



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE REGIONAL DIALOGUE
COMMITTEE IN PREPARATION OF THE 5TH ANNUAL SECRETARY
GENERAL'S FORUM**

30TH NOVEMBER- 2ND DECEMBER, 2016

KAMPALA, UGANDA

(REF: EAC/RDC/TF/514/2016)

**EAC Secretariat
Arusha.
December 2016**

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REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE IN PREPARATION OF THE 5TH ANNUAL SECRETARY GENERAL'S FORUM

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REPORT OF THE MEETING

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble

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 2nd preparatory meeting considered the draft Concept Note and the Provisional Programme 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. The list of participants is attached hereto as **Annex I**.

1.2 Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to finalise 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.

1.3 Constitution of the Bureau

In accordance with the adopted Rules of Procedure of the Consultative Dialogue Framework, the meeting was chaired by Mr. John Patrick Okoth, East Africa Law Society (EALS), while Mr. Alfred Nuamanya, EACSOE Uganda Chapter, was the Rapporteur.

1.4 Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted and is attached hereto as **Annex II**.

1.5 Welcome Remarks by Mrs. Mary Makoffu, the Director, Social Sectors EAC Secretariat.

In her remarks, the Director welcomed all the delegates to Kampala and to the second meeting of the Regional Dialogue Committee in preparation for the 5th SG's Forum. She explained that the second meeting of the RDC was convened to firm up what was proposed by the 1st meeting of the RDC in terms of the concept note, the programme and the identification of the facilitators and resource persons. She informed the meeting that the recommendations of the 4th Forum were tabled to the 24th Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs and Planning, which directed that the recommendations be submitted to the relevant Sectoral Councils. She wished participants a successful meeting.

1.6. Remarks by the Chair of the RDC, Mr. John Patrick Okoth, Chief Executive Officer, East African Law Society

Mr. Okoth welcomed the delegates to Kampala and expressed appreciation on being part of the RDC. He pledged EALS commitment to work and ensure that all planned activities and recommendations are implemented, the outcomes are reflective of the citizen needs and that intra party dialogue within the regional dialogue committee is enhanced. He called upon the delegates to engage productively in the meeting and wished the delegates a fruitful meeting.

2.0. PRESENTATIONS

Update on the presentation of the recommendations of the 4th SG's Forum to the 24th meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers on EAC Affairs and Planning (SCMEACP) by Ms. Generose Minani, Principal Gender and Community Development Officer, EAC Secretariat.

The meeting reviewed the recommendations of the 4th EAC Annual SG Forum as presented to the 24th meeting of the SCMEACP for implementation. The meeting updated the matrix of recommendations detailing responsibility centers, timeframes and actions. The matrix is hereto attached **Annex III**.

Observations

The meeting observed that:-

- i) The recommendations of the forum were too many;
- ii) Some of the recommendations were not specific on the required action and timeframes;
- iii) Some of the recommendations were ambitious with large cost implications;
- iv) There is need for the RDC to fine-tune the recommendations immediately after the SGs forum; and
- v) Dialogue parties should identify recommendations relevant to them and report progress in subsequent meetings of the RDC.

Recommendations

The Meeting of the Regional Dialogue Committee recommends that:-

- a) the dialogue parties should implement recommendations that are specific to them and regularly report progress;**
- b) the EAC Secretariat submits all recommendations to the relevant Sectoral Councils soon after the directive of SCMEAP;**
- c) there should be continuous follow up with the SG's Office to ensure that recommendations are implemented;**
- d) there should be continuous engagement at both regional and national levels among the dialogue parties beyond the SGs Forum; and**
- e) The Apex bodies should champion the RDC agenda and ensure that the momentum is sustained.**

3.0 PREPARATION FOR THE 5TH EAC ANNUAL SECRETARY GENERAL'S FORUM 2016

3.1. Finalization of the Concept Note for the 5th SG's Forum

The meeting reviewed the draft concept note, the theme and sub themes for the 5th SG's Forum. The meeting adopted the theme of the forum as "*16 years of the EAC: Towards a borderless community*". The final concept note is hereto attached as **Annex IV**.

3.2. Consideration of the Programme of the 5th SG's Forum

The meeting discussed the draft programme for the 5th SG's Forum. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the venue of the 5th Forum would be in Burundi as per the approved EAC Calendar of activities. It was further explained that two assessments on the security situation had been concluded and other EAC meetings were currently being held in Burundi.

The meeting however expressed concerns over the security situation in Burundi as a venue for the 5th SG's Forum which brings together actors from different backgrounds. Some members, including development partners, also noted that it was likely to be difficult to get clearance for their respective delegations to travel to Burundi. In view of the above, the RDC resolved that the venue for the 5th SG's Forum should be in Arusha and the Republic of Burundi be given opportunity to host the 6th SGs Forum.

