



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

**COMMUNIQUE OF 7<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE EAST  
AFRICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON HEALTH  
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**HILTON HOTEL, NAIROBI, REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
5<sup>TH</sup> TO 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

**Themes:**

- 1. Reproductive Maternal Newborn and Child Health  
Commodity Security and Quality Assurance in the East  
African Community**
- 2. Accountability for Results and Resources with regard to  
women and children's health in the EAC**
- 3. Harnessing Demographic Dividend - A pathway to  
accelerate socio-economic development in the EAC**
- 4. Integrating Population Health and Environment activities  
in the EAC**

**(REF: EAC/EALA/IPF/07/11/2014)**

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY INTER-PARLIAMENTARY  
FORUM ON HEALTH POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Introduction**

We, Parliamentarians from the East African Legislative Assembly and National Parliaments of the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania and Republic of Uganda assembled at the 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the East African Inter-parliamentary Forum on Health, Population and Development in Nairobi, Kenya from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

**Recalling** that Article 118 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community stipulates that partner states undertake joint action towards prevention and control of communicable diseases and other public health community campaigns.

**Acknowledging** the progress that EAC Partner States have made towards the attainment of the eight (8) Millennium Development Goals.

**Aware** of the challenges faced by the Partner States in eliminating preventable deaths and ill health among women, newborns and children and the general population.

**Grateful** for the steps taken by the Partner States in implementing recommendations of the UN Commission on Life Saving Commodities and the UN Commission on Information and

Accountability, which are key global initiatives to accelerate progress in women and children's health.

**Concerned** that access to essential and life saving Reproductive Maternal Newborn and Child Health commodities continues to be constrained by challenges in local production, procurement, logistics management and demand.

**Noting** the strides made by Partner States in strengthening accountability for results and resources for women and children's health through establishing and adopting innovative strategies and tools for tracking results and resources.

**Convinced** that the East African Community with its predominantly youthful population is well placed to harness unprecedented demographic dividend and thus socio-economic development through adoption of policies and interventions that lead to significant decline in mortality and fertility and move the youthful/dependent population into the category of productive working age adults.

**Appreciating** the progress made at the Regional and National level in implementing previous resolutions of the forum with regard to integration of Population, Health and Environment (PHE) policies, strategies and interventions.

**Cognisant** that parliamentarians have a responsibility to ensure that our governments provide accessible, affordable and quality health care for women, newborns, and children, youth and general public.





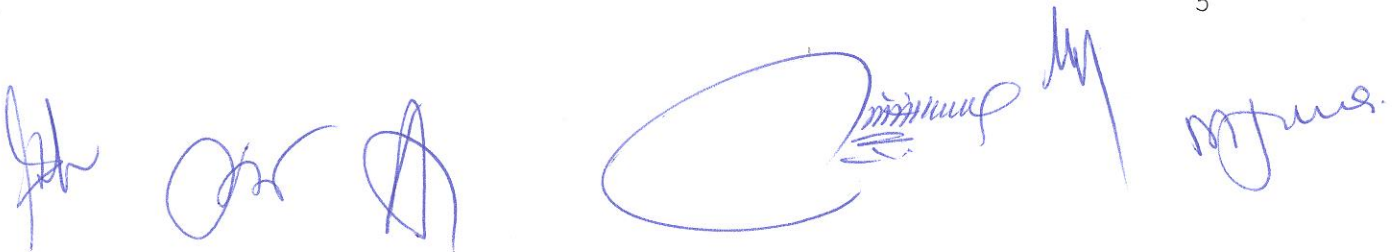
**Having considered** and discussed various intervention areas namely: Reproductive Maternal Newborn and Child Health Commodity Security and Quality Assurance in the East African Community; Accountability for Results and Resources with regard to women and children's health in the EAC; Harnessing Demographic Dividend and Integrating Population, Health and Environment activities in the EAC;

**Hereby** commit to advocate for and support implementation of the following interventions:

- a. Development of effective mechanism to ensure that imported medical, pharmaceutical, and laboratory products and testing within EAC adhere to required international standards.
- b. Improvement and harmonization of the quality assurance institutions including laboratories and attain accreditation standards to increase result reliability within the Partner States and across the Region.
- c. Improvement of EAC cross border transaction of medical, pharmaceutical, and laboratory products and testing results to ensure products or test from one country may effectively be used in another country to make decision.
- d. Adoption and implementation of zero- tolerance-to-stock-out policy for the 13 life saving and other reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health commodities.
- e. Regional efforts to enhance local manufacturing and pooled bulk procurement of essential health commodities.
- f. Develop a harmonized EAC Regional essential medicine list.
- g. Reiterate non-taxation of life saving commodities and equipment, materials, related medical electrical gadgets and fixtures and fittings used in quality control/assurance laboratories for medicines and medical devices.
- h. Urge the Partner States to establish maternity and children hospitals in highly populated areas as per UN guidelines.

- i. Adoption, strengthening, integration and harmonization of innovative health sector/RMNCH resource tracking strategies and tools at regional and national level.
- j. Increasing public financing of strategic health information management systems at the EAC Regional, National levels and subnational.
- k. Adoption and systematic implementation of an integrated set of policies and interventions that enhance investments and outcomes in health, education, and economic growth and job creation, governance at all levels for accelerated attainment of Demographic Dividend in the EAC.
- l. Strengthening of collaborations between health care institutions, universities, research and private institutions to promote knowledge and expertise sharing.
- m. Adoption and scale up of innovative integrated Population, Health and Environment policies, strategies and models at regional and national level.
- n. Commit to track and advocate for the implementation of the commitments of the East African Inter-Parliamentary Forum on Health, Population and Development at Regional and National level.

**Thank** the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the Nairobi County Government, the East African Legislative Assembly, National Parliaments of EAC Partner States, the East African Community Secretariat, experts from EAC Partner States, media and all those who made this activity successful.



Signed by the Respective Heads of Delegation from EAC  
Partner States on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014.



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**Hon. Dr. Martin Nduwimana**

**Chair of the General Purpose Committee - East**

**African Legislative Assembly/Chair of the East African**

**Community Regional Inter-Parliamentary Forum on Health,**

**Population and Development**



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**Hon. Barampama Remy**

**Head of Delegation,**

**National Assembly, Republic of Burundi**



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**Hon. Dr. Susan Musyoka**

**Head of Delegation,**

**National Assembly, Republic of Kenya**



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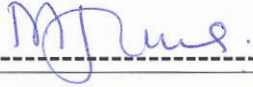
**Hon. Jean Nepomuscene Sindikubwabo**

**Head of Delegation,**

**National Assembly, Republic of Rwanda**







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**Hon. Mgeni Hassan Juma**  
**Head of Delegation,**  
**National Assembly, United Republic of Tanzania**



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**Hon. Naome Kabasharira**  
**Head of Delegation of the Republic of Uganda**  
**National Parliament of Uganda**