Hassan Mwinyi (1985–1995), Benjamin William Mkapa (1995–2005), Amani Abeid Karume (2005–2015), John Pombe Magufuli (2015–2021) and the current president, Samia Suluhu Hassan, who was vice president until President Magufuli's death. In the 2020 presidential elections, voter turnout was only 51%. The United States, the European

Union, the Commonwealth and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have expressed concern about the conduct of the elections.

In Zanzibar, Hussein Ali Mwinyi of the CCM has been president since 2020. Seif Sharid Hamad of the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT) was appointed vice president in a national unity government, but died in February 2021 and was replaced by Othman Masoud Othman.

A multi-stakeholder working group was established in December 2021 to examine potential constitutional and electoral reforms, a frequent request from opposition parties. The working group's proposals include revoking the ban on protests (implemented in January 2023), forming an independent national electoral commission, introducing provisions to challenge election results in court and holding new public consultations to identify possible changes to the Constitution. In March 2023, additional funds were allocated to the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs to prepare for constitutional and electoral reforms.

## 2. System of government

Tanzania's Parliament consists of a single chamber called the National Assembly or Bunge. It is presided over by the Honourable Dr. Tulia Ackson<sup>11</sup>, who is also President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. It has 393 seats divided into five categories of members:

- Elected members representing their constituencies: 264 members;
- Number of women holding a special seat reserved for them: 113;
- Members of the House of Representatives of Zanzibar: 5 (including at least 2 women);
- The Attorney General; and
- Members appointed by the President: 10 (including at least 5 women).

The National Assembly enacts laws that apply either to the whole country (including Zanzibar), or to the mainland only. As of 10 January 2024, the Bunge had 365 members from the CCM, 20 from the Chama Cha Democrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema or Party for Democracy and Progress), 4 from the ACT and 3 from the Civic United Front, in addition to the Attorney General (not affiliated).

Zanzibar has its own House of Representatives, or Baraza La Wawakilishi. It is presided over by the Hon. Zubeir Ali Maulid.<sup>12</sup> There are 82 seats in the House:

- 50 seats for members directly elected in single-member constituencies by simple majority;
- 20 seats for women directly elected by proportional representation;
- 1 seat for the Speaker of the House; and
- 1 seat for the Attorney General.

As of 6 February 2024, the Zanzibar House of Representatives had 69 members from the CCM, six from ACT and one from the African Democratic Alliance – Tanzania Democratic

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<sup>11</sup> United Republic of Tanzania, Parliament of Tanzania, Profile, [Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson](#)

<sup>12</sup> Zanzibar House of Representatives, Profile, [Hon. Zubeir Ali Maulid](#).

Alliance (ADA-TADEA), in addition to the Attorney General (not affiliated). Five positions were vacant.<sup>13</sup>

The President of Tanzania is elected by universal suffrage for a five-year term and appoints the Prime Minister from among the members of the National Assembly. The President is both head of state and head of government, and may serve only for two terms.

### **3. Economic and trade matters**

In 2022, Tanzania had a gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$197 billion in current purchasing power parity, or about US\$3,099 per capita. In comparison, the average GDP per capita was US\$4,435 in sub-Saharan Africa and US\$58,348 in Canada.

In 2020, the unemployment rate in Tanzania was 1.9% for men and 3.7% for women.<sup>14</sup> Despite the good labour market situation, in 2018, 44.9% of the population lived on US\$1.90 or less per day.<sup>15</sup>

In 2019, the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index ranked Tanzania 141<sup>st</sup> globally out of 190 countries. Among the categories in this index, Tanzania ranked relatively better in the categories of "obtaining loans" (67<sup>th</sup>), "enforcing contracts" (71<sup>st</sup>) and "getting electricity" (85<sup>th</sup>), while it ranked 162<sup>nd</sup> for "starting a business," 165<sup>th</sup> for "paying taxes" and 182<sup>nd</sup> for "trading across borders."<sup>16</sup>

Tanzania's exported goods are destined for India (17%), South Africa (14%), the United Arab Emirates (11%), the European Union (9%), and Kenya (6%). Tanzania's main exports are gold, copper, cashew nuts, pulses, rice and coffee; about 51% are mining or energy products, 34% are agricultural products, and 15% are manufactured goods.

