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H.E JOACHIM GAUCK VISITS EAC HEADQUARTERS



The President of the Federal Republic of Germany His Excellency Joachim Gauck paid a working visit to the EAC Headquarters on 5 February 2015, and addressed a large gathering comprising of members of staff of the EAC Organs and Institutions, civil society organizations, members of the East African Assembly, Arusha City authorities and local residents at the Chambers of the East African Legislative Assembly.

Prior to his address, H.E Gauck held private joint discussions with the Secretary General of the East African Community Amb. Dr. Sezibera, the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Rt. Hon Daniel Kidega; His Lordship the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja; and the Executive and senior staff of the Secretariat and Organs of the Community.

In his speech to the East African Community, President Gauck expressed his extreme happiness to be at the EAC Headquarters premises, a building he described as "where the commitment to peace and freedom, to democracy and the rule of law, and to human dignity and humanity has found a home".

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"We often grapple with the speed and extent of integration. However, we also sense that commitment to peace, rule of law, and cooperation is valuable," President Gauck

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The President cautioned the EAC to guard against setbacks, skepticism, self-doubt, and public criticism that could derail the integration process and urged the EAC Partner States to borrow a leaf from the European Union's (EU) book, saying several areas of the two blocs were in common.

The German President called on the EAC Partner States to consider focusing on youth who were beneficiaries of most of the initiatives and decisions being made today.

However, he cautioned the youth that alliance of their countries though good, the process would take time and effort, for solutions had to be discussed, negotiated and achieved over and over.

He said conflicts between countries ought to be resolved peacefully and that reliable rules for dealing with each other on the international level ought to be in place. "Human rights violations must not be tolerated. And those who violate human rights must be held to account," he said, stressing that human rights belonged to every person, regardless of origin, religion, or social or material status.

President Gauck admitted that the EU integration was also facing conflicts and crises that were a huge test to the strength of the bloc.

"We often grapple with the speed and extent of integration. However, we also sense that commitment to peace, rule of law, and cooperation is valuable," President Gauck said. He said EAC was seeking its own path by ensuring Partner States work on their own solutions, pursue their own agenda and in their own time.

"This is what is happening at the moment, and this is the way it should," said the German President, observing that EAC was, as a result of the ambitious goals it had set for itself, become a role model and a peace setter in Africa.

EAC member states had enjoyed continued average economic growth of over 6 per cent in the past decade and its over 145 million people speak a common language of Kiswahili, a 'luxury' that EU was lacking, he said.

President Gauck said it was worth investing much energy in the regional integration for the bloc to foster stability, growth, and prosperity.

"Apocalyptic thinkers regularly predict the end of the Euro or even the complete downfall of Europe. Please, do not trust those who propagate such doom and gloom," he cautioned. Seeking compromises, remaining patient, and putting selfish interests aside



for the sake of democratic principles and the rule of law, according to him, preserved cohesion during difficult times.

The Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Rt. Hon. Daniel Kidega commended the warm and cordial ties between EAC and Germany, which is reflected in the German support through GIZ-EAC programmes including the construction of the EAC headquarters.

He urged both Germany and the EAC to strengthen the existing bonds and ties to new and higher levels for the benefit of citizens.

The EAC Secretary General, Dr Richard Sezibera, said Germany was the first development partner to commit financial and technical support to the EAC since its nascent stage in 1996.

He said EAC had grown to a stable region with business policies and regulations in place including protocols on single Customs Union and Common Market. "We are working with the private sector through its umbrella associations to facilitate trade," said Amb. Sezibera, adding that students were moving freely across the bloc and paying local fees.

Hon. Dr Harrison Mwakyembe, Chairperson of the East African Council of Ministers and Minister of East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon Jumanne Maghembe, Minister for Water and Irrigation, Ambassador. Egon Kochanke, Federal Republic of Germany's Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania and Representative to the EAC; Mrs Dagmar Freitag, Head of the Parliamentary group on East Africa; State Secretaries, the Regional Commissioner of Arusha, Hon Daudi Felix Ntibenda; and several representatives of the German Government were present.



16TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ



1. THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE, THEIR EXCELLENCIES PRESIDENT JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, PRESIDENT YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, AND PRESIDENT PIERRE NKURUNZIZA OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI, HELD THE 16TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE AT THE KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE IN NAIROBI, KENYA ON 20TH FEBRUARY 2015. THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT MET IN A WARM AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.
2. THE SUMMIT RECEIVED THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS COVERING THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 2013 – NOVEMBER 2014 AND NOTED THE STEADY PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES OF THE COMMUNITY.
3. THE SUMMIT CONSIDERED PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY OUTSTANDING DECISIONS AND OTHER POLICY ISSUES OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND NOTED THAT THERE ARE:- COUNCIL DECISIONS/DIRECTIVES THAT HAVE REMAINED OUTSTANDING FOR MANY YEARS; DELAY IN RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOLS; AND NOTED THAT THERE ARE BILLS ENACTED BY THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY THAT HAVE REMAINED UNASSENTED TO.
4. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE SECRETARIAT TO AVAIL THE PARTNER STATES WITH A LIST OF ALL PROTOCOLS THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN RATIFIED TO ENABLE THE PARTNER STATES EXPEDITIOUSLY RATIFY THEM AND DEPOSIT INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY 30TH JULY 2015.
5. THE SUMMIT DECIDED THAT ALL THE BILLS THAT ARE DUE FOR ASSENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 63 OF THE TREATY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAST

