



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

BRIEF TO UN MEMBER STATES ON “THE EAC PEACE, SECURITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATION”

NEW YORK, 18TH OCTOBER 2010.

Mr. President,
Esteemed UN Member States,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the East African Community Secretariat, I wish to express our gratitude for having been given an opportunity to brief this esteemed audience, at which we are able to provide insights into the progress we are making in our integration process, share experiences and some challenges which we are confident that, with your support, we can overcome.
2. The East African Community (EAC) is an intergovernmental organisation of five countries: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The vision of the EAC is to attain a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa. The Mission is to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investment.

Mr. President,

3. To achieve that mission, the EAC has embarked on a holistic approach envisaged to follow through four broad stages of a Customs Union, which we launched in 2005 and became fully operational in January 2010; the Common Market which was launched in July 2010, a Monetary Union whose negotiations have started in earnest, with the ultimate objective of establishing a political federation of East Africa.

My presentation to this Assembly will focus on the peace, security and good governance programs that the EAC is implementing, mindful of the triangular link between security, good governance and economic development as the best guarantee for a sustainable integration.

PEACE AND SECURITY

4. The Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC recognizes Peace and Security as a pre-requisite for the success of its integration initiatives. To this end, a **Regional Peace and Security Strategy** was adopted by the EAC Council of Ministers in 2001.

5. The Strategy identifies 14 goals, which are to:
 - i. Enhance the exchange of criminal intelligence and other security information between partner states;
 - ii. Enhance joint operations and patrols;
 - iii. Install common communication facilities for border and interstate security;
 - iv. Adopt the U.N model law on mutual assistance on criminal matters;
 - v. Implement protocol on combating illicit drug trafficking;
 - vi. Exchange visits by security authorities;
 - vii. Exchange training programs for security personnel;
 - viii. Establish common mechanisms for the management of refugees;
 - ix. Establish regional disaster management mechanisms;
 - x. Formulate security measures to combat terrorism;
 - xi. Establish measures to combat cattle rustling;
 - xii. Establish measures to combat proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons;
 - xiii. Develop mechanisms to combat security challenges on Lake Victoria; and
 - xiv. Develop a mechanism for conflict management and resolution.

Mr. President,

We have developed an implementation plan and concluded some instruments to facilitate the implementation of the Peace and Security Strategy. Some of the programs that are being implemented include the following.

6. We are implementing a program in the area of **Small Arms and Light weapons (SALW)** control, with the following activities:

- a) *Capacity Development* of National coordination offices to follow-through the program related activities at national level;
- b) *Procurement of specialized* arms marking equipment for the Partner states to facilitate implementation of the UN Tracing Instrument.
- c) Procurement of vehicles to facilitate mobile marking so as to meet the deadline of completion of the exercise by December 2011
- d) We have had a number of public *Arms Collection and Destruction* events:
- e) *Stockpile management and record keeping* –to enhance electronic record keeping practices hence better accounting for all state owned and licensed arms;
- f) Ensuring uniformity in compliance with the Nairobi Protocol on SALW and through harmonization of Arms Management Legislation
- g) *Awareness creation and engendering* SALW processes, with special focus on engagement of the civil society and empowerment of women to influence decision making processes relating to arms control.

The EAC SALW program has been supported by the GTZ and the EU, who have been strategic partners providing the finances. Allow me to make special recognition of the two organisations .

- 7. Another important area of focus is addressing security challenges on **inland water bodies and the Indian Ocean**. A forum has been established to address security challenges facing all inland water bodies, as well as piracy on the Indian Ocean.
- 8. The EAC through its Inter-State Security Sectoral Council has embarked on programs to harmonise police standards and to cooperate in prisons/correctional services. To facilitate a harmonized approach, the Chiefs of Intelligence hold regular strategic meetings and strategies are being shared to address cyber crime, drug and human trafficking, money laundering and cross –border motor vehicle thefts.