Imported goods come mainly from China (25%), the United Arab Emirates (16%), India (13%), the European Union (10%) and Saudi Arabia (4%). The main imports are refined petroleum, prepared medicinal products, tractors, wheat, sugar and palm oil. About 65% of imports are manufactured goods, compared to 24% mining or energy products and 11% agricultural products.<sup>17</sup>

China, India and the United Arab Emirates are therefore important economic partners. In October 2023, Tanzania and India elevated their relationship to the level of a "strategic partnership." China, through its Belt and Road Initiative, has launched infrastructure projects in Africa, but the project to build the Bagamoyo Port 75 km north of Dar es Salaam, at a cost of US\$10 billion, has been aborted.<sup>18</sup> Some of the activities of the Dar

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<sup>13</sup> Zanzibar House of Representatives, [Members](#).

<sup>14</sup> International Labour Organization, "[SDG Indicator 8.5.2 – Unemployment rate \(%\) – Annual](#)," ILOSTAT Explorer.

<sup>15</sup> World Bank, "[Poverty headcount ratio at \\$2.15 a day \(2017 PPP\) \(% of population\)](#)," Data.

<sup>16</sup> The World Bank, [Doing Business: Measuring Business Regulations](#).

<sup>17</sup> World Trade Organization, "[Tanzania](#)," Trade Profiles.

<sup>18</sup> Raghvendra Kumar, "[The China Factor in the India-Tanzania Strategic Partnership](#)," The Diplomat, 14 October 2023.

es Salaam port were entrusted to the Chinese company Hutchison Port and others to the Emirati company DP World.<sup>19</sup>

Over the past five years, Canadian exports to Tanzania have ranged from \$37 million to \$194 million per year; Canada's imports from Tanzania ranged from \$19 million to \$38 million.<sup>20</sup>

The Canada-Tanzania Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) entered into force in December 2013. However, the FIPA ended in December 2023 following notification from the Government of Tanzania to the Government of Canada. The FIPA relating to investments announced before that date remains in force until 9 December 2038.

#### **4. Governance and human rights**

The Mo Ibrahim Institute's Governance Index measures the quality of governance in Africa.<sup>21</sup> According to this index, in 2021, Tanzania ranked 21<sup>st</sup> out of 54 African countries in terms of overall governance.

According to Transparency International, Tanzania ranked 87<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2023.<sup>22</sup> Tanzania as a whole and its press are considered partially free by Freedom House. Out of a maximum of 7 (which represents the least freedom), political rights and civil liberties are rated at 5.<sup>23</sup>

The Economist Intelligence Unit's 2022 Democracy Index ranked Tanzania 92<sup>nd</sup> out of 167 countries surveyed, placing it in the "hybrid regime" category, i.e., partway between a "flawed democracy" and an "authoritarian regime."

According to Human Rights Watch:

The authorities continue to use the Sexual Offenses Special Provisions Act of 1998 to punish consensual adult same-sex conduct by up to life imprisonment, while the authorities continue to restrict organizations working to promote the rights and health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.

On September 11, the minister of information, Nape Nnauye, said that people found to be distributing materials depicting same-sex relations online would face "strict action." The 2020 Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations prohibit "promoting homosexuality," which could include conducting LGBT rights advocacy. Violators may be fined or sentenced from one to up to five years in prison.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Olivier Caslin, "[Face à l'Afrique de l'Ouest, les ports est-africains s'offrent une séance de rattrapage](#)," Jeune Afrique, 17 October 2023 [IN FRENCH].

<sup>20</sup> Government of Canada, "[Search by product \(HS code\) – Trade Data Online](#)," Trade Data Online, database.

<sup>21</sup> Mo Ibrahim Foundation, [Ibrahim Index of African Governance](#).

<sup>22</sup> Transparency International, [Corruption Perceptions Index 2023](#).

<sup>23</sup> Freedom House, [Freedom in the World 2023](#).

<sup>24</sup> Human Rights Watch, World Report 2023, [Tanzania Events of 2022](#).