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JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ (...cont)

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- AFRICAN COMMUNITY BE ASSENTED TO BY 30TH JULY 2015.
6. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE PARTNER STATES TO IMPLEMENT ALL THE OUTSTANDING DECISIONS AND REPORT ON THE STATUS TO THE NEXT SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE.
 7. THE SUMMIT NOTED THE REVISED ROADMAP FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE EAC INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO ENSURE THAT THE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW PROCESS IS FINALIZED WITHIN THE REVISED TIMEFRAME AND SUBMIT FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE EAC INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW TO THE NEXT SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE.
 8. THE SUMMIT NOTED PROGRESS BEING MADE ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS FOR THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO FINALISE THE MECHANISM AND RECOMMEND THE BEST SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISM TO THE NEXT SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE FOR CONSIDERATION.
 9. THE SUMMIT APPROVED AND SIGNED THE PROTOCOL TO OPERATIONALIZE THE EXTENDED JURISDICTION OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE COVERING TRADE AND INVESTMENT AS WELL AS MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN MONETARY UNION.
 10. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE PARTNER STATES TO RATIFY THE PROTOCOL AND DEPOSIT THE INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY 30TH NOVEMBER 2015.
 11. THE SUMMIT NOTED THAT ALL PARTNER STATES HAD RATIFIED THE PROTOCOL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN MONETARY UNION AND DIRECTED THE PARTNER STATES TO ABIDE BY THE APPROVED ROADMAP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAC MONETARY UNION.
 12. THE SUMMIT APPROVED THE PROTOCOL ON IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, ITS ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR SIGNATURE BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE BY 30TH JULY 2015 AND THEREAFTER RATIFICATION BY 30TH NOVEMBER 2015.
 13. THE SUMMIT APPROVED THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY PROTOCOL ON CO-OPERATION IN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES FOR SIGNATURE BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES BY 1ST JULY 2015 AND THEREAFTER RATIFICATION BY 30TH NOVEMBER 2015.
 14. THE SUMMIT NOTED THE PROGRESS TOWARDS INITIATING THE PROCESS OF DRAFTING THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY POLITICAL FEDERATION. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO FINALIZE THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE MODEL STRUCTURE, ROAD MAP, ACTION PLAN AND REPORT PROGRESS TO THE NEXT SUMMIT.
 15. THE SUMMIT APPROVED THE MODALITIES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF EAC EMINENT PERSONS AND SPECIAL ENVOYS. THE SUMMIT DECIDED THAT EMINENT PERSONS AND SPECIAL ENVOYS WILL BE APPOINTED WHENEVER NEED ARISES.
 16. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO EXPEDITE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR HARMONIZED EAC ROAMING CHARGES, INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF SURCHARGES FOR INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAFFIC ORIGINATING AND TERMINATING WITHIN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY BY 15TH JULY 2015.
 17. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO STUDY THE MODALITIES FOR PROMOTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE ASSEMBLY IN THE REGION AND TO REDUCE THE IMPORTATION OF USED MOTOR VEHICLES FROM OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY AND REPORT TO THE 17TH SUMMIT.
 18. THE SUMMIT FURTHER DIRECTED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO STUDY THE MODALITIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE TEXTILE AND LEATHER INDUSTRIES IN THE REGION AND STOPPING THE IMPORTATION OF USED CLOTHES, SHOES AND OTHER LEATHER PRODUCTS FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION AND REPORT TO THE 17TH SUMMIT.
 19. THE SUMMIT NOTED THE REVISED ROAD MAP FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ADMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO ENSURE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REVISED ROADMAP.
 20. THE SUMMIT NOTED THAT THE VERIFICATION EXERCISE FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY WAS NOT UNDERTAKEN, AS PREPARATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALISED. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO UNDERTAKE THE VERIFICATION EXERCISE AND REPORT TO THE NEXT SUMMIT.

