Message from the EAC Secretary General, Ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko

April 2016, the East African Community attained international recognition as the fastest growing Regional Economic Bloc in Africa. This was reported by the UK’s Guardian newspaper. This recognition was a result of the major accomplishments the EAC has attained in the recent past. The EAC also emerged as the fastest integrating Regional Economic Community (REC) in the Continent according to the recent Africa Regional Integration Index Report 2016, jointly carried out by African Union Commission, African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

According to the study, which covered eight recognized Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa, EAC emerged the best performing REC in Regional Integration.

EAC has registered great strides in the key pillars of integration, namely:

1. Customs Union:
The EAC is now implementing a single customs territory, which means goods are cleared only once at the entry point. This has resulted in the drastic reduction of the period taken to clear and transport goods. It used to take 20 days to clear and transport goods from Mombasa to Kampala, it now takes four days to transport goods to Kampala and about six days from Mombasa to Kigali. This has greatly reduced the costs of doing business by bringing down the transport costs.

Also, out of the 15 borders earmarked to operate as One Stop Border Posts (OSBP), 13 have now been completed and 20 of these are already operational. One Stop Border Posts will reduce the amount of time spent at the boarder points.

2. Common Market:
The protocol provides for the free movement of people, labour, goods, services and capital. Laws have already been enacted in our Partner States to ensure that citizens enjoy the freedoms, move freely and trade freely. It is three out of the five countries in EAC, their respective citizens can enter and exit their territories using their IDs. I am sure that in future this will be the norm in all the countries after the process of ensuring this is complete. EAC Partner States are further expected to commence the issuance of the International East African Electronic passport by January 2018.

In terms of free movement of labour, some EAC Partner States are now issuing work permits free of charge. Some professionals can also practice in the region without requirement of further accreditation because their qualifications are mutually recognized. Professionals that have already signed Mutual Recognition Agreements include: Engineers, Architects, Accountants and Veterinary Officers. A similar process is underway for Lawyers.

3. Monetary Union:
The EAC has been trying to lay a foundation for the establishment of a monetary union. The dream is to have East Africans trade easily using any of their currencies and eventually have an East African common currency. Towards this end, we are in the process of establishing four key institutions to support the Monetary Union as provided for in the Protocol, namely: EAC Monetary Institute; EAC Statistics Bureau; EAC Financial Services Commission, and; EAC Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement Commission. This is because a strong Monetary Union will require a robust institutional framework to ensure compliance and safeguard the convergence process.

4. Political Federation:
EAC’s the only REC in the continent that has the dream of walking the whole integration journey of integration. Our ultimate dream is to be in a political federation which is the most unique feature of our integration process. To prepare ground for the Federation, the EAC continues to promote good governance across the region. This is evidenced by the successful Election Observer Missions in Partner States that have either held general elections or referenda. In August 2017, the Community will send Election Observer Missions to the Republics of Kenya and Rwanda which will be holding elections.

infrastructure

The integration process anywhere in the world can never be a successful integration unless the member countries are interconnected. EAC has therefore been implementing programmes aimed at connecting the region and mainly in infrastructure and energy. In infrastructure development, Partner States have engaged and completed specific projects e.g. roads, railways, liberalization of air transport services and energy.

Implementation of Quality Management System

The Secretariat has continued to roll out Quality Management System based on ISO 9001:2008. The EAC is now ISO certified a confirmation that our processes meet internationally recognized standards.

All these positive developments go a long way to show that the Community is right on track in enhancing cooperation among the Partner States in, among other areas, economic, social, cultural and political fields for the benefit of all East Africans.

EAC Secretariat, Arusha, Tanzania
Infrastructure Development

(a) Roads Subsector

In May, 2017, construction of the Taveta – Mwatate road, which is 90 km long and is part of the multinational Arusha – Holili/Taveta – Voi road, was substantially completed. It now takes one and a half hours to cover the distance, from the previous four hours when it was a gravel road. On the Tanzanian side, the dualling of the Sakina – Tengeru section, 14 km long, was nearing completion and construction of the 42-km long Arusha Bypass had commenced. Further, the detailed design studies for the 400-km long Malindi - Lunga Lunga and Thanga - Bagamoyo road between Kenya and Tanzania were completed.

