

**MINISTRY OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, LABOUR AND
SOCIAL PROTECTION**

KENYA NATIONAL DIALOGUE FORUM

14TH – 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

GELIAN HOTEL, MACHAKOS



SUPPORTED BY TMEA – KENYA COUNTRY PROGRAMME

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

APSEA	Association of Professional Societies in East Africa
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EAC	East African Community
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation Ltd
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
KCB	Kenya Commercial bank
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KICA	Kenya Information Communication Act
NCCAP	National Climate Change Action Plan
NDC	National Dialogue Forum
NCTTCA	Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority
NYC	National Youth Council
PSOs	Private Sector Organizations
RDC	Regional Dialogue Forum
SG	Secretary General
Y.Ps	Youth Polytechnics

BACKGROUND

The Kenya National Dialogue Forum (NDF) was convened by the State Department of East African Community Integration (SDEACI) and East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSOFF) Kenya with support from Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) – Kenya Country Programme. The Meeting brought together CSOs, KEPSA, APSEA, NYC, Government departments and Agencies. The forum was officially opened by Hon. Mrs. Faith Wathome Kithu, County Executive Committee Member on Department of Tourism, Sports and Culture, Machakos County, on behalf of the Governor, H.E Dr. Alfred Mutua. *(List of participants is attached as Annex 1)*

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the workshop was to identify policy recommendations and build consensus on national priorities to be submitted to the Regional Dialogue Committee in preparation for the 5th EAC Secretary General's Forum. The Forum discussed the following topics under the four major sub themes:

OVERALL THEME: 15 Years of the EAC: Towards a borderless Community”

Sub-Themes:

- a) Realizing the Right to work and right to residence in the EAC; achieving a free labor area in the EAC & eliminating all barriers to free movement of labor and services;
- b) Enhancing food security and Agricultural value chain in the region;
- c) Localizing climate change agenda; from policies to practical interventions;
- d) Reflection on Gender parity in the EAC: tracking inclusivity and participation of women in economic, political and public leadership;
- e) ICT and Media as enablers of regional integration;
- f) Promoting local production through public procurement;
- g) Local content policy as a way of supporting investment in infrastructure in the EAC; and

h) Exploiting opportunities in the infrastructure projects- the role of private and public sectors.

The output of the forum included documented policy recommendations to be submitted to the Regional Dialogue Committee in preparation of the 5th EAC SG's Forum. The recommendations also included national level policy advocacy agenda which will be taken up by the National Dialogue Committee during the 3rd National Dialogue Committee meeting in October, 2016.

1.0 OPENING REMARKS

1.1 Welcome Remarks by State Department of East African Community Integration (SDEACI) – Mr. Samuel Kahenu

Mr. Kahenu welcoming the delegates to the forum, on behalf of the State Department of East African Community Integration and gave apologies from the Principal Secretary SDEACI and the Director Social Affairs who were engaged in other national duties. He thanked the Machakos County government for honouring our invitation to officially open the 2nd National Dialogue Forum. He pointed out that the CDF structure is aimed at ensuring an all inclusive and consultative participation process by the Private Sector, Civil Society, Professional Associations and other interest groups, towards realizing the Community objectives and promoting a people-centered and market-driven integration process. He noted that the one of the country's priority areas is to ensure all the private sector and civil societies are involved in the integration process and that all citizens enjoy the benefits of the EAC integration.

He urged the participants to come up with feasible recommendations that would be easier to sell and implement both at Partner States and regional levels. He thanked NDC for effectively coordinating the event; He lauded EACSO for resource mobilization and also thanked TMEA and GIZ for supporting the process both nationally and at the regional level. He concluded by wishing the delegates successful deliberations.

1.2 Remarks by National Dialogue Committee Chairperson, Mr. Masheti Masinjila

Mr. Masinjila expressed his pleasure in being at the forum and appreciated the delegates for honouring the invitation and attended the forum in large numbers. He thanked the participants for taking their time to attend and contribute to the regional integration agenda. He emphasized that the ambition of the forum is to ensure that Dialogue Parties have a voice in the integration process. He also pointed out that the CDF provides for a continuous dialogue process and therefore, issues can be raised and fed into the dialogue process as they arise. He informed the participants their contributions are valuable to the EAC integration process and will inform the final agenda of the Secretary General's Forum.