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JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ (...cont)

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21. THE SUMMIT ADOPTED THE DIRECTIVES OF THE 3RD RETREAT OF THE HEADS OF STATE ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING IN PARTICULAR TOOK NOTE OF THE TEN YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY; AND THE INTER-MODAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY.
22. THE SUMMIT APPRECIATED THE WORLD BANK, THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE EUROPEAN UNION AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EAC PRIORITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE INTER-MODAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY IN THE EAST AFRICAN REGION.
23. THE SUMMIT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 24 (1) OF THE TREATY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY APPOINTED HON. MR. JUSTICE GEOFFREY W. M. KIRYABWIRE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA JUDGE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE (APPELLATE DIVISION) WITH EFFECT FROM 16TH AUGUST 2015. HON. MR. JUSTICE GEOFFREY W. M. KIRYABWIRE REPLACES HON. MR. JUSTICE JAMES MUNANGE OGOOLA, WHO WILL BE RETIRING ON 15TH AUGUST 2015. THE HEADS OF STATE THANKED HON. MR. JUSTICE JAMES MUNANGE OGOOLA FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND WISHED HIM SUCCESS IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVOURS.
24. THE SUMMIT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 24 (1) OF THE TREATY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY APPOINTED HON. MR. JUSTICE AUDACE NGIYE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI JUDGE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE (FIRST INSTANCE DIVISION) WITH EFFECT FROM 28TH JUNE 2015. HON. MR. JUSTICE AUDACE NGIYE REPLACES HON. MR. JUSTICE JEAN BOSCO BUTASI WHOSE TENURE OF OFFICE ENDS ON 27TH JUNE 2014. THE HEADS OF STATE THANKED HON. MR. JUSTICE BUTASI FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND WISHED HIM SUCCESS IN HIS FUTURE CAREER.
25. THE SUMMIT DESIGNATED HON. LADY JUSTICE MONICA MUGENYI, PRINCIPAL JUDGE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE WITH EFFECT FROM 26TH JUNE 2015.
26. THE SUMMIT APPOINTED MR. LIBERAT MPFUMUKEKO, FROM THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY FOR A RENEWABLE TERM OF THREE YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM 25TH APRIL 2015. THE SUMMIT COMMENDED MR. JEAN CLAUDE NSENGIYUMVA FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND WISHED HIM SUCCESS IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVOUR.
27. THE SUMMIT RENEWED THE CONTRACT OF HON. JESCA ERIYO, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR A FINAL TERM OF THREE YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM 30TH APRIL 2015.
28. THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE EAC HEADS OF STATE LAUNCHED THE EAC TELEPRESENCE VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM AND COMMENDED TRADEMARK EAST AFRICA FOR THEIR SUPPORT.
29. THE SUMMIT REVIEWED THE CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION IN THE REGION AND NOTED THE NEED TO URGENTLY UPSCALE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RELEVANT COUNTER MEASURES AND DIRECTIVES TO ADDRESS THE CURRENT AND EMERGING SECURITY THREATS IN THE REGION. THE SUMMIT IN PARTICULAR DIRECTED THE PARTNER STATES TO EXPEDITE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERVENTIONS CONTAINED IN THE REVISED STRATEGY FOR REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AS WELL AS THOSE IN THE COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY.
30. THE SUMMIT CONSIDERED THE SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN AND NOTED THE WORK BEING DONE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF IGAD. THE SUMMIT NOTED AND WELCOMED THE AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND ALSO CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT CEASEFIRE SIGNED ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2015 IN ADDIS ABABA BY THE TWO PARTIES IN THE CONFLICT. THE SUMMIT CALLED UPON THE TWO PARTIES TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AND ENSURE SUSTAINABLE PEACE, SECURITY AND RESETTLEMENT OF ALL RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS. THE SUMMIT FURTHER WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS TO REUNITE THE SPLM PARTY BEING HELD IN ARUSHA – THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND SALUTED THE CCM AND ANC FOR FACILITATING THE RE-UNIFICATION PROCESS. THE SUMMIT URGED THE PARTIES TO EXPEDITIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENTS REACHED.
31. THEIR EXCELLENCIES, PRESIDENT JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, PRESIDENT YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, AND PRESIDENT PIERRE NKURUNZIZA OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI THANKED THEIR HOST, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO THEM AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAY IN KENYA.

**DONE AT NAIROBI, THIS
20TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2015**

EAC-US Trade Investments Strengthened During Ministerial Meeting in Washington, D.C

Ministers from the East African Community (EAC) have signed a Cooperation Agreement on Trade Facilitation, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) with the U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Michael Froman on 26 February, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

The Cooperation Agreement will increase trade-related capacity in the East African region, as well as deepen the economic ties between the EAC and the U.S. This partnership will build on to the EAC's work on customs reforms, which have already resulted in substantial reductions in the time and costs of moving goods across borders within the EAC Partner States.

During the signing ceremony Ambassador Froman announced that the United States will look into expanding 'Trade Africa' beyond the EAC borders to the rest of Africa. 'Trade Africa' is U.S. President Barack Obama's initiative to support greater U.S.-Africa trade and investment.

"Today's Agreement is an important milestone for strengthening what has already proven itself to be a promising and impactful partnership," said Ambassador Froman. "This Agreement will help us lift the burdens that trade barriers impose, unlocking opportunities for both our continents," he said.