In addition, the feasibility studies and detailed designs of two key links for the Republics of Rwanda and Burundi to the Central Corridor commenced in April, 2016. One project is the 250-km long Nyakanazi – Katulu – Masuyovu road in Tanzania linking to the 78-km long Rumonge – Bujumbura road in Burundi. The other is the 92-km long Luahungu – Rusumo road in Tanzania linking to the 70-km long Kayonza – Kigali road in Rwanda. The studies are expected to be completed by December 2017.

(b) Trade and Transport Facilitation

Both the EAC Vehicle Load Control Act 2016 and the EAC One Stop Border Post Act 2016 commenced on 1st October, 2016. The Regulations to support the implementation of the two laws were adopted by the Council in April, 2017. The Vehicle Load Control Act, 2016 aims to harmonize how Partner States regulate vehicle loading including the types of equipment, the overload fee payments, optimal spacing of weighing stations and data sharing. One stop border posts are part of the efforts to reduce the cost of transportation by reducing transaction times. Benefits are already being felt at the completed OSBPs where traffic spends as little as 20 – 30 minutes to finalize border procedures, from the previous 3 – 4 hours or more.

The EAC standardized curricula for drivers of large commercial vehicles have been adopted by the Council of Ministers and the preparation of a legal framework to support their implementation is ongoing. The curriculum will ensure that driver training in the region follows a uniform format, is benchmarked to international standards and will address pertinent issues like road safety and environmental protection.

(c) Railways

The construction of the Mombasa-Nairobi standard gauge railway line in Kenya is almost complete and inauguration is scheduled for June, 2017. The construction of the Nairobi-Naivasha section has also commenced. Similarly, construction of the new standard gauge railway of the Kampala-Malaba section in Uganda is expected to commence during FY 2017/18. For the Central Corridor, the construction of the Dar-es-Salam-Morogoro section commenced in April, 2017.

The Secretariat completed the study known as The EAC Railways Sector Enhancement Project in August, 2016. The study has made recommendations on new priority lines and has proposed institutional reforms aimed at improving the railways sector in the region. To facilitate the development and operation of seamless and efficient railway transport services in the region, the

EAC Heads of State cut the ribbon to launch the construction works for the Tanzanian section of the Arusha-Holili/Voi road at Tengeru near Arusha in April, 2016.

The Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway currently under construction

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport
Secretariat has developed technical specifications for rail infrastructure and appropriate regulations for safety, inter-operability and access management. These await the development of appropriate legal frameworks to anchor their implementation.

(d) Tripartite (COMESA-EAC-SADC) Cooperation

Under the Infrastructure Development Pillar of the Tripartite Free Trade Area, the EAC is collaborating with COMESA and SADC to implement the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Program through harmonization of policies, standards and specifications in the roads sector. With funding from the EU under the 11th EDF funding cycle, the three RECs aim to harmonize over the next four years the following standards and systems:

- Vehicle Dimensions and Equipment Standards
- Transportation of Abnormal Loads and Dangerous Goods
- Training and Licensing of Commercial Drivers
- Road Transport Management System (RTMS)

The Tripartite also aims to develop the following policy documents:

- Tripartite Vehicle Load Management Agreement
- Tripartite Multilateral Cross Border Road Transport Agreement
- A Regional Weighbridge Location Plan and interconnectivity of weighbridges

(d) Maritime Transport and Corridor Development

It is a well-known fact that this region has lost many lives at sea and inland waterways due to lack of rapid mechanisms for search and rescue. To address this, the EAC has developed harmonised aeronautical and maritime search and rescue plan. The plan is expected to anchor the operationalization of the EAC Search and Rescue Agreement. Joint aeronautical and maritime search and rescue drill exercises will be organized periodically in order to improve the regional preparedness to respond to accidents and incidents.

At the end of 2016, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted amendments to Chapter VI of the Safety of Life at Sea, that is the SOLAS Convention, requiring every packed export container to have a verified weight prior to its being loaded on board a ship. Following the joint efforts by the EAC Secretariat, ICSOS and Partners, preparatory work was done in good time to ensure compliance and all sea ports in EAC became compliant when the amendment came into force in July 2016.

A study known as ‘The Integrated Corridor Development in the EAC Region (Intermodal Strategy)” was completed in November 2014 with support from the World Bank. Following endorsement of the Strategy during the 3rd EAC Heads of State Retreat on Infrastructure Development and Financing, the World Bank has provisionally committed USD 1.2 billion for the Strategy. The World Bank has provisionally committed US$ 660 million to support the implementation first phase of the integrated corridor development initiative comprising the Lake Victoria Transport Program (LVTP).

