



## **21<sup>ST</sup> EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE**

**31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023**

**BUJUMBURA, REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**

### **COMMUNIQUÉ**

1. THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE, THEIR EXCELLENCIES  
EVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI;  
WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA; DR.  
PHILIP MPANGO, VICE PRESIDENT REPRESENTING H.E SAMIA SULUHU  
HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA; RT. HON.  
EDOUARD NGIRENTE, PRIME MINISTER, REPRESENTING H.E PAUL  
KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA; RT. HON. REBECCA  
ALITWALA KADAGA, 1<sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EAST  
AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, REPRESENTING H.E YOWERI KAGUTA  
MUSEVENI; PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA; HON. DR. BARNABA  
MARIAL BENJAMIN, MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,  
REPRESENTING H.E. PRESIDENT SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, PRESIDENT OF

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN; HON. ANTIPAS MBUSA NYAMWISI, MINISTER OF STATE/MINISTER OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION REPRESENTING H.E FELIX TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO; HELD THE 21<sup>ST</sup> EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY, 2023 IN BUJUMBURA IN THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI. THE HEADS OF STATE, MET IN A CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

2. THE SUMMIT NOTED THAT THE TENURE OF ENGINEER STEPHEN MLOTE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE ENDED ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023 AND COMMENDED HIM FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND WISHED HIM WELL IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVOURS.
3. THE SUMMIT APPOINTED **MS. ANNETTE MUTAAWE SSEMUWEMBA** AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, CUSTOMS, TRADE AND MONETARY AFFAIRS; AND **MR. ANDREA AGUER ARIIK MALUETH** AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, INFRASTRUCTURE, PRODUCTIVE, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SECTORS, WITH EFFECT FROM 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023.
4. THE HEADS OF STATE NOTED THAT THE TENURE OF HON. LADY JUSTICE SAUDA MJASIRI, JUDGE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE APPELLATE DIVISION AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT, WILL COME TO AN END ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2023 AND COMMENDED HER FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND WISHED HER WELL IN HER FUTURE ENDEAVOURS.
5. THE SUMMIT DESIGNATED **HON. LADY JUSTICE ANITA MUGENI** FROM THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE WITH EFFECT FROM 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2023.
6. THE SUMMIT APPOINTED **HON JUSTICE OMAR OTHMAN MAKUNGU** FROM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AS A JUDGE OF THE EAST AFRICAN

COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE APPELATE DIVISION WITH EFFECT FROM 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2023 AND DESIGNATED THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT TO PRESIDE OVER THE SWEARING IN CEREMONY.

7. THE SUMMIT APPOINTED **HON JUSTICE KAYEMBE KASANDA IGNACE RENE** FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) AS A JUDGE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE DIVISION WITH EFFECT FROM 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023.
8. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED AND ADOPTED THE REPORTS ON THE PEACE AND SECURITY SITUATION IN THE EASTERN DRC SUBMITTED BY THE FACILITATOR OF THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EAC CHIEFS OF DEFENCE FORCES.
9. THE SUMMIT CONGRATULATED THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY REGIONAL FORCE FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENT TOWARDS RESTORATION OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND NOTED THAT MAJOR GENERAL APHAXARD MUTHURI KIUGU FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA IS THE NEW FORCE COMMANDER OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY REGIONAL FORCE.
10. THE HEADS OF STATE TOOK NOTE OF THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE FACILITATOR AND THE EAC REGIONAL FORCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS.
11. THE HEADS OF STATE CONDEMNED IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS IN EASTERN DRC AND DIRECTED THE EAC REGIONAL FORCE TO TAKE MEASURES TO STOP THEIR RECURRENCE.
12. THE HEADS OF STATE NOTED THAT ALL TROOP CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES HAVE DEPLOYED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF OPERATION AND THE REDUCTION IN HOSTILITIES IN EASTERN DRC AND URGED THE

DRC TO FACILITATE FULL DEPLOYMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.

13. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY REGIONAL FORCE:
  - (i) TO SAFEGUARD AND MAINTAIN THE AREAS VACATED BY M23 AND OTHER ARMED GROUPS;
  - (ii) TO SUSTAIN THE ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL OF M23 AND OTHER ARMED GROUPS FROM THE REMAINING OCCUPIED AREAS;
  - (iii) TO PROTECT CIVILIANS AND SUPPORT THE RETURN OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) TO THE AREAS VACATED BY ARMED GROUP.
  - (iv) TO WORK WITH CHIEFS OF DEFENCE FORCES, MONUSCO AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO VISIT AND VERIFY WITHIN THREE (3) WEEKS THE SUITABILITY OF RUMANGABO CAMP FOR PRE-CANTONEMENT OF M23 AND OTHER ARMED GROUPS.
  - (v) TO ENSURE THAT LOCAL ARMED GROUPS DO NOT OCCUPY AREAS VACATED BY M23 AND FOREIGN ARMED GROUPS TO BE DISARMED AND REPATRIATED.
14. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THAT COMMUNICATIONS WITH M23 SHOULD HANDLED BY THE FACILITATOR.
15. THE SUMMIT URGED THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN TO ENGAGE IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF NEGATIVE FORCES ON THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO PARTNER STATES.
16. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE EAC SECRETARIAT TO CONSTITUTE A TECHNICAL EVALUATION TEAM BY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2023, COMPOSED OF WITH AN OFFICER AT THE RANK OF BRIGADIER GENERAL FROM EACH PARTNER STATE TO EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE OF THE EAST AFRICAN REGIONAL FORCE AND REPORT TO THE SECTORAL COUNCIL ON COOPERATION ON DEFENCE AFFAIRS WITHIN NINETY (90)

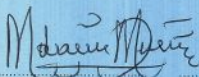
DAYS AFTER THE EXTENSION OF THE STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT (SOFA).

