



## Collaborate, Create, Conquer

*“A sector that fails to come together is either weak or obsolete. A weak sector cannot effectively engage with others, as it has already lost its significance in shaping the nation’s future”.*

During the opening session of CSO Week 2024, Justice Rutenge, FCS Executive Director, expressed his gratitude to the government, represented by Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, the Minister of State in the President’s Office (Investment), for its continued support.

Rutenge also thanked development partners, representatives of the private sector, and CSOs for their tireless participation over the past six years. He then explained the theme and objectives of CSO Week and outlined his expectations for the upcoming sessions.

Emphasizing the importance of collaboration, Rutenge stated, *“A sector that fails to come together is either weak or obsolete. A weak sector cannot effectively engage with others, as it has already lost its significance in shaping the nation’s future”.*

He added that CSO Week presents a valuable opportunity to leave a lasting impact on the country’s development plans. He urged participants to approach discussions and planning with realism and to feel free to challenge unproductive ideas and processes.

Quoting the philosopher Karl Marx, who said, *“Men make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please; they do not make it under circumstances chosen by themselves, but under circumstances directly encountered, given and transmitted from the past,”* Rutenge emphasized the importance of considering the current reality when striving for progress.

He cautioned against relying solely on traditional development models, stating that regardless of external assistance, we must continue to move forward. While development partners can provide valuable support, our progress ultimately depends on our own efforts.

Rutenge concluded by highlighting the positive collaboration between the private sector and CSOs. He praised the private sector’s shift from profit-driven approaches to partnering with CSOs to promote development. FCS, he assured, would continue to support this effort by assisting the private sector in improving their CSR and ESG initiatives.





# VISION 2050



## CALLS FOR COMPETENT CIVIL SERVANTS, ACTIVISTS



As citizens brainstorm about designing Vision 2050, the Minister for Planning and Investment, Professor Kitila Mkumbo, has cautioned that Tanzania needs a capable state as well as civil society organisations if the country is to realise the ambitious blueprint.

A capable civil society organisation is the one that is conversant with its fundamental role of holding to account both the state and the private sector. “While the state is duty bound to protect interests of the public, the private sector often is profit driven,” he noted.

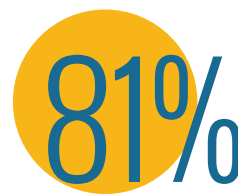
Prof Mkumbo said much as there was no state on earth prepared to be taken to task, it was the civil society organisations’ duty to fight for the opportunity for questioning the government’s performance.

He called on civil society organisations (CSOs) to consider changing focus of their discourses shrouded in politics at the moment to embrace economic issues including opportunities for production and trade.

“We’re making progress, pace is debatable,” observed the minister, calling on CSOs to have a wider analysis of the country’s history, current status and prospects in their critiques.

Prof Mkumbo was a speaker alongside the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) president, Dr Stigmata Tenga, in one of a series of the talk podcasts decorating the ongoing CSO Week 2024 in Arusha.

Dr Baruani Mshale, the Twaweza Director of Learning and Strategy, moderated the maiden podcast on Monday September 9, 2024.



Glad to see 81 per cent of opinions on the blueprint so far come from the youth group which constitutes 76 per cent of all Tanzanians,”

Prof Mkumbo  
Minister for Planning and Investment



Prof Mkumbo said the role of youth ahead of the Vision 2050 could not be overemphasized, as the group comprised key players in implementation of the blueprint in pipeline.

“Glad to see 81 per cent of opinions on the blueprint so far come from the youth group which constitutes 76 per cent of all Tanzanians,” said Prof Mkumbo stressing that the Vision 2050 should eradicate poverty, instead of alleviating it, and ensure the welfare of every citizen.



This calls for learning from other successful societies elsewhere by investing in education and infrastructure, and for promoting innovation.

“The first priority in investment should be electricity, with consumption per capita of at least 300 Megawatts to fuel industrialisation,” he said.

Prof Mkumbo said equally important was inculcating a savings culture at both individual and national level, stressing that family planning should base on a couple’s ability to raise and educate children, lest they became a liability.

Dr Tenga cautioned the youth, in turn, over embracing colonial education and accepting to be used for rubberstamping controversial laws and policies.

She wondered that the youth in the country were increasingly engrossed in betting games and searching for religious miracles, saying ‘there is more to their mental health than meets the eye’.