(e) Civil Aviation and Airports

Over the last two years, the roadmap for the implementation of the EAC Upper Flight Information Region Project has been agreed upon by the Partner States. The objective of the project is to create a single block of Upper Airspace over EAC Partner States in order to ensure higher levels of safety, efficiency, capacity and performance over existing conditions. The Establishment of the EAC UFIR will comprise two phases: 1. The seamless operations phase where each Partner State will maintain and harmonize its infrastructure and operations with other Partner States to enable interoperability and seamlessness in line with the emerging trends of Global Air Navigation Plan through ICAO Aviation System Block Upgrade (ASBU) requirements and where the Partner States will enhance the collaborative activities in the provision of Air Navigation Services. During the second phase (2021-2025) a fully-digital operational structure of the EAC Upper Area Control Center (EAC UACC) will be established through a Protocol. The Heads of Civil Aviation and Airports Authorities have established a technical experts’ team and approved a budget for the implementation of the project. The Council has approved the project for implementation.

The EAC Secretariat through the Airports Sub Committee prepared and completed a Five Year Investment Strategy for the Priority Airports which serve for development of the commercial activities in a form of touristic circuits in EAC. The Project consists of Developing/Rehabilitating prioritized Airports in order for them to meet the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices. The List of Priority Airports and the tourism circuits in the Northern, Central, Western and coastal areas of the region have been approved by the Council and the Partner States are already implementing some of the Priority Airports.

(f) Information and Communications Technology

EAC Roaming framework was developed and approved by the 30th Meeting of the Council of Ministers in 2014 and approved by the EAC Heads of State in February 2015. The framework imposed price caps on roaming charges and called for the removal of surcharges on cross-border telecommunications traffic. The Republics of Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda have implemented the Framework while Tanzania and Burundi are finalizing domestic processes for its implementation. The Republic of South Sudan is already implementing this framework.

Implementation of cross-border ICT infrastructure is critical for the attainment of a common market in communications services within the EAC. To this effect, the EAC is in the process of developing regulations for cross-border interconnections. The regulations are expected to be completed and adopted by December 2017. When adopted, the regulations will provide mechanisms for effective and efficient implementation of cross-border ICT infrastructure. This is in line with Articles 89 and 99 of the Treaty as well as the EAC Protocol on ICT Networks.

(g) Meteorology

Partner States continued to implement the EAC Meteorological Data Policy whose purpose is to promote a harmonized approach to meteorological data observations, transmission, management and sharing of meteorological data. Partner States have also embarked on a programme to rescue and digitise meteorological data. Further, the region will soon start to implement the World Meteorological Organization Integrated Global Observing System, which involves incorporating meteorological data observed by other organizations into the national meteorological databases. EAC is also working to phase out mercury-based observing systems by

(i) Tripartite Vehicle Load Management Agreement
(ii) Tripartite Multilateral Cross Border Road Transport Agreement
(iii) A Regional Weighbridge Location Plan and interconnectivity of weighbridges
Achievements under Productive Sectors

Agricultural Transformation: The Case of the EAC Food Security Action Plan

Cooperation in agriculture and food security features prominently in the EAC integration process. The economies and livelihoods of people in East Africa are predominantly dependent on agriculture. The sector accounts for 25%-40% of EAC Partner States Gross Domestic Product and is a leading employer for over 80 percent of the population in the region. The EAC Food Security Action Plan adopted by the Summit in 2011 has guided coordination and implementation of flagship projects and programs aimed at catalyzing agricultural transformation. Progress made on several fronts includes development of governance instruments for strengthening regional coordination of the sector, enhancing food and nutrition security and safety, and interventions to promote agricultural value chains in the areas of crops, livestock, and fisheries. These instruments include the EAC food and nutrition security policy and the EAC livestock policy.

EAC Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agenda

Application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) is fundamental in protecting human, animal, and plant health from risks associated with agricultural commodities. EAC has developed SPS instruments aimed at strengthening capacities of Partner States to enforce SPS measures, enhance trade in agricultural commodities, and ensure food and feed safety. Major achievements include adoption of EAC SPS Protocol and SPS measures on fish and fishery products, plant health, and food and feed safety. This makes EAC the first Regional Economic Community to launch measures on Fish and Fishery Products in Africa. EAC SPS Bill has been drafted to provide a legal framework for enforcement of EAC SPS measures and instruments.

