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## EAC PARTNER STATES URGED TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED FOSSIL FUELS



East African Community Partner States have been called upon to minimize dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza said dependence on fossil fuels exposes the EAC Partner States to the risks arising from volatility of petroleum prices in the international market and the associated challenges in attaining domestic energy security.

President Nkurunziza further noted that East Africa's limited infrastructure in terms of refineries, pipelines and storage facilities remained a constraint to stability in fuel prices.

President Nkurunziza disclosed that EAC Partner States spend more than 10 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product to import refined petroleum products.

"We are all aware that without sufficient energy, we can neither create wealth nor enhance our competitiveness, production, trade and investments. The EAC therefore attaches great significance to cooperation in the exploration and development of energy resources available in the region," said President Nkurunziza.

President Nkurunziza was addressing delegates when he officially opened the 8th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2017 (EAPCE' 17) in Bujumbura, Burundi.

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## East Africa - the world's most promising frontier for petroleum exploration and development



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He said that the East African region had demonstrated high potential for oil and gas resources, adding that it was only through concerted efforts by various stakeholders that successful petroleum exploration ventures could be mounted.

"In Burundi, the exploration of petroleum resources at Rusizi and Lake Tanganyika basins has commenced in four blocks of 1,477.5 km<sup>2</sup> offshore and 793.1 km<sup>2</sup>. The government of Burundi continues to encourage oil companies to invest in petroleum exploration. It is also reviewing the Petroleum Code of 1976 for purposes of attracting more investors," he said.

President Nkurunziza said that recent discoveries made in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in addition to the existing oil industry in South Sudan had positioned East Africa as the world's most promising frontier for petroleum exploration and development.

The EAPCE' 17 is being held under the theme: East Africa – the Emerging Hotspot for Oil and Gas Exploration, Infrastructure Development and Commercialization.


In his remarks, Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja, the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Uganda's Minister for East African Affairs, said that EAC Partner States had over the years invested huge resources – both human and financial – towards petroleum exploration, efforts which have begun to bear fruit throughout the region.

EAC Secretary General Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko said that there had been increased investments in the region's oil and gas sector in recent times with the recent discoveries.

"Today, the East African region has benefited from advances in technology and management of exploration and production which has led to the discovery of commercially viable oil and gas deposits," said Amb. Mfumukeko.

Alluding to the oil curse that has been the bane of many oil-producing countries on the African continent, the Secretary General said East Africa has an obligation to learn from other countries and put petroleum resources to good use.

Amb. Mfumukeko said that despite the effects of fluctuating global oil prices, EAC economies had been able to withstand the shocks, adding that the continued growth was testimony to the conducive environment in the region.

"This stability offers long term prospects for returns on investments to potential investors, irrespective of any headwinds the global economy may encounter," he noted. 

# Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa (IIDEA) Launched in Bujumbura



The Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa (IIDEA) developed as a joint initiative between the EAC Secretariat, Regional Dialogue Committee (RDC), and GIZ was launched on Thursday, 22nd June, 2017, by Uganda's 2nd Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of EAC Affairs and the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon. Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivenjija, at the commencement of the 5th Annual Secretary General's Forum for Private Sector, Civil Society and other Interest Groups, in Bujumbura, Burundi.

Speaking during the launch event, Hon. Kivenjija said through the IIDEA project, the EAC is not only very proud to support private sector, civil society and other interest groups in East Africa, who are the region's most committed partners in integration, but also to be able to provide tangible opportunities for citizens to enable them support, own and champion the integration agenda.

"We believe doing this will not only bridge the gap between East African Citizens and the EAC, but also strengthen the integration process."

He informed the participants that since the commencement of IIDEA's activities in April 2016, a total of sixteen projects have been approved by the IIDEA Committee for support. "Two projects have been successfully completed, fourteen are currently under implementation and all are producing promising results", asserted the Chairperson of the EAC Council.

"In addition, IIDEA pioneering projects focus on issues ranging from technological innovation, gender empowerment, cross border trade, SMEs promotion and development, market access and

information, youth skills enhancement and employment, saving for healthcare, art incubation, cultural integration among others", stated Hon. Kivenjija.

