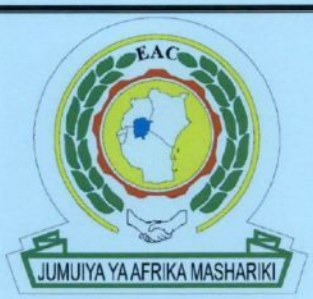

24th ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE

THEME: ***Promoting Trade, Sustainable Development and Peace & Security for Improved livelihoods***

30th November, 2024

ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

COMMUNIQUÉ

EAC SECRETARIAT
ARUSHA, TANZANIA
NOVEMBER, 2024

24th ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE

30TH NOVEMBER, 2024

ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.

COMMUNIQUÉ

1. THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE, THEIR EXCELLENCIES SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN; YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA; PAUL KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA; SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA; FÉLIX - ANTOINE TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO; HASSAN SHEIKH MOHAMUD, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA; WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, AND H.E PROSPER BAZOMBANZA, VICE PRESIDENT REPRESENTING PRESIDENT ÉVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI HELD THE 24TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

HEADS OF STATE ON 30TH NOVEMBER, 2024 AT THE ARUSHA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE IN ARUSHA IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA. THE HEADS OF STATE MET IN A WARM AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.

2. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM H.E. FÉLIX - ANTOINE TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, THROUGH A SPECIAL ENVOY WHICH THEY CONSIDERED DURING THEIR MEETING.

3. THE SUMMIT RECEIVED THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR THE PERIOD 25TH NOVEMBER 2023 TO 29TH NOVEMBER, 2024. THE SUMMIT COMMENDED THE COUNCIL FOR THE PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND:

   a) DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO EXPEDITE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FINANCING FORMULA AND REPORT PROGRESS TO THE 25TH MEETING OF THE SUMMIT;

   b) DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO FINALIZE THE SCHEDULE OF SANCTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED ALONGSIDE THE FINANCING FORMULA;

   c) DIRECTED THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA TO SUBMIT THE NAMES OF CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERTS TO THE SECRETARIAT BY 31ST JANUARY, 2025;

d) DIRECTED THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN, THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA TO CONCLUDE NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE EAC POLITICAL CONFEDERATION CONSTITUTION BY 30TH JUNE, 2025;

e) DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE USE OF VARIABLE GEOMETRY IN THE POLITICAL INTEGRATION OF THE COMMUNITY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 25TH ORDINARY SUMMIT.

f) DIRECTED THE ATTORNEYS GENERAL/ MINISTERS OF JUSTICE TO CONCLUDE THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND RULE 11 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SUMMIT ON QUORUM AND ADVISE THE SUMMIT DURING THE 25TH MEETING OF THE SUMMIT; AND

g) TOOK NOTE OF THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE EAC-EU ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO REPORT PROGRESS TO THE 25TH MEETING OF THE SUMMIT.

4. THE SUMMIT RECEIVED THE REPORT OF THE RETREAT OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EAC AFFAIRS AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO:

(a) WORK WITH THE PARTNER STATES TO DEVELOP REGIONAL GUIDELINES FOR MULTI-DIMENSIONAL PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS TO GUIDE FUTURE REGIONAL PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS;

(b) EXPEDITE THE CONCLUSION OF THE EAC MUTUAL DEFENCE PACT TO FACILITATE PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY; AND

(c) EXPEDITE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAC COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY AND REPORT PROGRESS TO THE 25TH MEETING OF THE SUMMIT.