In June 2022, Maasai from the Ngorongoro Nature Reserve, who are semi-nomadic herders, left their homes under a program the authorities described as “voluntary relocation,” but human rights activists called “eviction.”<sup>25</sup> According to the authorities, their exponential population growth—as well as that of their herds—puts them in direct competition with wildlife. According to Amnesty International, in August 2023, protesters and opponents were arrested and held in unknown locations.<sup>26</sup>

## **B. Meetings in Tanzania**

### **1. Briefing by staff of the High Commission of Canada to Tanzania**

The delegation began its visit by attending a briefing by the High Commissioner, Kyle Nunas, and his staff. The Canadian mission has approximately 80 staff and is responsible for diplomatic relations in Tanzania, Zambia (office in Lusaka), the Seychelles and the Comoros (no staff in the country).

The delegation was briefed on the political, economic and social situation in Tanzania, as well as the mission’s work in the areas of consular services, cooperation, trade, immigration and diplomacy. Among other things, the delegation learned that several local immigration consultants operate in Tanzania and the region, despite not being authorized by the government of Canada. Some of these consultants may incorrectly fill the forms in the name of the clients and offer ready “packages” which may include fraudulent documents. There is no control over which fees are charged and the government of Canada has no legal authority over these consultants. Ultimately, the clients are responsible for the documents provided and their applications may be refused if incomplete, incorrect, or fraudulent documents are submitted.

### **2. Visit to the University of Dar es Salaam and meeting with professors**

The delegation began its mission by visiting the facilities of the University of Dar es Salaam, including the Cranford-Pratt Building, named after the University’s first Principal, a Canadian.

A meeting was then held with the following professors from the College of Social Sciences: Prof. Mohammed Ali Bakari, Dr. Ng’wanza Soko Kamata, Dr. Hadija Kassim Mwendah, Dr. Rasul Ahmed Minja, Dr. Richard Bruno Mbunda and Prof. Peter Enos Nkandala; a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania also attended. Ministry representatives were present at all the delegation’s meetings in Tanzania, with the exception of the meeting with human rights organizations representatives and the press.

The meeting began with a review of Tanzania’s political history, followed by a question-and-answer period on politics, the rule of law and the economy.

Members were informed that a section of civil society desires constitutional reforms, including greater independence for Tanzania’s National Electoral Commission, whose

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<sup>25</sup> Marine Jeannin, [“In Tanzania, the Maasai are evicted from their land in the name of wildlife protection and tourism,”](#) Le Monde, 20 June 2022.

<sup>26</sup> Amnesty International, [“Tanzania: End the crackdown on the Maasai standing up against forced evictions in Ngorongoro,”](#) News, 25 August 2023.

seven members are appointed by the President. A section of Zanzibari society also wishes to see certain changes.

On press freedom, participants stated that it was very limited under President Magufuli, but that the situation seems to have improved slightly since President Hassan took office. The press self-censors to avoid reprimands, as laws do not fully protect freedom of the press.

In the economic sphere, the informal sector occupies an important place, which limits the government's ability to generate revenue. A significant part of government spending is earmarked for external debt servicing. Investment remains low, which, according to some participants, means that improvements in living standards will not be achieved quickly.

China and Russia have been prominent in Tanzania's trade and investment in the past, as the country has been rather socialist; China remains a very significant investor. Economic relations with neighbouring countries are strong and cordial within the EAC. There is some economic rivalry with Kenya.

Lastly, the fact that the country's current president is a woman who encourages women to get into politics could have a positive effect on women's participation. According to some participants, the special seats reserved for women were designed so that women could gain political experience and one day win constituency seats. But this strategy has not worked, as very few women hold constituency seats, and they hold the seats reserved for women for multiple terms.

### **3. Meeting with human rights organizations and the media**

A meeting was held with representatives of three human rights organizations and the press corps.

According to the participants, the population is highly influenced by its political leaders, which means that the situation concerning human rights and the freedom of expression depends greatly on the current president, who sometimes experiences pressure from within their party to limit the rights of the opposition. Tanzania should put in place a legislative framework, possibly including constitutional changes that ensure these rights and the total independence of Tanzania's National Electoral Commission.

