



Permanent Mission of The
United Republic of Tanzania

NOTE VEBALE

Ref. No. NC 291/738/02/62

The Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch and wishes to acknowledge receipt of the latter's Note Verbale with Ref. No. AL TZA 3/2025 dated 3 July 2025 concerning allegations of severe environmental, climate and human rights impact of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and the Tilenga and Kingfisher Projects.

The Permanent Mission has the honour to communicate the response of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania as attached (Ref. No. CLB 415/833/01 dated 9th September, 2025).

The Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - Special Procedures Branch in Geneva, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 15 September, 2025

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Special Procedures Branch,
GENEVA.



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
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In reply please quote

Ref. No. CLB. 415/833/01

9th September, 2025

[REDACTED]
Special Rapporteur on the right to food;
GENEVA.

[REDACTED]
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on
the Issue of human rights and
transnational corporations and other business enterprises;
GENEVA.

[REDACTED]
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group
on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance;
GENEVA.

[REDACTED]
Special Rapporteur on the right to education;
GENEVA.

[REDACTED]
Special Rapporteur on the right to a clean,
healthy and sustainable environment;
GENEVA.

[REDACTED]
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial,
summary or arbitrary executions;
GENEVA

[REDACTED]
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing
as a component of the right to an
adequate standard of living, and on
the right to non-discrimination on this context;
GENEVA.

[REDACTED]
Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples;
GENEVA.

[REDACTED]
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group
on the rights of peasants and other
people working in rural areas;
GENEVA.

[REDACTED]
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights;
GENEVA.

[REDACTED]
Special Rapporteur on violence against women
and girls, its causes and consequences;
GENEVA.

Re: RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS OF THE EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE (EACOP)

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 3rd July 2025 in respect of the above-mentioned subject matter. The United Republic of Tanzania wishes to respond as follows:

2. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, henceforth the Government, acknowledges the Joint Communication from the United Nations Special Procedures concerning the EACOP project. Tanzania remains firmly committed to sustainable development, environmental protection, and the promotion of human rights, ensuring that all project activities comply fully with national laws as well as internationally recognized standards. The following provides clarifications and evidence in response to the allegations raised.

3. Background Information

Before venturing into addressing each allegation, by providing the factual situation regarding the matters raised, the Government finds it necessary to give a brief background on this particular project as hereunder:-

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) is a major transboundary infrastructure project aimed at transporting crude oil from the Hoima oil fields in Uganda to the Port of Tanga in Tanzania, for export. The project supports Uganda's goal of commercializing its oil resources discovered in the Albertine Graben in 2006 and aligns with Tanzania's strategic objectives of infrastructure development and energy-sector participation.

Following the discovery of commercially viable oil reserves in 2006, Uganda and Tanzania explored multiple export options before selecting the Uganda–Tanzania route in 2016. This was formalized through a bilateral agreement between the two

countries, leading to the signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) in 2017 and subsequent project agreements defining legal, financial, and operational frameworks. Key stakeholders include TotalEnergies (lead investor), China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), and the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC).

Spanning approximately 1,443 kilometers, the EACOP is set to become the world's longest heated crude oil pipeline, transporting 216,000 barrels per day. The project includes pumping stations, access roads, storage facilities, and a marine export terminal in Tanga. Comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) were conducted between 2019 and 2021, with mitigation measures including Resettlement Action Plans, biodiversity protection strategies, and grievance mechanisms.

The project reached financial close in 2021, marking the start of construction. As of 2025, construction and compensation activities for Project Affected Persons (PAPs) are ongoing, with the pipeline on track for commissioning in 2026, subject to completion of key infrastructure, environmental, and resettlement milestones.