While a majority of the region's people are involved in agricultural production or processing, the export potential of these products are currently limited. With this new Agreement in place, the EAC can now meet international standards by bringing in U.S. technological expertise to fully implement the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, thus helping EAC Partner States to increase food security and create additional export opportunities for products produced in the region.

By helping to train East African standard officials and developing electronic systems on new proposed technical regulations, EAC partner States will also increase their ability to meet international quality and safety standards by improving implementation of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

"Tremendous efforts and reforms have been taken to facilitate trade in the region, including improving customs procedures, enforcement and modernization as well as technical standards and regulations," said Hon. Dr. Harrison Mwakembe, Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Minister for East African Cooperation, United Republic of Tanzania. "Together with the action plans on SPS and TBT, we believe that important benefits will be achieved through this cooperation," he said.

Following the signing ceremony, the EAC and U.S. governments, private sector, and other stakeholders went on to discuss strategic ways to further solidify the EAC – U.S. Trade and Investment Partnership and ways on which EAC Partner States can benefit from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). This Act offers tangible incentives for African countries to continue their efforts to open their economies and build a free market.



"The Agreement we are signing today affirms the strengthened trade and economic ties between the EAC and the U.S.," Ambassador, Dr. Richard Sezibera, EAC Secretary General. "We are looking forward to improved business ties between the two continents," he said. 

EU and EAC Launch 11th EDF Regional Electoral Support Programme



His Excellency Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi, Ambassador of the European Union to Tanzania and to the EAC and his Excellency Dr. Richard Sezibera, Secretary General of the EAC on 11 February 2015, signed a Financing Agreement committing €5 million in support to a Regional Electoral Support Programme (RESP).

The European Union and the EAC share the principle of democracy, respect of fundamental rights and overall development, of which political elections are important milestones. The EAC Secretariat is committed to free, fair and peaceful elections in the region and support under this program is starting with Burundi and Tanzania in 2015.

The RESP Programme, financed by the European Development Fund (EDF) will support the EAC capacity to follow-up the elections to be held in the Partner states between 2015 and 2018. It is intended to enhance democratic governance and political integration in the East African Community.

The Programme will therefore support the EAC Secretariat in strengthening her capacities for electoral observation according to internationally recognized methodology.

The EAC Forum of Electoral Commissions and other regional fora and knowledge-sharing platforms will be

reinforced to encourage peer-learning among Partner States Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), as well as to generate, share, disseminate and apply evidence and research-based electoral knowledge.

EU Ambassador to Tanzania and the EAC, Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi said: "Election observation is a vital component of European Union activities to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law worldwide. Election observation can contribute to strengthening democratic institutions, build public confidence in electoral processes and help deter fraud, intimidation and violence.

Through this project, the EU is partnering with the EAC Secretariat to achieve these shared goals in the region".

The European Union will continue to support the East African Community, building on the achievements of a long-lasting engagement with a new Regional Programme between the EU and the EAC which will benefit the region for a total of 85 Million Euro from 2014 to 2020.

On his part the East African Community Secretary General Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera noted that for the EAC to attain its Vision of a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa; this support is important and timely. ●



EAPCE'15



THE 7TH EAST AFRICAN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

THEME: EAST AFRICA REGION -

**Proven Destination for Investment in Petroleum Resources for Regional
Energy Sufficiency and Lasting Socio-Economic Development**

Kigali Serena Hotel, Rwanda 4-6 March, 2015



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

**New Discoveries and Development | Commercialization of Petroleum
Resources and Infrastructure Development | Meeting the Regional Energy
Needs With the Discovered Resources | Exploitation of Unconventional
Resources | Local Content Development | Policy, Legal and Fiscal Regime
in Oil and Gas | Field Trips**

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REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE UNITED REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

EAC Secretary General - Kenya Private Sector Discuss Ways to Improve Business Environment in the Region



The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera on 17 February 2015, engaged in a dialogue, Chief Executives Officers (CEOs) of Businesses in the Republic of Kenya on how to improve the integration process and the business-operating environment in the EAC bloc.

While hosting over 50 CEOs for breakfast dialogue at the Sarova Stanley Hotel in Nairobi, the Secretary General noted that the intra-regional trade expanded from US dollars 1617.1 million in 2005 to US dollars 3800.7 million in 2010, and that the EAC total trade with the rest of the world maintained an upward trend by posting a growth rate of 8.3 percent in 2013 compared to what was recorded in 2012. On the investment front, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to EAC increased by 6.6 percent to US\$ 3.7 billion in 2013 compared to what was recorded in 2012.

He said that in order to maintain this momentum in the integration process, improvement in EAC's competitiveness has to be given the due attention by all stakeholders. He urged the private sector to dedicate this year 2015 to issues that affect the business environment in the region that could be brought to the attention of the EAC Heads of State for their interventions at their Summit on 30 November.

Amb. Sezibera urged for the support of the private sector in ensuring that headways are made in areas not limited to total liberalization of free movement of labor and services (removal of work permit) and the removal of any Non Tariff Barriers currently in place.