He further, commended the organizers for making a purposive initiative to include the county government in the EAC integration process; this is given that the Kenyan county governments have more mandates hence the need for a negotiated process of justification of rules and dialogue. He brought to the attention of the participants that there isn't enough awareness among citizens (*Wanjikus*) on EAC integration process although there is no doubt that it is popular. One of the most misunderstood concepts of the integration process is the issue of free movement of people and alienation. He pointed out that this has caused confusion among small scale cross-border traders.

He encouraged the participants by pointing out that although the RDC sieves issues and decides which will be taken to the SG's Forum, this does not mean that the issues, which may be addressing national interests, cannot be discussed exhaustively at the national level.

2.0 OFFICIAL OPENING - The County Executive Committee Member - Department of Tourism, Sports and Culture - Machakos County, Hon. Faith K. Wathome

The CEC welcomed the delegates to Machakos County and to the 2nd NDF for PSOs, CSOs and other interest groups. She echoed Mr. Masinjila's sentiments that the idea to involve the counties in the integration process was progressive

Hon. Wathome read the Governor's speech which outlined various aspects of the integration process among them technology. She also reported that Machakos County has been at the forefront in helping youth get employment and also in engaging them in various projects within the county. Some of the ongoing projects include a water project which has employed 3,000 youth. Secondly, she informed the meeting that the county has launched The Machakos Youth "We are the Change empowerment programme to support youth initiatives. She further noted that The Machakos Youth "We are the Change" Program has been designed with five pillars namely: a) *Y.Ps Ni Poa* – aimed at encouraging youth to consider joining Youth Polytechnics for technical and vocational and shun the 'only white collar jobs will do' mentality.

She further explained that a documentary has been developed for this purpose; the second programme is *Tujiajiri* in partnership with KCB Bank to encourage the youth to take loans and start businesses to sustain themselves; thirdly is *Kilimo ni Mapato* – this promotes farming as an alternative to formal employment; fourthly is *Usanii Hulipa* – with the establishment of "Machahood" (Machakos Film Industry), the youth can nurture their artistic talents and earn a living; and e) *Kuchill* Campaign – this is part of the fight against HIV/AIDS among the youth where the prevalence rate is highest. It encourages the youth to live responsibly.

The Minister urged the participants to come up with ideas that could be adopted at the regional level and bring change. Finally, Hon. Wathome declared the workshop officially opened.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Overview of the CDF

Mr. Kahenu gave a brief overview of the consultative dialogue framework and how it came into play. He mentioned that the 19th Meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers directed the EAC Secretariat to formalize the forum provided for under Article 127(4) of the Treaty with a proposal on Rules of Procedure to guide the participation of the private sector, civil society and other interest groups in the integration process (Ref. EAC/CM 19/Directive 27. He added that consequently, the EAC Secretariat convened

a series of meetings, including national consultations in all Partner States to develop a dialogue framework and as a result, the key representatives from the Partner States, key actors from private sector and civil society organizations developed and agreed on a comprehensive framework and structure for dialogue as well as rules of procedure; Finally, the CDF was adopted by the 26th Meeting of the Council of Ministers held in Nairobi, Kenya on 26th November, 2012 (EAC/CM26/Decision 06).

Mr. Kahenu also stated that the CDF does not belong to the governments of the respective Partner States and that their role is to coordinate policy development and oversees implementation of policies that have agreed at regional level. He indicated that the agenda of the of CDF, which changes from time to time, dictates which government agencies will be invited to the National Dialogue Forums.

He added that the CDF was developed with the citizens of the Partner States in mind. To this end, the EAC Secretariat under the Social Sector Department and RDC, together with German Development Cooperation through GIZ, jointly developed an innovative programme called the 'Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa' (The IIDEA) to ensure that the policy making and people's participation at the regional level translates into tangible benefits for citizens across the EAC Partner States. IIDEA incubates small-scale regional integration projects which are proposed and implemented by civil society, private sector and other interest groups in East Africa.

