



## Tanzania

### 1. An introduction

In October 2021, Russia began moving troops and military equipment near its border with Ukraine, reigniting concerns over a potential invasion. Commercial satellite imagery, social media posts, and publicly released intelligence from November and December 2021 showed armour, missiles, and other heavy weaponry moving toward Ukraine with no official explanation.

Since Russia launched a full-scale military invasion into Ukraine on February 24, 2022, fighting has caused nearly three thousand civilian deaths and internally displaced more than seven million people, according to the United Nations. The conflict has forced another five million Ukrainians to flee to neighbouring countries—the majority of whom have arrived in Poland, a NATO country where the United States and other allies are helping to accommodate the influx of refugees.

### 2. Key issue-areas

Many African countries including Tanzania have chosen to remain neutral in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, in order to give diplomacy a chance and focus on their own economic and political future in a world undergoing radical changes.

Given the economic and socio-political shift that has occurred in the domestic and international scene, The United Republic of Tanzania adopted a Foreign Policy focusing on economic diplomacy to secure the core national interest as a sovereign state. The Policy manifest itself in active international engagement, which is basically leveraged upon the pursuit of economic objectives, while at the same time preserving the gains of the past and consolidating the fundamental principles of Tanzania's traditional foreign policy.

Speaking on Wednesday March 30, at the World Government Summit in Dubai, Tanzania's Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango said Tanzania abstained from the vote because they wanted to give diplomacy a chance.

Dr Mpango was referring to Tanzania Government's vote at the UN General Assembly on March 2. The nonbinding resolution calling for Russia to withdraw from Ukraine was endorsed by 141 UN members, with five voting against and 35 abstentions – including 17 African countries.

### 3. **The proposed solution(s)**

While Africa is yet to fully recover from the socio-economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict poses another major threat to the global economy with many African countries including Tanzania being directly affected. Tanzania is keeping a close eye on developments in Eastern Europe so that the country can take appropriate measures to cushion its economy against the impact of tensions in that part of the world. To cushion country's economy the impact of the incidence, the GoT has taken the following initiatives;

- a) Just within a few months, oil crude prices have soared to unprecedented levels. Fuel prices have hit new highs in Tanzania as tensions in eastern Europe continued to hurt the global oil market. According to the latest cap prices for May for petroleum products, announced late Tuesday by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), petrol will be sold at Tsh3,148 (\$1.36) and diesel Tsh3,258 (\$1.40) per litre at the pump in Dar es Salaam. To handle the situation, Tanzania government through The Minister of Energy, January Makamba has on Tuesday May 10, said the Government has provided a subsidy of Sh100 billion to reduce fuel prices in the country. Speaking in Parliament Mr Makamba said the subsidy will reduce government spending for the remainder of 2021/22 fiscal year.
- b) Production of the Royal Tour Documentary, the documentary was shot and filmed in Tanzania, it will be used to market the country's tourist attractions on a global scale, in the government's renewed effort to boost tourists after the global Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. President Samia was involved in recording the documentary last year as she traveled to various tourist attraction sites with the American-based film crew. Tanzania's tourism sector, which was adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as well as by ongoing Russia – Ukraine Conflict has been in a recovery mode, with the Bank of Tanzania's figures showing that during the year ending February 2022, foreign exchange earnings from the sector rose to \$1.457 billion from only \$645.4 million during a similar period last year. The rise was due to an 87.9 percent increase in tourist arrivals, which reached 958,173 travellers during the year ending February 2022.

The Royal Tour will achieve its objectives of promoting Tanzania as a leading country in terms of tourist attractions globally and thus help attract tourists to Tanzania...It will also boost trade between Tanzania and other countries and attract investors to come and invest in the country