He also urged the private sector in Kenya and the region as a whole to address the issue of "unfair facilitation" (corruption),

which he said was a big challenge in the Community. He said the private sector needs to develop a code of conduct that they themselves will monitor. In this regard, he urged the private sector in the region to consider the draft code of conduct that has been prepared by the East African Business Council (EABC).

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of East African Affairs, Commerce and Tourism, Hon. Phyllis J. Kandie, applauded the EAC Secretary General for making it a priority to spend time with the Chief Executives of the private sector to review and discuss regional integration efforts.

She said at the core of the EAC was an economic promise for its citizens and businesses. "Through such interaction and discussions, the Secretary General is able to pick from the private sector issues which hinder a better business environment and in turn the Secretary General is able to brief and guide the Council of Ministers on necessary action to be taken", affirmed Hon. Kandie.

The Cabinet Secretary, who was represented by her Principal Secretary, noted that the integration process was good for everybody in the region; "for our people it opens up opportunities in education, travel and tourism, employment amongst others. For our businesses, it enhances and widens the market for their goods and services produced in the region, lower cost of doing business and increases their competitiveness in the face of global competition". It is therefore important that the private sector stays fully involved and engaged in the EAC Integration process and that the issues they raise in such forums are fully addressed". ●

Nairobi Hosts Ministerial Session of the Sectoral Council on Cooperation in Defence



The Ministerial session of the Sectoral Council on Cooperation in Defence concluded 17 February 2015, in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was convened in accordance with Article 11 of the East African Community Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Defence. The meeting considered the Report of the Consultative Committee on Cooperation in Defence, which was held in November 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The meeting was chaired by Hon. Dr. Hussein A. Mwinyi, Tanzania's Minister of Defence and National Service and attended by Hon. Dr. Chrispus Kiyonga, Uganda's Minister of Defence; Amb. Raychelle Omamo, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Defence; Gen. James Kabarebe, Rwanda's Minister of Defence; and Maj. Gen Pontien Gacyubwenge, Burundi's Minister of National Defence and Veteran Affairs.


Senior Military officers from the Partner States and the Defence Liaison Officers at the EAC Secretariat were also present.

The Chief of Defence of the Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces, Gen. Davis A. Mwamunyange presented the Report of the Consultative Committee to the Hon. Ministers. The Report

contained several issues pertaining to the Defence sector including regional security, operations and training; the EAC Military Games and Cultural events, cooperation on defence technical facilities; the defence sector calendar of activities for the period January to June 2015.

Welcoming the Hon. Ministers to the Sectoral Council meeting, the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera commended the defence sector for being well focused and being ahead of other sectors in the integration process.

The meeting deliberated on the Report and took strategic decisions/ or give strategic directions to some of the issues raised by the Consultative Committee. Some of these include the adoption of the detailed draft Action Plan to facilitate the implementation of the Regional Counter Terrorism Strategy.

The Sectoral Council approved the defence sector calendar of activities for the period January to June 2015. 

EAC, IUCN Sign MoU in Nairobi



East African Community and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) on 18 February 2015, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the IUCN headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

The MoU was signed by EAC Secretary General Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera and Regional Director of International Union for Conservation of Nature Mr. Luther B Anukur.

The MoU sets the stage for the development of a mechanism for cooperation to promote the protection of environment and sustainable use of the natural resources as well as support to improve conservation and management of East Africa.

Backed by the MoU, the two parties are committed to fostering co-operation on issues concerning sustainable management of region's biodiversity, natural resources as well as ecosystems.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the EAC Secretary General Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera said the signing of MoU demonstrate the strong partnership between the EAC and IUCN. He noted that with the MoU in place EAC and IUCN would work together in more coordinated manner.

On his part, Regional Director of IUCN Mr. Luther B. Anukur lauded the cooperation as a step towards enhancing collaboration noting that the MoU "will open up avenues for us and our cooperation", added Mr Anukur.



Italy Accredits Envoy to EAC Bloc



The Italian government has accredited its Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr Luigi Scotto, to also serve as Ambassador to the East African Community.

His Excellency Scotto on 10 February 2015, presented his accreditation letter to the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera.

Amb. Scotto informed the Secretary General that his government attaches great importance to regional economic groupings such as the EAC. "Count on Italy's support because the goals of the Community are excellent for the prosperity of the people in the region".

His Excellency Scotto informed EAC Secretary General that Italy is committed to increase efforts in the projects and programmes of the East African Community which will contribute to closer ties with EAC Partners States.

While receiving the Italy Envoy, the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera hailed the existing cordial relations

between the EAC and Italy. He welcomed the support from Italy Government geared towards enabling the Community to achieve its agenda.

The Secretary General of the East African Community urged the Italy Government to consider supporting the EAC in three main areas namely; Agro processing; Tourism sector and lastly to support the EAC in its Energy programmes, especially the Renewable energy.