The Chairperson of the Council commended Regional Dialogue Committee (RDC), IIDEA Committee and GIZ for their contributions towards making the EAC integration more than just empty words. "We applaud you and ask that you continue with the good work."

Addressing the participants of the forum earlier during the official opening of the 5th SG's Forum, Burundi's Minister to the Office of the President responsible for East African Community Affairs, Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo said the 5th Annual Forum was first and foremost organized in the spirit of widening and deepening the EAC integration process.

"As a matter of fact, the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community and especially Article 7 paragraph 1 (a) stipulates that the principles that shall govern the practical achievements of the objectives of the Community shall include people-centred and market driven cooperation", added the Minister.

"I have no doubt that the themes and sub-themes developed in this 5th Annual Secretary General's Forum are going to emphasize the involvement of the citizenry and its implementation in the context of multi-stakeholder partnerships."

She reiterated the commitment of the Government of Burundi to

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## Forum brings together Parties to discuss issues of mutual interest and engagement through sector specific fora

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the involvement of Private Sector Organizations (PSO), Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and other Interest Groups in the integration process by establishing a National Dialogue Committee in accordance with the directive of the Council of Ministers.

On his part, the EAC Secretary General, Amb Libérat Mfumukeko informed the participants that Article 127 (4) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC specifically provides for an Annual Forum convened by the Secretary General of the East African Community that brings together the Parties to the Dialogue to discuss issues of mutual interest and engagement through sector specific fora.

He disclosed that the Civil Society Organizations has been fulfilling the principal of a people-centered Community by playing a major role in the implementation of the 4th EAC Development Strategy (2012/2016) and also advocacy for the extended Jurisdiction of East African Court of Justice (EACJ).

"Through their engagement in the integration process we have witnessed the negotiation and conclusion of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) by professionals in the following areas; Accountants, Engineers, Architects; Veterinary Surgeons; the Land Surveyors and Advocates in East Africa, harmonization of education curricular with draft structures and frameworks leading to the harmonization of the EAC curricula developed and harmonized Draft Rules and Regulations guiding the conduct of Examinations in EAC Education institutions have been developed," added the Secretary General.

Amb. Mfumukeko also highlighted the role of Private Sector in fulfilling the market driven principle of the Treaty by implementing the commitments enshrined within the EAC Customs Union and Common Market Protocols by improving the business and economic environment through evidence-based policy advocacy in the areas of harmonization of trade facilitation and regulatory framework, harmonization of product standards, advocating for free movement of the factors of production, as well as addressing trade barriers faced by women-owned businesses and Micro, Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The Vice President of the East African Law Society, Ms. Anne Abeja said the biggest concern for any organization should be when their most passionate people become quiet. "Let us, as participants and stakeholders of the SG's Forum, not become quiet on matters of regional Integration". We are here representing the people of East Africa, I believe we are passionate, that is why we are here to begin with, we therefore owe it to us all, to not just be heard but to be seen and felt as well in matters of Regional Integration and in implementing agreed recommendations", affirmed Ms. Abeja.



## EAC Partner States Short of Qualified Health Specialists

East African Community Partner States have a serious shortage of qualified health specialists, recent estimates show.

Uganda's Minister of State for Health, Hon. Dr. Sarah Opendi, said that like most low and middle income regions, the EAC has far less than the 44.5 physicians, nurses and midwives per 10,000 people required to fast-track the attainment of health related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets.

Dr. Opendi said that due to the low number of health specialists vis-à-vis the population, EAC Partner States could not provide quality healthcare to their citizens without addressing the issue of training of Human Resources for Health, both in terms of quality and quantity.

"Inspection of medical, nursing and other health professions training institutions is a critical quality assurance intervention that must be pursued in light of the attendant HRH challenges," said Dr. Opendi.

"Strengthening the quality of training through peer inspections will significantly build confidence in our training institutions and expand the growth-inducing impact of healthcare employment on various socio-economic sectors such as trade, tourism and GDP," said the Minister.

Dr. Opendi said that the population of the region had grown tremendously over the years without a corresponding investment in the training of healthcare staff.

"Our efforts to achieve the SDG 3 on good health and wellbeing, and in particular, the target of universal health coverage (UHC) is very much dependent on how we address the existing human resources for health challenges, including numbers and quality of training," she added.

