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COMMUNIQUE OF THE 3RD COMESA-EAC-SADC TRIPARTITE SUMMIT



VISION: TOWARDS A SINGLE MARKET

THEME: DEEPENING COMESA-EAC-SADC INTEGRATION

1. The Heads of State and Government of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tripartite met on 10 June, 2015 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt and:

LAUNCHED the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (Tripartite FTA);

RECOGNISED that the Tripartite FTA represents an integrated market of 26 countries with a combined population of 632 million people which is 57% of Africa's population; and with a total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD\$ 1.3 Trillion (2014) contributes 58% of Africa's GDP;

FURTHER RECOGNISED that the establishment of a Tripartite FTA will bolster intra-regional trade by creating a wider market, increase investment flows, enhance competitiveness and encourage regional infrastructure development as well as pioneer the integration of the African continent;

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REITERATED that the tripartite integration process is based on a developmental approach anchored on three (3) pillars namely: Market Integration symbolized by the Tripartite FTA; Infrastructure Development to facilitate and enhance connectivity, communication and movement of goods and persons and reduce the cost of doing business; and Industrial Development which will enhance competitiveness and address supply and productive capacity constraints; and

FURTHER REITERATED that the tripartite initiative is a decisive step to achieve the African vision of establishing the African Economic Community envisioned in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos of 1980, Abuja Treaty of 1991 as well as the Resolution of the African Union Summit held in Banjul, the Gambia in 2006 that directed the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to harmonize and coordinate policies and programmes of RECs as important strategies for rationalization, increasing intra-Africa trade and investment, integration of tripartite economies in the global economy.

2. The Third Tripartite Summit:

(a) SIGNED the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration Launching the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area ;

(b) SIGNED and opened for signature the Agreement establishing the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite FTA;

(c) ADOPTED the Post-signature Implementation Plan detailing activities that will be implemented at national and regional levels in fulfilment of provisions of the Tripartite FTA Agreement;

(d) DIRECTED that negotiations on outstanding issues from Phase I to operationalise the Tripartite FTA be concluded expeditiously;

(e) DIRECTED the commencement of Phase II negotiations covering trade in services, cooperation in trade and development, competition policy, intellectual property rights and cross border investment; and

(f) DIRECTED that programmes of work and roadmaps developed on the Industrialization and Infrastructure Pillars be well resourced and prioritized.

3. The Tripartite Summit was attended by the following Heads of State and Government:

- (a) His Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt;
- (b) His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
- (c) His Excellency Prof. Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi
- (d) His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia;
- (e) His Excellency Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan;
- (f) His Excellency Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

4. The following Plenipotentiaries represented their Heads of State and Government:

- (a) His Excellency Prosper Bazombanza, First Vice President of the Republic of Burundi
- (b) His Excellency Mohamed Ali Soilihi , Vice President of the Republic of the Union of the Comoros
- (c) His Excellency William S. Ruto, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya
- (d) His Excellency Mr. Danny Faure, Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles
- (e) His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania
- (f) His Excellency, Agostinho do Rosário, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique
- (g) The Right Honourable, Anastase Murekezi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda
- (h) Honourable Dr. Job Graça, Minister of Planning, Republic of Angola
- (i) Honourable Mr. Vincent T. Seretse, Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Botswana
- (j) Honourable Raymond Tshibanda N'tungamulongo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Democratic Republic of Congo
- (k) Honourable Ilyas Moussa Dawaleh, Ministre de l'Economie et Finances Charge de l'Industrie, Republic of Djibouti
- (l) Honourable Mr. Joshua Setipa, Minister of Trade and Industry, Kingdom of Lesotho

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COMMUNIQUÉ (...cont)

