

EAST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' FORUM

Strengthening Civil Society in the Integration Process



KENYA CHAPTER

March 2015 - September 2015 Newsletter



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EACSOFF's Vision for East Africa is "A Community in which citizens are fully engaged in affairs affecting their lives"

EDITORIAL

Since the adoption of the Consultative Dialogue Framework (CDF), EACSOFF has taken advantage of the opportunity and engaged various stakeholders both at national and regional level to influence policies. EACSOFF Kenya Chapter has been in the fore front of ensuring prompt and efficient implementation of the CDF and dialogue process. At the National level, EACSOFF has worked closely with the Ministry of East Africa Affairs, Commerce and Tourism (State Department of East African Affairs) to initiate and launch the National Dialogue Committee. This has enabled Kenya's Private Sector, Civil Society and Other Interest Groups to prepare for the Annual Secretary Generals Forums. National policy resolutions have been developed and ready for presentation for the 4th SG's Forum. As the Apex body, other Kenyan CSOs have also been keen to exploit the platform to influence policy nationally, regionally and even in global arena.

This edition (March 2015 – September 2015) focusses on various developments in EACSOFF Kenya Chapter, its members, the EAC and beyond. It also reflects on various Civil Society Organisations' initiatives, including important meetings, workshops, conferences as well as highlights of 2015 Key successes and an update on EACSOFF Kenya Provisional Work Plan for 2015.

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I wish you all exciting reading,

John Benard Owegi,

EACSOFF Kenya Chapter

Ag Co-ordinator

1.0 CONSOLIDATING REGIONALISATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN EAC

1.1 EACSOFF & Mombasa Port Initiative CSOs Forge Partnership

The workshop was organized to enable members of EACSOFF dialogue and share lessons and experiences to ensure more consolidated regionalisation agenda. The workshop (that was supported by TMEA Kenya) was held at Lake Naivasha Sopa Resort on 25th to 28th March and brought together the EACSOFF Governing Council delegates from all the EAC member states; EACSOFF Kenya Chapter National Working Group; Mombasa Port Initiative Reform CSO Group; EACSOFF Secretariats from both Arusha and Kenya.

The workshop was convened to deal with two main issues namely: Broader challenges of regionalization and building of a cohesive regional civil society formation in East Africa; and lessons' learnt from the implementation of the CDF and practical challenges of policy influencing at the regional level.

The main outputs of the workshop were: a) Documented lessons that will aid EACSOFF member organisations in building more appropriate programmes to promote market integration and poverty reduction; b) Better understanding of the progress made by different chapters in institutionalization of EACSOFF (registration, membership, strategic planning, etc); c) More cohesive CSO partners in the Mombasa Port Initiative who also understand the significance of their work to regional integration; d) A draft framework of engagement between EACSOFF and the CSO partners in the Mombasa Port Initiative; and e) A draft framework of engagement among the CSO partners in the Mombasa Port Initiative.

1.2 Mombasa Port Initiative Forge Partnership with KPA and KUZA Team

EACSOFF Kenya Chapter and Mombasa CSO's Platform organized a consultative meeting on 27th August at Sarova Whitesands Beach Resort to develop strategies and agree on way forward with the goal of enhancing a more inclusive process in the Port Management. The meeting was expected to bring together the Mombasa Port Management representative, Mombasa County Government officials, Mombasa civil society organizations and the KUZA team.

The objective of the meeting was to create space for key stakeholders to dialogue on the political, economic and social opportunities available for CSO engagement with the Port and County Government of Mombasa. Specifically, the meeting aimed to: a) Identify opportunities for Synergy between and among stakeholders; b)

Agreed on Modalities for Engagement; c) Constitute a Reference Group and; d) develop a joint Work Plan for implementation



KPA representative addressing CSOs



KUZA representative addressing CSOs

Results

i) Opportunities for Synergy between and among stakeholders

The KPA and the CSOs agreed to hold further dialogue on the following issues: a) Procurement and business opportunities for women and youth; b) Inclusive participation on the implementation of Port Plans and Corporate Social Responsibility Policy; c) Land and Natural resources: displacement of communities by Port expansion; fishing grounds; environmental pollution and waste management; d) Labour issues: working conditions; casualization of workers & labour unions; e) Social risk i.e. traffic jams to navigate from Makupa to Jomvu takes a long time; f) Corruption and how the port works

ii) Modalities for Engagement and Reference Group

After sharing lessons from the East African Tourism Platform, the group held deliberations on the Mombasa CSO Platform Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim of making revisions based on the best practices from the Tourism Platform. The Platform revised and signed the MoU

iii) Joint Action Plan

The Platform's Board met and developed a joint Action Plan for implementing activities during the period September 2015- June 2016.