He informed the meeting that the initiative is cross border in nature, with projects expected to benefit at least two EAC Partner States; this means that should a CSO, PSO or interested group want to implement a project under the initiative, they would be required to partner with another organization(s) in at least one other Partner State. He added that the implementers will need to demonstrate practically, the socioeconomic impact of the project(s) to the community. Technical and financial support is provided for professional planning, implementation and marketing of IIDEA projects.

3.2 CDF Rules of Procedure

Ms. Grace Wasike gave an overview of the CDF, which has 16 rules of procedure that guide the dialogue process. Specifically, the rules covers definitions, arenas of engagement, adherence to principles of engagement, composition of the forum, criteria for selecting meeting venue, themes and agenda, quorum and forum, process of deliberations, conduct of business, action on resolutions, finances, adoption and entry into force of the CDF, and amendments. (*Annex 2*).

4.0 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The participants divided into breakout sessions covering different thematic based on participants' interest. Each group had a session chair and a rapporteur to direct the discussions and report the resolutions respectively. The facilitator directed the groups to discuss report on emerging issues and policy recommendations under the respective thematic areas.

Sub-theme: Realizing the Right to Work and Right to Residence in the EAC

4.1 Topic: Achieving a free labor area in the EAC & eliminating all barriers to free movement of labor and services.

The presentation was done by Ms. Alice Tabu, State Department of Labor and Social Protection. She emphasized that labour issues are specific and that labour and employment agenda in all Partner States affect employees, workers and Government. She enumerated several emerging issues in the area of free movement of labour and services across the borders of EAC Partner States. The emphasis was largely on the developmental activities by ILO on Decent Work Country Programs. These included: Youth employment; Extension of social protection; Enhancement of capacity for social diligence; and Legal/regulatory frameworks to ensure equity, social justice and fairness in employer/employee relations.

MRAs (Mutual Recognition Agreements) have been signed by professional associations & their competent EAC partner state counterparts but unfortunately, some Partner States have either refused to sign or have signed and gone ahead to dishonor the agreements by creating non-tariff barriers. Some Partner States are not committed to

liberalize services to the same extent, due to either xenophobia, differences in education curricular and structures, statutes & laws. She noted that there is no Professional Indemnity for professional workers and consultants; despite existing MRAs, professionals seeking to move to other Partner States still face other challenges work permits.

Recommendations

- a) There is need to fast track the Harmonization of Immigration, Labour and Trade Laws and regulations to eliminate barriers to entry and right of residence in Partner States.
- b) There is need for Partner States to finalize Manpower surveys to ensure that decisions on labour mobility are informed by accurate data.

Sub-theme: Sustainable Development in EAC

4.2 Topic: Enhancing food security and Agricultural value chain in the region (Moderator: Ms. Brenda Nyambura – KEPSA)

The group presented several emerging issues and recommendations on the topic. The presenter enumerated the emerging issues but specifically mentioned public - private sector participation as a challenge as the two operate at different levels. The presenter also mentioned the need for harmonization. Further, it was highlighted that the infrastructure development e.g. Konza City, Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and the LAPSSET Project could spur agriculture development if well directed towards food security. Finally, the cost of production in Kenya is too high probably due to inorganic fertilizers

Recommendations

- a) Provide incentives to players in agro-based processing to encourage more investments in the sector (e.g. tax rebates regimes)
- b) Partner States should develop local capacity by embracing modern technology in agricultural production

b.1 Topic: Localizing climate change agenda; from policies to practical interventions (Moderator: Mr. Eugene Schneider Jernigan)

The presenter noted that Kenya is affected by impacts associated with climate change, mainly droughts and floods. This has direct consequences on national and county development agenda if not addressed. There are international policies, regional policies at EAC level (EAC Climate Change Policy, strategy and master plan) and several relevant national policies. Recently Kenya enacted the Climate Change Act, 2016. The country has a draft climate change policy under consideration by Cabinet. We have also developed NCCAP (2013-2017) through extensive consultation processes with the engagement of all relevant stakeholders at national and county levels. NCCAP aims to localize climate change policies and will be implemented over period of 5 years.