The veteran activist advised CSOs to consider reforming the aid system which she said was currently dictating donors’ agenda, citing contraceptives rolled out countrywide contrary to wishes of the people.

The CSO Week, which dates back to six years ago, aims at serving as an intergenerational and inclusive forum on the way forward for the country’s growth for a diverse of voices from civil society and partners.

This year’s edition of the CSO Week to be wound on Friday attracts non-governmental organisations, non-state actors, faith-based organisations, foundations, trusts, and groups of youth, women and students, among others.

Themed Leapfrogging and Futureproofing Tanzania in the Midst of Global Transformation, the podcasts intend to analyse essential strategies, tools, solutions and priorities for youth empowerment, gender equality, environmental sustainability and rural development.



**“The first priority in investment should be electricity, with consumption per capita of at least 300 Megawatts to fuel industrialisation,”**

Prof Mkumbo  
Minister for Planning and Investment



## CSOS WORK SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, ENVOYS SAY

It takes barely a month for an outsider to witness the power and vitality of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Tanzania, diplomats separately attested during the 2024 edition of the CSO Week held in Arusha.

During her one-month stay in Tanzania, the European Union Deputy Ambassador to the country Isabelle Mignucci has become aware of the crucial role CSOs play to the population, particularly marginalised and vulnerable people.

CSOs in the country provide essential services, filling gaps that would, otherwise, be left empty, says Mignucci, attributing the achievement to heightened partnership with the European Union (EU).

The 2021-24 EU-CSOs Road Map for Tanzania, for instance, invested Sh 32 billion in operational environment to foster dialogue and networking, and to strengthen the CSOs capacities.

The EU also works with the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) in implementing a citizenship project dubbed Uhai Wetu (Our Lives) that supports 15 local organisations in promoting democratic governance.

*“The EU has, in addition, been a long-term supporter and advocate for independent and representative CSOs, not just as a funder, but also as a long-term partner,”* the envoy noted.

Moreover, the EU has been engaging with CSOs in priority areas ranging from the green belt to building human capital and promoting employment and good governance.



***The 2021-24 EU-CSOs Road Map for Tanzania, for instance, invested Sh 32 billion in operational environment to foster dialogue and networking, and to strengthen the CSOs capacities***

Essential as their contribution is to the Tanzanian society, the CSOs job in the country is, however, an uphill task shrouded in significant challenges, as is the case elsewhere.

Lack of funding and capacities, regulatory hurdles and limited civic space are but a few constraints inhibiting CSOs from creating resilience, tolerance and hope effectively, freely and independently.

*“The CSO Week is a vital platform for strategising and tackling these challenges, but also for sharing experiences and best practices in the non-governmental landscape in Tanzania,”* said Mignucci, adding:

“EU believes in your mission and is committed to working alongside all actors: CSOs, private sector, government and other development partners in line with the week’s theme of Voice, Vision, Value.”

Carol Mundle, Head of Cooperation and High Commissioner of Canada in Tanzania, who has also been in the country for a month, shared similar observations with Mignucci.

To her, CSOs in the country serve as a central source of information and public discourses on government’s policy and spending.

Besides advocating for transparency, CSOs are also active in delivering critical services in a wide range of sectors, including health, education, agriculture, environment, climate change and gender equality.

In addition, Tanzania’s CSOs complement the work of government, private sector and multilateral organisations such as the World Bank.

Mundle is optimistic that the CSOs will play a vital role in supporting processes of Vision 2050 blueprint and the forthcoming elections by supporting civic education and engagement, forging dialogue and proposing policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of the communities they serve.

Canada, which has been actively working with government and CSOs for over five decades in Tanzania, partly shares the achievements in the performance of the organisations.

It is known that Canada has been supporting grassroots organisations through Women Fund Tanzania and the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, among other initiatives.





## World Bank to CSOs Let's strengthen our partnership

For years, there has been a widespread misconception about the World Bank's role. Some people mistakenly believe it only focuses on large government-led financial projects, while others confuse it with regular commercial banks.

Sumir Lal, ECR Regional Director, World Bank, says the Breton Woods was surprisingly still receiving applications at its headquarters based in Washington DC, US, for opening bank accounts with the institution.

*"Some visitors are even asking for the whereabouts of our automatic teller machines,"* wondered Mkrtychyan as he delved into enlightening 600 plus participants in the ongoing CSOs Week 2024 on the institution.