Aflatoxin Programme

Aflatoxin contamination of key staple crops including maize and groundnuts is one of the formidable SPS challenges posing a threat to human and animal health in the region. The EAC Secretariat has stepped up interventions on aflatoxin prevention and control. A robust evidence-based regional aflatoxin strategy and action plan have been developed to mitigate the adverse effects of aflatoxin along the food and feed value chains.

Enhancing Access to Information

EAC has established online systems to facilitate information exchange and support evidence-based decision-making. The two systems are the Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) and the Animal Resources Data Base (ARIS). The RFBS provides evidence-based data about food stocks availability to inform policy decisions on movement of food from regions of surplus to deficit in the EAC. The ARIS database is an important tool for generation of data and information to guide decision-making and influence policy actions on strategic investments in the livestock and fisheries sub-sectors.

Harmonization of Registration of Veterinary Vaccines and Mutual Recognition Agreement among Veterinary Professionals

In an effort to ease access to and use of safe and quality vaccines for control of animal diseases, the EAC has developed a Mutual Recognition Procedure for registration of vaccines for the management of animal diseases. In addition, Mutual Recognition Agreement among Veterinary Professionals in the EAC has been adopted. The Agreement will promote increased availability of veterinary services across the region; spread best practice in regulation and raise standards of qualification, which would help to support the development of the livestock sub-sector.

Environment and Natural Resources Management

a) EAC Climate Change initiatives

In collaboration with Partners, EAC Secretariat has strengthened climate change adaptation and capacity and policy leadership of the regional institutions and supported the adoption of low carbon development pathways. Following the completion of Climate Vulnerability and Impact Assessments (VIA), baseline reports showing how key regional productive sectors have been impacted by climate change, existing coping mechanisms and future climate scenarios have been established. Furthermore, climate change hot spots maps showing the most vulnerable areas in the Lake Victoria basin have been developed.

b) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

EAC has developed Disasters Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Strategy and DRRM Bill to provide a framework for intervention and assistance for people affected by natural hazard-related and human-induced disasters, and to protect the livelihoods and natural environment through integration of comprehensive disaster risk reduction and management practices in the Community. EAC has also established a disasters risk reduction and management technical working group to amongst
other things provide technical guidance in the development and implementation of regional framework for climate risk reduction and management. In this list, an action plan for DRRM was developed and approved by the 4th Session of the Council on Environment and Natural Resources Management and road map for the implementation of the Summit Framework on disaster risk reduction had also been developed.

Management of the Terrestrial and Aquatic ecosystems

In recognition of the importance of the ecosystems in terms of provision of goods and services necessary to support socio-economic development and poverty alleviation initiatives, EAC developed instruments with a view of addressing the challenges and improving ecosystem health. The instruments include Transboundary Ecosystem Management (TBM), Forests Management Bill, Protocol on Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin and Draft Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management. Through these instruments Partner States commit to co-operate and coordinate their policies and actions for the protection and conservation of natural resources and environment against all forms of degradation and pollution arising from developmental activities.

Furthermore, with support from USAID East Africa, EAC undertook Ecosystem Profile Assessment (EPA) with the objective of strengthening the sustainability of the biologically significant transboundary freshwater ecosystems in the region. From the EPA study, nine (9) biologically significant areas (BSAs) were identified for conservation and investment purposes. In this regard, Total Economic Value (TEV) and Conservation Investment Plan (CIP) are currently being undertaken in selected sites to promote conservation and sustainable exploitation of natural resources.