His Excellency Luigi Scotto served three years as Deputy Ambassador to the Italian Embassies in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and two years as Deputy Ambassador in the Ivory Coast (Niger, Liberia, Burkina Faso, and Sierra Leone)

In August 2013 he was appointed as Ambassador of Italy to the United Republic of Tanzania and to the Union of the Comoros. 

EACJ Hears Application against Burundi Press Law



The First Instance Division on 9 February 2015 heard a case filed by Burundi Journalists' Association against the Government of the Republic of Burundi challenging a Law regulating the Press in the country. The Law was adopted on 3 April 2013 by the National Parliament of Burundi and passed by the Senate on 19 April 2013; it was later signed into effect on 4 June 2013 by the President of the Republic of Burundi.

The Applicant (Burundi Journalists' Association) alleges that the adoption of the Press Law violates the fundamental and operational principles of the Community as protected by Articles 6 (d) and 7 (2) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community which Burundi is obliged to uphold and respect as a Partner State.

Mr. Donald Deya, Counsel for the Applicant, submitted that the Press Law restricts the freedom of the Press and that freedom of Press is a cornerstone of the Community's principles of democracy, rule of Law, accountability, transparency and good governance. He also said that the Law violates the Press rights to freedom of expression, which in turn is a violation of Burundi's obligation under Article 6 (d) and 7 (2) of the Treaty to recognise, promote and protect human and peoples' rights as well as abide by universally accepted standards of human rights.

Mr. Deya further submitted that this Law infringes the freedom of press in multiple ways of intimidation of journalists and media houses engaged in reporting on matters of public interest.

He also added that the Court (East African Court of Justice) is the sole judicial body that has the jurisdiction to determine a breach of a Partner State's obligations under the Treaty. The Applicant

therefore asked the Court to order the Government of Burundi to amend and strike out Articles of the Press Law in violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi.

Mr. Nestror Kayobera, Counsel for the Respondent (Attorney General of the Republic of Burundi) submitted that the Press Law passed in Burundi is proper and already in enforcement and that there is no violation of the Treaty as alleged by the Applicant. He further urged that the Constitutional Court in Burundi delivered a judgement in January 2014 nullifying the laws that were unconstitutional and that the parliament of Burundi is in the process of amending them. He contended that among those laws that were challenged in Court the Press Law was not among them, he therefore asked the Court to dismiss the case with costs.

The amicus curiae (friends of the Court) represented by their Lawyer, Mr. Vital Nshirimana, submitted that the freedom of the Press is not only for the members of the media but also the entire public in a democratic society and that the Press Law in Burundi contravenes the provisions of the Treaty. The Court will deliver its Judgement on notice.

Present in Court were members of the Burundi Journalist Association and members of the Civil Society groups and NGOs allowed to participate in the matter including; Forum pour le Renforcement de la Societe' civile (FORSC), the international Press Conference Institute, Maison de la Presse du Burundi, Forum pour la conscience et le Development (FOCODE), PEN Kenya, Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU), PEN international, Reporters sans frontieres and the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers who are parties in the matter.



EALA Mulls Over Post 2015 MDG Agenda

...Speaker Kidega tells legislators at a Parliamentary Exchange Workshop to take leading roles in development

The Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega is challenging Parliaments and legislators to play a more central role in development as the globe charts its path on the post 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Agenda.

At the same time, the EALA Speaker wants legislators to 'walk the talk' in fighting inequalities, ending poverty and institutionalisation of rights based approach to development. Rt. Hon Kidega was speaking this morning when he opened a two-day Parliamentary Exchange workshop in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Speaker implored legislators to explore opportunities envisaged under the Global Development Framework as the timeframe given to implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) winds down.



"Despite all concerted effort, we have not fully realized what was anticipated for the 2015 MDGs Agenda. Part of the reason perhaps, may also be attributed to our very own shortcomings as Parliaments. I say so in good faith since Parliaments have a crucial role to play, particularly in improving their country's ability to assume full ownership of national development policies and programmes", Rt Hon Kidega said.

"But this should not discourage us from plotting for our future. The time is ripe and opportune for us to map out on the post 2015 agenda. National development approaches cannot and should not be shaped and driven purely by Governments and Development Partners as Parliaments similarly have a fundamental contribution to make", Rt. Hon Kidega added.

The workshop themed "Institutional Strengthening of International Parliamentary Bodies and their Role in Development" brings together continental, regional and national legislators. In attendance are Parliamentarians from the Parliament of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), led by the Speaker, Rt. Hon Vincent Mavoungou - Bayou, legislators from Pan African Parliament and EALA Members.

Legislators from the Partner States' National Assemblies are also in attendance. The workshop is supported by the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA). The Workshop aims at enhancing institutional development of supra-national Parliaments and their interactions and in the sharing of experiences by Parliaments at national, regional and continental levels.

The workshop participants are also expected to engage in and to explore strategies key to ensuring the Global Development Framework (Post 2015 Agenda) is implemented and realised. It is

anticipated the knowledge base on processes revolving on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) shall be enhanced. The workshop also hopes to renew and harmonise structures for the Network of African Parliaments and other networks of engaging Parliamentarians towards achieving the MDGs/SDGs.

