

Key Priority Areas

The Key Priority Areas of the EAC over the Plan Period 2021/22 - 2025/26 will be the following:

1. Strengthening of regional peace, security, political processes, emergency response mechanisms and good governance to create a stable business environment.
2. Provision of Customs Services that facilitate legitimate trade and investment in the region.
3. Strengthening the productive and social sectors to improve production and productivity, increase value addition, and domesticate regional commitments to improve the welfare of East Africans.
4. Full implementation of the East African Monetary Union Protocol.
5. Re-engineering of production and logistics arrangements in line with digitalised frameworks to enhance e-business opportunities and streamlining interconnectivity of transport logistics.
6. Development of regional infrastructure to support the integration process.
7. Institutional transformation at the regional level, including skills development.
8. Promotion of awareness creation and dissemination of information on the Community

The strategic approach in the operationalization of the 6th Development Strategy shall continue to leverage deeper stakeholder participation, technology applications, research, enhanced competitiveness, facilitating investment, and harmonizing policy and regulatory frameworks within and across the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). There will also be the need to ensure the appropriate mainstreaming of the key cross-cutting issues of gender, HIV/AIDS, environment, climate change and human rights – into the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the various regional and Partner State level programmes and projects under this Strategy.

Information sharing and use is vital as part of assessing the progress and status of Strategy implementation. Towards this end, the existing mechanisms for information sharing with diverse stakeholders will be leveraged. Strengthening the institutional framework for usage of the M&E information is crucial. There will be need for capacity building within the media to empower them to disseminate regional integration information to different stakeholders.



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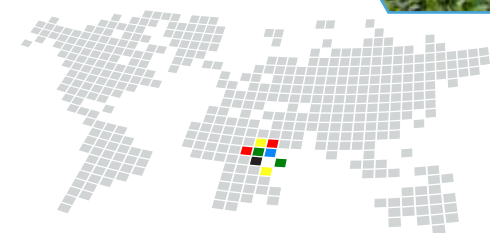
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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY



Sixth EAC Development Strategy

2021/22 – 2025/26

Introduction

The Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community and EAC Vision 2050 remain the anchor document for programming EAC strategic interventions aimed at sustainable growth and development. The 6th EAC Development Strategy has been formulated against the backdrop of a devastating corona virus pandemic (COVID-19) which has resulted in national, regional, and global lockdowns in air space, sea, and land access for trade. The pandemic may also inhibit investment in the immediate future. In this regard, the 6th EAC Development Strategy explores alternative new approaches in doing business at the regional and global levels including building local manufacturing capacities where potential exists to reduce on logistics challenges, occasioned in part by COVID-19. The approach to be adopted at regional level includes re-orienting the economies back to their long-term growth path by adopting measures:

- a. To mitigate the short-term and medium-term (2-3 years) negative impacts of the pandemic on vital economic and social sectors of the EAC region;
- b. Support strengthening of the fundamentals for robust recovery and sustainable further growth of trade and investment flows; and
- c. Facilitate harmonized implementation of priority activities aimed at promoting economic recovery and ensuring the future prosperity of the EAC region.

Key Drivers

The key drivers at regional level include: improving the investment climate; strengthening the manufacturing capacity and value chains in the region; consolidating and strengthening regional integration initiatives; capacity rebuilding of trade and investment facilitation institutions; enhancing trade facilitation; promotion of EAC exports to external markets; re-engineering the transport sector; prioritising key services sectors for trade development and investment; supporting agriculture and food security and sustainability; building regional capacity for digital transformations (i.e. e-commerce and e-government' and re-igniting tourism and re-orienting the tourism value chains.

These regional initiatives will be complemented with additional national rescue interventions in building and strengthening the health sector capacities, including recruitment of additional personnel in the public health, to manage and contain the spread of the pandemic; sustaining citizen sensitisation to adhere to the measures instituted by governments; improving the business environment to attract and retain local and foreign investors; innovate the logistics and transport sectors to cope with COVID-19 pandemic and ensure supply chains remain operational; provision of liquidity measures to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the business community; enhancing trade and trade facilitation mechanisms; consolidating and strengthening regional integration initiatives; promotion of EAC exports to external markets and building capacity for digital transformation.

Overall Goal

To Transform the East African Community into a Stable, Competitive and Sustainable Lower-middle Income Region by 2030.

Overarching Theme

Building momentum towards post-COVID-19 recovery and accelerating regional adaptation to the dynamic socio-economic environment.

Strategic Development Objectives

The Strategic Development Objectives underpinning the 6th EAC Development Strategy focus on building a regional economy to take advantage of the large continental and global markets, re-engineer production and logistics arrangements in line with digitalised frameworks in the face of the disruptive effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Attainment of a fully-fledged Customs Union through full implementation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) and enhanced ICT systems for customs administrations and other key players.
2. Enhancing domestication and implementation of regional commitments in line with the EAC Common Market Protocol, and other related regional, continental, and international frameworks.
3. Attainment of the EAC single currency through the realisation of macro-economic convergence criteria and the harmonisation of fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies.
4. Strengthening regional governance, political commitment, accountability, and inclusivity to improve peace and security, in the build-up to an EAC Political Confederation.
5. Development of quality, multi-dimensional, strategic infrastructure and related services including clean energy to support and accelerate sustainable regional integration and global competitiveness.
6. Developing and strengthening the capacity of all EAC Organs and Institutions to effectively execute their mandates.
7. Increasing visibility of EAC stakeholder knowledge and awareness, and participation of EAC citizens in the integration process.