ENERGY

a) Centre of excellence for the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

On June 11, 2015 East African Community officially launched a Centre of excellence for the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) at Makerere University College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT). The Overall Objective of the Centre is to contribute towards increased access to modern, affordable and reliable energy services by creating an enabling environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency markets and investments.

b) Implementation of the East African Power Master Plan

The EAC, in collaboration with Partner States, has continued the implementation of projects under the Power Master Plan with success, resulting in the addition of 940MW between 2010 and 2016. This has raised the region's installed capacity from 4,660MW in 1990 to 3,803MW against a peak demand of 1,875MW in 1994 and 3,280MW in 2010 for the interconnected system. Various efforts are on to increase access to modern energy services in the region. The EAC Secretariat and other Regional Organizations namely the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidized Action Programme (NELSAP), Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) and Energy for the Great Lakes (EGL), continued to monitor the implementation of Interconnection projects.

c) Oil Exploration

EAC Partner States have agreed to cooperate in joint exploration and development of energy resources within the Community and to promote investment within the sector. The EAC Partner States seek to promote exploitation of both renewable and non-renewable energy sources in the most optimal way for the mutual benefit of East Africans. The EAC has been holding the East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition biennially since 2003 to promote exploration, development and production of oil and gas, the main objective of the Conference and Exhibition is to promote investment in the oil and gas sector by demonstrating to the world the potential that lies within the region and sharing information on the status of development of the sector in each Partner State.

INDUSTRY

Industrialization in the context of EAC region depends on how the region strategically leverage from the market created by the Common Market Protocol as a source or stimulus for demand. The realization of a fully functioning Common Market will be an important tool for regional integration which eventually leads to regional integration which eventually leads to regional competitiveness, for the implementation of SEZs and other industrial development initiatives within the region and the maintenance of a competitive industrial base.

a) Implementation of the Summit Directives on Textiles, Leather and Automotive Sectors

We are currently implementing Summit directives which directed the Council of Ministers to study the modalities for the promotion of textiles and leather industries in the region as well as mechanisms for stopping the importation of used clothing, shoes and other leather products from outside the region, further study the modalities for promotion of motor vehicle assembly in the region with the aim of restricting the importation of used motor vehicles from outside the community. Short-term policy proposals have been prepared and will be presented to the Summit. Partner States have also started implementing the Summit directives, for example Republic of Rwanda has already introduced road tax on the importation of second hand shoes and clothes. Other Partner states are working on the modalities of implementing these directives.

b) East African Manufacturing Business Summit

The East African Manufacturing and Business Summit (EAMBS) originated against a backdrop of economic resurgence and high political commitment to pursue de-economization driven by regionalization. The EAMBS therefore offers an important platform for governments in the region to engage the private sector on critical steps needed to leverage higher levels of investment in manufacturing. The forum seeks to create an avenue for the private sector to advocate and campaign for the acceleration of industrial reforms aimed at improving investment conditions in the EAC strategic sectors. The first Summit was held on 1st and 2nd September 2015 in Kampala and the 2nd EAMBS themed Harnessing the Manufacturing Potential for Sustainable Economic Growth in East Africa, will be held from 23rd -25th May, 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda.

c) Launching of the EAC Industrial Competitiveness Report

The EAC Industrial Competitiveness Report (EAC-ICR) developed in positioning EAC region's industrial sector on the international scene by benchmarking its performance and capability against other comparators; and providing a compass to policymakers, the private sector (in particular manufacturing associations), and generally a wider audience of stakeholders interested and/or involved in industry on the broad direction of the industrial development trajectory of the EAC as a whole and of the internal dynamics among Partner States.

This first publication of the EAC-ICR 2017 is being prepared and will be released in July this year, just as the EAC winds up its first Industrialization Action Plan (2012-2017). It thus marks an encouraging achievement for the EAC as it begins further steps towards attaining another 5-year plan as part and parcel of the implementation of the EAC industrial Policy 2012-2022.
East African Court of Justice

Achievements in the Last Two Years

The East African Court of Justice (EACJ) is a judicial body which ensures the adherence to law in the interpretation, application of and compliance with this Treaty. The Court has jurisdiction over interpretation and application of the Treaty. For the last 2 years, the court has registered a number of achievements as follows: 70 cases were reserved before court in both Divisions which indicates an increase of cases from 32 to 38 cases in the year 2015-2016. This stipulates that the Court is becoming busier. The First Instance Division received 40 matters and determined 30 matters (Judgments and Rulings) while the Appellate Division 25 Appeals and determined 21 (Judgments and Rulings).

Some notable decisions include: the first Case - 1995 Norwich delivered at the request of a High Court of Uganda In its Preliminary Ruling, the Court held that the jurisdiction of national courts to handle disputes touching on the interpretation and application of the Treaty noting however that EACJ's interpretation and application of the Treaty takes precedence and is binding on all courts and tribunals in EAC Partner States.

