

# EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY FORCE (EASF) SECRETARIAT

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## COMMUNIQUE OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE EASTERN AFRICAN REGION

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016**

The EASF Assembly of Heads of State and Government held its 4<sup>th</sup> Extra-Ordinary Summit Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016, under the Chairmanship of **H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Government of the Somali Republic.**

The Assembly was attended by: **H.E. Ikililou Dhoinine, President of the Union of Comoros, Hon Hassan Darar Houffaneh representative of the President of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Hon Amb Raychelle Omamo representative of the President of the Republic of Kenya, Brig Gen Joseph Nzabamwita representative of the President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. Joel Morgan, Representative of the President of the Republic of Seychelles, Lt Gen Yahia Mohammed Khair representative of the President of the Republic of The Sudan, H.E Amb Mull Sebuja Katende representative of the President of the Republic of Uganda and Amb Chanfi Issimail, the Director of the Eastern Africa Standby (EASF) Secretariat.**

**H.E. Joel Morgan, Chairperson of the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Transport of the Republic of Seychelles** briefed the Assembly on the recommendations reached by the Council on the situation in Burundi.

### **The Assembly:**

**Welcomes** the Report of the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security and the Brief of the Director EASF Secretariat to this Assembly; and **takes note** of the briefing on the evolution of the situation in Burundi;

**Expresses concerns** over reports of the situation that is affecting thousands of Burundi People and threatening to destabilize the regional peace and security;

**Expresses** solidarity and sympathy to the People of Burundi faced with the conflict situation in the country;

**Commends** the ongoing process of mediation between the Government of Burundi and the opposition in an effort to find a peaceful solution to the situation;

**Deplores** the reported continued violence and disregard to the protection of the innocent populations;

**Welcomes** the decision of the 565<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Peace and Security Council of African Union which was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 authorizing an African Mission for the Prevention and Protection in Burundi (MAPROBU); with a Force of 5000 Military, Police and Civilian Personnel for an initial period of 6 months;

**Cognizant** of importance of the consent of Burundi as an independent and sovereign State, as the beneficiary of the process, to allow for a successful outcome of the Peace Keeping Operations;

**Appreciates** and **commends** the dedicated commitment of the African Union with support from the UN and the larger International Community in their daily efforts undertaken in the search for a political solution to the crisis in Burundi that has been ongoing for the last 8 months;

**Expresses** a strong desire of EASF to be more engaged in the process of finding a peaceful solution to the situation in Burundi as an EASF Member State;

**Pledges** the support of the EASF to form part and take a lead role in MAPROBU under the African Union;

**Takes into consideration** the urgency to provide the pledged forces towards the fulfillment of the MAPROBU mandate;

**Commends** the countries that are hosting refugees from the Republic of Burundi.

## **The Assembly decides to:**

1. **Support** the ongoing mediation process and urges that the political options be exhausted and deployment be considered as the last option;
2. **Engage** the President of the Republic of Burundi to encourage the participation of the Government of Burundi in the ongoing mediation process and accept the eventual deployment of MAPROBU as necessary;
3. **Approve** the recommendations of the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security to authorize the deployment of EASF as part of the MAPROBU subject to consent by the Republic of Burundi;
4. **Direct** the EASF to put in place the necessary facilitation for the deployment of the Forces in coordination and consultation with the AUC and Partners;
5. **Request** the EASF Secretariat to transmit this communique to all Member States as well as to the African Union Commission. The Assembly also requests the EASF Secretariat to transmit the Communique to other bilateral partners to solicit their support for the effective implementation of the decisions contained therein; and
6. **Remain** seized of the matter.

**Issued this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