Mr. President,

- 9. We are in the final stages of concluding a **Peace and Security Protocol**, which will provide a legal domicile to all our Peace and Security interventions. Key in the Protocol is the establishment of a **Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution (CPMR)** Framework, to provide a more structured regional approach to addressing conflicts not only by way of

managing and resolving them when they have occurred but also in preventing them. The major areas covered in the draft CPMR framework are:

- a. Conflict Early Warning which will comprise of a situation room;
 - b. Negotiation, Mediation and Establishment of Good Offices (Panel of Eminent Persons) including Special Envoys and Representatives
 - c. Peace Support Operations;
 - d. Demobilization, Disarmament, Resettlement, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation (DDRRR);
 - e. Peace Building;
 - f. Establishment of an EAC Peace Fund.
10. A specific instrument, a **Conflict Early Warning Mechanism** (CEWM), has been developed in line with the African Union continental CEWM. It will comprise a regional early warning center at the EAC Head Quarters and National Early Warning Centers in each Partner State. Once operational, we should be able to collect, process and disseminate information in a timely manner so as to prevent, mitigate and manage situations that are likely to affect peace and security in the region.

Cooperation with other Organizations

11. Recognising that our interventions require drawing lessons from other regional and international frameworks and best practices, the EAC has as a strategic approach, prioritized the use of structured partnerships at regional, continental and global levels. To this end, the EAC cooperates very closely with other Regional Economic Communities, the African Union and now with the United Nations.
12. Pursuant to the decision by the AU Assembly of Heads of State declaring **2010 the Year of Peace in Africa**, the EAC commemorated it with a major public event in Bujumbura, Burundi on 17th April 2010 with the destruction of 1000 assorted illicit arms. In May 2010 another 2560 assorted illicit arms recovered mainly from the refugee population on the Tanzania/Burundi border were also publicly destroyed. Similar activities had been undertaken in the other EAC Partner States and so far over 170,000 SALW and 300 tones of explosive remnants of war including ammunitions have been destroyed in the region. This is to be a continuous activity.

13. At the International level, we continue to strengthen cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), among others, to support action against other predicate offences linked to money laundering. There is more needed on this front, especially in the area of advocacy and strengthening of capacities to fight the scourge.

Defence

Mr. President,

14. Cooperation in Defence is provided for in Article 125 under Chapter 23 of the Treaty that established the EAC. In fulfillment of the Treaty provision that calls for developing a common defence policy, the defence sector is upgrading the MoU on Co-operation in defence into a protocol. It is hoped that this will eventually lead to an EAC common defence pact. Already, the defence sector is conducting joint command post and field training exercises. The Partner States have also identified a number of facilities for shared utilization by the Partner States' military forces. To coordinate the activities of the defence sector, the Partner States established a Defence Liaison Unit at the EAC Secretariat. Each country has to be represented by a senior military officer of a rank not lower than a Colonel.

Research

15. In light of the ongoing initiatives, it is imperative that reciprocal measures are taken to enhance availability of well researched information to facilitate informed decision making. In this regard a research centre was started at the EAC Secretariat called the Nyerere Centre for Peace Research (NCPR). Its mandate is to, on a continuous and sustainable basis, undertake empirical and policy-oriented research and capacity building in key areas related to deepening and widening the EAC integration in general and peace and security, good governance and common regional foreign policies in particular.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Mr. President,

16. Having highlighted our interventions under peace and security, let me turn to the sector of governance. Challenges related to governance have occupied centre stage at the EAC as in most developing countries. Unemployment and under development have created fertile grounds for

recourse to crime and other evils. Degradation of the environment, climatic change and competition for the meager natural resources is another source of human insecurity. We believe that regional integration can be used as a tool for promoting good governance and also that governance is necessary for effective integration. We believe that good governance and regional integration are mutually reinforcing and must be pursued. That is why strengthening good governance and reducing poverty should be pressing priorities.

17. The Treaty for establishment of EAC upholds good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights as fundamental principles of the Community. In this regard, we are developing an instrument that sets and enforces minimum measurable governance standards as a way of making the region internally coherent and strategically relevant. This is the **Protocol on good governance**.

18. The development of the Protocol is based on four broad pillars namely:

- a) Promoting democracy and harmonization of democratization processes;
- b) Promoting and protecting human rights and ensuring equal opportunities;
- c) Preventing and combating corruption, enhancing ethics and Integrity; and
- d) Upholding the rule of law and justice.

Mr. President,

19. With respect to **harmonization of democratization processes**, our region has experienced some of the worst forms of electoral violence. Aware of the existing disparity in our democratization policies and legislations and their relationship to peace, security and development, the EAC Council of Ministers established an EAC Forum of Electoral Commissions. The Forum is charged with initiation of policies, exchanging of views on best practices, sharing expertise and making policy recommendations for addressing challenges to holding free, fair and credible elections.