Also according to participants, another factor explaining the weakness of the opposition and limitations on human rights is the lack of independent thinking and of a culture of dissent. Rather than demanding rights, society expects to receive them from the government. Media outlets are influenced by the government and the business community, and they do not represent the population. LGBTQ+ issues are used to polarize the population and divert the discussion away from more vital issues related to improving living conditions.

Finally, some pointed out that Tanzania's democratic institutions are not very strong, but that politicians are, and that there is a cult of personality. There is no separation of powers (executive, legislative and judicial) and no anti-establishment power strong enough to withstand it, such as a strong and free press. Civil society should be able to speak out and bring about change through the media and the electoral process.

Some see hope in increased Internet use and access to information. However, some are concerned that the government controls information and that religious extremists, whether Christian or Muslim, or foreign powers disseminate disinformation.

The situation of the Maasai in Ngorongoro was also discussed. According to the government, evictions have taken place to preserve wildlife and promote tourism; according to activists, it was to develop hunting grounds. According to one participant, the remaining residents have little access to social services, which is one way the government forces them to leave the territory. At the very least, the Maasai should be consulted by the government on ways to solve problems concerning conservation and overpopulation.

Finally, participants suggested that countries like Canada should take stronger action against human rights violations. Such countries also tend to be too prescriptive in their development assistance (what programs should exist and what their content should be), rather than letting local organizations decide what solutions to put in place.

#### **4. Meeting with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania**

In Dodoma, the delegation met with the Honourable Dr. Tulia Ackson, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania and President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), elected in October 2023. She is an elected constituency member, after having held a special seat.

Discussions focused on the place of women in the National Assembly, the role of Zanzibar's representatives, the role of parliamentary committees, the running of parliamentary sessions, and the priorities of the new IPU President.

In particular, the delegation learned that the National Assembly sits for three one-month sessions and one three-month session. In addition, members who are parents of young children or children with disabilities requiring assistance receive a financial supplement to cover certain expenses.

The IPU President's priorities are increased political participation of women and people with disabilities as well as other minority groups, climate change, and increasing the IPU's membership, which currently has 180 members. The theme of the 148<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in March 2024 was "Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding."

#### **5. Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation**

The delegation met with the Honourable Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation. It should be noted that in Tanzania, deputy ministers are members of the National Assembly (equivalent to the role of parliamentary secretary in the House of Commons). Mr. Mbarouk is one of the ten members appointed by the president.

Mr. Mbarouk commended the excellent relations between Canada and Tanzania and their collaboration in the areas of international cooperation (education and health), mining, defence and security, trade and investment, and governance. He also acknowledged Canada's support for the candidacy of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, Dr. Ackson, for IPU President and affirmed that Tanzania would look positively on

Canada's candidacy for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2028 to 2030 term.

He also indicated that the Government of Tanzania is hoping to successfully conclude negotiations of a new Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement with Canada quickly, the last one having been terminated in 2023 at the request of Tanzania. He called for Canadians to come and invest in Tanzania, and for trade between the two countries to increase, especially Canadian imports from Tanzania. He also supported increased cooperation in agriculture and renewable energy, such as solar and wind. He stated that reforms would be in place to reduce bureaucracy and difficulties in doing business as well as to promote investor protection.

## **6. Meeting with the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security Committee**

The delegation met with six members of the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security Committee, including its Chairperson, the Honourable Vita Rashid Kawawa (CCM), and the following five members: the Honourable Cosato David Chumi (CCM), the Honourable Maimuna Salum Mtanda (CCM), the Honourable Ali Juma Mohamed (CCM), the Honourable Grace Victor Tendega (Chadema) and the Honourable Felister Deogratius Njau (Chadema).

Committee members thanked Canada for its assistance in numerous development projects and for its financial support for the construction of the Tanzanian Peacekeeping Training Center in Dar es Salaam in 2014. They reiterated the desire for increased Canadian investment in Tanzania and for an increase in Canadian imports from Tanzania. They also hoped for a reduction in visa wait times and better access to certain occupations (e.g., truck drivers) for various immigration programs.

Lastly, the discussion focused on Tanzanian foreign policy. According to members, Tanzania needs foreign investment in infrastructure, agriculture and the renewable energy sector. The country is attractive because of its political stability. Power outages occur quite frequently, but projects are underway to address energy supply issues. China is a major investor in the country, and the Committee did not seem too concerned about Tanzania being overly dependent on China.

