



DRAFT

**FINAL COMMUNIQUE  
OF  
THE JOINT COMESA-EAC-SADC  
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT TRIPARTITE SUMMIT**

***“TOWARDS A SINGLE MARKET”***

***Theme: Deepening COMESA-EAC-SADC Integration***

***20<sup>th</sup> October 2008  
Kampala, Uganda***

1. The **Tripartite Summit** of the Heads of State and Government of the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) was held in Kampala, Uganda on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008.
2. The **Tripartite Summit** was attended by Heads of State and Government from:
  - Angola
  - Botswana
  - Burundi
  - Comoros
  - Democratic Republic of Congo
  - Djibouti
  - Egypt
  - Eritrea
  - Ethiopia
  - Kenya
  - Libya
  - Lesotho
  - Madagascar
  - Malawi
  - Mauritius
  - Mozambique
  - Namibia
  - Rwanda
  - Seychelles
  - South Africa
  - Sudan
  - Swaziland
  - Tanzania
  - Uganda
  - Zambia and
  - Zimbabwe
3. The **Tripartite Summit** was also attended by representatives of the following organisations, namely; African Development Bank, African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Regional Development Banks in East and Southern Africa.
4. The objective of the **Tripartite Summit** was to review and agree on a programme of harmonisation of trading arrangements amongst the three RECs, free movement of people, joint implementation of inter-regional infrastructure programmes as well as institutional arrangements on the basis of which the three RECs would foster cooperation, given the challenges of multiple membership.
5. The **Tripartite Summit** underscored the fact that the Tripartite arrangement is a crucial building block towards achieving the African Economic Community as outlined by the Treaty of Abuja.
6. The **Tripartite Summit** elected by acclamation the Chairpersons of COMESA, EAC, SADC as co-Chairpersons of the Tripartite Summit.
7. His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, in his official opening remarks, welcomed all the Heads of States and Government, all dignitaries and delegates to the **Tripartite Summit**.
8. The **Tripartite Summit** considered and adopted the report of the Joint Tripartite Council of Ministers.
9. The **Tripartite Summit** reviewed the progress on the implementation of joint programmes in trade, customs and economic liberalisation amongst the three RECs.

10. In the area of trade, customs and economic liberalisation, the **Tripartite Summit** approved the establishment of a Free Trade Area encompassing the member/partner States of the three RECs and directed the Secretariats to develop and submit to the Tripartite Council of Ministers a roadmap for its approval and implementation.
11. The **Tripartite Summit** urged member/partner States to allow freer movement of persons across the three RECs.
12. The **Tripartite Summit** further directed the three RECs to enhance cooperation and coordination in the areas of competition, financial and payment systems, capital markets and commodity exchange.
13. The **Tripartite Summit** directed the COMESA-EAC-SADC Ministers of Trade and Agriculture to convene a meeting on the current state of play on the Doha Development Agenda negotiations which are critical for the region for its participation in the global economy.
14. The **Tripartite Summit** further urged the three RECs to enjoin their Secretariats in the Joint Meetings of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Ministers of Trade and Agriculture on the Doha Development Agenda negotiations.
15. The **Tripartite Summit** also urged the COMESA-EAC-SADC Ministers of Trade and Agriculture to develop common positions on the EPA negotiations.
16. The **Tripartite Summit** noted the progress the three RECs have made with regard to joint planning, implementation, harmonisation and funding of regional infrastructure programmes.
17. The **Tripartite Summit** launched the Joint Competition Authority which shall oversee the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on Open Skies.
18. The **Tripartite Summit** further directed the three RECs to coordinate and harmonise programmes in transport and energy infrastructure.
19. The **Tripartite Summit** directed the three RECs to develop a formal institutional and legal framework for joint cooperation and implementation of agreed programmes amongst the three RECs.
20. The **Tripartite Summit** agreed to convene meetings every three years in order to provide strategic direction on the agreed programmes.
21. The **Tripartite Summit** further directed the Tripartite Council of Ministers and their Senior Officials to meet once in a year to review progress on agreed programmes.
22. The **Tripartite Summit** expressed its appreciation to the COMESA-EAC-SADC Joint Task Force of the Chief Executives of the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme for the facilitatory work undertaken leading to the Joint Tripartite Summit.
23. The **Tripartite Summit** expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Uganda for the warm and fraternal hospitality extended to all the delegates.