Dr. Opendi was speaking when she officially opened the Ministerial Session of the 1st Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. Uganda currently holds the position of Chairperson of the EAC.

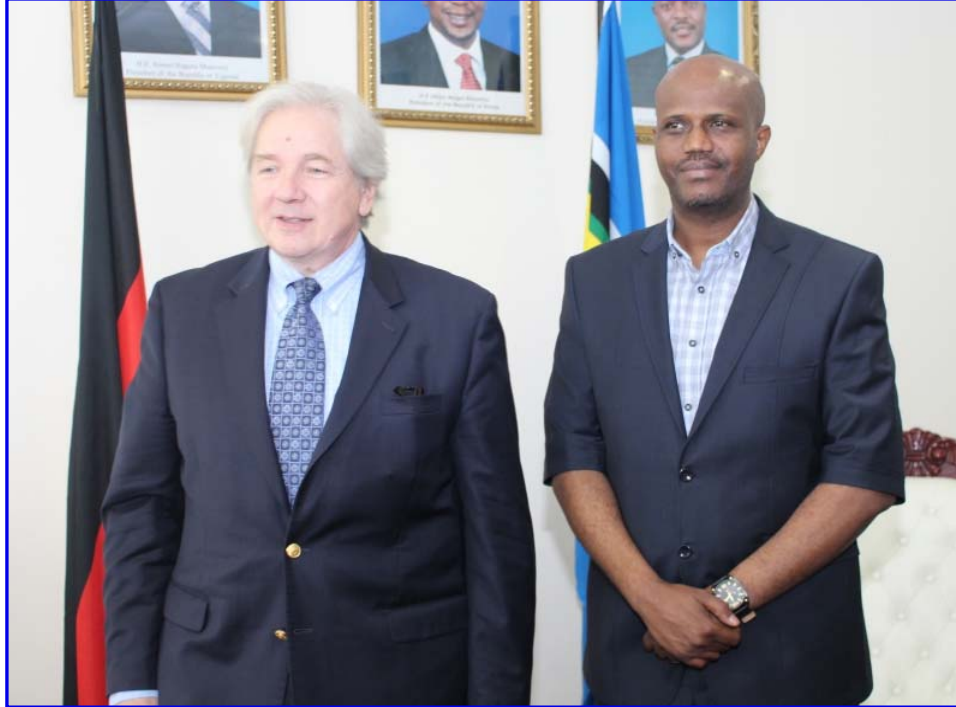
She commended Partner States' National Medical and Dental Boards and Councils for championing efforts to uphold and strengthen standards in medical and dental schools in the EAC region.

"There shouldn't be any compromise on these standards because poorly trained health workers will be a big threat to the lives of our population," she said.

She hailed ongoing national and regional efforts to strengthen the training of HRH such as expanding the postgraduate training fellowships and award of sub-specialists qualification in medicine and other health sciences.



## Outgoing Germany Ambassador Pays Courtesy Farewell Visit on the Secretary General



The outgoing German Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania and the East African Community, H.E Egon Kochanke, on Thursday 15 June 2017, paid a courtesy farewell visit on the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. H.E Egon Kochanke will be returning to Germany in June 2017 after three years' tour of duty.

Addressing the Secretary General, Amb. Kochanke, who was accompanied by Dr. Helmut Schon, the Director of KfW Office in Dar es Salaam and Bernd Multhaupt, the outgoing Head of GiZ-EAC Integration Office in Arusha, said he was proud to be associated with the positive developments taking place in the regional integration agenda.

The outgoing Ambassador said he was happy to have witnessed the construction of the EAC Headquarters and its official opening by the EAC Heads of State in November 2012. The German government contributed fully to the construction of the USD18.8m office complex.

He said during his tenure, he had great interaction with the EAC Secretariat and the Executive staff that made his work easier. He said he was contented with the German contribution to the Health and Education sectors, which were very critical in the livelihood of the East African citizens.

Amb. Konchake said he was leaving the region when peace and security was improving in both Burundi and the Republic of South Sudan.


The Ambassador disclosed that the business community in Germany were now viewing the EAC as a huge market, "for example the German carmaker Volkswagen (VW) will soon set up production plant in Kenya as it looks to sell more vehicles across the entire East African region and beyond".

