



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

COMMUNIQUE

23RD ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE

THEME: *Accelerating Economic Recovery through Climate
Action and enhancing Food Security for Improved
Livelihoods*

24TH NOVEMBER, 2023

ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

A handwritten signature or mark in blue ink is located in the bottom right corner of the page, below the text 'ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA'. It appears to be a stylized signature.

1. THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE, THEIR EXCELLENCIES ÉVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI; YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA; SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN; DR.SAMIA HASSAN SULUHU PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA; DR.WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, RT. HON. EDOUARD NGIRENTE REPRESENTING H.E PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA; RT. HON JEAN PIERRE BEMBA, VICE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE REPRESENTING H.E. PRESIDENT FÉLIX ANTOINE TSHISEKEDI OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO; HELD THE 23RD ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE ON 24TH NOVEMBER, 2023 AT THE NGURDOTO MOUNTAIN LODGE IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA. IN ATTENDANCE WAS H.E. HASSAN SHEIKH MOHAMUD, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA. THE HEADS OF STATE MET IN A WARM AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.
2. THE SUMMIT RECEIVED THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JULY, 2022 TO 24TH NOVEMBER, 2023. THE SUMMIT COMMENDED THE COUNCIL FOR THE PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO RESOLVE ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND REPORT PROGRESS TO THE 24TH ORDINARY SUMMIT.
3. THE SUMMIT CONSIDERED THE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF THE SUMMIT AND NOTED THE PROGRESS. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED PARTNER STATES AND THE COUNCIL TO IMPLEMENT THE OUTSTANDING DECISIONS.

4. THE SUMMIT CONSIDERED THE REPORT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, AND DECIDED TO ADMIT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY.
5. THE SUMMIT DESIGNATED THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT TO AGREE WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA ON WHEN, AND TO SIGN, THE TREATY OF ACCESSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND WITHIN 6(SIX) MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF SIGNING THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA SHALL BE REQUIRED TO DEPOSIT THE INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL.
6. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO DEVELOP A ROADMAP FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA INTO THE COMMUNITY AND REPORT PROGRESS TO THE NEXT SUMMIT.
7. THE SUMMIT CONSIDERED THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIONS ON EAC POLITICAL CONFEDERATION AND
 - a) COMMENDED THE EXPERTS FOR PROFESSIONALISM AND COMMITMENT TOWARDS FULFILLING THEIR MANDATE AS ASSIGNED BY THE SUMMIT;
 - b) COMMENDED THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND REPUBLIC OF KENYA FOR PROVIDING EXTRA BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR THE CONSULTATION PROCESS;
 - c) TOOK NOTE OF THE PLEDGE BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN TO CONTRIBUTE USD 500,000 AND COMMITMENT BY THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO SUPPORT THE PROCESS;
 - d) URGED THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN, THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO TO CONCLUDE THE CONSULTATIONS PROCESS BY 30TH MAY 2024; AND

- e) URGED PARTNER STATES THAT HAVE NOT SUBMITTED THE NAMES OF CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERTS TO DO SO BY 31ST DECEMBER 2023.
 - f) ADOPTED A ROADMAP FOR EXPEDITIOUS CONCLUSION OF THE PROCESS.
8. THE SUMMIT CONSIDERED THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS ON THE RESTORATION OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO FROM THE FACILITATOR AND THE FORCE COMMANDER OF THE EAC REGIONAL FORCE. THE SUMMIT:
- a) NOTED THAT THE DRC WILL NOT EXTEND THE MANDATE OF THE EAC REGIONAL FORCE BEYOND 8TH DECEMBER 2023,
 - b) DIRECTED THAT THE CDFS OF EAC AND SADC MEET BEFORE 8TH DECEMBER 2023 AND SUBMIT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE WAY FORWARD TO THE DEFENCE MINSTERS FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION TO THE SUMMIT FOR CONSIDERATION
9. THE SUMMIT CONSIDERED THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND AGREED ON A 65% (EQUAL CONTRIBUTION) AND 35% (ASSESED CONTRIBUTIONS) FINANCING FORMULAE. THE SUMMIT FURTHER DIRECTED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO PURSUE STRATEGIC SPENDING RATIONALIZATION MEASURES, INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND STRICT SANCTIONS FOR THE DEFAULTING PARTNER STATES AND REPORT TO THE 24TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SUMMIT.