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- (m) Ambassador Fassil Ghebresallassie Tekle, State of Eritrea
- (n) Honourable Mr. Rabesahala Hemi, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Republic of Madagascar
- (o) Honourable Etienne Sinatambou, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Republic of Mauritius
- (p) Honourable Dr. Robert H. Davies, Minister for Trade and Industry, Republic of South Africa
- (q) His Royal Highness, Prince Hlangusemphi, Kingdom of Swaziland
- (r) Honourable Amelia Anne Kyambadde (MP), Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Republic of Uganda
- (s) Honourable Margaret D. Mwanakatwe, MP Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Republic of Zambia
5. H.E. Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General of COMESA and Chairperson of the Tripartite Task Force, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Richard Sezibera, Secretary General of the EAC and H.E. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC were also in attendance.
6. The Following Organizations attended the Third Tripartite Summit as observers: the African Union Commission, African Development Bank, World Bank, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, Global Rights Network for Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and the Trade and Development Bank of Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA Bank).
7. His Excellency, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in his official opening remarks, welcomed all the Heads of State and Government, all dignitaries and delegates to the Third Tripartite Summit. He commended the Tripartite for the progress made in implementation of programmes in the three key pillars of market integration, infrastructure and industrialisation; in particular the finalisation of the negotiations leading to the launch of the Tripartite Free Trade Area which is a step towards the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area. He underscored the importance of the Member/ Partner States in working together to continue to deliver on the objectives of the Tripartite in light of the fact that the region is endowed with abundant resources required for development
8. The Secretary General of COMESA, on behalf of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Task Force, in his opening remarks provided a progress report on the Implementation of Decisions of the First and Second Tripartite Summits in Market Integration, Industrial Development and Infrastructure Development Pillars of the tripartite.
9. In his remarks, His Excellency Jim Yong Kim the President of the World Bank commended the Tripartite for the progress made with the establishment of the Tripartite FTA and underscored the importance of reducing transactional costs. He emphasised that in order to reduce poverty, the Tripartite FTA must be complemented by measures to improve education, access to finance and infrastructure. He reaffirmed that this was Africa's moment and that the World Bank Group remained committed to mobilisation of the necessary resources for the effective implementation of development programmes through the participation of both the private and public sectors.
10. In his remarks, His Excellency Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General of UNCTAD underscored the need for Africa to enhance its competitiveness in international markets. He emphasised the pivotal importance of deployment of infrastructure as an enabler to efficient productivity and trade. He called upon the leaders to focus on action and expedite implementation of the Tripartite FTA building on the long term vision of building the African Economic Community.
11. His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in his remarks thanked the outgoing Chairman of the Tripartite Summit, His Excellency Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, for providing leadership during his tenure, and welcomed the conclusion of the negotiations. He stressed the importance of infrastructure and industrial development as drivers of economic and structural transformation across the Tripartite region.
12. His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, in his remarks emphasised that any country that did not adapt to the increasingly globalised world would fail to benefit from trade. He welcomed the launch of the Tripartite FTA which is a milestone and paves the way for continental integration.
13. His Excellency Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, in his remarks, called for the expeditious conclusion of negotiations on outstanding

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COMMUNIQUÉ (...cont)

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issues and for due prioritisation of industrial and infra structure development to support trade. He handed over the Chairmanship of the Tripartite Summit to His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn, Chairperson of the Authority of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

14. The Third Tripartite Summit was officially opened by His Excellency Robert Gabriel Mugabe the outgoing Chairperson of the Tripartite and chaired by His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn Chairperson of the Authority of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. The Chairperson was assisted by the Chairpersons of the Summits of the Southern African Development Community and the East African Community, as well as the Tripartite Task Force of the three Secretariats.
15. The Tripartite Summit **EXPRESSED** its appreciation to the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Task Force for the preparatory work undertaken in preparing for the Third Tripartite Summit.
16. The Tripartite Summit **WELCOMED** His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and His Excellency Prof. Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi who recently took office.
17. The Tripartite Summit **WELCOMED** the offer by the Republic of Rwanda on behalf of the East African Community to host the Fourth Tripartite Summit.
18. The Tripartite Summit, in a Vote of Thanks moved by His Excellency William S. Ruto, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, **EXPRESSED** appreciation to His Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Government and people of Egypt, for the warm and fraternal hospitality extended to all the delegations. He assured the Summit that Kenya would deploy the required resources to operationalize the Secretariat for the Tripartite FTA. He welcomed all delegations to the Fourth Tripartite Summit to be hosted by the Republic of Rwanda.
19. In his closing remarks, His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia thanked all Heads of State and Government and plenipotentiaries present for their participation. He especially thanked His Excellency, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, and President of the Arab Republic of Egypt for having hosted a successful Third Tripartite Summit.



20. His Excellency, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in his closing statement **CONGRATULATED** all his colleagues for the historic Tripartite Summit which launched the Tripartite FTA, a key milestone in the integration of Africa. He thanked them for their attendance and looked forward to the continuation of the rationalization and deepening of the integration process in Africa.
21. The **Tripartite Summit ADOPTED** its Communique as read by Ambassador Dr. Richard Sezibera, Secretary General of the EAC.

DONE at Sharm El Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt on the 10 June 2015, in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese languages, all texts being equally authentic.


Norwegian Ambassador Pays Courtesy Call on EAC Secretary General

~ EAC-Norway sign additional Krone (NOK) 20 million to support EAC projects



The Royal Norwegian Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, and also accredited to the EAC bloc, H.E. Ms. Hanne-Marie Kaarstad, on 24 June 2015, paid a courtesy call on Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, the Secretary General of the East African Community.

The Secretary General and his guest discussed a wide range of issues geared towards deepening cooperation between Norway and the East African Community. H.E. Ms. Hanne-Marie Kaarstad also briefed the Secretary General about the pending visit by the Royal Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Monica Mæland to the EAC Headquarters in September 2015.

Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera and H.E. Ms. Hanne-Marie Kaarstad signed a new cooperation Agreement between East African Community (EAC) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which Norway has committed an additional Norwegian Krone (NOK) 20 million to support EAC projects and programmes under the EAC Partnership Fund. 

Danish Ambassador Bids Farewell to EAC Secretary General




The Danish Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, and also accredited to the EAC bloc, H.E. Johnny Flento, today paid a Farewell visit to Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, the Secretary General of the East African Community.

Amb. Flento, who was accredited to the EAC on 8th March 2012, is moving to the Republic of Mozambique having spent four years in the United Republic of Tanzania. During his tenure as the EAC Ambassador, Amb. Flento had the honor of accompanying the former Danish Prime Minister, Hon. Helle Thorning Schmidt on a courtesy visit to EAC Secretariat on 8th March 2013.

Amb. Sezibera briefed his guest on the latest developments in the regional integration process including the launch of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) by the COMESA-EAC-SADC Heads of State and Government on 10 June, 2015 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The Secretary General noted that the (TFTA) represented an integrated market of 26 countries with a combined population of 632 million people, or 57 percent of Africa's population. It also provides a total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD\$ 1.3 Trillion (2014), contributing to 58% of Africa's GDP.

He further added that the establishment of a the TFTA will bolster intra-regional trade by creating a wider market, increase investment flows, enhance competitiveness and encourage regional infrastructure development as well as pioneer the integration of the African continent.

The Danish Ambassador briefed the Secretary General on the developments taking place in his country and appreciated the great milestones being recorded in the East African regional integration initiatives. The Secretary General was accompanied by his Deputy in charge of Finance and Administration Mr. Liberat Mfumukeko and other senior officials, while Amb. Flento was accompanied by the Danish Advisor on EAC Integration, Ms Agatha Nderitu. 

EALA Speaker and Somalia Parliament Counterpart Hold Talks in Kampala



The Federal Parliament of Somalia is keen to establish relations with the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) as the country keeps pace with developments at the EAC.

On 5 June 2015, EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega held talks with the Speaker of the Federal Parliament of Somalia, Rt Hon Mohammed Osman Jawari in Kampala, Uganda. The historic meeting took place on the sidelines of the State of Nation Address delivered by the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. General Yoweri Museveni at the commencement of the 5th Session of the 9th Parliament of Uganda.

EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega was emphatic that the EAC was concerned about finding permanent solutions to the issues in Somalia.

"When we look at a bigger picture and within the framework of integration, we can certainly find solutions to problems in

Somalia just like in all other Partner States. The more we are, the better for the region", Rt. Hon Kidega said.

He said both Houses (EALA and Federal Parliament of Somalia) needed to commence the process of co-operation and to maintain interaction as a precursor to addressing insecurity matters, occasioned by the constant threats of the Al-Shaabab and banditry among other concerns.

The Speaker rooted for enhanced economic development in the region saying that Somalia had a long coastline and this would make access to the rest of the world easy. Both Speakers reiterated the need to ensure information flow and exchange between their respective Parliaments.

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●●● constitutional review, federalization of the country and economic development centers of focus in rebuilding Somalia.

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Rt. Hon Jawari stated that such a move would equip legislators in the Federal Republic of Somalia with best practices and to boost their understanding on regional integration.

"Keeping our communication lines open is vital as there are many aspects that we can learn from each other and likewise benefit from", Rt. Hon Jawari said. He said Parliament of Somalia would consider sending a delegation of legislators at the next EALA Plenary so as to benefit from the deliberations in the regional Assembly.

Rt. Hon Jawari said the Somalia Parliament had forged close working relations with the Parliament of Uganda and the relationship had proved to be mutual. "We likewise have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Pan African Parliament (PAP) and the Parliament of Finland" the Speaker added.

In attendance was the Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights, Gender and Humanitarian Affairs at the Federal Parliament of Somalia, Hon Mariam Aweis Jama, Director of Protocol, Ali Mohammed and the EALA Senior Public Relations Officer, Bobi Odiko.

The Speaker of the Federal Parliament of Somalia remarked that Parliament had three main areas of focus as it continues to undertake its mandate. He cited constitutional review, federalization of the country and economic development as the centers of focus in rebuilding the Republic of Somalia.

The Speaker maintained that peace was key for development noting that the threats of terrorism were retrogressive to progressive change and advancement.

Somalia which has endured long periods of instability and insecurity is steadily coming out of the precipice of war. Right after independence in 1960, Somalia was one of the most promising African countries with a democratically elected government, had stability and was developing fast. This changed several decades later in the 1990s and since then, the country has not enjoyed total peace.

The Horn of Africa nation submitted its application in February 2012 to be a member of the EAC Community which currently brings together Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.




The EAC has since constituted a team of experts to a verification committee to assert the country's preparedness to join the Community. However, the preparations with the Government of the Republic of Somalia has not yet been finalised to pave way for the verification exercise.

