

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4577

To reassess the United States-Tanzania bilateral relationship, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19, 2026

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. CRUZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To reassess the United States-Tanzania bilateral relationship, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reassessing the United
5 States-Tanzania Bilateral Relationship Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Tanzania is one of Africa’s fastest growing
9 economies with strong economic growth over the

1 past decade due to the expansion of key sectors, in-
2 cluding agriculture, mining, and tourism.

3 (2) Tanzania's reliability as a partner to the
4 United States is increasingly in question due to on-
5 going political repression, violations of religious free-
6 dom and freedom of expression, and persistent bar-
7 riers to United States investment.

8 (3) The October 29, 2025, general elections
9 were marked by significant political interference, in-
10 cluding ballot manipulation and vote tabulation
11 irregularities, which favored incumbent President
12 Samia Suluhu Hassan and other candidates of Tan-
13 zania's parliamentary majority party, Chama Cha
14 Mapinduzi (CCM).

15 (4) Leading up to the general elections in Tan-
16 zania's October 29, 2025, election, multiple incidents
17 of political abductions and disappearances occurred
18 in Tanzania, most recently the abduction and subse-
19 quent disappearance of Tanzanian Ambassador
20 Humphrey Polepole on October 6, 2025.

21 (5) A range of actions by the CCM, a political
22 party that has continuously held a parliamentary
23 majority and controlled Tanzania's central govern-
24 ment since the CCM's formation in 1977, has se-
25 verely undermined democracy in the country.

1 (6) The ongoing treason trial of Chadema oppo-
2 sition figure Tundu Lissu, terrorism charges against
3 Chadema Deputy John Heche, and charges and de-
4 tentions of other opposition party members are po-
5 litically motivated and intended to prevent opposi-
6 tion figures from standing for elections.

7 (7) The Government of Tanzania has engaged
8 in violations of religious freedom, including the rev-
9 ocation of registration for religious institutions, har-
10 assment, detention, and attacks against religious
11 leaders, and restrictions on religious worship and ex-
12 pression.

13 (8) During mass citizen protests against Tanza-
14 nia's fraudulent and illegitimate October 29, 2025,
15 general elections, the Tanzanian Police and Tan-
16 zania Defense Forces killed hundreds of Tanzanian
17 citizens and endangered the lives of United States
18 citizens and tourists visiting the country.

19 (9) While protestors faced attacks by Tanza-
20 nian Security Forces, the Government of Tanzania
21 imposed an internet shutdown impacting online con-
22 nections, communications, business, and banking,
23 disrupting regional trade and costing the country an
24 estimated \$238,000,000 in the process.

1 (10) In response to this unprecedented violence
2 and unrest in Tanzania, the United States Embassy
3 in Tanzania issued a Security Alert on October 30,
4 2025, calling on United States citizens in Tanzania
5 to shelter-in-place.

6 (11) Following the electoral protests, the Tan-
7 zanian electoral commission released disputed results
8 from the fraudulent election, declaring President
9 Samia Suluhu Hassan the winner with 98 percent of
10 the vote.

11 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

12 It is the sense of Congress—

13 (1) that it is in the national security interests
14 of the United States to help counter democratic
15 backsliding of key partner nations where the United
16 States has supplied billions of dollars worth of in-
17 vestment, development, humanitarian assistance, and
18 security partnerships;

19 (2) that the actions by the Government of Tan-
20 zania have subverted democracy, blatantly violated
21 citizens' fundamental human rights, disrupted re-
22 gional trade, and endangered the safety and security
23 of Tanzanians, tourists, and the diplomatic commu-
24 nity;

1 (3) that these actions place United States na-
2 tional interests in Tanzania at risk and threaten to
3 undermine regional stability and long-term bilateral
4 cooperation;

5 (4) to support the decision to terminate Tanza-
6 nia's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)
7 threshold program; and

8 (5) to express solidarity with the people of Tan-
9 zania, recognizing the unprecedented levels of vio-
10 lence experienced in Tanzania and support calls for
11 an international independent investigation into the
12 pre- and post-election violence in Tanzania leading
13 those who conducted violence against Tanzania civil-
14 ians to be held accountable for human rights viola-
15 tions.

16 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES REASSESSMENT WITH TANZANIA.**

17 (a) **BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP REASSESSMENT.**—
18 The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary
19 of Defense, the United States Trade Representative, and
20 the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall conduct
21 a comprehensive reassessment of the bilateral relationship
22 between the United States and Tanzania.

