**Press Release**

**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Launches National Energy Efficiency Strategy During Regional Energy Efficiency Conference.**

4 December 2024, Arusha, Tanzania – The Ministry of Energy, in partnership with the UNDP and with support from the European Union (EU) and the Embassy of Ireland, hosted the inaugural Regional Energy Efficiency Conference in Arusha. This pivotal event highlighted Tanzania’s commitment to energy efficiency as a key driver of economic growth, energy security, and environmental sustainability.

The conference was marked by the official launch of the National Energy Efficiency Strategy (2024–2034) by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Hon. Dr. Doto Mashaka Biteko. The strategy is a key milestone under Tanzania’s first Energy Efficiency Action Plan and positions energy efficiency at the heart of the country’s development agenda.

*“The launch of the National Energy Efficiency Strategy today demonstrates the government’s commitment and reflects the vital support provided by development partners to advance energy efficiency measures and contribute to a greener world,”* said Dr. Biteko during his opening remarks. Dr. Biteko also underscored how energy efficiency can help Tanzania reduce energy losses, currently at 14%, while raising awareness about minimising waste, fostering green jobs, and driving innovation in energy efficiency technologies.

Mr. Marc Stalmans, Head of Cooperation at the EU, emphasised the importance of harmonizing energy efficiency standards across Tanzania and the East African Community (EAC): *“The harmonization of energy efficiency standards for Tanzania and the EAC is key to driving transformative changes in inefficient appliances, reducing costs, and promoting regional integration.”*

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (a.i.), Mr. Amon Manyama, underscored the role of energy efficiency in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): *“Energy efficiency reduces waste, optimizes costs, and bridges the gap between energy supply and demand—advancing SDG 7 (affordable and sustainable energy). By lowering carbon emissions, it also supports SDG 13, building resilience against climate change.”*

The conference, attended by over 500 participants from across the EAC and Southern African Development Community (SADC), provided a platform for regional collaboration, panel discussions, and innovative partnerships. Stakeholders from government, academia, the private sector, and media came together to chart a path toward a more energy-efficient and sustainable future.END