At the 16th Summit of the EAC Heads of State, the Summit directed the Council of Ministers to undertake the verification exercise and to report at the next Summit. According to analysts, Somalia's admission at the EAC is important to security in the East African region as they have been a source of small arms that have contributed to insecurity in the region and especially Kenya.

Somalia's Ambassador to Kenya, Amb Mohamed Ali Noor was recently quoted exuding confidence that the country was considered a prime candidate to the EAC following a raft of key initiatives that he believes have lifted the country's profile in the eyes of the international community.

Two years ago, Kenya was forced to send its armed forces to Somalia after Al Shabaab militia attacked tourists along the coast resulting in issuance of travel advisories by European countries to their citizens.

The Kenya Defence Forces joined a UN security mission in Somalia that has helped to stabilise the Horn of Africa nation. 

EAC & IUCN Establish Framework for Observatory for Protected Areas



The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat is now the host institution for a regional observatory to support more effective protected area management and biodiversity conservation in the region, made possible through a partnership recently signed with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) supported by the EU-funded Biodiversity and Protected Area Management (BIOPAMA) programme.

The BIOPAMA programme, financed by the 10th European Development Fund of the European Union and implemented by IUCN and partners, aims to assist countries to improve technical and institutional approaches to conserve biodiversity, and address threats to biodiversity in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries while also reducing poverty.


An Observatory for Protected Areas and Biodiversity is being established in the East African Community Secretariat, located in Arusha, Tanzania, to provide decision- and policy-making support on protected areas and biodiversity, in particular within the landscape context in which they exist.

Supported by a regional reference information system (RRIS), the Observatory will be a central access point to authoritative data on protected areas, biodiversity and related information. It will provide free and open access to global and regional data and information on thematic areas such as land-use, biodiversity,

protected areas, mineral deposits and publically accessible mining, oil and gas concessions.

"The observatory will provide relevant data and information that will enhance planning, policy, and decision-making. It will support effective protected area management and biodiversity conservation within the region, in line with the mandate of the environmental sector of the EAC that is to promote co-operation in the conservation and management of natural resources including trans-boundary resources," said Ms. Wivine Ntamubano, Principal Environment and Natural Resources Officer, East African Community Secretariat.

"The EAC Observatory is the first of several others planned for the Eastern and Southern African region and we are very excited about the opportunities for better decision-making that it will provide to the East African Partner States", said Christine Mentzel, IUCN Senior Programme Officer and BIOPAMA Coordinator for the Eastern and Southern African region.

In addition to the free and open access to data and information, the Observatory will also provide support to the users of the system. An initial workshop to present the regional reference information system (RRIS) and train relevant staff of the Partner States in its functionalities and tools will be held in July 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. 

EACJ Principal Judge's Tenure Ends

The outgoing Principal Judge of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), Hon. Mr. Justice Jean Bosco Butasi from the Republic of Burundi, concluded his tenure on the EACJ bench on Friday 26th June 2015. Hon. Mr. Justice Audace Ngiye, appointed by the 16th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State on 20th February 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, replaces Hon. Justice Butasi. Hon. Justice Ngiye's appointment at the EACJ took effect on 28th June 2015. Further, the 16th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State designated Hon. Lady Justice Monica Mugenyi from the Republic of Uganda, Principal Judge of the Court effective 26th June 2015.



Hon. Justice Butasi was appointed a Judge to the East African Court of Justice in the First Instance Division in June 2008 and was later, in June 2013, designated Principal Judge taking over from Hon. Justice Johnston Busingye from the Republic of Rwanda.

The outgoing Principal Judge was the 3rd Principal Judge of the Court after Hon. Justice Johnston Busingye from the Republic of Rwanda and the Late Hon. Justice Kasanga Mulwa from the Republic of Kenya.

During his tenure as Principal Judge, the EACJ has witnessed an increase in the number of cases filed to the First Instance Division. Between 2013 and mid 2015, the Court received 63 cases (References and interim applications), 25 Judgments on substantive matter and 18 rulings on interim applications were delivered. However, due to the dhoc nature of appearance by the EACJ Judges, the First Instance Division has 20 pending cases and despite all efforts, Hon. Justice Butasi has not been able to clear the backlog.

In his farewell message to the EACJ Staff he stated;


"You may all be aware that this Friday, 26th June, 2015 marks the end of my tenure at the Court. William Arthur Ward said that: 'When a person doesn't have gratitude, something is missing in his or her humanity'. At this particular moment, I am feeling gratitude to all of you. Allow me, therefore, to express my gratitude to all of you for having assisted me in performing my duties. If there have been shortcomings, they are entirely mine.

As I move back home and into a new season of my life, I carry with me the pleasant memories of our interactions and I can assure you that I will never forget the support you all extended to me during my entire period of my tenure.