On his part, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, who was accompanied by his Deputies in charge of Finance and Administration, Hon. Jesca Eriyo; in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo; and in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Stephen Mlote, congratulated his guest upon his successful tour of duty and for strengthening the relations between the EAC and Germany.

"You have been the champion of the EAC integration agenda and your personal support and involvement has been very encouraging to us", asserted the Secretary General.

Amb. Mfumukeko informed his guest that the Secretariat will continue to stream its activities focusing on a few priorities which will produce results that impact on the lives of the East African citizens.

He said the Secretariat was currently assessing the performance of the 4th EAC Development Strategy as the basis for preparing the 5th Development Strategy.

The Secretary General commended the outgoing Ambassador for being behind some of the milestones in the EAC - Federal Republic of Germany relations during his term in office. 

# Attorney General and Speaker of the Transitional Assembly of South Sudan revoke the nomination of nine Members to EALA



The First Instance Division heard an inter parties Application file by Wani Santido from the Republic of South Sudan against the Attorney General of the Republic of South Sudan, the Speaker of the Parliament of South Sudan and the Secretary General of the East African Community on 15 June 2017.

He was seeking court order to restrain the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) from administering the oath of office, or otherwise recognizing nominees from the Republic of South Sudan.

The Applicant represented by Donald Deya withdrew the Application after the consent by the Representatives of the Attorney General of South Sudan (1st Respondent) and the Speaker of the Transitional Legislative Assembly of the same (2nd Respondent). The two Respondents revoked the nomination of the nine (9) members to East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)

as indicated in Resolution No. 04/2017, dated 13 June 2017 and adopted by the Transitional National Legislative Assembly of the government of South Sudan.

The 1st and 2nd Respondents also committed that they will hold fresh election which will meet the requirements of Article 50 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community. The Secretary General of EAC 3rd Respondent also committed to provide a concise legal opinion and otherwise assist the 1st & 2nd Respondents to the best of his ability to abide by the requirements of the Treaty.

On 5th June 2017, the Court granted an interim Ex- parte order pending hearing of the Inter parties' application. committed that they will hold fresh election that will meet the require-

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## ... Both Applicants and Respondents apply for adjournment of hearing of main Reference

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ments of Article 50 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community. The Secretary General of EAC will provide a concise legal opinion and otherwise assist the 1st & 2nd Respondents to the best of his ability to abide by the requirements of the Treaty. After they reached this consent the Applicant withdrew the Application which had been earlier filed to Court seeking the Court's order restraining the East African Legislative Assembly from administering the oath of office, or otherwise recognising nominees from the Republic of South Sudan.



On 5th June 2017, the Court granted an interim Ex-parte order pending hearing of the Inter partes application. The Applicant, Wani Santido Jada, committed that they will hold fresh election that will meet the requirements of Article 50 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community.

The Secretary General of EAC will provide a concise legal opinion and otherwise assist the 1st & 2nd Respondents to the best of his ability to abide by the requirements of the Treaty.

After they reached this consent the Applicant withdrew the Application which had been earlier filed to Court seeking the Court's order restraining the East African Legislative Assembly from administering the oath of office, or otherwise recognising nominees from the Republic of South Sudan.

On 5 June 2017, the Court granted an interim Ex- parte order pending hearing of the Inter partes application today. The Applicant is called Wani Santido Jada .

Mr. Wani Santino Jada who represented himself in Court at the ex parte hearing said that on or about the 11th March 2017, His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, appointed nine (9) persons to represent the said Partner State in EALA which was in violation of Article 50 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

The swearing-in of EALA MPs that was due to take place on 5th June 2017 was postponed by the Assembly until further notice.

Both the Applicants and the Respondents have jointly applied for adjournment of the hearing of the main Reference which was scheduled for next week Wednesday 21st June 2017, until the elections have been held. The Applicant went ahead and submitted that, they got assurance from the 1st and 2nd Respondents that they will hold elections possibly next week.

The Court accepted the consent by the Respondents and allowed to be filed in the Registry.

The Representatives for the Respondents were Mr. James Mayen Oka for the Attorney General, under the Secretary of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Mr. Alalla Younis Said Loro, Clerk of Assembly Transitional National Legislative Assembly South Sudan, Ms. Florence Ochago Principal Legal Officer and Brenda Ntihinyurwa Legal expert for the Secretary General EAC. The Applicant was also present in Court.