4. In view of the above, the Government wishes to respond to the allegations as follows:-

i. Environmental and Climate Impacts

The Government **unequivocally refutes** any claims that the EACOP project has been implemented in violation of national environmental regulations. The project has been executed in full compliance with the Environmental Management Act, Cap. 191, with comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) meticulously conducted, reviewed, and formally approved by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) in November 2019. These assessments incorporated detailed analyses of physical, biological, and socio-economic environments, ensuring that all ecological sensitivities along the pipeline corridor were thoroughly addressed.

Contrary to allegations suggesting environmental negligence, the project deliberately avoided critical ecosystems, including the Minziro Forest Reserve, Biharamulo Game Reserve, and the Wembere Wetlands. Where avoidance was not feasible, robust mitigation measures were implemented, including horizontal directional drilling beneath rivers, erosion-control infrastructure, and comprehensive spill prevention systems.

A comprehensive Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was established to guarantee species protection, habitat restoration, and long-term ecological monitoring. Independent quarterly audits conducted between 2023 and 2025 confirm that the project consistently complies with both national legislation and international environmental standards. Furthermore, the project's design, incorporating electrically heated pipelines, actively minimizes greenhouse gas emissions and aligns with Tanzania's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. Collectively, these measures demonstrate Tanzania's steadfast commitment to environmental protection, climate responsibility, and sustainable infrastructure development.

ii. Inadequate or Delayed Compensation for Land and Resources;

Regarding the allegation of Inadequate or delayed compensation for land and resources, the Government **unequivocally affirms** that compensation for Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) under the EACOP project has been conducted in full compliance with national legislation and internationally recognized safeguards. All compensation programmes strictly adhere to the Land Act, Cap. 113, and the Village Land Act, Cap. 114, while also aligning with World Bank Environmental and Social Standard 5 (ESS5) and IFC Performance Standard 5 (PS5), ensuring both legality and fairness in the process.

As of June 2025, out of a total of 9,927 PAPs identified along the pipeline corridor, 9,863 individuals, representing an impressive 99.4 percent, have signed compensation agreements and received their entitled benefits. This demonstrates the Government's unwavering commitment to the protection of the rights and livelihoods of affected communities.

Regarding the 344 households physically displaced by the project, 340 replacement houses were fully agreed upon and have already been handed over, providing secure and dignified relocation for the vast majority of those affected. The few remaining cases are due to absentee ownership, succession disputes, or ongoing grievances, which are being addressed through structured, legally mandated mechanisms. To guarantee transparency and accountability, robust Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs) operate at the village, district, and national levels, ensuring that any disputes or concerns are resolved swiftly and fairly.

Independent monitoring confirms that these compensation processes are fully compliant with both Tanzanian law and international best practices. The

Government's actions reflect a clear and resolute commitment to **fair, transparent, and equitable treatment of all Project-Affected Persons**, setting a strong example for responsible project implementation in large-scale infrastructure initiatives.

iii. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and Community Engagement

The Government wishes to state that Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and community engagement, the Government unequivocally underscores that meaningful, inclusive, and participatory engagement has been a cornerstone of the EACOP project throughout its planning and implementation phases. Between 2017 and 2024, more than 200 meticulously structured public consultations were conducted across six regions, Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, and Manyara encompassing over 200 villages situated along the pipeline corridor. These engagements actively involved a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including local government leaders, village chairpersons, women's groups, youth representatives, and Project-Affected Persons, ensuring that every affected voice was heard and considered.

All engagement materials were prepared in Kiswahili and, where appropriate, translated into local languages such as Haya and Sukuma, guaranteeing accessibility, comprehension, and genuine inclusivity. Over 18,000 community members actively participated in these consultations, with women representing at least 42 per cent, reflecting a strong commitment to gender inclusivity and equitable participation.

Feedback obtained during these engagements played a decisive role in project design and implementation. Community inputs directly informed pipeline rerouting decisions in environmentally sensitive areas and led to refinements in compensation packages to better meet the needs of affected populations. While Tanzanian law does not explicitly mandate FPIC outside Indigenous contexts, the Government voluntarily adhered to participatory, transparent, and inclusive processes, ensuring that affected communities were empowered to make fully informed decisions regarding land acquisition, resettlement, and project impacts.