I take this opportunity to wish each one of you all the best in both your personal and professional lives.

I wish I could say au revoir rather than good-bye!!!

May God Almighty bless you all."

Before joining the EACJ, Hon. Justice Butasi served as General Commissioner of Special Anti-Corruption Brigade (2007-2009); Inspector General of Finance Republic of Burundi (1999-2006); Attorney General of the Republic of Burundi (1994-1998); Attorney General before the Appeal Court of Bujumbura (1993-1994); District Attorney of Bujumbura (1985-1993) as well as Assistant District Attorney in the Republic of Burundi (1983-1985). Hon. Justice Butasi has also held membership in various councils and commissions in the Republic of Burundi including: the Superior Council for Magistracy; the Constitutional Commission for Democratization of Public Institutions; the National Council for Security; the Inter-Ministerial Commission Against Economic and Financial Embezzlement as well as the Executive Committee of the East African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (EAAACA). 

Secretary General Urges PTA Bank to Increase Lending for Infrastructure Projects in the EAC




The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera has urged the Preferential Trade Area Bank, commonly known as the PTA Bank to consider increasing lending for infrastructure projects in the EAC region as a way of leveraging EAC Partner States to facilitate more capital flow into major infrastructure projects from multiple financiers, development partners and the private sector.

The Secretary General, who was on 25 June 2015 giving a key note address at the PTA Bank's 121st Board of Directors' Roundtable Working Dinner held in a Kigali Hotel in Rwanda, said the region was currently enjoying the highest level of political support for infrastructure development and that support (political) should catapult the efforts for resource mobilization and lead to fast tracked implementation of the priority projects.

The theme of the Roundtable Working Dinner was ***unlocking regional infrastructure in the East African Region with emphasis on connectivity to Kenya and Tanzania.***

Amb. Sezibera reiterated that efficient and cost effective transport system in the region calls for substantial intermodal projects developments to enhance regional connectivity and logistics.

He said the prioritization of infrastructure development in the EAC was premised on three critical principles, namely; linking the landlocked Partner States to the Ports on the Indian Ocean notably the Ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam; reducing the cost of transportation to enhance competitiveness of the region; and a corridor based approach to the development of infrastructure.

"The role of the private sector investments is key in the success of the implementation of the priority infrastructure in the EAC and the region should develop avenues and products to tap into this capacity", affirmed the Secretary General. 

Eastern African Power Organizations to Advance Power Systems Integration



A two-day meeting of the Eastern African Power Organizations concluded 26 June 2015 in Kigali, Rwanda, with the Regional Power Organizations vouching for closer collaborative efforts in order to integrate the power systems in the region.

The main objective of the meeting was for the Power Organizations to agree on coordination arrangements and frameworks in order to avoid duplication and overlaps and to develop a way forward on accelerating completion and commissioning of ongoing projects.

The organizations comprise; the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP), Energy for the Great Lakes (EGL), the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP), and the EAC.

Welcoming the delegates to the meeting, the NELSAP Regional Coordinator, Eng. Ellicad Nyabeeya emphasized the need for frequent coordination meetings in order to harmonize development of power projects and programs in the region. Representatives from the other organizations echoed his concerns and

recommended that a plan for coordination activities be developed.

The Secretary General of EAPP, Mr. Lebbi Changullah stated; "we cannot achieve regional power system integration without a commitment to collaboration and coordination on this effort and without the different strengths that each of us bring."

NELSAP, EGL, EAPP and EAC are mandated to undertake various activities in power development and trade within the region.

The Development Partners present at the meeting reviewed some of the combined efforts achieved so far and provided guidance on the way forward, with the main focus on priority interconnection projects within Eastern Africa.



CASSOA Celebrates 8th Anniversary

In the early 1990s various reports were made on the slow and uncoordinated implementation of the International Civil Aviation Organisation's Standards and Recommended Practices (ICAO SARPs) by a large number of Contracting States, especially in the developing World.

The 32nd ICAO Council Assembly of 1995 approved the ICAO Safety Oversight Voluntary Assessment Programme to help States understand their status of compliance with ICAO SARPs in order to develop corrective actions. The East African States (Uganda as the first one) were among those that volunteered to undergo that programme.

The Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation on a Global Strategy for Safety Oversight held 10th – 12th November 1997 in Montreal, Canada emphasized the need for coordinating and harmonizing the principles and procedures for assessing safety oversight at a global level, recognizing at the same time the advantages of adopting a regional focus.

In that context, the Conference recommended that ICAO promotes the establishment of regional mechanisms with a view to achieving the long-term goals of safety oversight capability at a global level.

The East African Community (EAC) Partner States of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda with the support of the US Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) took on this initiative and embarked on the roadmap for the establishment of a Regional Safety Oversight Organization on the ICAO proposed framework stipulated in ICAO Document 9734 Part B – The Establishment and Management of a Safety Oversight System, however, with the element of security added on.