However, the Republic of Burundi did not share the view of changing the venue from Bujumbura to Arusha as it is regularly hosting other EAC meetings as per the EAC Calendar of activities for July to December 2016.

Recommendations:

The meeting of the Regional Dialogue Committee recommends that:

- a) The EAC Secretariat makes arrangements for the 5th SG's Forum to be held in Arusha;**
- b) The EAC Secretariat in liaison with the Apex Bodies finalise the draft programme;**
- c) The EAC Secretariat and the Apex Bodies prepare clear Terms of Reference for the resource persons;**
- d) The EAC Secretariat sends formal requests to proposed resource persons by 15th December, 2016 and establish their availability for the forum.**

4.0. DISCUSSIONS ON RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND BUDGET FOR THE 5TH SG's FORUM

The EAC Secretariat presented a draft budget totaling **USD 205,350**. The budget is to cater for conferencing, air tickets, facilitation of resource persons, communications and media among others. The Secretariat informed the meeting that so far **USD 20,000** has been mobilised. Further resources are being mobilized from the Partner States contribution and development partners. The Dialogue Parties are expected to facilitate their members.

The meeting recalled that the rules of procedure for the CDF mandate all dialogue parties to sponsor themselves for activities of the forum. The meeting discussed and made proposals on possible strategies for mobilizing resources for the Annual Secretary General's Forum and noted that there is a draft resource mobilization strategy for the CDF which should be finalized.

Recommendations

The meeting recommended that:

- a) The EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the Apex bodies should form a resource mobilization Task Force for the SGs Forum and CDF in general and hold their maiden meeting by end of December 2016;**
- b) The EAC Secretariat and Apex Bodies should expedite the finalization of the draft resource mobilization strategy by 28th February 2017.**
- c) GIZ and other Development Partners should extend technical support to the EAC Secretariat.**

5.0. DISCUSSION ON THE OVERALL DIALOGUE PROCESS – PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

The meeting noted several challenges including:

- a) Ownership of the CDF
- b) Commitment
- c) Inadequate Funding
- d) Follow up of recommendations
- e) Recognition
- f) Sustainability
- g) Over dependence on development partners

The meeting also noted that there are several opportunities that the Dialogue Parties could exploit for successful implementation of the CDF such as:

- a) Joint resource mobilization amongst the dialogue parties;
- b) Collective advocacy and implementation;
- c) Technical support to the EAC Secretariat.

6.0. DISCUSSION ON THE LAUNCH OF THE INCUBATOR FOR INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (IIDEA)

The Senior Advisor for the Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa (IIDEA), Mrs. Joyce Kevin Abalo Kimaro, made a presentation on the status of the IIDEA projects. She highlighted the progress made in the implementation of the project and provided the next steps. She noted that the project concept and tools have been designed, accepted and owned by the Regional Dialogue Committee (RDC). The selection and first processing of IIDEA projects, development of systems for managing communication materials and mapping of development partners has been accomplished.

She further informed the meeting that administration and implementation of the IIDEA project is ongoing. The communications materials and website have been developed. As a way forward, she emphasized that the focus of the IIDEA project will be on the launch of the project, fundraising, monitoring and reporting, development of the IIDEA strategy and transfer of the project ownership.

In conclusion, she requested the meeting to consider having a launch of the IIDEA Project as part of the SG's Forum. She wished participants a fruitful meeting.

In his presentation, the junior expert from GIZ, Mr. Max Kayser, highlighted the proposed structure and the key features of the IIDEA communication strategy. He proposed an adoptable framework for each individual IIDEA project and suggested the way forward.

The EAC-GIZ Program commended the RDC for the work so far done towards the implementation of IIDEA Project and CDF in general and made the following observations:

- i) The need for continuous monitoring of the implementation of the IIDEA projects in their respective countries;

- ii) There was a proposal for development and implementation of the IIDEA and communication strategies;
- iii) There was a proposal to agree on the IIDEA committee to extend their support to the development and implementation of the IIDEA and communication strategies and the launch of IIDEA project.

The Regional Dialogue Committee recommended that:

- a) The RDC should continue monitoring the implementation of the IIDEA projects in their respective countries;**
- b) The RDC should develop and implement the IIDEA and its communication strategies;**
- c) The IIDEA committee to extend their support to the development and implementation of the IIDEA and its communication strategies and the launch of IIDEA project.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5.00 p.m.

SIGNED on this 2nd day of December 2016 by the representatives of the dialogue parties hereunder:

.....
	Ms. Alarango Florence	Mr. Denis Nshimirimana	Mr. Mwangi Kahenu	
	Ministry of East African Community	Burundi Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Ministry of EAC, Labour and Social Protection,	
United Republic of Tanzania	Republic of Uganda	Republic of Burundi	Republic of Kenya	Republic of Rwanda
.....		
Mr. Zaa Twalangeti	Mr. Patrick Okoth	Ms. Lilian Awinja		
East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum	East Africa Law Society	East Africa Business Council		