The Government continues to maintain ongoing communication with communities, including regular disclosure of environmental monitoring results, continuous consultation forums, and structured grievance resolution sessions throughout the operational phase of the project. These measures demonstrate the Government's unwavering commitment to community empowerment, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that development proceeds responsibly while respecting the rights, voices, and dignity of all affected populations.

iv. Human Rights Safeguards

As regard to human rights safeguards, the Government unequivocally affirms that no verified evidence exists of forced evictions, unlawful displacement, or violations of human rights in connection with the EACOP project. All land acquisition and compensation procedures have been conducted in strict compliance with Tanzanian law, ensuring that Project-Affected Persons retain the right to appeal or refuse compensation if they so choose. Cultural heritage and spiritually significant sites along the pipeline corridor were carefully identified and protected, with appropriate mitigation measures implemented to prevent any adverse impacts.

The Government continues to uphold the fundamental rights of communities, including the right to a clean and healthy environment, adequate housing, access to safe water, and the protection of livelihoods. Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs) are fully operational at village, district, and national levels, ensuring that any complaints or concerns raised by affected communities are addressed promptly, transparently, and effectively. These measures reflect the Government's unwavering commitment to protecting human rights and ensuring that the EACOP project is implemented in a manner that respects the dignity, rights, and welfare of all Tanzanians along the pipeline corridor.

v. Corporate Accountability

The Government **emphasizes** that EACOP Ltd operates within Tanzania's jurisdiction under the direct oversight of the Government through the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC). The Government has **mandated strict compliance** with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), as well as all applicable national environmental and human rights laws.

TPDC and EACOP Tanzania are **required to conduct comprehensive human rights due diligence**, ensure full access to information and meaningful public participation, respect the rights of all affected persons, implement robust grievance redress mechanisms, and submit to independent monitoring of their environmental, social, and human rights performance. These measures guarantee **accountability, transparency, and responsible corporate conduct**, demonstrating Tanzania's unwavering commitment to aligning domestic operations with internationally recognized standards and best practices.

vi. Remedies and Access to Justice

Tanzania **unequivocally affirms** that all victims of business-related human rights concerns, including Project-Affected Persons and environmental defenders, have guaranteed access to both judicial and non-judicial remedies. Judicial remedies are

fully available through the courts under the Basic Rights and Duties Enforcement Act, Cap. 3, ensuring that legal recourse is accessible and effective.

Similarly, non-judicial remedies are provided through robust Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs) established at village, district, and national levels, allowing for prompt, transparent, and fair resolution of complaints. The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) exercises independent oversight, ensuring that all grievances are thoroughly investigated and appropriately addressed.

This comprehensive framework **demonstrates the Government's unwavering commitment** to justice, accountability, and protection of rights, guaranteeing that all stakeholders affected by the EACOP project have access to effective, transparent, and timely remedies in line with both national law and international standards.

5. The Government **reaffirms** that the EACOP project is being implemented in full compliance with national legislation, international safeguards, and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Tanzania has consistently demonstrated its unwavering commitment to **transparency, accountability, environmental protection, human rights, and meaningful community engagement**. Through inclusive consultations, fair and timely compensation, rigorous ecological protection measures, and fully operational grievance mechanisms, the Government ensures that the EACOP project proceeds **responsibly, sustainably, and with full respect for both legal and ethical standards**.

4. Enclosed with this Government response are the relevant documents, provided for your ease of reference and thorough consultation.

I thank you for your understanding and cooperation.


**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
EAST AFRICAN COOPERATION**

Annexes:

- **Annex 1A:** NEMC ESIA approval certificates, biodiversity safeguard documentation, and quarterly audit summaries.
- **Annex 3A:** Attendance lists, minutes, and translated materials from ward and village consultations.
- **Annex 3C:** Consolidated stakeholder engagement reports (2017–2024).