The establishment of this body commenced with a benchmarking mission to Central America that had started a similar arrangement, headquartered in Costa Rica. In parallel, the East African States were engaged in an elaborate harmonisation process of their Aviation Safety and Security Regulations, in line with the ICAO recommended Practices and Standards, a further justification of the establishment of a regional body to oversee the compliance with the harmonized regulations.

On 18th April 2007, following fruitful deliberations by civil aviation and legal experts of the EAC, the EAC Council of Ministers approved the establishment of the EAC Civil Aviation Safety and Security Agency (CASSOA) as an autonomous self-accounting

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... we are confident the race towards developing CASSOA into a model regional agency respected across the globe is on

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institution of the Community and appointed its first Executive Director – Mr. Mtesigwa Maugo (Tanzania), the Technical Coordinator – Mr. Robert Mwesigwa Nviiri (Uganda), and the Office Management Assistant – Mrs. Lillian Mwenda (Kenya), and the first Board complement comprising the then three Heads of Civil Aviation Authorities of the Partner States. CASSOA commenced operations on 1st June 2007 in Arusha, Tanzania, at the seat of the East African Community.

Today CASSOA boasts of 12 staff members and an expanded Board of 10 members comprising the 5 Heads of Civil Aviation Authorities and five experts in aviation matters nominated, one each, from the Partner States.

Eight years down the line, CASSOA has been able to make eight commendable achievements despite constraints in both human and financial resources at its disposal, namely:

1. Coordination of the promulgation of the harmonized Civil Aviation Safety and Security Regulations in the Partner States;
2. Development of the Technical Guidance Materials for assisting both the regulators and service providers to abide by the Regulations;
3. Assisting Partner States in preparing for ICAO Safety and Security audits and thereafter developing harmonized Corrective Action Plans to the findings;
4. Capacity building for the Partner States' safety and security inspectors;
5. Establishment of the regional Centre for Aviation Medicine, the first of its kind in the World;
6. Establishment of a harmonized computerized EAC Aviation Examination System for purposes of personnel licensing;
7. Development of a harmonized EAC Inspector Training System for Airworthiness and Flight Operations Inspectors (currently the one for Air Navigation Services (ANS) Inspectors is under development); and
8. The development of a Safety Oversight Facilitated and Integrated Application software – SOFIA, that assists Inspectors to carry out their safety oversight obligations effectively.

Some of the key ongoing programmes are:

1. Assistance to EAC Partner States in capacity building in the area of flight operations courtesy of ICAO through their SAFE fund over a period of two years;

2. Development of an Inspector Training System for ANS;
3. Development of a harmonized EAC aviation examination syllabus;
4. Development of a computer based training programme for aviation security; and
5. Preparatory programme for a roadmap to successful ICAO aviation security audits for the Partner States of Kenya and Tanzania

As we observe the 8th Anniversary of CASSOA, I wish to thank the Partner States through the Council of Ministers, for their support and financial contributions to the development of CASSOA, the members of the Board of CASSOA right from inception to present date, for the policy guidance to the Agency, the current and previous Secretaries General of the Community for their tacit support to the CASSOA activities, and the staff of CASSOA who continue to discharge their responsibilities diligently.

I also thank our Development Partners – European Union EASA, Federal Aviation Administration of USA, ICAO, AviAssist of the Netherlands, Her Majesty's Government of the UK thru the British High Commission in Nairobi, just to name but a few for their technical and financial contributions to the activities of CASSOA. I call upon our Development Partners to continue supporting CASSOA.

Last but not least, I thank my predecessors Executive Directors, Mr. Mtesigwa Maugo and Mr. Barry Kashambo, the commitment and professional management that they expended at CASSOA during the formative years that laid down the foundations of the Agency and overseeing the implementation of the 1st Development Strategy of the Agency among other key activities.

As we celebrate the 8th Anniversary of CASSOA, we are confident that the race towards developing CASSOA into a Model Regional Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency respected across the globe is on and we call on the support of all our stakeholders in order to accomplish this Mission.

Happy 8th Anniversary for CASSOA.



Robert Mwesigwa Nviiri
Ag. Executive Director

Judicial Officers Train on Gender and The Law



Judicial officers and Lawyers in the East African Community have been called upon to explore the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms in handling civil and family disputes.

Uganda's Deputy Chief Justice Steven B. K. Kavuma said that ADR mechanisms were not only faster but also offered choices to litigants as to who would handle their disputes in addition to preventing the invasion of privacy.

Justice Kavuma urged judicial officers and lawyers to strive to understand the nature of ADR mechanisms and how they can be integrated into dispute resolution frameworks both at the national and regional levels.