5. THE SUMMIT RECEIVED A REPORT FROM H.E. UHURU KENYATTA, FACILITATOR OF THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS ON THE RESTORATION OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC). THE SUMMIT NOTED THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN EASTERN DRC AND CALLED FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. DUE TO THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE PARALLEL PROCESSES, THE SUMMIT CALLED FOR A COORDINATED APPROACH AND A CONSOLIDATION OF THE VARIOUS INITIATIVES, SPECIFICALLY, THE LUANDA PROCESS AND THE EAC LED NAIROBI PROCESS TO BE MERGED INTO ONE AND MANAGED JOINTLY. THE SUMMIT UNDERSCORED THE NEED FOR A JOINT MEETING BETWEEN SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) AND EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) TO DISCUSS THE MODALITIES IN CONSIDERATION OF THE WIDE SPREAD IMPACT OF THE SITUATION IN DRC ON THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY. THE EAC SECRETARIAT WAS DIRECTED TO FOLLOW UP THE PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION NOT LATER THAN 30TH APRIL, 2025.

6. THE SUMMIT APPROVED AND SIGNED THE INSTRUMENT OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 137 OF THE TREATY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (TREATY) TO INCORPORATE

FRENCH AND KISWAHILI AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY IN ADDITION TO ENGLISH, AND ARTICLE 132 (4) OF THE TREATY TO REFLECT AND FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINANCING FORMULA AGREED BY THE SUMMIT.

7. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER MODALITIES OF PARTNER STATES PAYING THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN LOCAL CURRENCY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 132(6) OF THE TREATY.

8. THE SUMMIT APPROVED AND SIGNED ANNEX VII TO THE PROTOCOL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMON MARKET ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION REGULATIONS.

9. THE SUMMIT ASSENTED TO:

   (a) THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022;
   (b) THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2023;
   (c) THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2023; AND
   (d) THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (NO.2) BILL, 2023.

10. THE HEADS OF STATE NOTED THAT THE TERM OF HON. JUSTICE DR. CHARLES O. NYAWELO AS JUDGE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE ENDED IN JANUARY,

2024 AND COMMENDED HIM FOR THE DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND WISHED HIM WELL IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVOURS.

11. THE SUMMIT DESIGNATED **HON. JUSTICE RICHARD WEJULI WABWIRE** FROM THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, AS DEPUTY PRINCIPAL JUDGE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE WITH EFFECT FROM 30TH NOVEMBER, 2024.

12. THE HEADS OF STATE CONGRATULATED AND AWARDED CERTIFICATES TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2023 EAC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ESSAY COMPETITION AND COMMENDED THEM FOR THEIR KEEN INTEREST IN THE EAC INTEGRATION PROCESS.

13. THE SUMMIT COMMENDED EAST AFRICANS FOR COMMEMORATING 25 YEARS OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING TRADE RELATIONS, FOSTERING PEACE AND SECURITY, YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT TO ENGAGE IN COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION, AND ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INCLUDING GREEN ENERGY AND EMBRACING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AS KEY DRIVERS OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION, AND;

    (a) DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO PRIORITIZE ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS TO TRADE, REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF PERSONS AND SERVICES TO FOSTER TRADE INTEGRATION; ADOPT INCLUSIVE DIGITAL POLICIES AND PAYMENT SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE TRADE; SECURITY, YOUTH AND WOMEN

EMPOWERMENT IN PRODUCTION AND CROSS BORDER TRADE; AND

(b) DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO CONVENE A DEDICATED MEETING WITH EAC ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS, PARTNER STATES, PRIVATE SECTOR OF PARTNER STATES AND THEIR GOVERNING BODIES/ ASSOCIATIONS TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER AND GENERATE A JOINT ACTION PLAN BY APRIL, 2025.

14. THE SUMMIT DECIDED THAT THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA WOULD BE THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY, WHILE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA WILL BE THE RAPPORTEUR FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025.

15. THE SUMMIT COMMENDED HIS EXCELLENCY SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN FOR EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP DURING HIS TENURE AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT AND CONGRATULATED HIS EXCELLENCY DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO AND HIS EXCELLENCY HASSAN SHEIKH MOHAMUD FOR ASSUMING THE CHAIRPERSONSHIP AND RAPPORTEURSHIP OF EAC SUMMIT RESPECTIVELY.

16. THE HEADS OF STATE THANKED H.E. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN AND EXTENDED THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL HOSPITALITY ACCORDED TO THEM AND THEIR DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAY IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.