He told them that the World Bank was a cooperation belonging to 189 governments from across the world, Tanzania included, tasked to collect money and lend it to among its disadvantage stakeholders.

It comprises International Banks for Reconstruction and Development (BRD) which actually functions like any other ordinary bank, raising money from the market and lending it to governments with credit worthiness. The low-income governments, according to Lal, pay back the BRD loans at soft interest rates.

The Development Association (IDA) is another World Bank's wing to which donor countries contribute money after every three years for the low-income countries like Tanzania to borrow for them to make the best of their opportunities.

Unlike the BRD loans, the IDA ones do not attract interest and are paid back over a long period. Its donor countries are scheduled to meet in December

this year to decide the amount of money each will replenish.

Lal said CSOs were absolutely essential in the work the Breton Woods institution did, as it believed it could not achieve any of its objective without strong collaboration with them.

*"We are looking forward to know, interact with and listen to you all this week to tap into your wisdom,"* he said, explaining that whatever the World Bank did had to do it transparently.

The public ought to know about programmes in place and the amount of money lent to governments for it to track down the loans from the bank.

Lal said the World Bank enforced rigorous accountability measures within individual projects regarding social and environmental impacts.

*"Methods are in place for those affected by the projects to address challenges they face,"* added Lal, calling on the CSOs to access the World Bank's useful knowledge, research, and data to enhance their work.

He said the World Bank lacked the CSOs concept 40 years after its inception, but it was now engaging them at many levels, ranging from global to partnerships and projects in which activists served as part of the delivery system.

Lal said the World Bank's procedures and processes demanded widespread consultations since 1980s and that its strategies called for inclusion of CSOs and other stakeholders, including its critics whose perspectives it believed were important.



## Plan Today, Prosper Tomorrow

At a time when significant efforts are being made to ensure women's inclusion in the development of the 2050 National Vision, it has been highlighted that women continue to face a myriad of challenges. These challenges are economic, structural, cultural, and social.

**“The issues that were highlighted above are extremely upsetting. We can't talk about charting for the future, let alone Tanzania's Vision 2050, if such a complex web of issues is not solved.”**

Kai Mollel,  
Head of Stanbic Biashara Incubator, says,

In a special session at CSO Week 2024 organized by Stanbic Bank in partnership with TGPN and Launch Pad, several issues were discussed to highlight what we have learned as a society, especially from Tanzania Development Vision 2025. Were gender issues mainstreamed and well articulated?

The session moderator, Flora Ndaba from Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP), began by providing a brief overview of the current status of women, citing various statistics. From the presentation, it was clear that as a nation, we cannot make any progress if we continue to be divided on the basis of tribe, gender, race, religion, and place of origin.

What is the current situation economically? In the area of employment, women still lag far behind men. For example, according to NBS data (2017), only 42% of women were employed in the public sector, compared to 58% of men; in the private sector, it was 28% versus 72%. Apart from numbers, there are other issues such as sexual harassment when seeking employment. Sextortion is often an indicator of power imbalances within institutions. Even in the informal sector like agriculture, women still bear a heavy burden.

When it comes to access to social services, the situation is still poor, especially in terms of access to health, water, and education. The results are evident in the number of maternal deaths.





Many of these problems facing women are the result of financing problems. The playing field isn't fair since women have to face a lot of hurdles to overcome compared to men.

Responding to the above scenario, Kai Mollel, Head of Stanbic Biashara Incubator, says, "The issues that were highlighted above are extremely upsetting. We can't talk about charting for the future, let alone Tanzania's Vision 2050, if such a complex web of issues is not solved." She went on to explain that the same issues will affect even a 0-year-old girl born today as much as a 27-year-old woman 25 years from now is not that far.

The session then took another turn by inviting seasoned women champions, Bahati and Angela. The two role-played scenarios by visualizing their hopes for Tanzania in 2050. Afterwards, other participants had the opportunity to share their thoughts on the topic.

### **So we must ask ourselves, what have we learned from past macro-strategic plans? If not, then we are not ready for the preparations of Vision 2050.**

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Lilian Liundi  
Executive Director, TGPN

The key points that emerged were that by 2050, women should have access to quality education that empowers them to be confident and compete in the job market on an equal footing with men. Empowering education will enable them to be innovative in various technological fields. They should not be



afraid to pursue STEM subjects, considering that the world will be dominated by scientific advancements, especially AI. Women need to upskill or they will be left behind. Imagine if a woman were behind some of the world's greatest inventions!