Justice Kavuma was speaking during the official opening of a three day training workshop for judicial officers on gender and the law at a Kampala hotel. The workshop whose theme was Mainstreaming Gender into Justice Systems in the Region was organized by the East African Judicial Education Committee and the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the Ugandan Judiciary.

The 23rd – 25th June 2015 training aimed at enhancing the knowledge of Judicial Officers on social context matters and sensitization on gender and other issues connecting with Law, Fairness, Equity and Equality. The Training provided an overview of the state of gender equality in the region and world over and effectively developed capacity and sharpened the competencies of the members of the judiciary on gender issues.

The Deputy CJ said that the increased pace of the EAC integration would inevitably result in increased disputes thus the need for Judicial Officers in the region to regularly enhance their knowledge on several issues including their understanding of socio-cultural issues and matters to do with Law, Fairness, Equity and Equality.

Justice Kavuma noted the paramount importance of the Judiciaries in the integration process, adding that regular trainings offer an opportunity for the Judicial Officers to play an active role in the promotion of justice in the region. He said that Judiciaries are expected to play a vital

(Continued on page 16)

●●● Deputy Chief Justice roots for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms

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role in the EAC integration and actively participate in the development of jurisprudence in the region.

Justice Kavuma said that Judicial Officers could be powerful agents for social change especially when they work without gender bias and support gender equality, as their pronouncements carry the backing of the state and may thus be enforced or become a norm in the society through established channels of state and citizen engagement.

"As a result, although generally only a small percentage of people directly use courts in any country, the influence a court can exert goes beyond those who come in to direct contact with them," said the Deputy CJ.


Speaking at the forum, the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice, Hon. Justice Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, reminded Judicial Officers that as interpreters and arbitrators of disputes in the region, they have a specific role in the EAC and encouraged them to take advantage of the forum and identify modern innovations to promote gender equality as well as efficiency and effectiveness in the judicial systems of the Partner States.

Justice Ugirashebuja noted the importance of the training as a stepping-stone in the operationalization of the provisions of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. He called upon Judicial Officers to apply the knowledge acquired and eradicate stereotypes and attitudes, which may be gender insensitive.

He further urged the judicial officers to act as role models while undertaking their responsibilities.

The main resource persons were Lady Justice (rtd) Eusebia Munuo from Tanzania; Lady Justice Prof. Lillian T. Ekirikubinza, and; Dr. Tabitha Mulyampiti from the School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University, Kampala.

In attendance were Judges from the Partner States' national courts, registrars and magistrates, government representatives and EAC Secretariat staff.

The Training was officially closed by Mr Fredrick Ruhindi, MP and Attorney General, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Republic Uganda. 



EAC to Enhance Implementation of EAMU through Improved Debt Statistics



In light of the ongoing integration efforts of the East African Community (EAC) compilation of reliable debt statistics in accordance with international standards is key to monitor the regional convergence process particularly in the implementation of the East African Monetary Union (EAMU).

In this regard, with the participation of the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB), a two week joint EAC/IMF East AFRITAC (AFE) public sector debt statistics workshop was concluded in Zanzibar on 19 June 2015 with 30 officials from the EAC Partner States as well as from the republics of Ethiopia and Malawi.

The Workshop sought to address challenges in coverage as well as methodologies in the production of debt data in the region. Typically debt statistics in East Africa only cover a subset of debt instruments and a part of government. There are also methodological problems, especially with regard to how to assess the value of debt. This makes the debt data available partial and not an accurate reflection of what is actually owed to creditors. This translates to insufficient data to monitor convergence or assess compliance with the EAMU debt criterion - ceiling of debt at 50 percent to GDP.

During the Workshop, an in-depth training was conducted by leading international methodology experts on the key issues relating to debt instruments, institutional sectors, and contingent liabilities. Participants then shared their experiences and assessments of where they currently stand at national level vis-à-vis international standards on the various issues.

The workshop was a model in interagency collaboration at both national and international levels with country delegations comprising of participants from all key agencies involved in the production of debt statistics: the central banks, the ministries responsible for finance and the statistics bureaus.

The EAC provided the anchor in terms of the convergence process, linking the operational definitions of the EAMU macroeconomic criteria directly to the data to be produced. The IMF East AFRITAC provided the lecturers in the methodology to be used to produce the debt data, the World Bank provided the training on the standard international templates to be used to report the data, and the AfDB demonstrated and trained the participants in the OpenData platform, the main tool for transmission of data to the EAC and dissemination of the debt statistics to the public.



Part of London 2012 Olympics Stadium wrap can now be seen in Northern Uganda

Part of the London 2012 Olympic Games' legacy can now be seen in Uganda following the launch of the Stadium wrap in Patongo Vocational Centre in Agago District, Northern Uganda on 16 June 2015.

