

AFRICA WATCH



TANZANIA IN INSTC



**GLOBAL EYE
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Overview


This Strategic Intelligence Report examines the potential involvement of Tanzania in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the broader geopolitical implications for key global players, including Russia, India, and China. Based on an extensive open-source intelligence investigation, the report delves into the strategic value of Tanzania's ports and resources, with a particular focus on how Russia seeks to integrate Tanzania into the INSTC framework. Russian and African media outlets, notably Sputnik Africa's Telegram page, were instrumental in providing insights into Moscow's geopolitical maneuvers.





Key Findings

- **Russia's Geopolitical Strategy:** Russia has been enhancing its presence in Tanzania, investing in various sectors like energy and pharmaceuticals. Russia is particularly interested in developing Tanzania's port infrastructure, positioning the country as a vital logistics hub in the INSTC. Russia's investment in Tanzanian ports—such as Tanga, Mtwara, and Dar es Salaam—plays a crucial role in establishing a strategic gateway to East Africa and the Indian Ocean, complementing its overall strategy to bypass traditional Western-dominated trade routes.
- **Economic and Strategic Assets of Tanzania:** Tanzania's location on the Indian Ocean and its developed port infrastructure make it an attractive candidate for the INSTC. The ports offer significant advantages in connecting Russia and its partners with key markets in the Middle East, East Africa, and beyond. Additionally, Tanzania's abundant natural resources, including rare earth metals, offer further economic incentives for international collaboration within the corridor.



3. China's Growing Influence in Tanzania: Although China is not directly involved in the INSTC, its investments in Tanzania continue to grow. Chinese interests in Tanzania align with Beijing's broader "String of Pearls" strategy, aiming to secure critical maritime trade routes and access to Africa's natural resources. While searches on Chinese platforms yielded limited new data, China's increasing economic footprint in Tanzania is notable, especially given its strategic alignment with both Russia and India in various global initiatives.

4. Impact on Indian Interests: India, a founding member of the INSTC, views Tanzania's potential involvement as an opportunity to strengthen its ties with East Africa and secure critical supply routes in the Indian Ocean region. Tanzania's ports could complement India's "Necklace of Diamonds" strategy, which aims to counter China's influence in the Indian Ocean and Africa.



Geopolitical Context

The INSTC was conceived in 2000 and ratified in 2002 by India, Iran, and Russia. It spans over 7,200 kilometers and aims to reduce transit time and cost between Europe and Asia by 40%. The corridor has since expanded to include 13 member nations, with discussions ongoing about incorporating East African countries like Tanzania.

Implications for Tanzania

Political Alignment: By joining the INSTC, Tanzania could strengthen its geopolitical position and diversify its international partnerships beyond its traditional alliances. This could lead to increased foreign direct investment (FDI) and infrastructure development, but also requires careful navigation of potential diplomatic friction between its key partners (Russia, China, and India).

Economic Opportunities: Tanzania's ports could see a surge in development projects and trade, boosting its economy. The inclusion in the INSTC would further integrate Tanzania into global supply chains, enhancing its economic resilience.

Security Considerations: Closer ties with Russia and India through the INSTC could also impact Tanzania's security landscape, as it may attract more attention from international actors and face competing interests from regional and global powers.



Outlook and Recommendations

For Russia: Securing Tanzania's involvement in the INSTC aligns with Moscow's broader strategy in Africa and the Indian Ocean. Continued diplomatic and economic engagement will be essential for solidifying this partnership.

For Tanzania: Joining the INSTC could open up significant economic opportunities but will require careful diplomatic balancing between Russia, India, China, and other global actors to maximize benefits without over-reliance on any single partner.

For Global Stakeholders: The potential integration of Tanzania into the INSTC may shift trade dynamics in the region, offering new opportunities and risks. Stakeholders should monitor developments closely to understand the broader implications for East African trade and international geopolitical competition.



Conclusion

Tanzania's potential involvement in the INSTC presents significant geopolitical and economic opportunities for Russia, India, and China, while also positioning Tanzania as a pivotal player in East Africa's future trade and logistics landscape. The strategic value of its ports, natural resources, and geopolitical alignment with major powers suggests that Tanzania could become a key node in the evolving global trade corridors. However, Tanzania will need to carefully manage its growing international ties to navigate the complexities of global diplomacy and ensure sustainable economic growth.



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