Emerging issues

Implementation of policies and laws; Information sharing/flow on climate change and existing policies and laws; Political interference in implementing key programs; Monitoring and evaluation of interventions; Capacity issues; Reactive interventions; Poverty and illiteracy; Lack of resources; Inadequate institutions at the local level to support community level interventions; External factors – global pollution; and poor coordination

Recommendations

- a) Establish a regional multi-stakeholder coordination and monitoring body on climate finance
- b) Budget allocation of finance for climate action and strengthened resource mobilization
- c) Mainstream climate change including international policy into national and county development planning and implementation processes- including private sector, CSOs

b.2 Topic: Reflection on Gender parity in the EAC; tracking inclusivity and participation of women in economic, political and public leadership (Moderator: Mrs. Grace Wasike)

The presenter opened the presentation by stating that progress has been recorded in political participation since 1963 from 1 woman in parliament to 19% in 2016. It was reported that compared to other EAC partner states, this is far from the set constitutional threshold of 33%. Even new states like S. Sudan have overtaken Kenya because of the masculine nature of politics in Kenya.

Public leadership is also progressing at a snail's pace as women are not willing to take risks; this could be because of lack of ambition or negative socialization. Another reason could be because of how women candidates have been mistreated in the past and that others just don't want to build their fellow women. Generally, women in Kenya are doing pretty badly in garnering top leadership positions e.g. cabinet & principal secretaries and boards. In economic leadership, women have only managed to thrive at the micro enterprises level. This can be attributed to socio-cultural barriers, business sectors' non-adherence, ownership of assets and provisions in laws.

Recommendations

- a) Identify an organization to represent women issues at the RDC

Sub-themes: ICT AND MEDIA AS ENABLERS OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION (Moderator: Brenda Nyambura)

b.3 Topic: Media as a vehicle for effective citizen participation and engagement within the EAC integration process

In her introductory remarks, Mrs. Gathigi stated that Kenya recognizes ICT as a key driver in promoting socio-economic and political development. ICT contributes towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. She noted that the power of online technologies will enable state-owned enterprises to improve their sourcing, sales and logistic systems, streamline operations, track market trends and boost their marketing. To this effect, operations of the private sector companies will become more efficient, translating into productivity gains and creating new markets for innovative

products and services. She added that ICT will go a long way towards improvement of a common market by eliminating trade barriers through ensuring functioning custom union, free movement of services, free movement of capital, harmonization of policies, trade policies and logistics, and that the Internet enhances virtual interactions which promote movement of goods and ideas through virtual shopping and marketing of goods.

She outlined some of the best practices in place in EAC common markets as follows: Single custom territory; Creation of single window system; E-pass port; Easier clearance and release of goods; Decreased roaming charges; Modernizing major border points by constructing One-stop border point; Establishment of surveillance; and Integrated payment systems. The main emerging issues included Cyber Crime, Affordability/Connectivity/ Accessibility, and Lack of relevant harmonized content on the EAC integration process.

Other Key Issues

- Cyber Crime
- Affordability/Connectivity/ Accessibility
- Lack of relevant harmonized content on the EAC integration process

Recommendations

1. Create an East African Data Bank to increase access to information
2. Establish universal access funds in all EAC countries for content development

Sub-theme: Public Procurement as a Tool for EAC development

b.4 Topic: Promoting Local Production through Public Procurement (Presentations by Mr. Jeremiah Ogola and Mr. Peter Ndung'u)

Mr. Ogolla informed the meeting that the role of procurement process is to ensure that national programs and initiatives are undertaken by having the right thing at the right

place while maintaining public trust. He added that Public procurement is a tool for development of local industry through affirmative action or as open competitive processes, and he highlighted the principles of integrity under the Leadership and Integrity Act.

