

# EASCOF KENYA NEWSLETTER

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## THE 2<sup>ND</sup> REGIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE



Figure Above: The 2nd Regional Dialogue Committee Meeting in preparation for the 5th Annual EAC Secretary General's Forum Kampala, Uganda - December 2016

The 2nd Meeting of the Regional Dialogue Committee (RDC) in preparation of the 5th Annual Secretary General's Forum was held from 30th November to 2nd December 2016 at Golf Course Hotel, Kampala. The meeting was held in accordance with the EAC Calendar of activities for the period July to December 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the preparations of the 5th Annual Secretary General's Forum including confirmation of the themes, subthemes, resource persons, facilitators and the discussion on the resource mobilization strategy and the launch of the Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa (IIDEA) project.

The meeting considered the draft Concept Note and the Provisional Program for the 5th Secretary General's Forum. The meeting proposed the Keynote Speaker, resource persons, participants and the venue of the forum. The meeting further discussed the progress of the Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa (IIDEA) and the probable launch of the project at the next forum.

Participants to the meeting were drawn from the Partner States represented by the Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs, Private sector organizations, civil society organizations, professional bodies, other interest groups, EAC Secretariat and GIZ.

## WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY-EACSOFF PARTNERSHIP ON LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE EAST AFRICAN REGION

EACSOFF with support from WFD has proposed to convene a regional meeting on the Legislative Environment for CSOs in the EAC which will enable stakeholders to deliberate on the CSO operating environment and engage the EALA General Purpose Committee to marshal support for the proposed draft Bill. The Bill's potential impacts on civic space, particularly in the regional is critical to ensure that civil society operate in a more enabling environment with a strong human rights defenders' framework as well as accountability from the respective governments.

In preparation for the regional meeting, a scoping visit was conducted in Nairobi in November 2016 by the Regional Director for Africa and Europe, to collate wider perspectives and input from stakeholders. Consultation meetings were held with cross section of stakeholders including VIWANGO- the CSO standardization body in Kenya, EACSOFF Kenya Chapter, Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD) and DFID. The key objectives of this meeting are for CSOs from the East Africa Region to: a) Objectively discuss the state of CSO legislation in their countries and the effect that existent legislation has on the operating environment for CSOs; b) Engage EALA on the possibility of developing a draft bill that harmonizes legislation for CSO operations in the 6 East African Countries

## ENHANCING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE PORT REFORMS (BASELINE STUDY)



Figure Above: CCGD Director, Mr. Masheti, addressing Mombasa CSO Platform Research Assistants during their training

Mombasa CSOs and EACSOFF Kenya are conducting a baseline study to establish an advocacy strategy to enable the port community to have their issues included in the port plans. Specifically, it aims to establish and clearly identify all priorities of the port community along the four thematic areas (Governance, Security, Natural Resources, Labor and Gender), to establish and clearly identify all the key stakeholders including private and public sector actors in the Mombasa Port reform, to identify opportunities for synergies among and between key stakeholders to reduce duplicity and maximize outputs and make proposals for effective engagement /advocacy framework among the stakeholders.

On 22nd November 2016, the Mombasa CSO platform research assistants, the EACSOFF coordinators and lead researchers set out to start the study by conducting Key Informant Interviews, Focus group discussions and general surveys as part of the data collection. The exercise, a first phase of the study, was concluded on 2nd December, to be resumed on 14th December 2016.

## EACSOFF KENYA STRATEGIC PLAN (2017– 2021)

EACSOFF Kenya has procured the services of a consultant to assist with the development of a Five-Year Strategic Plan. With the EACSOFF Regional Strategic Plan as the Key guiding document, the Kenya Chapter Plan is expected to contribute in the implementation of the regional agenda at the national level. The process has already kicked off with Stakeholder Mapping and Risk Analysis. Members of the National Working Group have also been consulted and requested to give suggestions on their expectations to feed into the Plan. It is expected that by end of January 2017, a Draft Plan will have been produced to be validated in the First Annual General Meeting to be held in February, 2017.

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