2.0 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' ENGAGEMENT WITH EAC INSTITUTIONS

2.1 EALA - CSO Engagement Framework

EACSOFF developed a proposed framework for strengthening EALA - CSO collaboration, which was developed with representatives from each national chapter including 2 meetings in Arusha (Nov 2013) and Nairobi Feb 2014). This initiative builds on gaps that already exist on Consultative Dialogue Framework.

The Consultative meeting between the East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSOFF) and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Speaker was conducted on 21st May 2015 at EALA Committee room. The objective of the meeting was to present the proposed EALA-CSOs engagement mechanism framework, gather the opinions and recommendation of the speaker on the proposal and get his guidance on how the engagement process could be carried onward.

The Speaker remarked that there were many CSOs operating in the region calling for need for proper framework to lessen loss of resources. He recommended that EACSOFF being a regional body was the most appropriate organ for EALA engagement with civil society and could easily contribute and ensure success of integration. In his statements the Rt. Hon. Speaker said he considers CSOs as the fourth arm of government and that people representation cannot be complete without the work of CSOs.

The Speaker encouraged the EACSOFF to work together with his office to complete the draft document on how collaboration could be achieved. He emphasized that the way of collaboration must be based on the EAC treaty and must anchor on what is happening in the community as well as aim at working with all key institutions. The speaker reiterated that his expectation was that the EACSOFF structures in the partner states were representative enough and that they were not exclusive for some CSOs only.

He observed that most governments had handled CSOs with caution because of funding they get and their activities. He said that EALA will be careful to deal with CSOS whose mission, goals and objective are well-matched with those of the community. He further said that EALA will seek to understand the financiers of the CSOs and their activities and only invite organizations with the interest of the community at heart.



EACSOFF's delegation to EALA

3.0 PREPARATIONS FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL EAC SECRETARY GENERAL FORUM

3.1 National Preparations for the Regional Dialogue Committee

EACSOFF Kenya and SDEAA organized and held a preparatory meeting for the RDC on 8th May, 2015. The meeting brought together CSOs, Private Sector (represented by KEPISA) and the Government. The meeting aim to achieve two main results: a) propose Kenya's priority themes to be presented to the RDC and; b) prepare for formal institution of the National Dialogue Committee.

Results

i) Key national thematic priority agenda developed

The stakeholders developed a number of priority agenda that were to be presented to the RDC by the Kenyan delegation. These included: a) Constitutionalism and good governance in EAC; b) Protection of civic space and human rights defenders in the EAC and; c) The role of the marginalized communities in extractive industry

3.2 Official Establishment & Launch of the National Dialogue Committee

SDEAA and EACSOFF Kenya with support from TMEA held the first NDC meeting on 18th June, 2015 at Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi. The workshop brought together CSOs, KEPISA, Federation of Women Entrepreneurship (FEWA), and Association of Professional Societies in East Africa (APSEA), Registrar of Political Parties, Political Parties Liason Committee (PPLC), National Youth Council, and National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWDs). The agenda included official institution, election of chairperson & rapporteur, and preparation for the National Dialogue Forum.

Results

i) Election of the NDC chair & rapporteur

EACSOFF was elected to chair the NDC for a period of two years from Thursday 19th June 2015. FEWA was elected as Rapporteur. It was also agreed that the position of the chair and rapporteur be rotational among NDC members. In case the chair is not present for the NDC meeting, he or she will have to appoint someone to from his/her institution to chair. EACSOFF and FEWA were given time to consult their organizations and present the names of the Chair and Rapporteur during the next meeting. The SDEAA was retained as the convener according the Rules of Procedure of the CDF.

ii) Preparations for the National Dialogue Forum

A sub-Committee to palm for the NDF was elected to steer the process. The duties of the sub-Committee included: identifying sources of funding, mobilizing resources; suggest guest and speakers; finalize on the venue; make travel and conference logistics.

3.3 First National Dialogue Forum

The Forum was held on 17th -18th August at Gelian Hotel in Machakos with support from TMEA. The meeting was officially opened by the Principal Secretary for Ministry of East Africa Affairs, Commerce and Tourism Hon. John Konchella. The Forum brought together private sector institutions, civil society organizations, trade unions, Government agencies, religious institutions, and persons with disabilities, youth representatives, political parties as well as other interested development partners (GIZ and UNDP). The workshop expected to build consensus on National position to be presented to the SG's Forum.