17. THE HEADS OF STATE APPLAUDED H.E. PRESIDENT FELIX TSHISEKEDI FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO RESTORATION OF PEACE IN EASTERN DRC AND AGREED TO THE EXTENSION OF THE STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT (SOFA) FOR SIX (6) MONTHS FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH TO 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023 IN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE THE GAINS MADE BY THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY REGIONAL FORCE.
18. THE SUMMIT REITERATED ITS CALL TO ALL PARTIES TO DE-ESCALATE TENSIONS AND TO USE ESTABLISHED REGIONAL, CONTINENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS TO RESOLVE ANY DISPUTES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE IN EASTERN DRC.
19. THE SUMMIT WELCOMED THE DECISIONS OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE REGIONAL OVERSIGHT MECHANISM OF THE PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND THE REGION HELD IN BUJUMBURA, ON 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023, THAT:
  - (a) ENCOURAGED THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS UNDER THE AEGIS OF HIS EXCELLENCY ÉVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI, EAC CHAIRPERSON AND AU CHAMPION FOR YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY, AND HIS EXCELLENCY UHURU KENYATTA, EAC FACILITATOR AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA; AND URGED ALL THE PARTIES TO REMAIN COMMITTED TO THIS PEACE PROCESS AND TO HONOR THE COMMITMENTS MADE TO CEASE HOSTILITIES DURING THE NAIROBI III CONSULTATIONS;

- (b) REITERATED SUPPORT TO THE LUANDA PROCESS AND THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS;
  - (c) URGED ALL PARTNERS TO SUPPORT THESE INITIATIVES AND THEIR OUTCOMES, INCLUDING WITH REGARD TO ASSISTANCE TOWARDS DEMOBILIZATION OF COMBATANTS OF ARMED GROUPS AND THEIR REINSERTION AND REINTEGRATION INTO CIVILIAN LIVES;
  - (d) REITERATED THE REQUEST TO MONUSCO, THE EAC REGIONAL FORCE AND THE AD HOC VERIFICATION MECHANISM TO CONTINUE TO ENHANCE COORDINATION AND SYNERGIES WITH THE FORCES ARMÉES DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO (FARDC) IN ORDER TO IMPRESS UPON ALL ARMED GROUPS TO DISARM AND ENCOURAGED OTHER TROOPS DEPLOYED THROUGH BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FULLY COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE SAME;
  - (e) ENCOURAGED THE DRC TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUATION AND THE FINALIZATION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE REGIONAL FORCE.
20. THE SUMMIT REAFFIRMED THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION IN EASTERN DRC CAN ONLY BE SUSTAINABLY RESOLVED THROUGH A POLITICAL PROCESS AND DIALOGUE AMONG ALL THE PARTIES AND URGED THE GOVERNMENT OF DRC TO WORK WITH THE FACILITATOR TO FINALISE THE APPROPRIATE DATES FOR RESUMPTION OF THE INTER-CONGOLOSE DIALOGUE.
21. THE SUMMIT COMMENDED H.E. UHURU KENYATTA, FACILITATOR OF THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND EFFORTS ON RE-ENERGISING THE PEACE PROCESS IN EASTERN DRC.
22. THE HEADS OF STATE AGREED ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A CIVILIAN HEAD OF MISSION TO COORDINATE ALL POLITICAL RELATED MATTERS OF THE EAST AFRICAN REGIONAL FORCE (EACRF).

23. THE SUMMIT NOTED WITH APPRECIATION THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND THANKED THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA AND THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EAC PEACE FACILITY FUND AND URGED OTHER PARTNER STATES TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PEACE FUND.
24. THE HEADS OF STATE ACCEPTED A REQUEST FROM H.E YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO HOLD A FOLLOW UP MEETING IN NAIROBI TO BE HOSTED BY H.E WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA.
25. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO MOBILISE RESOURCES FROM THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO SUPPORT THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS.
26. THE HEADS OF STATE DELIBERATED ON AND ADOPTED THE REPORT OF THE VERIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA TO JOIN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY EARLIER CIRCULATED TO THE EAC PARTNER STATES AND DIRECTED THE EAC SECRETARIAT AND THE COUNCIL TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT AND REPORT TO THE NEXT ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE.
27. THE HEADS OF STATE THANKED H.E. EVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE FOR HIS CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT AND COMMITMENT TOWARDS SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF DRC IN THEIR PURSUIT FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND SECURITY AND EXTENDED THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL HOSPITALITY ACCORDED TO THEM AND THEIR DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAY IN BURUNDI.


DONE IN BUJUMBURA, ON THIS 31<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MAY 2023



ÉVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE

PRESIDENT

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



DR. MARIJAL BENJAMIN

MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT


REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



HON. ANTIPAS MBUSA NYAMWISI,

MINISTER OF STATE / MINISTER OF  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

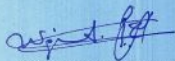
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO

PRESIDENT

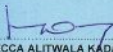
REPUBLIC OF KENYA



ÉDOUARD NGIRENTE

PRIME MINISTER

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



REBECCA ALITWALA KADAGA

1<sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER  
OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



DR. PHILIP MPANGO

VICE PRESIDENT

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

