

**TP/TCM/2015/1.2**

Adopted 8 June 2015 - 1900HRS



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**COMESA-EAC-SADC TRIPARTITE**

**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF  
TRIPARTITE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**

**8 June 2015  
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**

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## **Introduction**

1. The Third Meeting of the Tripartite Council of Ministers was held on 8 June 2015 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The main objective of the meeting was to prepare for the Third Tripartite Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held on 10 June 2015.

2. The meeting was attended by Ministers and officials from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The meeting was also attended by officials from the Tripartite Task Force (TTF) comprising of the Secretariats of COMESA, EAC and SADC. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 1**.

## **Welcome and Opening Remarks (Agenda Item 1)**

### **Statement of the Chairperson**

3. The Chairperson of the Council of Ministers Hon Mike Bimha, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Zimbabwe, welcomed delegates to the Third Tripartite Council of Ministers meeting and expressed profound gratitude to the Government of Egypt for the warm hospitality, including the excellent facilities. He further appreciated the work of the Tripartite Task Force in organising the meetings that would culminate into the launch of the TFTA.

4. The Chairperson then invited the Guest of Honour to officially open the meeting.

### **Statement by the Representative of the Host Country**

5. The Third Tripartite Council of Ministers was officially opened by Honourable Mounir Fakhry Abdelnour, Minister of Industry, Trade and SMEs of Egypt. On behalf of the Egyptian Government, he welcomed Ministers and their delegations to Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. He reiterated Egypt's commitment to the integration process of the African continent. He highlighted the history of Africa's integration efforts which dates back to 1910 when the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) was formed. He noted that the launch of the TFTA marks a new era in the trading relations in the three RECs. He further noted that the TFTA will promote industrialization, enhance productive capacity as well as address the issue of infrastructure deficit in the Tripartite region.

## **Constitution of the Bureau (Agenda Item 2)**

6. The Bureau was constituted as follows:

- Chairperson: Ethiopia (representing COMESA)
- Vice Chairperson: Tanzania (representing EAC)
- Rapporteur: Zimbabwe (representing SADC)

## **Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item 3)**

7. The Meeting considered and adopted the following agenda:

- 1) Welcome and Opening Remarks/Statements
- 2) Constitution of the Bureau
- 3) Adoption of the Agenda
- 4) Consideration of the Report of Third Meeting of the Tripartite Senior Officials
- 5) Consideration of Tripartite Summit Instruments
  - i. Draft TFTA Agreement
  - ii. Sharm El Sheikh Declaration Launching the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area
- 6) Consideration of the draft Communiqué of the Third COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Summit
- 7) Consideration of the Third Tripartite Summit Programme
- 8) Date and Venue of the Next Tripartite Council of Ministers' Meeting
- 9) Any Other Business
- 10) Adoption of the Report and Closing of the Meeting

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS** (*Agenda item No 4*)

8. The meeting considered and noted the report of the Third Tripartite Senior Officials held on 7 June 2015 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF TRIPARTITE INSTRUMENTS** (*Agenda Item 5*)

##### ***Draft TFTA Agreement***

9. Council considered and adopted the draft TFTA Agreement, attached to this report as **Appendix 2**.

##### ***Sharm El Sheikh Declaration Launching the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area***

10. The meeting considered and adopted the Draft Sharm El Sheikh Declaration Launching the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area, attached to this report as **Appendix 3**.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE OF THE THIRD COMESA-EAC-SADC TRIPARTITE SUMMIT** (*Agenda Item 6*)

11. The Third meeting of the Tripartite Council of Ministers considered the draft Communiqué of the Third COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Summit and adopted it as attached to this report as **Appendix 4**. The meeting noted that the Draft Communiqué was still work in progress in light of the fact that it will reflect the actual attendance and proceedings of the Summit.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT THIRD TRIPARTITE SUMMIT PROGRAMME** (*Agenda Item 7*)

12. Council considered and adopted the draft Third Tripartite Summit Programme, attached to this report as **Appendix 5**.

## **DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT TRIPARTITE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING** (*Agenda Item 8*)

13. The meeting noted that according to the COMESA-EAC-SADC Inter regional Memorandum of Understanding, the Tripartite Summit is held once every two years and that the next REC to host it is the EAC. The TTF will advise on the date and venue after consultations.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** (*Agenda Item 9*)

14. The meeting was informed that Malawi will be holding its first ever Investment Forum from 29 to 30 June 2015. The event will show case investment opportunities in Malawi. Participants were invited to the investment forum.

## **ADOPTION OF REPORT AND CLOSING OF THE MEETING** (*Agenda Item 10*)

15. The meeting adopted its Report, which was signed by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and *Rapporteur* on 8 June 2015 as reflected hereunder:

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**Chairperson**  
Hon. Ahmed Shide  
(Ethiopia)  
**COMESA**

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**Vice Chairperson**  
Hon. Harrison Mwakyembe  
(Tanzania)  
**EAC**

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**Rapporteur**  
Hon. Mike Bimha  
(Zimbabwe)  
**SADC**