## **7. Meeting with the Tanzanian Women Parliamentarians Group**

The delegation met with two members of the Tanzanian Women Parliamentarians Group, including its Chairperson, Hon. Shally Josepha Raymond, Member of Parliament for the CCM (special seat), to learn more about the role of the group and the place of Tanzanian women in politics and society. Also in attendance were the Hon. Fatma Hassan Toufiq, Member of Parliament for the CCM (special seat), and Angelina Sanga, Coordinator.

Representatives of the group stated that the arrival of Samia Hulu Hassan as president has encouraged women to enter politics. They want the number of women MPs to increase from the current 37% to 50% to achieve parity and bring the female perspective into politics. They plan to attract women for the 2024 local elections to eventually prepare them for the 2025 general elections.

Women who are MPs in special seats must first qualify to be on their party's list. Once they become MPs, they eventually want to become constituency MPs, which is not always easy. Parties sometimes choose to place women on their lists for special seats rather



than run them in ridings that are difficult to win. The barriers are also sometimes financial, as they do not always have the resources to run a campaign.

They also discussed a program in which more experienced female MPs may mentor younger women, as well as some of their male colleagues who are champions of their cause and who support their work and development.

The delegation was also informed that parliamentary committees chaired by men should have a woman as vice-chairperson and vice versa. However, only 4 of the 18 parliamentary committees were chaired by women. In addition, while women MPs in special seats have the same power as other MPs (constituency or appointed), they do not have a constituency budget, which sometimes makes their work difficult, such as for travel to other regions to visit projects or for other activities.

The members of the delegation also answered the group's questions on the reality of women in politics in Canada and explained that senators have a budget, even if they do not represent a riding, which allows them to adequately perform their duties.

Finally, the discussion also focused on girls' access to education. Education is free until the end of high school, and student loans are available for both girls and boys. The main barriers to girls' education are early marriage or pregnancy and difficulty in obtaining feminine hygiene products. Sometimes girls drop out of secondary school to help with domestic chores. Members of the women's group noted that the policy of prohibiting young women who are pregnant or have children from studying was overturned in 2021 by the current president.

## **8. Visit to the AI4D lab at the University of Dodoma**

The delegation travelled to the University of Dodoma to meet with the AI4D lab's managers, including Dr. Ally S. Nyamawe, Principal Investigator. The lab is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. The lab seeks to increase the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in Africa through research, training and innovation.

The challenges are significant due to a lack of skills in the field and state-of-the-art equipment. Research is concentrated on the four sectors of health, agriculture, environmental protection and the digital economy.

Master's and PhD programs in AI are offered. Some students receive scholarships. In addition, the lab organizes shorter trainings and hackathons (events where developers come together for a computer programming competition).

IDRC wants to move forward with funding a second phase of the project but may open up the competition to other research centres. Given the investments already made, the lab would prefer that IDRC grant them funds for the next phase without a competition.

## **9. Meeting with the President of Zanzibar**

The delegation then travelled to Zanzibar to meet with His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairperson of the Revolutionary Council.

After thanking the delegation for visiting and emphasizing the good relations between Canada and Tanzania, the President discussed Zanzibar's economy, which is largely

based on tourism, but also includes fisheries and sea-based products, such as seaweed, marine transportation, and gas extraction (exploration is taking place around Pemba Island). Zanzibar is looking for investors to develop these sectors in a sustainable manner. Electricity comes from the mainland, and Zanzibar wishes to develop sustainable energy (solar, wind).

The CCM and ACT form a national unity government. Other small parties are not recognized because they do not have enough seats, and they form the opposition. According to the President, accountability is adequate, even though there is no official opposition, mainly through the media.

He explained that representatives from Zanzibar sit in the National Assembly of Tanzania, where issues affecting the Union are discussed. Issues affecting Zanzibar exclusively, and not the Union, are discussed in the Zanzibar House of Representatives. There is a formula for allocating certain revenue transfers from the Government of Tanzania to the Government of Zanzibar. Changes to Tanzania's constitution are under discussion, which could have an impact on the constitution of Zanzibar.