The matter was before a bench of the First Instance Division of the Court comprised of Justices Monica Mugenyi, (Principal Judge); Isaac Lenaola, (Deputy Principal Judge); Faustin Nteziyayo, Judge; Fakihi Jundu, Judge and Audace Ngiye, Judge



## Registrar of the Mechanism for International Tribunals Pays Courtesy Call on Secretary General



The Registrar of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT), His Worship Olufemi Elias, accompanied by Mr. Samuel Akorimo, Head of Office MICT Registry Arusha Branch and Mr. Ousman Njikam, External Relations Officer, Arusha Branch on 16 June 2017, paid courtesy call on the EAC Secretary General, Amb Liberat Mfumukeko. The Secretary General and his guests explored areas of collaboration including Peace and Security in the region.

The Secretary General briefed His Worship Olufemi Elias on the current achievements in the pillars of the regional integration and development process. He disclosed to the Registrar that the Community had expanded tremendously within a short spell of time which has necessitated a review of its institutional set-up and work on a sustainable financing mechanism.

On his part, the Registrar informed the Secretary General on the structure of MICT and explained that, the Mechanism has two branches: one in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, which covers functions inherited from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Arusha Branch, and the other in the Hague, the Netherlands, which covers functions inherited from the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY), the Hague Branch. The Arusha Branch additionally has a satellite field office located in Kigali, Rwanda ("Kigali Office").


In addition, his Worship said that, the Mechanism is responsible for the preservation, including the management and access, of the ICTR, the ICTY, and the Mechanism archives. These ar-

chives includes; investigations documents, indictments, and court proceedings, the protection of witnesses, work relating to the detention of accused persons, the enforcement of sentences, and the Tribunals' relationships with other law enforcement authorities in member countries.

Mr. Samuel Akorimo, Head of Office MICT Registry Arusha Branch added that with the completion of the ICTR's mandate at the end of 2015, and the expected completion of the ICTY's mandate at the end of 2017, further cases related to crimes committed in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia are now being tried within national jurisdictions.

Accompanying the Secretary General at the meeting was the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration, Hon Jesca Eriyo.

The Secretary General also met the Director of the East African Local Governments Association (EALGA), Eastern Africa Regional Office, Dr Juma Menhya accompanied by his Programme Assistant, Mr Baraka Marandu who had paid him a courtesy call in his office.

The Secretary General and his guest discussed several issues including how EALGA can strengthening their advocacy and commitment with EAC and other intergovernmental bodies by establishing structured dialogue platforms. 





# DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE NEW EAC EMBLEM AND 10 LOGOS



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# EAC Partner States Sign CAADP Compact to Transform Agriculture for Inclusive Economic Development

The EAC Partner States have marked a major milestone in their aspiration of placing agriculture as the engine of social and economic growth in the integration process with the signing of the EAC Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact.

The EAC CAADP Compact details regional development priorities and defines actions, commitments and partnerships required to achieve agricultural transformation in line with the CAADP goals and targets.

Addressing officials during the signing ceremony of the EAC CAADP Compact, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo noted that the process of developing the EAC CAADP Compact has been a lengthy, inclusive and consultative one, aimed at building consensus and securing ownership among various stakeholders.

"The Compact is designed to facilitate coordination of regional and cross-cutting programmes that are best handled regionally and those that compliment agricultural programmes and projects at the national level in the Partner States," added Hon. Bazivamo.

On his part, Uganda's Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and Chairperson of the EAC Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Ssempijja V. Bamulangaki reaffirmed the EAC Partner States' commitment to transforming agriculture for inclusive economic growth in the region.

"Over the years, efforts have been put in different sectors of integration such as infrastructure, it is now time that we assert ourselves, move with greater speed and ensure we take agriculture to the lead", said the Minister.

CAADP's overall goal is to use agriculture to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty in Africa. Through the CAADP agenda, African governments have agreed to increase public investment in agriculture to 10% of national budgets per year and to raise and maintain agricultural productivity and annual growth by at least 6%.