Mr. Ndung'u, on the other hand, stated that in any given economy, the government is the single largest buyer and that public procurement is a budget implementation tool as well as tool to achieve socio-economic development. He drew a conclusion that public procurement therefore, is an important strategy to promote employment and local industries through targeted initiatives & overly economic growth and development. He went further to give recommendations on how local production could be promoted through procurement. These include: Promoting the growth of local industries through the maximum use of local materials and resources including equipment; Encouraging and supporting the participation of citizen entrepreneurs; Developing specifications/requirements, designs and technologies within the capacity of local contractors/ supplies; Increasing and enhancing the capacity of institutions and local industries through the transfer of technology and expertise; Setting aside opportunities to citizen/local suppliers/contractors-preferences and reservations; Applying exclusive preference for goods and services produced locally; unbundling contracts into different affordable sized packages; and Simplifying tendering requirements/documents as well as cost of tendering.

Mr. Ndung'u also highlighted some of the challenges that affects procurement citing the example of low uptake of AGPO 30% despite the extensive sensitization; Corruption perception relating to procurement process; Delays in payments; Limited access to financing; Inadequate capacity and non-performance by the target groups; designing of projects with focus to foreign bidders; Only applicable to project/procurements funded by the government; At the EAC level, country specific procurement regime/systems/legal frameworks are not harmonized; Kenyan law for instance, does not provide for regional/ EAC preference regime/scheme;

Emerging Issues: there is no harmonized way of defining 'local production'; Parallel importation; Cost of production differs greatly in all the Partner States; and Source of origin of the produce is sometimes not well specified

Recommendations

- a) The definition of the term 'local' should be harmonized in a way that the local supplier is not disadvantaged.
- b) The Partner States should harmonize the procurement regimes in the EAC region

Topic: Local Content Policy as a Way of Supporting Investment In Infrastructure In The EAC (Presentation by Mr. Hadley Becha – CANCO)

Mr. Becha pointed out that East Africa is fast becoming the preferred destination for international oil, gas and mineral/mining companies following impressive discoveries across the region for example, natural gas and uranium in Tanzania, oil in Uganda and Kenya and rare earth material & mineral sand in Kenya. He added that as a result, the governments of East Africa are carrying out reforms in the extractives sector to improve governance and management through policy formulation, laws, regulations and establishment of institutions to create capacity in the sector.

He urged the delegates to consider some of the factors that needed to be addressed when coming up with recommendations for example, the implications of these discoveries to the businesses and companies in the EAC as well as the EAC citizens who have different professions and range from the youth, men and women. He then highlighted some of the policies in place, which regulate the extractives sector and place aggressive local content obligations on license holders, operators and contractors in the EAC States. Kenya, for example, has the Mining Act 2016; the draft Mining (local Content – Employment and Training; Goods and Services) Local Content Bill 2016 and the Petroleum Bill 2015.

He briefly described what is contained in the Mining Act 2016 of Kenya; the Act states that a holder of mineral right in conduct of prospecting, mining, processing refining, treatment, transport shall give preference to the maximum extent possible materials & products made in Kenya; services offered by Kenyan Citizens; Companies & Businesses owned by Kenyans (Article 50). “The purpose is to promote job creation through use of local expertise, goods and services and businesses across the value chain and increase the capability and international competitiveness of domestic businesses”, he stated.

He also outlined some of the challenges faced in managing the Local Content e.g. costly licenses eliminates by local firms and weak fiscal and capital financing regime, the industry is capital intensive and not labor intensive, weak manufacturing and fabrication sector and availability of plant equipment, quality of education and training, and sorry state of business and technical mid-level institutions and weak linkages with Universities (limited technical skills), weak regulatory environment and legal/procedural safeguards like protection of indigenous rights and confusion between Local Content and Social Welfare programs and Corporate Social Responsibility. Mr. Becha informed the meeting that the Act has some impact on provision of goods and services as well as employment; some companies invoke the quality of goods and services as an excuse to avoid the use of local goods and services but the procurement of goods and services from the local Community (“local Local”) has been reinforced by the Mining Act.