23 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The reassessment required under
24 subsection (a) shall include—

1 (1) an analysis of the democratic priorities and
2 trajectory of Tanzania;

3 (2) a detailed strategy on the necessary demo-
4 cratic reforms needed in Tanzania;

5 (3) an assessment of United States security as-
6 sistance to Tanzania to ensure that the Tanzanian
7 Defense Forces and Tanzanian Police are reliable
8 partners that adhere to Tanzania’s constitutionally
9 mandated human rights and rule of law norms and
10 protect the safety of citizens and all visitors to the
11 country of Tanzania;

12 (4) an assessment of how recent political unrest
13 and internet shutdown in Tanzania have impacted
14 United States business, investments, and partner-
15 ships in Tanzania; and

16 (5) an evaluation of the relationship between
17 the Government of Tanzania and the Government of
18 the People’s Republic of China, including—

19 (A) military and security cooperation, in-
20 cluding training, exercises, arms transfers, and
21 cooperation between defense, intelligence, or law
22 enforcement entities;

23 (B) economic engagement, including in-
24 vestments, loans, and financing involving Chi-
25 nese-state-owned or affiliated entities, and the

1 impact of such activities on market access, debt
2 sustainability, and the competitiveness of
3 United States companies; and

4 (C) political cooperation with the Govern-
5 ment of the People's Republic of China that
6 seeks to undermine democratic principles, ad-
7 vance one-party consolidation, and solidify anti-
8 American and anti-Western sentiment internally
9 and internationally.

10 (c) REPORT ON FINDINGS.—Not later than 90 days
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
12 of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of
13 Congress a report that includes the findings of the review
14 required under subsection (a).

15 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN LEADERSHIP**
16 **POSITIONS IN TANZANIA.**

17 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to
19 the appropriate congressional committees, the Committee
20 on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate,
21 and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of
22 Representatives a report that includes a list of each for-
23 eign person that the Secretary determines—

24 (1) holds a senior position in the Government
25 of Tanzania, the leadership of Chama Cha

1 Mapinduzi, the Tanzania Police Force, the Tanza-
2 nian People's Defense Force, or the Tanzanian In-
3 telligence and Security Service; and

4 (2) is responsible for or complicit in, or has di-
5 rectly or indirectly engaged in—

6 (A) ordering, controlling, or otherwise di-
7 recting abductions, enforced disappearances, or
8 arbitrary detention of political opponents, jour-
9 nalists, or civil society actors;

10 (B) the targeting harassment, intimidat-
11 ion, detention, or use of violence against jour-
12 nalists, media organizations, or activists to sup-
13 press dissent or silence public reporting on
14 human rights violations;

15 (C) censorship, shutdowns, or other re-
16 strictions on media, internet access, or freedom
17 of expression intended to conceal human rights
18 abuses or prevent the dissemination of credible
19 information;

20 (D) severe violations of religious freedom,
21 including the persecution of individuals or
22 groups on account of religion, prohibitions or
23 restrictions on religious worship, assembly, or
24 expression, or acts of violence, coercion, or dis-
25 crimination against religious communities;

1 (E) the use of transnational repression tac-
 2 tics that target foreign nationals, Tanzanian
 3 citizens, and diaspora members regionally and
 4 internationally;

5 (F) extrajudicial killings, torture, or gross
 6 violations of internationally recognized human
 7 rights; or

8 (G) other actions that violate or undermine
 9 internationally recognized human rights or the
 10 civil liberties guaranteed to Tanzanian citizens
 11 under the Constitution of Tanzania.

12 **SEC. 6. SANCTIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
 14 submission of the report, the President may impose sanc-
 15 tions described in subsection (b) with respect to any for-
 16 eign person identified in the report required under section
 17 5(a)(1) that the Secretary determines meets the criteria
 18 described in section 5(a)(2)(A).

19 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
 20 scribed in this paragraph are the following:

21 (1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President
 22 may exercise all authorities under the International
 23 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701
 24 et seq.), to the extent necessary to block and pro-
 25 hibit all transactions in property and interests in

1 property of a foreign person if such property and in-
2 terests in property are in the United States, come
3 within the United States, or come within the posses-
4 sion or control of a United States person.

5 (2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR
6 PAROLE.—

7 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An
8 alien described in subsection (a) shall be—

9 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

10 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
11 documentation to enter the United States;
12 and

13 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
14 or paroled into the United States or to re-
15 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
16 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
17 seq.).

18 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

19 (i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other
20 entry documentation of any alien described
21 in subsection (a) is subject to revocation
22 regardless of the issue date of the visa or
23 other entry documentation.

24 (ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revoca-
25 tion under clause (i) shall, in accordance

1 with section 221(i) of the Immigration and
2 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

3 (I) take effect immediately; and

4 (II) cancel any other valid visa or

5 entry documentation that is in the

6 possession of the alien.

7 (c) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

8 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-
9 ercise all authorities provided under sections 203
10 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic
11 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) for purposes
12 of carrying out this section.

13 (2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in
14 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
15 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
16 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates,
17 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
18 violation of this section or any regulations promul-
19 gated to carry out this section to the same extent
20 that such penalties apply to a person that commits
21 an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of that
22 Act.

23 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term
25 “agricultural commodity” has the meaning given

1 such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade
2 Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

3 (2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
4 son” means a person that is not a United States
5 person.

6 (3) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term “medical de-
7 vice” has the meaning given the term “device” in
8 section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-
9 metic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

10 (4) MEDICINE.—The term “medicine” has the
11 meaning given the term “drug” in section 201 of the
12 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.
13 321).