With the vision of "A Competitive and prosperous agriculture sector in East Africa", the EAC CAADP Compact priorities focus on considerations for accelerating agricultural growth and transformation, that targets: increased agriculture production and productivity; increased intra African regional trade and better functioning of national and regional markets; expanded local agro-industry and value chain development inclusive of women and youth; increased resilience of livelihoods and improved management of risks in agricultural sector; and improved management of natural resources for sustainable agriculture.

The priority and focus areas in the EAC Compact include sustainable natural resource use and management; rural infrastructure, ICT and trade-related capacities for improved market access; food supply and reducing hunger; agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption; enhancing resilience of livelihoods and production systems and Management of Risks; institutional and financial Strengthening; and cross cutting issues.

The Compact was signed by the EAC Partner States, the EAC Secretariat, the Inter- University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), the East Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), the East African Business Council (EABC), the East Africa Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSOFF), the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



## EAC is on the Right Track ~ Secretary General



The East African Community has recorded significant achievements with a number of protocols being signed and Non-Tariff Barriers to trade being eliminated.


EAC Secretary General Amb. Liberat Mfumukeyo, however, said that there was still room for the Partner States to do more so that East Africans can reap the full benefits of integration.

Amb. Mfumukeyo was speaking when he met a delegation of Norwegian envoys to the EAC including Ms Hanne-Marie Kaarstad (Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania), Mr Victor Rønneberg (Kenya) and Ms Susan Eckey (Uganda) on Monday, 5th June, at the EAC headquarters, in Arusha, Tanzania.

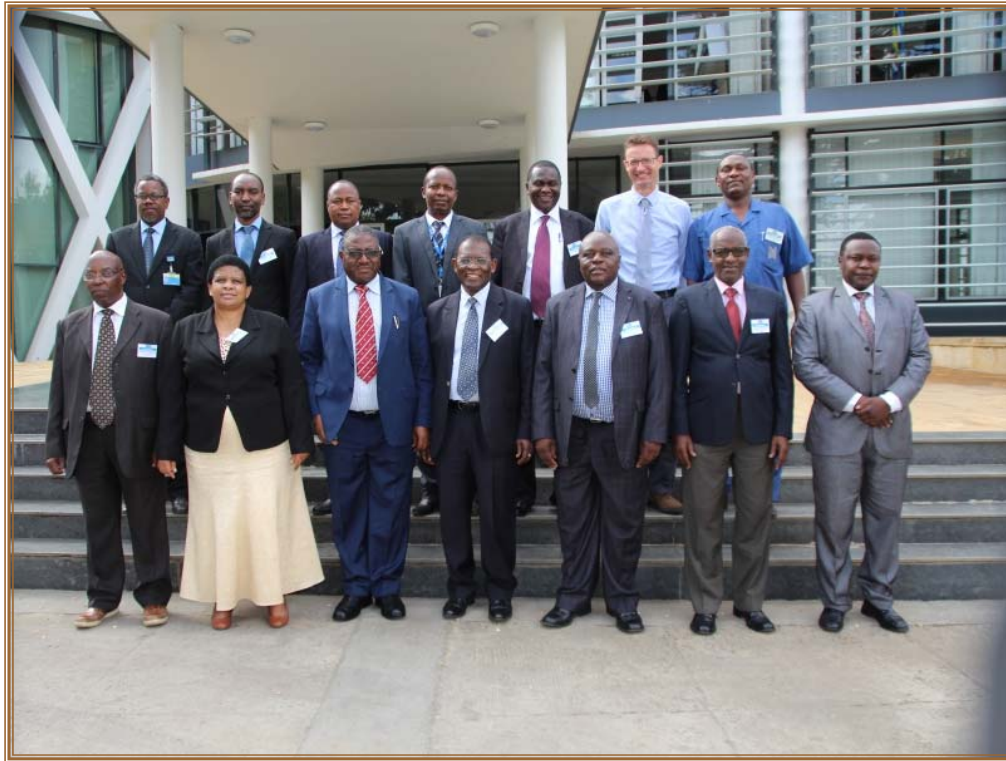
Amb. Mfumukeyo briefed the Ambassadors on the priority areas that he intends to pursue in the next five years, including the: Consolidation of the EAC Single Customs Territory; free movement of skilled labour in the region; enhancement of industrial development through investment in priority sectors; promotion of innovations to stimulate economic development; improvement of agricultural productivity, and; the promotion of regional peace, security and good governance.

