

## Joint statement by the Heads of Missions of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland in Tanzania

Now that the 2020 electoral campaign has started, the Heads of Missions of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland in Tanzania extend our best wishes to all candidates contesting for the Presidential, parliamentary and council positions. We equally express our eager hope and anticipation that the process will see pledges for free and fair elections come true during the 2020 election period. We underline our support to the democratic process and the functioning of democratic institutions in Tanzania. We hope that both men and women, the young and the elderly, will have equal opportunities to participate throughout the remaining process. Enhanced transparency through means like internal and external observation, broad, free and equitable media coverage, as well as clear and fair adjudication of disputes, will also strengthen the legitimacy of the whole electoral process among Tanzanian citizens. We call on all stakeholders to commit to ensuring a secure environment for all contestants, respect for the rule of law and full impartiality of the institutions and authorities in charge of managing the elections. As representatives of our countries we recall our longstanding interest in and support for development and democracy in Tanzania based on our long historic and close relationships.