The EALA Speaker further called on the Assemblies to continue their stance in advocating for the achievement of democracy and good governance. "Indeed, it is Parliament's traditional responsibility to debate and to pass legislation that provides a legal framework for good governance and the rule of law. Besides, Parliament, through its oversight function, ensures accountability which is also an indispensable ingredient of good governance", the Speaker said.

In his remarks, the Speaker of CEMAC, Rt. Hon Vincent Mavoungou- Bayou reiterated that integration was fundamental in strengthening regions. "In this time and age of globalisation, we need to stick together through the path of integration. Exchange of information and sharing of best practices is vital", Speaker Bayou remarked.

He remarked that CEMAC as a young institution was keen to look at the EALA model, which had proven to be effective in strengthening integration.

John Corrie, a Member of AWEPA and a Honorary Life President of the African Caribbean Pacific – European Union (ACP-EU), termed institutional strengthening of Parliaments as fundamental. He remarked that AWEPA was committed to partnering with Parliaments in the region to enable them continue to play the vital role in development.





5th Annual East African Health and Scientific Conference

"INVESTING IN HEALTH THROUGH STRENGTHENING REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, AND INSTITUTIONS TOWARDS THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE & NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES"

25-27 March 2015 | Kampala, Uganda

SUB-THEMES

- ✚ Health Systems Strengthening
- ✚ Integrated Approaches for Disease Prevention, Control and Management
- ✚ Social Determinants Of Health
- ✚ Diseases And Conditions Of Public Health Importance

ABOUT

The aim of the Conference is to facilitate dissemination of recent scientific findings, inform policy makers and programmers, and provide a platform for wide ranging multi-disciplinary discussions. The Conference will also host an International Health Exhibition and Trade Fair.

Pre-Conference Meetings

20 March 2015:
Session of Senior Officers - EAC
Sectoral Committee on Health

23 March 2015:
Session of Permanent Secretaries
Co-ordination Meeting

24 March 2015:
Ministerial Session
Sectorial Council on Health



Register Online

Bird Registration closes 31 January 2015



Conference Venue

Commonwealth Speke Resort Munyonyo
Kampala, Uganda



www.eahsc.eac.int

Mwanza Hosts 6th EAC Communications Experts' Forum



The EAC Secretariat, in collaboration with GIZ, Kituo Cha Katiba (East African Centre for Constitutional Development) and Partner State Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs, convened in Mwanza, the United Republic of Tanzania for the 6th EAC Communications Experts' Forum to develop simplified and harmonized versions of EAC documents and sensitization materials.

The six day meeting ran from February 23-28, 2015, resulted in updated simplified versions of the EAC Treaty, EAC Customs Union, Common Market and Monetary Union Protocols. The panel of experts also developed harmonized sensitization materials for the political federation, social, productive and infrastructure sectors, as well as a general information guide on the EAC integration process.

"This meeting could not have come at a better time because the simplified EAC documents come in to complement our ongoing sensitization and awareness campaigns," said Mr. Owora Richard Othieno, Head of EAC Corporate Communications and Public Affairs. "Despite our concerted efforts on outreaching and sensitizing stakeholders, we feel that these simplified and abridged

versions of the documents and IEC materials will go a long way to provide the people of East Africa with easy-to-read information on what the Community has to offer them and how they can benefit from it," he said.

The preparations of the simplified and harmonized versions of the EAC documents and sensitization materials are in line with the directives of the EAC Council of Ministers.

The EAC Secretariat will approve the simplified and harmonized versions of the EAC documents and sensitization materials before mass production and dissemination across all the EAC Partner States.

The Community will use the Communications Experts platform to maintain close coordination and linkage among key implementers of the EAC Communication Policy and Strategy in the integration process; enhance understanding of the EAC integration process and benefits among the citizens; increase participation of people in the EAC policy formulation and decision-making processes and increase ownership of EAC integration by the citizenry.



Information Management Experts Meet, Establish Roadmap to Digitize EAC Information Resources

Information Management experts from the EAC Organs and Institutions convened in Kampala 25-26 February 2015, to map the way forward towards to the digitization of EAC information resources.

EAC integration information and knowledge comprises of various information materials ranging from Treaties and Protocols to photographs and maps.

The initiative to digitize these information resources is due to the recognition for the the need to make EAC information easily accessible and shared effectively with stakeholders and researchers.

Officially opening the Meeting, EAC Director of Human Resources and Administration, Mr. Joseph Ochwada noted that the EAC Organs and Institutions were generating a lot of information since their establishment. "However, there are challenges of

visibility, accessibility, preservation, harmonization and effective dissemination of EAC information", he added.

In 2013, The EAC Secretariat commissioned a study to develop digitization modalities for EAC information resources. The report of the study presents recommendations with emphasis that the EAC should establish a "One-Stop Shop" framework for its Organs and Institutions that shall provide a single access point for all information.