In 2050, women should be able to participate in contesting for various leadership positions without any gender-based barriers. This means being involved in competitive political processes, starting at the party level, without being eliminated simply because they cannot offer sexual bribes. Being in decision-making positions will give women the opportunity to determine their own destiny.

On the other hand, women themselves must learn to be confident. They should not hesitate to demand what is rightfully theirs. This means that parents are now encouraged to prepare their children from an early age to believe in their abilities.

In conclusion, Lilian Liundi of TGPN shared the experiences they gained in involving women in Vision 2050 development. She emphasized that we must first understand that the needs of women are not homogenous, so it is important to involve all groups, including those with disabilities. A critical gender analysis will help to analyse the basic needs of women and thus ensure that resources such as budgets are directed to the intended beneficiaries, starting from the individual, family, and national levels. Finally, she asks a question: *So we must ask ourselves, what have we learned from past macro-strategic plans? If not, then we are not ready for the preparations of Vision 2050.*



# WE CAN'T AVOID INVESTING IN PEOPLE

The opening session of civil society organizations (CSOs) week featured an inspiring speech by Dr. Stigmata Tenga, President of the Foundation for Civil Societies.

Speaking to a packed audience of civil society leaders, partners, and stakeholders, Dr. Tenga underscored the importance of investing in people and building trust to achieve sustainable progress for all Tanzanians.

*“Every time we meet in a forum like this, we are celebrating the success of our investment in the development of the Tanzanian people,”* said Dr. Tenga, setting the tone for the day’s discussions.

She further highlighted that civil society organizations (CSOs) are at the forefront of facilitating change, ensuring that people remain at the heart of development efforts.

However, she cautioned that too often, the contribution of human resources—the very people who drive progress—is overlooked in broader development conversations.

In her remarks, Dr. Tenga stressed the importance of trust between civil society organizations, their partners, and the communities they serve.

*“It is essential that we build our conversations on a foundation of trust between us, our partners, and the people we serve,”* she said.

Dr. Tenga explained that trust is a key ingredient for successful collaborations and that, without it, efforts to implement sustainable projects or initiatives may fall short.

By setting up a collaborative environment grounded in mutual respect and trust, civil society organizations can work more effectively with government institutions, private sector players, and international development agencies.

On the same note, she called for strengthening these partnerships to address complex social and economic challenges, noting that genuine collaboration ensures that the voices of all stakeholders are heard and included in development solutions.



*“Too often, human resources are forgotten, yet they are the workforce that drives change and development,”* she remarked.

She urged CSOs and their partners to prioritize the development of human capital by creating opportunities for capacity building, education, and leadership.

In the same vein, she urged participants to focus on the collective efforts needed to achieve Tanzania’s Vision 2050.

As CSO Week kicks off, the delegates set the tone for the theme of **Voice, Vision, and Value**



# WHY TRADE SHOULD BE HANDLED WITH CARE

If you thought trade was a bed of roses, think again. It is beneficial to global economies, but destroys people as well through carbon emissions, TradeMark Africa (TMA) warns.

The continental outfit has since its inception 14 years ago been working round the clock to amplify the voice of the people as trade happens.

In so doing it believes the planet will remain safe, people will remain healthy and profits will benefit the critical mass of people on the continent and the world at large.

Trade is all about moving people and goods from one place to another using different transport modes, including roads, water and air freights, each significantly contributing to carbon emissions at the moment.

*"We are working with partners in the civil society to explore ways in which we can reduce carbon emissions and ensure people and goods reach destinations without causing much destruction to the environment,"* TradeMark Africa's Country Director Elibariki Shammy told the CSO Week in Arusha on Monday September 9, 2024.

Shammy said TradeMark Africa could not wait to see trade was inclusive, with women and youth constituting largest groups of people in the country's population participating in and benefiting from trade.

All what TradeMark Africa needed to make trade to happen in line with emerging technology, Shammy said, was the vocal voice of the people pertaining to the agenda.

*"We have huge opportunities for growth in Africa,"* noted Shammy as he commended the Tanzania government for continuously listening to the voice of the private sector pertaining to friendly environment and frameworks for facilitating trade.