In the case of Anthony Kombo, the Court clarified that national courts have jurisdiction to determine disputes concerning the election of members to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) as such cases were reserved to them by the Treaty. While affirming that this was not a departure from the Uganda/Nyong'o case, the Appellate Division observed that an amendment to the Treaty in 2006 ended the Court's jurisdiction. Therefore, where an Act, regulation, directive, decision or action was reserved to an institution of a Partner State, the EACJ had no jurisdiction. Consequently, while national assemblies would elect members to EALA, national courts were mandated to handle EALA election disputes.

Several other cases upheld the fundamental principles that govern the Community. For example: the Henry Kiyamwasa case reaffirmed compliance with the role of law as the premier value of the Community and that its rules, justice, peace and security would be more robust. In addition, failure to comply with the same of the rights of press freedom and due process in decision making also found to be violations of the Treaty. In cases filed by the Burundian Journalists Union and the East African Law Society, respectively.

The Court delivered its second advisory opinion to the EAC Council of Ministers concerning that upon nomination of one of its nationals to the position of EAC Secretary General, a Partner State automatically forfeits the position of Deputy Secretary General.

The Court also had the opportunity to uphold rules of natural justice and to emphasize the primacy of EAC Community Laws, standing in the Margaret Zelwa case that as long as the EAC Powers and Privileges Act remains on the Community's statute books, it must be complied with by all persons within the Community's territorial jurisdiction, leaders and government officials. Members of the EALA are as just bound by the operation of the Act as the Community's leaders ordinances.

The East African Court of Justice also achieved in enhancing capacity building of the Judicial officers of the Court, such as Judges who were trained on Adjudication, Judicial Procedure and Decisions of European Union.

The Court's other achievement in the Private Sector's perspective is the extension of its jurisdiction to handle matters of trade and investment, as the Community continues the process of implementing the Common Market and Customs Union Protocols. On 24th February, 2015, the Summit approved and signed the Protocol to operationalize the extended Jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice covering trade and investment as well as matters associated with the implementation of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Monetary Union. The Court is now in the process of training its judicial officers to trade laws and the Court anticipates receiving more matters on trade-related issues.

The appointment of new judges and Registrar and other Court Staff was also a milestone for the Court. Since 2015, two Judges each for the Appellate Division and First Instance Division, that is, Hon. Justice Geoffrey Kirywire from the Republic of Uganda and Hon. Justice Andace Njige from the Republic of Burundi. The Council also appointed the Worshipful, Raphael K. Obuku who is the 2nd Registrar since the Court was constituted. The Council further appointed six professional staff to the Court which has increased the efficiency of the Court through support staff hence reducing the understaffing challenges in the Judiciary.

EALA

East African Legislative Assembly

...totally committed to strengthening integration

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is the Legislative arm of the East African Community (EAC).

The EALA was inaugurated in November 2001, in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. Under Chapter 9 of the Treaty, EALA is mandated with core functions of Legislation, approval of the EAC budget, Representation and Oversight. EALA also interacts with the National Legislatures/Assemblies of the Partner States on EAC matters and consults with the Council of Ministers on the implementation of the EAC Treaty. The hallmark of the Assembly includes delie-nee and enactment of Bills, adoption of Resolutions, Questions and debate of Committee reports to be per provisions of Article 49 and 69 of the EAC Treaty.

Since its inception, EALA has served as a key link between the institutions of the East African Community and the people of East Africa. It has similarly provided a forum for Civil Society, the Private Sector and other non-state actors within the region to advocate for, enter into, and promulgate the ideals of good governance, accountability, democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights.

The tenure of the 3rd Assembly which was elected on June 5th, 2012, ends on 4th June 2017. Over the last five years, the Assembly realized tremendous achievements. The succeed of the third Assembly can be summarized as follows:

1. Passage of 28 Bills - many of which are undergoing assent. Since inception in 2001, EALA has passed a total of 76 Bills. Once assented to, the Laws of the Community take precedence over the national laws on matters of the purview of the Community.
2. Debate, approval and passage of 65 Reports.
3. Adoption of 63 key Resolutions. One of the key Resolutions passed is that of recognizing Kivumbi as one of the key leaders of the Community.
4. Receipt, debate and processing of 6 Petitions.
5. Enhanced Oversight of the EAC programmes and projects.
6. Enhanced sensitization activities in the Partner States.
7. Revision of the Rules of Procedure and other instruments of governance to strengthen service delivery.