The meeting reviewed the findings and recommendations of the report and developed an action plan and roadmap for digitizing the EAC Information Resources.

The Meeting was attended by Librarians, Communications Experts and Information Technology Experts from the EAC Organs and Institutions.



Court Dismisses Case Alleging South Sudan Not Fit for EAC Membership

The East African Court of Justice First Instance Division on 27th February 2015 dismissed the case against the Attorneys General of the 5 Partner States, the Republics of Uganda (1st Respondent), Kenya (2nd Respondent), Tanzania (3rd Respondent), Rwanda (4th Respondent), Burundi (5th Respondent) and the Secretary General of the East African Community (6th Respondent).

The Application was filed by Patrick Ntege Walusimbi, Dan Ssenga and Mohammed Waiga (all being Ugandans trading in the Republic of South Sudan) through their company known as Uganda Traders Association of South Sudan Ltd. The Association was initially one of the Applicants in the case until 5th September 2014 when it was struck out for non-compliance with Rule 24(4) of the Rules of Procedure of the Court which requires a case made by a cooperate body to be accompanied by documentary evidence of its existence in law.

The case was prompted by the action of the Republic of South Sudan of applying to join as a member of the East African Community under Article 3(3) (b) of the EAC Treaty. The Applicants opposed the application on grounds that the Republic of South Sudan does not adhere to universally accepted principles of good governance, democracy, rule of law and observance of human rights and social justice as required under Article 3(3) (b) of the EAC Treaty.

The Applicants sought a declaration that the Republic of South Sudan is not a fit and proper candidate to be granted membership in the EAC bloc and an order that the Respondents should not grant the Republic of South Sudan membership to the EAC.

The Court in delivering the judgment held inter alia that, it is vested with jurisdiction to entertain the case and it has been persuaded and convinced by the Applicants that the case discloses a cause of action under Article 30(1) of the Treaty.

Furthermore, the Court held that, the process under scrutiny duly complied with the Treaty and the Protocol for Admission to the EAC; it further stated, the directive for the commencement of negotiations was grounded in the Summit's discretionary mandate as enshrined in Article 3(2) of the Protocol for Admission to the EAC, and it did not contravene alleged Treaty provisions.

The Court dismissed the case with costs to the Respondents.



EALA to Hold Public Hearings on Key ICT Bill

Regional legislators are set to tour the EAC Partner States to collect stakeholders' views and submissions on the envisaged East African Community Electronic Transactions Bill 2014.

The visit which involves the Assembly's Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment (CTI), takes place from March 1-5, 2015. The Committee chaired by Hon Mukasa Mbidde, has split itself into two groups in order to be more effective and Members shall undertake simultaneous tour of the capitals. The first group shall visit Dar es Salaam, Nairobi and Kampala while the second group will navigate Bujumbura, Kigali and Kampala.

Key stakeholders to be visited include ministries responsible for ICT, finance as well as trade, commerce and tourism, key government functionaries including the offices of the Attorneys General and the Law Reform Commissions as well as the Law Societies and enforcement agencies.

The legislators are also expected to touch base with the representatives of the Private Sector including the East African Business Council and the respective Private Sector Federations in the Partner States. Both groups then converge in Kampala, Uganda, on March 4, 2015, to consider the views and to synthesise the input into a report.

The EAC Electronic Transactions Bill, 2014 was introduced as a Private Member's Bill at the recent sitting in Arusha and its primary mover is Hon Dr. James Ndahiro. The Bill aims at making provision for the use, security, facilitation and regulation of electronic communications and transactions; to encourage the use of e-Government service and to provide for related matters.

The Bill is premised on Article 103 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC in which Partner States recognizing the fundamental importance of science and technology in economic development, undertook to promote co-operation in the development of science and technology in the Community. This can be achieved through the promotion, development and application of Information technology in the EAC. The Bill anticipates that Partner States need to create a proper environment for all possible users and beneficiaries of ICT to educate them on the operations involving electronic transactions and in doing so, make necessary amends to ensure security of users of ICT.

It further states that the Community needs to make effective use of ICTs. Analysts contend that the EAC needs to maximally exploit the great resource of ICTs by ensuring the business and institutions have modern access to the modern technologies. At the same time, it is envisaged that ICTs can play a key role in ensuring the strengthening of integration. In May last year, the East African Payments System (EAPS) was officially launched in Nairobi by the Central Bank Governors from the EAC Partner States.

EAPS which is an initiative of the Central Banks and the EAC Secretariat, integrates the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) systems in the Partner States. It utilises the internationally recognised SWIFT Messaging network for safe and secure delivery of payment and settlement messages and through this mode, real time transfer of funds by commercial banks across the Partner States can be realised at the touch of a button.

At EALA, public hearings are a key avenue and channel of gathering views and comments on the Private Members' Bills before debate in the House. The views collected are synthesised and form part of the report of the relevant Committee on a Bill. Such report is also presented for debate and approval in the Assembly.



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