*"But most importantly, for listening to the voice of people,"* said Shammy, noting, however, that TradeMark Africa had a long way to go, as the majority of citizens on the continent confused it with authorities responsible for registering intellectual property rights.

Flagged off in 2010, TradeMark Africa actually deals with easing market access and, more importantly, with reducing barriers to trade.

*"Trade is about people and we ensure people transact in an environment that is inclusive and resilient to the environment that embraces dynamism in the ever-changing world of digital trade,"* he said.

TradeMark Africa currently supports the African Continental Free Trade Area's agenda by helping countries to trade.

The role of TradeMark Africa as well as of its 12 donors spanning in 14 countries for the next seven years is to embrace digital trade.



## HOPE ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH. **STRATEGIZE!**

This was one of the most interesting sessions at CSO Week 2024. It was uniquely presented in podcast format. Rather than hosting esteemed guests of various social statuses to give speeches, this method allowed for open conversations. It put all speakers at ease by removing hierarchical barriers, making it a true dialogue. The session also featured interactive Q&A opportunities.

Moderated by Dr. Josephine Kimaro, the session was titled, *“How do we leapfrog and future-proof Tanzania in the midst of global transformation?”* It featured speakers and participants from diverse backgrounds, and several key issues emerged.

A World Bank representative, Aghassi Mkrtychyan, presented various statistics illustrating how Tanzania has made significant economic gains, especially over the past 25 years. However, the country still faces challenges. For example, only 11% of Tanzanians pay taxes, and the level of borrowing is low compared to other countries, which limits the country’s capacity for strategic investments. Mkrtychyan expressed hope that by 2050, Tanzania would at least double its GDP.

Regarding inclusion, particularly in the healthcare sector, there are still opportunities for the private sector and CSOs to collaborate with the government to ensure quality healthcare delivery. Currently, the government manages 60% of health facilities, while the non-governmental sector handles the remaining 40%.

Fredrick Msigalla, Advocacy and Disability Inclusion Manager at CCBRT, shared a vision of providing healthcare services to more Tanzanians by 2050, including extending health insurance to people with disabilities. “If the government can create a more enabling environment, we can achieve more than universal healthcare coverage. Services must be equitable for all social groups,” Msigalla emphasized.

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Advocacy and Disability Inclusion Manager at CCBRT

In the technological sector, Philip Besiimire, MD of Vodacom Tanzania, shared a hopeful vision for 2050. He envisions Tanzania being digitally connected, with a resilient economy. He highlighted how technology could help Tanzania diversify its economy, act as a catalyst for SMEs to thrive, enable more home-based businesses, create innovation hubs, and support a green economy. Currently, most investments are directed toward these areas.

However, Besiimire cautioned that technology alone cannot solve everything. Serious investment and integration of science and technology into education are essential. He gave an example of a doctor in New York assisting counterparts at Muhimbili Hospital, which would only be possible if the government, CSOs, and the private sector work together to institute pro-growth regulations that promote innovation and fairness. Lastly, he urged attendees to learn from the experiences of Estonia and Singapore.

Echoing this sentiment, Caroline Kandusi from the Segal Foundation emphasized the importance of investing in a skilled workforce. She believes CSOs have transformative power and can collaborate with the government to create solutions that resonate with the masses, such as generating new job opportunities.

Twaweza also shared fascinating results from their Sauti za Wananchi survey about Tanzanians’ perspectives on the future. It was encouraging to note that nearly 8 out of 10 people are optimistic about the future and believe the country will thrive.

According to the survey, Tanzanians’ top concerns include a thriving economy, quality public services, and peace and harmony. Currently, less than half (48%) of the population is satisfied with the quality of public services, indicating that Tanzanians prioritize quality over access.

The study also examined the values Tanzanian parents wish to instil in their children. Respondents prioritized hard work, followed by religious faith, responsibility, and imagination. This suggests that Tanzania is leaning more toward individual values than communal ones. In terms of leadership, Tanzanians value results-driven individuals over those with moral values alone.

Overall, the session highlighted that young people want to be at the center of all programming initiatives as Tanzania looks toward 2050.





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# VOICE VISION VALUE



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The background features a gradient from purple on the left to blue on the right. It is decorated with thin, wavy, light-colored lines that create a sense of motion and depth. Scattered throughout are numerous small, semi-transparent blue circles of varying sizes, some of which appear to be part of the wavy lines or floating independently.

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