The Secretary General further briefed the Norwegian envoys on the ongoing administrative and institutional reforms aimed at cutting down costs and reducing wastage of funds in Community's expenditure.

On her part, Amb. Kaarstad commended the EAC Secretariat for the good work that has led to the attainment of several achievements, and assured the Secretary General of her country's commitment to continue supporting the integration process.

Accompanying the EAC Secretary General at the meeting were EAC Deputy Secretaries General in charge of Political Federation, Mr. Charles Njoroge, Productive and Social Sector, Mr. Christophe Bazivamo, Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Stephen Mlote, and the Director General Customs and Trade, Mr Kenneth Bagamuhunda. 

## Heads of Meteorological Services Meet in Arusha



A 3-day meeting of the Heads of Meteorological Service to spearhead the development of the Meteorological Sector in the region concluded at the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania on 21st July 2017.

Addressing participants at the opening session, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure Eng. Steven D.M Mlote, informed the meeting that the provision of accurate and timely weather and climate information provides useful inputs into sectors such as agriculture; livestock development and food security; road, air and maritime transport; building and construction industry; health and public safety; disaster management and water resources management among others.

He further informed the meeting that the ratification of the EAC Protocol on the Cooperation in Meteorological Services was one of the key priorities. The protocol, once fully implemented, will rekindle the glory of the East African Meteorological Services. He called upon Partner States to fast track the ratification process.


Eng. Mlote requested the Heads of the Meteorological Services to explore new avenues in the unexplored territories to make the sector more visible. Some of the new opportunities worthy exploring includes: Weather Services for the Road Transport to reduce road fatalities associated with bad weather; Weather Services to the Health Sector; Weather Services for the New

Standard Railways; Weather Services to support the new digital television broadcasting services; and Development of an EAC weather forecasting platform.

In his remarks the Chairman Dr. Festis Luboyera, Executive Director of Uganda National Meteorological Authority informed generally the seasonal March to May season was well forecasted and in line with the forecast made by the National Meteorological Services. He encouraged partner states to work with development partners to stabilize food security.

Director of Infrastructure (DI) at the EAC Secretariat, Dr Kamugisha Kazaura promised that the EAC Secretariat will continue to support the Meteorological Services and explore avenues through which the EAC can facilitate in supporting acquiring capital equipment to improve service delivery.

Among the key output of the meeting was the formation of a taskforce to assess the optimum number of weather stations and location of Radar Stations to avoid duplication of efforts and save on costs of procurement of meteorological instruments and equipment.

The meeting was attended by Heads of the Meteorological Services, Representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Weather Information Service Africa (WISER), IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) as well as USAID PREPARED. 

# Dar Hosts Inception Workshop for Youth Employment in Agriculture

A regional inception workshop to launch the joint East African Community (EAC) and Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) Project on Youth Employment in the Agricultural Sector in the EAC was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Presiding over the opening session, Hon Christophe Bazivamo, the EAC Deputy Secretary General (DSG) in-charge of Productive and Social Sectors noted that the youth constitute the largest segment of the population across the EAC.

Hon. Bazivamo, however, said that economic growth within the Partner States was not generating enough jobs especially for the region's ballooning number of young men and women.

"Rural poverty and food security remain persistent and are linked with this problem of jobless growth," said Hon. Bazivamo.

The DSG informed the meeting that EAC with financial and technical support from the FAO had prioritized the promotion of youth employment in the agricultural sector as one of the Community's flagship initiatives.

"This will be pursued under a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) on Promoting Youth Employment in the Agricultural Sector in the EAC. The overall objective of the TCP is to contribute to reducing rural poverty and boosting economic growth by supporting the creation of better opportunities for youth in the agricultural sector," said the DSG.

The DSG said it was unfortunate that Africa spends over \$35 billion on food imports, which is a huge economic burden.

"Unless the current trend is reversed, Africa will spend \$110 billion on food imports by 2025. The amount of money channeled to imports could make a big impact if invested to promote agricultural production and productivity," he said.

He identified post-harvest food loss as one of the largest contributing factors to food and nutritional insecurity in Africa with more than 30 per cent of food produced for human consumption being lost or wasted through post-harvest losses, adding that the youth if supported could transform post-harvest losses into investment opportunities through value addition and agro-processing ventures.