Hon. Konchela giving opening remarks during the official opening

Highlights of Resolutions

i) Protection of civic space

The resolutions included: a) Lobby the EAC to set timelines for the implement the EAC Consultative Dialogue Framework; b) Lobby for development of engagement framework between CSOs and EALA to allow inclusive legislation at the EAC; c) Advocate for urgent finalization of the Draft East African Protocol on Good Governance, which should lead to embracement of the values of transparency and accountability and participation of civil society in ensuring accountability; d) Lobby the Republic of Kenya to shelve the amendments to the Public Benefits Organizations Act of 2013 and any future legislative and policy amendments that may curtail the work of civil society organisations; e) Lobby Republic of Kenya to actively involve of civil society organisations to participate in amendments of policy where there is need for regulatory amendments; f) Lobby the Republic of Uganda to shelve the NGO Bill 2015 that wrongly creates the perception that NGOs are subversive and to continually engage positively and consult with civil society organisations in dialogue on the future of citizen participation; g) Lobby the EAC to support civil society organisations in Burundi to promote peace, stability and security of its citizens.

ii) Women, Peace and Security

The resolutions included: a) Include gender dimensions and human security dimensions in the EAC peace and Security Protocol; b) Lobbying for the launch of National Action on Women, Peace and Security in EAC Partner States that are yet to launch their NAPS; c) Training of military and peacekeeping missions on gender sensitivity; d) Operationalize the recommendations of the baseline study on Women, Peace and Security commissioned by the EAC; e) Improving the reporting mechanism on the initiatives led by the EAC Secretariat on inclusion of women in peace and security

iii) Role of Marginalized communities in Extractive Industry

The resolutions included: a) Lobby for ratification of the EAC Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources by all member states; b) Lobby for periodic publication human rights impact assessment reports and implementation of findings; c) Ensure all the multinational companies declare all the taxes they are paying to governments

iv) Electoral Reforms in the EAC

The resolutions included: a) Advocate for clear definition of the role of security agencies in the electoral process; b) Recognition of electoral offences by the police; c) Lobby for strengthening of dispute mechanism at political party level; d) Advocate for full implementation of financial election campaign Act in Kenya; e) Lobby for inter-regional engagement of political parties to enhance democracy

v) Corruption in the EAC

The resolutions included: a) Lobby for the finalization and ratification of the EAC Anti-Counterfeit Bill; b) Advocate for the use of technology such as IFMIS in money processing; c) Advocate for compliance of the EAC Protocol on prevention and Combating Corruption

4.0 PREPARATION TOWARDS THE 10TH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

4.1 Preparatory Meeting

The Workshop was organized by Kenya Human Rights Commission and EACSO Kenya with support from TMEA. It was held on 18th September at Laico Regency. The main purpose of the meeting was to make preparations for the CSOs' inputs towards the 10th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference

(MC 10). The inception meeting introduced the participants to the work of the WTO, reviewed planned activities and agreed to consolidate work plans for CSOs' working towards the MC 10. The meeting brought together CSOs and the WTO Secretariat.

Results

i) Steering committee & Logistics Committee

The participants nominated a committee to assist with coordination and planning for future activities. The fundraising committee will be constituted in October after establishing the viability.

ii) Consolidation of CSOs Activities on WTO MC -10

EACSOFF Kenya was mandated to assist consolidate all work plans of various CSOs working on WTO to facilitate coordinated implementation and maximizing of results.

5.0 UPCOMING EACSOFF KENYA EVENTS 2015

7th – 8th October Workshop to prepare NDC annual work plan and prepare for the 4th SG's Forum

11th -12th November CSOs Dialogue Forum to identify National position for the MC 10

19th November Dialogue Workshop between Mombasa CSOs and Port Management

3rd December Training Workshop by KPA procurement department for women and youth

19th December Consultation meeting with government, National Committee on Trade Facilitation

14th -18th December 4th EAC SG's Forum

17th December CSOs Side Event during the WTO Ministerial Conference

20th January EACSOFF Kenya First Annual General Meeting (AGM)

29th January, 2016 Post WTO MC 10 Workshop

END

Are You Interested in Joining EACSOE Kenya Membership?

EACSOE is the only inclusive platform for all CSO in East Africa; EACSOE is a space for CSO shared Learning and collective action. Under the EAC Consultative Dialogue Framework, EACSOE is mandated as the CSO focal point for active participation in the integration process in pursuit of Article 127 of the Treaty for establishment of the EAC.

EACSOE draws its membership from Civil Society Organizations include, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, networks and Coalitions of such Organizations situated within the East Africa Community Member States.

Join EACSOE Membership so as to contribute to the empowering of active citizenry for sustainable development and growth in East Africa. Benefits Include: EAC news updates, attend EACSOE events and networking with other prominent CSO.

**For Further Information, Suggestions or Inquiries : Contact Us
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