10. THE SUMMIT DECIDED THAT THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN WOULD BE THE NEW CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY WHILE THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO WILL BE THE RAPPORTEUR.

11. THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE EAC HEADS OF STATE AWARDED CERTIFICATES TO THE WINNERS OF THE EAC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ESSAY COMPETITION FOR THE YEARS 2022 AND 2023, AND COMMENDED ALL WINNERS FOR THEIR KEEN INTEREST IN THE EAC INTEGRATION PROCESS.

12. THE SUMMIT TOOK NOTE OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE EAC AND:
 - a) CONGRATULATED THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA FOR HOSTING THE AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA FOR HOSTING THE AFRICA FOOD SUMMIT;
 - b) REAFFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY INCLUDING PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-RESILIENT TECHNOLOGIES, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL POLICIES TO FOSTER ADAPTATION AND STRENGTHEN POST-HARVEST HANDLING, WATER HARVESTING, VALUE ADDITION AND IRRIGATION; AND
 - c) COMMITTED TO APPROACH THE 2023 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE OR CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE UNFCCC OR COP 28 TO BE HELD IN DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, AS A REGION.

13. THE SUMMIT ASSENTED TO:
 - a) THE EAST AFRICAN COMPETITION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022;

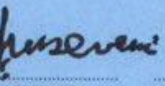

- b) THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2022;
- c) THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2022; AND
- d) THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 2022 PASSED BY THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

- 14. THE SUMMIT TOOK NOTE OF THE VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION OF JUSTICE CHARLES NYACHAE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AS A JUDGE OF THE FIRST INSTANCE DIVISION OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE. THE SUMMIT COMMENDED HIM FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. THE SUMMIT URGED THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO EXPEDITE THE NOMINATION OF HIS REPLACEMENT.
- 15. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO EXPEDITE THE AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 137 AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY AND FAST TRACK THE MODALITIES FOR THE USE OF KISWAHILI AND FRENCH AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE COMMUNITY.
- 16. THE SUMMIT WISHED THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO A PEACEFUL GENERAL ELECTIONS.
- 17. THE SUMMIT CONGRATULATED THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA FOR JOINTLY WINNING THE BID TO HOST THE AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS IN 2027 (AFCON'2027). AND NOTED THAT THE EAST AFRICAN PAMOJA BID WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE MANY BENEFITS THAT COLLABORATION BY PARTNERS CAN YIELD.
- 18. THE SUMMIT COMMENDED HIS EXCELLENCY ÉVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI FOR EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP DURING HIS TENURE AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT

AND CONGRATULATED HIS EXCELLENCY SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT FOR ASSUMING THE CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF EAC SUMMIT.

19. THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE, THEIR EXCELLENCIES ÉVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI; YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA; SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN; DR.SAMIA HASSAN SULUHU PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA; DR.WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, RT. HON. EDOUARD NGIRENTE REPRESENTING H.E PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA; RT. HON JEAN PIERRE BEMBA, VICE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE REPRESENTING H.E. PRESIDENT FÉLIX ANTOINE TSHISEKEDI OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO; THANKED THEIR HOST PRESIDENT DR. SAMIA HASSAN SULUHU OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO THEM AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAY IN TANZANIA.

DONE AT ARUSHA, THIS 24TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.

						
H.E. EVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE	H.E. SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT	H.E. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN	H.E. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO	H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI	RT. HON. JEAN PIERRE BEMBA	RT. HON. EDOUARD NGIRENTE
President	President	President	President	President	Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.	Prime Minister
REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI	REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN	UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	REPUBLIC OF KENYA	REPUBLIC OF UGANDA	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
						

7