The DSG urged EAC Partner States to look at agriculture in a multi-sectoral perspective, noting that Inclusive agricultural growth and transformation calls for an integrated approach.

He said that infrastructure development is critical for catalyzing transformation of the agriculture sector.

"The lack of infrastructure drives up the cost of doing business and also discourages the private sector from investing in agricultural



value chains. Linkages with agro- industrialization fundamental. For instance agroprocessing would help stimulate production by expanding and enhancing access to markets."

The DSG emphasized the need to identify youth involved in transformational agricultural initiatives so that they are recognized and rewarded, noting that this would motivate more young people to recognize that investing in agriculture was a highly profitable initiative.

Speaking at the event, Dr Patrick Kormawa, the FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and FAO Representative to the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, highlighted the worrying demographic trends in the EAC.

Dr. Kormawa noted that the EAC was becoming home to an increasingly young population.

"In 2010, East Africa's youth accounted for 45% of the total population. This number continues to grow and it is estimated that 75% of East Africa's total population will be under the age of 34 in 2030," said Dr. Kormawa, adding that true rural transformation cannot be accomplished in the EAC without empowering the youth as actors of change.

"FAO believes that boosting youth employment in agricultural value chains is a low hanging fruit for harvesting sustainable development, food security, and rural poverty reduction," said the FAO official.

He cited the strong comparative advantage of FAO in supporting rural institutions and agrifood value chains, especially small-scale, self-employed and informal agricultural occupations.

"The niche of FAO lies in capacity development and institutional strengthening," said Dr. Kormawa.



# Higher Education Stakeholders Discuss the Role of Universities in the Operationalization of the EAC Common Higher Education Area for Regional Integration

The Inter-University Council for East Africa held its 8th Meeting from 29 – 30 June, 2017 in Zanzibar, Tanzania under the theme *“The Role of Universities in the Operationalization of the EAC Common Higher Education Area for Regional Integration.”*

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellors and Principals of member universities, representatives from the Ministries responsible for higher education from each Partner State, and representatives from the private sector, the East African Community (EAC) Secretary General, the heads of commissions/councils for higher/university education, heads of national commissions/councils for science and technology, heads of EAC institutions and other higher education stakeholders including university students.

During the meeting, stakeholders dialogued on The Role of Universities in the Operationalization of the EAC Common Higher Education Area for Regional Integration, the theme which has been chosen following the Declaration of the EAC as a Common Higher Education Area (EACHEA) during the 18th Ordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State held on 20th May 2017 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The IUCEA members also discussed formal Annual Meeting business which included the report of activities implemented by IUCEA in the last year.

As a strategic institution of the EAC responsible for coordinating the development of higher education and research in the region, IUCEA has played a key role in coordinating various processes that have ultimately culminated into the Declaration of the EAC as a Common Higher Education Area, said the IUCEA Executive Secretary Prof. Alexandre Lyambabaje, adding that these include, among others, the Regional Quality Assurance System with its operational tools such the Road Map to Quality: A Handbook for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in five volumes; Principles and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, benchmarks for academic programmes and the East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN), the East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (EAQFHE), which is both a human resources development tool and a platform for rationalization and mutual recognition of qualifications.

The Executive Secretary said that IUCEA is currently steering a number of initiatives on the development of centres of excellence in various fields maintaining that those centres will serve as hubs for the development of highly skilled human resources for the region. “Mobility of both academic staff and students, which is an important avenue for brain circulation; research and innovation are currently on top of IUCEA’s agenda to respond to various needs of our region. This is in cognizance of the fact that higher education plays a unique and pivotal role in promoting East Africa’s co-operation and regional integration,” he noted.

It was expected that at the end of the Dialogue Session, the participants will appreciate the account of what IUCEA has achieved in the development of various regional policies, guidelines, and standards that have contributed towards the transformation of the EAC into a Common Higher Education Area, be informed on the gist of the EAC Common Higher Education Area and what it entails as well as its contribution to the EAC integration agenda and socio-economic development, appreciate key roles each institution has to play in operationalising the EACHEA and take collective responsibility and devise common strategies to realize the long-awaited dream of an East African Common Higher Education Area.





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