Tourism has returned to pre-pandemic levels, and the Zanzibar airport is busier than Dar es Salaam. Zanzibar has a Blue Economy Policy, which promotes sustainable sea-based economic development (tourism, fisheries, etc.).

Zanzibar is keen to attract foreign investment, and the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority offers incentives such as tax exemptions, which vary depending on the amount invested.

With respect to funds allocated to women MPs in special seats, the President explained that these special seats were allocated to regions and not constituencies. As a result, women MPs in special seats did not need an expense fund, or at least not as much as those given to constituency MPs. However, the government is looking into the matter.

## **10. Meeting with the Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives and Members of Parliament**

The delegation met with the Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, the Honourable Zubeir Ali Maulid (CCM), who was accompanied by eight MPs, including two from the opposition: the Honourable Simai Mohammed Said (CCM), the Honourable Jamal Kassim Ali (CCM), the Honourable Mihayo Juma N'Hunga (CCM), the Honourable Anna Atanas Paul (CCM), the Honourable Hudhaima Mbarak Tahir (CCM), the Honourable Yahya Rashid Abdulla (CCM), Professor Omar Faki Hamad (ACT) and Dr. Mohamed Ali Suleiman (ACT).

Discussions focused on how the House functions, the role of women, relations with the Government of Tanzania and the role of the opposition.

The House of Representatives also has a women's parliamentary group, which seeks to promote women's participation in politics and increase the number of constituency seats held by women. With respect to an expense fund for members of special seats, some indicated that such a fund could create undesirable competition between constituency members and women members of special seats, who might use this fund to win the constituency seat in the next election.

In turn, some Tanzanian MPs were very interested in the role of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Office of the Auditor General of Canada. Others indicated that international exchanges for parliamentary training had been beneficial in improving their skills.

### **11. Meeting with leaders of the GRREAT (Girls Reproductive Health, Rights and Empowerment Accelerated in Tanzania) project**

The delegation visited a school supported by the Girls Reproductive Health, Rights and Empowerment Accelerated in Tanzania (GRREAT) project. This project aims to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights and well-being of vulnerable Tanzanian adolescent girls by providing information and awareness-raising services. The project is funded by Global Affairs Canada, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund.

Delegation members were touched by the enthusiasm, liveliness and optimism of the children they met, which gives a lot of hope for the future of the country and shows how small projects can have a big impact.

### **12. Visit to the Mwani company in Paje**

The delegation ended its trip to Zanzibar and Tanzania by visiting the Mwani farm and processing company in Paje, where the delegation was able to see firsthand efforts to leverage products from the sea (seaweed) and process them locally in an environmentally friendly way.

## **OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS**

### **A. African Union**

The primary objective of the observer mission on the margins of the AU Summit, a first for the Association, was to engage in discussions with the PAP President and his delegation to explore opportunities for collaboration and to better understand the role of this institution.

The meeting with the PAP delegation would have been an excellent opportunity to reconnect with the PAP and to reaffirm the links already established by the Association in the past. Unfortunately, the PAP delegation was unable to travel due to a last-minute setback. Canada's Permanent Observer to the AU has committed to follow up and report on this missed meeting, with a view to facilitating the re-establishment of direct links with the Association for potential collaboration and future meetings with the PAP.

During its short stay in Addis Ababa, the delegation was also able to receive critical information from Canada's Permanent Observer to the AU. These discussions focused on the governing bodies of the AU, as well as on the major themes addressed at the Summit, touching on the economic, political and social aspects of Africa.

In addition, the co-chairs expressed their support for the work done by Canada's Permanent Observer.

The visit to Ethiopia was also an opportunity for the Association to reconnect with the Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives, whom it met in February 2023 in Ottawa. Although the Speaker was not available, the vice chairperson of the House of

Peoples' Representatives Standing Committee on Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs was sent to receive the delegation. The delegation also took the opportunity to meet with the recently established Ethiopia–Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group. Together, the participants explored new avenues for bilateral cooperation, sharing parliamentary best practices and engaging in in-depth discussions on common challenges related to development, human rights and democracy.

These exchanges once again reinforced the delegation's conviction of the importance of interparliamentary dialogue for strengthening relations between the two nations.

