



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE 12th
SUMMIT OF EAC HEADS OF STATE ON FOOD SECURITY
AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

WE the Heads of State of the East African Community (herein after referred to as EAC) assembled in Arusha, Tanzania, on this 2010;

Aware that climate variability and change is a serious global concern that is increasingly impacting negatively the EAC region's ecosystems, the natural resources productivity, people's livelihoods and indeed all development efforts;

Recalling that Article 105 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC obligates Partner States to cooperate in the agriculture sector to achieve food security and rational agricultural production including crops, livestock and fisheries within the Community;

Conscious of the adverse impacts of Climate Change especially on environment, agriculture and food security in the region;

Considering that the socio-economic development of the region is currently and will for the foreseeable future remain predominantly dependent on our natural resources;

Cognizant of the need to enhance the development and implementation of programmes and activities relating to building resilience of communities and their preparedness to respond to the impacts of Climate Change;

Appreciating the importance of addressing adaptation needs in various sectors which affect the sustainable livelihood of all citizens and development in the region;

Acknowledging that, for the East African Common Market to provide opportunities and benefits to the EAC citizens, it must give priority to the food sub-sector because the majority (70% to 80%) of the people of East Africa are employed in the production, processing and marketing of food commodities and products;

Realizing the need to;

1. develop deliberate policies, strategies, legislations and institutional arrangements as an enabling environment to address the challenges of Climate Change in the EAC region;

2. increase public investment in activities that address both Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation;
3. strengthen the Private Public Sector Partnership for purposes of contributing to both national and regional Climate Change adaptation and mitigation initiatives;
4. adhere to national and regional commitments on conserving natural resources in a bid to reduce the impacts of Climate Change to the EAC Citizens and the world at large;
5. continue building economic and social resilience of the EAC through the diversification of our economies and introduce measures for adaptation in climate sensitive sectors including the use of indigenous knowledge and practices and the strengthening of community organizations;
6. commit ourselves to creating a comprehensive framework of East African Climate Change programmes based on a regional Climate Change Master Plan;
7. accelerate implementation of the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the *Hyogo* Framework for Action including risk monitoring, observation, early warning, risk assessment, preparedness, emergency response and post-disaster recovery as an integral part of development and sectoral planning for Climate Change adaptation;

Acknowledging that there are several challenges that should be addressed to enable the region to effectively implement concrete adaptation activities;

Recalling the observation of the 9th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State, that the EAC Region is capable of producing adequate food for consumption as well as for export, given the natural resources potential that could be exploited for increasing agriculture production;

Reiterating the grave concern of the 11th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State about the state of food security in the region following three to four years of continuous drought which has afflicted millions of the people and especially the poor and therefore the need to urgently develop a Climate Change Policy and strategies to address the adverse impact of Climate Change, including determining how surplus food in one country can be shared in countries that are worst hit;

Noting the resolutions, declarations of:

1. the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) at its 12th Session held in June 2008 in Johannesburg,
2. the South Africa and the outcomes of the Eastern African Sub-Regional Meeting on Climate Change held on 31st August to 3rd September 2009 in Kigali, Rwanda;
3. the Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change of the EAC Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources Management of November 2009 Arusha, Tanzania;

4. the Nairobi Special AMCEN meeting on Climate Change of May 2009;
5. the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties and the 5th Conference of the Parties serving as a meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, as stipulated in the Copenhagen Accord of December 2009;

Concerned that there are high post harvest losses in the food value chain due to inadequate preservation and processing;

Declare our Firm Commitment:

1. that combating Climate Change is urgent and should be identified among the priority areas to be addressed in our region, in order to mitigate its negative impacts on the socio-economic development of the region for current and future generations.
2. to Article 24 of the EAC Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management as well as related policies within the Partner States.
3. to use the East African Community Common Market Protocol as an important instrument of ensuring Food Security in the region by accelerating the marketing and trade of strategic food commodities and products from all sources including crops, livestock, fishery and marine resources and forestry systems.
4. to promote development of financial instruments to mitigate risks caused by both natural calamities and fluctuations of prices.
5. to develop critical infrastructure especially in the rural areas to facilitate production, handling, storage, bulking and transportation of strategic food products across the region at minimal marketing cost.
6. to increase agricultural productivity through increased use of improved/modern technologies, water for production and reducing losses through pests and diseases.
7. to ensure enhanced food access and utilization in the EAC region.
8. to support the citizens of the EAC region to efficiently use the ample endowment in land, livestock, water and other natural resources to make the region net exporter of food products.

And Decide to:

A: Food Security

1. Immediately implement the EAC Food Security Action Plan
2. Fast track the:
 - i) development of regional policy for food security;

- ii) finalization, adoption and implementation of regional legal, regulatory and institutional framework for standards and Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS); and
 - iii) Institutionalization of structured food trading system including contract farming, out-grower schemes, warehouse receipt system and food commodities exchanges.
3. Increase the budget allocation to the agriculture sector to a minimum of 10% of national budgets by 2015 as per the Maputo Declaration directing them to priority programmes and projects for enhancing food security and poverty reduction.
 4. Establish finance and insurance instruments for agriculture development especially for small and medium scale farmers and entrepreneurs.
 5. Immediately invest and develop agro-industries for value-addition of food produce from the EAC region.
 6. Ensure that all food security strategies and actions have in-built resilience to weather variability and adaptation to Climate Change.
 7. Ensure that all food security strategies and actions have in-built gender and HIV/AIDS considerations.

B: Climate Change

1. Adopt a Regional Climate Change Policy to guide Climate Change actions in the EAC region.
2. Urge EAC Partner States to strengthen their meteorological and hydrological services.
3. Endorse the establishment of the EAC Climate Change Fund to specifically support adaptation and mitigation activities, including supporting research institutions of excellence in the area of technology development and demand-driven studies especially for Climate Change Adaptation.
4. Direct EAC Secretariat to develop a mechanism for managing the Climate Change fund and report by the next Summit;
5. Ensure that the Partner States undertake actions to increase funding for Climate Change adaptation.
6. Ensure that all EAC Partner States strengthen the emergency preparedness of the Health Systems to deal with the health impacts of Climate Change.
7. Ensure that all Partner States create special institutional arrangements in the short to medium term, flexible enough to coordinate Climate Change actions by different players.
8. Ensure that all EAC Partner States fast track the ratification of the Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources.

9. Direct the EAC Secretariat to finalize the EAC Climate Change Master Plan within six months and ensures its immediate implementation thereafter.
10. Ensure that all Partner States mainstream Climate Change in all the National Development processes.
11. Ensure that education and public awareness are up-scaled to enhance knowledge on the causes and impacts of Climate Change.

And Further Decide;

1. to establish funding mechanisms to mobilize adequate resources for the investment and working capital required to meet the objectives set in this declaration and invite all stakeholders including development Partners to support the operationalisation of the decisions under this declaration; and
2. that the Sectoral Council on Environment and Natural Resources is the highest decision making body on all matters regarding to climate change
3. that the Council of Ministers should follow up with Partner States, the EAC Secretariat, and other relevant stakeholders on the implementation of this declaration and report progress and outcomes to the Summit of Heads of State, annually.

Adopted, this, 2010, in Arusha, Tanzania