At the function, EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega urged the citizens of the region to seek opportunities through sporting activities in a bid to develop their communities and to improve livelihoods. In remarks delivered on his behalf by EALA Member, Hon Chris Opoka Okumu, the EALA Speaker who was chief guest, maintained that sports was vital and necessary for integration.

"Sport is a huge unifier in Africa. It is extremely popular and it has a positive impact on communities and creates employment," he said.

The Speaker remarked that the regional Assembly was committed to enhancing sporting activities in the region.

"I want to assure of EALA's support and in the promotion of sporting activity as envisaged under Article 119 of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC", he added.

"Uganda's National Anthem was the last one to be played at the 2012 London Olympics games. Receiving a part of that stadium is great honour not only to Ugandans but to the whole of East Africa which has had great representation and participation at Olympic Games," Hon Opoka told the participants.

He hailed Dow for their contribution to the sporting movement.

Earlier this year, the multi-colored thermoplastic membranes developed by Dow to "wrap" the Olympic Stadium were installed at the Patongo Vocational Centre. The centre is run by a local NGO, Passion for Community in collaboration with Chance for Childhood which provides vocational training, education and sanctuary for former child soldiers and other vulnerable young people affected by conflict and poverty in Northern Uganda.

The colored panels of the Stadium Wrap were made from a fabric coated with Dow "polyolefin elastomers". This innovative material was developed by Dow in record time for the London 2012 Olympic Games in order to address the rigorous safety and sustainability requirements of the London Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). The Stadium Wrap enabled the completion of the Olympic Stadium construction project as originally planned by architects and assisted with visual signage for the public attending the event.

Speaking during the unveiling in Patongo, the President of Dow Sub-Saharan Africa, Ross McLean said, "With the Olympic Stadium Wrap we bring another example of our unique technology to this dynamic part of the world. I am very proud that, via this global initiative we have been able to bring a little piece of London to Uganda. It has helped Dow make a difference in the community of Patongo and we will continue doing so."

Panels from the Stadium Wrap were installed as shades at the Patongo Vocational Centre to increase the available space for outdoor activities. The reuse project was completed in partnership with ES Global, a worldwide expert company that joined forces with Dow for the wrap's post-game reuse plan.



The project also offered an opportunity to provide training and work to ten young people, who installed the panels and canopies after going through a training program.

Beyond the stadium wrap, Dow also donated soccer balls which the company has developed using new advanced technology which allows the balls to retain their form and shape without pumping air.

"The soccer balls donated today have not been used elsewhere in Africa. They will go a long way in helping the children and the community of Patongo to enjoy soccer, a game that is phenomenally popular in this region," said McLean.

While receiving the stadium wrap, David Lagen, the Director of Patongo Vocational Center said, "We have already witnessed great impact in the community since the completion of this project. Indeed it has come as good news for the whole community here and it has reignited the role of sports as a powerful tool for community integration."



EAC Participates in 11th Basic International Course on Assistance and Protection of Civilians Against Chemical Weapons

Between 23rd and 25th March 2015, the Peace and Security Department in partnership with the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) along with delegates drawn from the National Authorities of the Partner States and development Partners held a joint planning meeting for the year 2015.

The meeting deliberated on capacity development for response to chemical incidents in line with Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The planning meeting agreed on the following activities to be undertaken over the next nine months:

ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE
Chemical threats, and hazards identification and risk assessment seminar	11-15 May 2015	Entebbe, Uganda
Integrated chemical contingency planning and operational capabilities seminar	5 - 9 October 2015	Nairobi, Kenya
Development of Draft National and Regional Plans (emergency planners and Experts)	14 -18 December 2015	Kigali, Rwanda
Project Assessment Retreat (core project team)	Early 2016	Bujumbura, Burundi

Upon conclusion of the Chemical Threats and Hazards identification and risk assessment Seminar held in Uganda, the OPCW organized a Basic International Course on Assistance and Protection in Krusevac Serbia from 15 – 19 June. The trainees drawn from across Africa, including the EAC Secretariat, were exposed to rescue operations in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) contaminated environments ,terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction, actions and chemical accidents in factories among others.

The training simulated terrorist attacks on civilian populations using poisonous chemicals include the Tokyo Sarin subway attack, Halabja Chemical attacks in Iraq, use of chlorine in Syria and the Boston marathon bombing incident.

The training was intended to enhance preparedness and capacity to respond to such incidents, to which the EAC Region is not immune, should they occur.

Other planned trainings to which the EAC Secretariat and Partner States are lined up to participate with OPCW assistance include:



1. Advanced course on protection against chemical weapons
2. Training of trainers course
3. Course on detection and identification of toxic chemicals(TC) and toxic industrial chemicals(Tic)
4. Course on radiological chemical biological decontamination
5. Course on detection and measurement of ionic radiation
6. Course on CBRN protection of personnel
7. Course on RCB decontamination
8. Basic course on prognoses and prediction of chemical situation.



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