In conclusion, the Association emphasizes the importance of the Government of Canada continuing to explore ways to strengthen its relationship with the AU. This recommendation stems from the recognition of the vast business opportunities that exist in Africa, covering a wide range of business sectors. By investing in strengthening ties with Africa, Canada could not only benefit from these potential economic opportunities, but also contribute to sustainable development, continental stability and the strengthening of its global partnerships.

## **B. Tanzania**

During their visit, delegates witnessed the efforts of the government and civil society to improve living conditions in Tanzania. There were a number of issues that stood out to the delegation.

First, there are some similarities between Canada and Tanzania, such as the presence of multiple levels of government. The differences between mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar are reflected in their parliamentary institutions. A notable feature of the Tanzanian parliamentary system is the existence of special seats reserved for women, to allow for the emergence of a political culture that places greater emphasis on women. The delegation was briefed on the barriers faced by women, particularly in the allocation of expense funds. The Canada–Africa Parliamentary Association applauds Tanzania's efforts to promote women's participation in politics and to continue to explore ways to overcome the financial barriers they face.

Second, Tanzania has had only one political party in power. Delegates heard that the opposition and the press are not completely free and that Tanzania's National Electoral Commission is not fully independent. The Canada–Africa Parliamentary Association is encouraged by Tanzania's efforts to change its constitutional and legislative framework to strengthen the independence of the electoral process, human rights and freedom of expression, and to address the unique needs of Zanzibar, which it hopes to see implemented.

The delegates repeatedly heard calls for increased Canadian investment in Tanzania and trade between the two countries. The Canada–Africa Parliamentary Association encourages the Canadian business community to pursue all possible business opportunities in Tanzania, including through Export Development Canada.

When asked what message she wanted to send to Canada and its Parliament, one young girl met by the delegation indicated that she wanted a bigger school so that all her friends could get an education. The delegation heard her request and would like to see more development projects, particularly those related to girls' education.

Lastly, some parliamentarians who met with the delegation indicated that they were seeking more information on the various ways in which the government could be more transparent and accountable to the people and to the National Assembly or House of Representatives. The Canada–Africa Parliamentary Association encourages the House of Commons, the Senate and independent institutions such as the Office of the Auditor General of Canada and the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation to engage with Tanzanian parliamentarians.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The members of the delegation would like to thank the staff of the Embassy of Canada to Ethiopia, in particular Ambassador Joshua Tabah, Patrice Laquerre and Sara Worts. They would also like to thank Ambassador Ben-Marc Diendéré, Reid Cooper and the entire team at the Office of the Permanent Observer of Canada to the African Union. Their support before and during the mission to Addis Ababa was much appreciated.

The delegation would also like to express its gratitude to all the local and foreign contacts it met with in Ethiopia for sharing their valuable ideas and experiences.

The delegation would further like to thank the staff of the High Commission in Tanzania, in particular High Commissioner Kyle Nunas, Erick Kendrick, Janeth Shiyo, Helen Fytche, Stéphanie Brunet and Laurie Corriveau. They are also grateful to all the drivers and security staff.

The delegation would also like to thank all the contacts it met in Tanzania who shared their views and perspectives, and its hosts, in particular the National Assembly and the House of Representatives, their presidents and speakers, the members of parliamentary committees and groups, and the Government of Tanzania.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Amina Gerba, Senator  
Co-Chair  
Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association

Brenda Shanahan, MP  
Co-Chair  
Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association

## **Travel Costs**

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canada-Africa Parliamentary Association
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Mission on the margins of the African Union Summit and bilateral visit to Tanzania
<b>DESTINATION</b>	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Dar is Salaam, Dodoma and Zanzibar, Tanzania
<b>DATES</b>	From February 17 to 23, 2024
<b>DELEGATION</b>	
SENATE	Hon. Amina Gerba Hon. Salma Atallahjan Hon. Ratna Omidvar
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Brenda Shanahan Heather McPherson Taleeb Noormohamed
STAFF	Freddy Bobo Mukinayi, Secretary André Léonard, Advisor
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	\$ 63,616.71
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	\$ 17,444.37
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	\$ 5,837.89
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	\$ 3,322.69
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	\$ 0.00
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	\$ 1,578.07
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 91,799.73</b>