14 (e) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President
15 may terminate the application of a sanction imposed pur-
16 suant to this section with respect to a person if the Presi-
17 dent certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress
18 that—

19 (1) the person is not engaging in the activity
20 that was the basis for such sanction or has taken
21 significant verifiable steps toward stopping such ac-
22 tivity; and

23 (2) the President has received reliable assur-
24 ances that the person will not knowingly engage in
25 activity subject to such sanction in the future.

1 (f) EXCEPTIONS.—

2 (1) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions
3 authorized under this section shall not apply to—

4 (A) the conduct or facilitation of a trans-
5 action for the provision of agricultural commod-
6 ities, food, medicine, medical devices, humani-
7 tarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes;
8 or

9 (B) transactions that are necessary for, or
10 ordinarily incident to, the activities described in
11 subparagraph (A).

12 (2) COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLI-
13 GATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—
14 Sanctions authorized under this section shall not
15 apply with respect to an alien if admitting or parol-
16 ing such alien is necessary—

17 (A) to comply with United States obliga-
18 tions under—

19 (i) the Agreement between the United
20 Nations and the United States of America
21 regarding the Headquarters of the United
22 Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,
23 1947, and entered into force November 21,
24 1947;

1 (ii) the Convention on Consular Rela-
 2 tions, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and
 3 entered into force March 19, 1967; or

4 (iii) any other international agree-
 5 ment; or

6 (B) to carry out or assist law enforcement
 7 activity in the United States.

8 (3) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVI-
 9 TIES.—Sanctions authorized under this section shall
 10 not apply to—

11 (A) any activity subject to the reporting
 12 requirements under title V of the National Se-
 13 curity Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

14 (B) any authorized intelligence activities of
 15 the United States.

16 (4) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF
 17 GOODS.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The requirement to
 19 block and prohibit all transactions in all prop-
 20 erty and interests in property under this section
 21 shall not include the authority or a requirement
 22 to impose sanctions on the importation of
 23 goods.

24 (B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph,
 25 the term “good” means any article, natural or

1 man-made substance, material, supply or manu-
2 factured product, including inspection and test
3 equipment, and excluding technical data.

4 (g) RULEMAKING.—The President is authorized to
5 promulgate such rules and regulations as may be nec-
6 essary to carry out the provisions of this section (which
7 may include regulatory exceptions), including under sec-
8 tion 205 of the International Emergency Economic Pow-
9 ers Act (50 U.S.C. 1704).

10 **SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN UNITED STATES ASSIST-**
11 **ANCE AND INVESTMENTS FOR TANZANIA.**

12 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection
13 (c), none of the following may be obligated, expended, or
14 otherwise made available for any entity in Tanzania:

15 (1) Security assistance, as defined in section
16 502B(d)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
17 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(2)).

18 (2) Assistance, grants, loans, loan guarantees,
19 insurance, equity investments, or other support pro-
20 vided by—

21 (A) the United States International Devel-
22 opment Finance Corporation;

23 (B) the Export-Import Bank of the United
24 States; or

1 (C) the United States Trade and Develop-
2 ment Agency.

3 (b) CERTIFICATION.—The prohibition under sub-
4 section (a) shall terminate beginning on the date that is
5 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of State
6 submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a writ-
7 ten certification that the Government of Tanzania has—

8 (1) enacted electoral reforms to advance free,
9 fair, and transparent elections;

10 (2) suspended politically motivated or illegit-
11 imate criminal proceedings, corrected flawed or im-
12 proper judicial judgments, and released opposition
13 leaders and other individuals detained on politically
14 motivated grounds;

15 (3) taken demonstrable steps to hold govern-
16 ment officials, members of the security forces, and
17 law enforcement personnel accountable for political
18 abductions, electoral violence, and actions that un-
19 dermine democratic institutions; and

20 (4) ceased the political intimidation and censor-
21 ship of media figures, journalists, and civil society
22 actors.

23 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition under subsection
24 (a) shall not apply to—

25 (1) humanitarian assistance;

1 (2) health assistance; and

2 (3) assistance to support democracy, human
3 rights, governance, and civil society in Tanzania.

4 **SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE COR-**
5 **PORATION FUNDS FOR TANZANIA.**

6 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection
7 (b), no Millennium Challenge Corporation funds may be
8 committed, obligated, expended, or otherwise made avail-
9 able for support for any threshold or compact activities
10 in Tanzania.

11 (b) CERTIFICATION.—The prohibition under sub-
12 section (a) shall terminate beginning on the date that is
13 30 days after the date on which the Board of Directors
14 of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, acting through
15 the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge
16 Corporation, submits to the appropriate committees of
17 Congress a written certification that the Government of
18 Tanzania has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to
19 just and democratic governance in accordance with the cri-
20 teria described in section 607 of the Millennium Challenge
21 Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7706).

22 **SEC. 9. APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-**
23 **FINED.**

24 In this Act, the term “appropriate committees of
25 Congress” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
2 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

3 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
4 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives.

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