Yet another hallmark of the EALA is the principle of Rotational Settings which has continued to bring the Assembly closer to the people. The rotational principle, a brainchild of the 2nd Assembly, has enabled EALA to continue to be resident in the regional map as it undertakes its mandate. EALA uses the opportunity to interact with both Heads of State, Partner States' Parliamentarians, the Civil Society, Private Sector and other interest groups. Where it sits in the respective Partner States, EALA benefits from opening addresses by the respective Heads of State.

The 3rd Assembly has also played a pivotal role in promoting linkages with the National Legislatures through ensuring benchmarking of best Parliamentary practices, harmonization of laws in the region and creating awareness on its work. Aware of this, a decade ago, EALA embraced and established the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminars, known as the Nyanza Series, as a formal forum enabling Parliamentarians from Partner States to regularly interact with their counterparts from EALA and to discuss pertinent matters on an inter-parliamentary level. The Assembly looks to the future with confidence. It is committed to strengthening the integration process. In the regard, EALA will work closely with the Council of Ministers to introduce key Bills that anchor the Common Market and the Monetary Union Protocols.
The EAC Information Resource Centre subscribes to the open access policy in order to effectively disseminate EAC information and knowledge to all stakeholders, as well as preserve the EAC institutional memory for future generations and prosperity. The digitized collections are expected to chronicle the regional integration process of the EAC.

Establishment of the EAC Information Repository and Web Portal

Through financial support of the Regional Integration Support Programme (RISP II), various digitalization equipment were acquired in the Financial Year 2013/2014. With additional support from GIZ, a consultancy was engaged in May 2015 to develop and set up an EAC Information Repository and Web Portal.

The EAC Information Repository and Web Portal provides information on the Information Services available to EAC Stakeholders and allows for cross-border transfers between partner states. The digitized collections are expected to chronicle the regional integration process of the EAC.

The EAC Information Repository

The EAC Information Repository is an online digital platform that archives information and knowledge generated by EAC Organs and Institutions in execution of their various mandates since 1999. The Institutional Repository was established in order to provide visibility, accessibility and effective dissemination of EAC information and knowledge to all stakeholders, as well as preserve the EAC institutional memory for future generations and prosperity.

The Information Repository is built on the space which is an open source repository software package typically used for creating open access repositories for published digital content. The EAC Resource Centre subscribes to the open access policy in order to facilitate the dissemination of EAC Data, Information and Knowledge.

Digitization and Access of EAC Information and Knowledge

The EAC Information Resource Centre

Stakeholders are welcomed to interact with us through the different modes of communication under the link 'Interact with us' on the Web Portal.

The EAC Information Repository

The EAC Information Repository on the Web Portal is a digital platform that archives information and knowledge generated by various organs and institutions in execution of their various mandates since 1999. The Institutional Repository was established in order to provide visibility, accessibility and effective dissemination of EAC information and knowledge to all stakeholders, as well as preserve the EAC institutional memory for future generations and prosperity.

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The EAC Competition Authority

Pursuant to Article 75 of the Treaty Establishing the East African Community, Partner States have committed themselves to adoption of competition principles. Subsequently, through the Protocol on the Establishment of the EAC Competition Act (Article 22) and the Protocol on the Establishment of the EAC Competition Authority (Article 83), EAC Partner States, are obliged to prohibit practices that adversely affect free trade, including any agreement, decision, or concerted practice which has an objective or effect of preventing, restricting or distorting competition within the Community.

It is notable that the regional integration process has registered achievement tremendous progress as reflected by the encouraging implementation of the Customs Union and Common Market. There has been increased trade as shown by the Reports for the last 11 years. The Reports show that intra-EAC trade has grown from $1.5 billion in 2005 to $5.3 billion in 2016 with the highest level being $5.9 billion in 2013. Revenue collections have also continued to exhibit positive growth year on year basis in all the Partner States. The EAC has also witnessed exponential growth in Foreign Direct Investment and intra-EAC investment flows. Increased trade between Partner States increases the ability of firms to compete across the region. In the Customs Union and Common Market, there is increased competition among firms as they expand operations across national borders, increase output and exploit opportunities for cost savings in production in a larger market.