20. Furthermore, we are negotiating a Manual for Elections Monitoring, Observation and Evaluation which will set regional standards. In the development of this Manual, we are guided by, among others, African

Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, the AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, the UN Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

21. **On the promotion and protection of human rights**, the region adopted a Plan of Action on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in East Africa whose strategic objectives include to: -
- a) Initiate an EAC Bill of Rights with mechanisms for enforcement. The first draft is ready for wider stakeholders' discussion and input.
 - b) Establish an EAC Human Rights Policy forum;
 - c) Build capacity for national institutions through development of National Action Plans;
 - d) Build capacity for national institutions to comply with their reporting obligations in compliance with regional and international human rights instruments; and creation of awareness and understanding of human rights through education and training.
 - e) Establish and strengthen the forum for Human Rights Commissions to enable it input into the policy making processes.
22. On combating corruption and enhancing **ethics and integrity in the Community**, the EAC acknowledges that corruption and improper management of national resources have a negative impact on trade and investments, the socio-economic welfare and therefore the poverty levels in the society. A Protocol on preventing and combating corruption is being developed through a multi-stakeholder consultative process. Broadly, it provides for preventive and enforcement measures including asset recovery and forfeiture, jurisdiction and guarantee of fair trial, transfer of criminal proceedings and sentenced persons as well as extradition.
23. The EAC is also committed to **upholding the rule of law** and to this end has an operational regional Court of Justice whose mandate is presently limited to the interpretation of the Treaty. It is under review, to expand the Court's jurisdiction to address other issues relating to the integration. This is more so in light of the operationalisation of the recently launched EAC Common Market. Furthermore, a Forum of Chief Justices of the Partner States that brings together Chief Justices, Judges of the High, Constitutional and Supreme Courts has been operationalised. The Forum aims to share

experiences, challenges and agree on way forward and best practices for the region.

24. The sector of Law Reform and access to Justice brings together , the Law Reform Commissions, Ministries of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, correctional, law enforcement and security agencies and enables them to contribute to the integration process. The objective is to promote enactment of just laws based on common benchmarks and facilitate effective administration of Justice Systems - in a manner that promotes social justice, prevention of conflicts, peace and political stability.
25. In order to build capacity for the entrenchment of those good governance practices, the EAC holds annual Conferences whose objective is to bring together, at the highest levels, key players from organizations that form the pillars of good governance mentioned above.
I also wish to add that we have an East African Legislative Assembly, whose oversight and legislative roles strengthen our good governance initiatives.

Mr President

Foreign Policy Coordination

26. Regional integration demands some degree of supra-nationality of structures so as to facilitate joint action for the common good. In this regard, the Treaty requires Partner States to establish a common foreign Policy to enable systematic co-operation in their international relations. To this end, Partner States have operated under an MoU on Foreign Policy Coordination. We are in the final stages for upgrading it into a Protocol to provide for more binding commitments and collective pursuit on matters of common interest. Once the Protocol is concluded, among its provisions, the Heads of Diplomatic Mission that come from the country exercising the chairmanship of the Community policy organs are mandated to speak on behalf of the EAC member states. The draft Protocol also provides for rendering of consular services on behalf of each other where a Partner State may not have Diplomatic representation.

CHALLENGES:

26. There are challenges to what has been highlighted. All areas of political integration including governance issues need to be unpacked and progress closely monitored and reviewed.

This calls for continuous capacity building in human and financial resources but more importantly, mobilising political will and commitment.

We have had a lot of support from development partners, but more is needed because of the speed of integration and the depth to which the EAC needs to go to achieve its ultimate objective of a political federation.

Mr. President,

28. As I conclude, I wish on behalf of the EAC to express our appreciation for the support by the Assembly of nations towards addressing Africa's development challenges. This is manifested by your decisions in establishing various agencies and supporting various programs on the continent. The Office of the Special Advisor on Africa being one of the latest. We however still call upon the international community to support Africa in general and eastern Africa in particular, underscoring our desire for capacity development to enable us build a sustainable, people-centered and private sector driven integration. The international community needs to keep engaged to address the vulnerability of the Horn of Africa given the conflicts and violence in a number of countries whose effect goes beyond the boundaries of those particular countries.

Mr. President, distinguished delegations, I THANK YOU.