Therefore, as firms expand, they are likely to engage in mergers and acquisitions. A few recent examples of mergers and acquisitions with regional dimension have been actualized in various sectors including telecommunications. Examples include: Airtel with operations in three Partner States acquired Warid Telecom in Uganda in 2012, bolstering its position as the second largest player in Uganda’s market. Orange Group exited all its East African operations in 2015 when it sold its 70% stake in Telkom Kenya to Helios and its operations in Uganda to Africell. Additionally, in mobile money services, cross-border transfers are expected to enhance competition among firms across countries. Telecom Company Tigo allows for cross-border transfers between Tanzania and Rwanda.

Expansion and growth of firms can also generate conditions for certain anti-competitive conduct. Anticompetitive practices that have a cross-border effect can adversely affect trade flows, thereby undermining benefits that would otherwise be delivered by an open market and result in high prices in the regional market. Therefore the EAC Competition Act, 2006 (the Act) was enacted to manage competition regulation in the Community. It operates, under Article 21 and the Protocol on the Establishment of the Common Market, there is potential increased competition among firms as they expand operations across national borders, increase output and exploit opportunities for cost savings in production in a larger market.

The Act applies to all economic activities and sectors having cross border effect. It identifies the primary areas that modern competition laws engage with including cartels, abuse of dominance, merger control and consumer protection.
East African Health Research Commission

1. THE 6th EAST AFRICAN HEALTH AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EXHIBITION AND TRADE FAIR HELD IN BUJUMBURA, FROM 29th to 31st MARCH, 2017

The 6th East African Health and Scientific Conference & International Health Exhibition and Trade Fair was held in Bujumbura, the Republic of Burundi from March 29th to 31st, 2017 under the theme, "Preparedness for, and control of disease outbreaks, epidemics, in the context of climate change, globalization, and gaps in health systems."

The conference is organized on a rotational basis and is convened as part of the regional cooperation and integration in the health sector stipulated under Article 118 of the Treaty establishing the East African Community (EAC). The East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC), an institution of the EAC, established in 2007 and operationalized in 2015, in collaboration with EAC Partner States coordinated the event as per its mandate.

The objective of the conference was to share knowledge in order to enhance the capacity of health systems to manage disease outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics in the EAC Partner States.

The event was officially launched on 29th March 2017 by H.E. the President of the Republic of BURUNDI, Pierre Nkurunziza. The conference was attended by officials, researchers, policy makers, civil society actors from the EAC Partner States and other countries.

Oral presentations and posters were developed within a field of six sub-themes. Research institutions, academia, health facilities and pharmaceutical industries of EAC Partner States participated in the exhibition and trade fair.

During the conference, it was noted that there is an increase in natural and man-made disasters, emerging and re-emerging threats related to climate changes and globalization, and increased animal-human interactions. Recommendations to mitigate the challenges and to enhance preparedness were made.

The conference offered a platform for better understanding of the extent of the problem of emerging and re-emerging diseases, climate change and globalization as well as antimicrobial resistance in the region.

2. EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH JOURNAL

The East African Health Research Journal (EAHRJ), established by the 2nd ordinary meeting of EAC Ministerial Council held in Arusha on 24-27th September 2007, was launched. The journal is intended to contribute to the implementation of the protocol establishing the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC) in its mandate of promoting and facilitating the application of knowledge from research.

The journal aims, among others, at strengthening national and regional health policy and practice, developing human resource capacities and skills, promoting exchange and dissemination of health research information, advocacy of evidence generated from health research and accessing research and scientific work from East Africa.

The first issue of the EAHRJ was launched during the 6th East African Health and Scientific Conference & International Health Exhibition and Trade Fair held in Bujumbura, from 29th to 31st March 2017. The journal has three issues per year with supplementary issues whenever needed.

EACS Quality Management System (QMS)

1.0 Background

The EAC Secretariat commenced the rolling out of the Quality Management System (QMS) of the EAC Secretariat with the aim of strengthening and improving internal processes for efficiency and effectiveness. A pilot phase of introducing the QMS within the Directorate of Planning, started in Sept. 2007 that led to the streamlining of EAC Planning processes as well as the setting of objectives in 2007-08.

On the 23rd July 2004, the former EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera appealed to the EAC Quality Policy Statement and in May 2007, Certification was awarded to the Management of EAC and EAC Secretariat.

Elmer EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, Secretary Quality Policy Statement - July 2004.