Some of the Key emerging Issues as discussed during breakout sessions included: Definition of the Concept of “Local Content” at different levels; county/district, national and regional; The existence of policies/laws by different national agencies, different countries are also developing their own policies/laws on Local Content; Supply of goods by local companies whose origin is foreign (Certificate origin); Access to information/lack of awareness/ sensitization on Local Content concept/policies/laws among the local stakeholders; Training and employment – too much emphasis on the obligations of the companies rather than the State whose primary role is to ensure locals are well trained – State should NOT abdicate its role; The cost of the investments /access to finance and business practices of the local

companies/ stakeholders - “Individualism” – Wanting to go alone to access opportunities makes majority of companies/local businesses lose to foreign companies. Many don’t want join/form a local consortium; and bilateral agreements – some are opaque, with hidden clauses that exclude/discriminate local players.

Recommendations

- a) Harmonization of Local Content laws/policies at county/district, national and regional levels.
- b) Partner States/EAC should establish national/regional enforcement agency responsible for ensuring that the full benefits of the local content policies/laws are realized.
- c) Partner States/EAC should create a local /regional fund to support and build the capacity of local companies/businesses to enable them compete competitively with foreign firms

b.5 Topic: Exploiting the Opportunities in the Infrastructure Projects: The Role of Private and Public sectors (The Presentation by Mr. Fredrick Hunter – NCTTCA)

Mr. Hunter began by giving an introduction of the Northern Corridor and its roles. He stated that the Corridor aims at linking the landlocked countries of the Great Lakes Region with the Kenyan maritime sea port of Mombasa. He added that The NCTTCA embarked on a program of turning the Northern Corridor into an Economic Development Corridor (EDC), through Spatial Development Initiative Program (SDI). This concept looks at promoting investment in different sectors linking transport infrastructure with energy, tourism, mining, agro processing and others. He also pointed out that most countries have put in place Public-Private Partnerships frameworks and Investment Codes whose main objective is to create an enabling environment for private business and PPPs.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are seen as future alternative financing mechanism for Infrastructure investments and enhancers the role of Private sector in Infrastructure Projects. Mr. Hunter also justified the need to linking infrastructure in the form of transport, telecommunications, energy and water and its importance in

realizing the goals of integration. “Transport of goods and movement of people by road, railway or air; telecommunications enable people to initiate and execute business contracts and transfer data and other products. Energy also is important in various stages of production coming from the processing, transport and distribution segments.” He remarked.

He stated that cross-border interconnectivity is key economic integration by enhancing resource sharing and efficiency, enlarging markets and increasing production, reducing costs of doing business, and establishing linkages with regional and global supply chains. He mentioned some of the investment opportunities available in the region e.g. the Maritime and Inland Water Transport Infrastructure & Services, Railway Infrastructure and operations & related facilities, Oil Pipeline Infrastructure, Mining, ICT Infrastructure services in logistics chain, Road Side Rest Stops (RSS) along regional trade routes & Highways, Parking Yards, Industrial Parks, Export Processing Zones, Agro pressing, Commercial Agriculture, cross Border Trade Facilities, Energy, Alternative sources, Green energy, Inland Ports and yard handling Facilities and Inadequate Institutional and regulatory frameworks.

He outlined some of the challenges faced by the private sector investors in the region. Specifically he mentioned difficulty in access to Investment Financing and Capital; Lack of Information exchange; Lack of effective partnerships and Mergers; lack of capacity and less developed local Industry; Poor infrastructure services and linkages to production chains; Low levels of developed SMEs;

Emerging Issues: Lack of effective partnerships and collaboration with the Local companies (citizens) through mergers and consortia of the private sector; Lack of sensitization of citizens and Communities which causes projects to stall, loss of time and capital machinery through vandalism and community opinion leaders cause their communities to fight foreign contractors; environmental impact assessment Poor environmental assessments and its implementation – Copy pasted and less involvement of the affected persons and communities; Capacity issues and lack of prior experience to qualify to bid major Infrastructure Jobs; Financing Infrastructure Projects is lacking effective guaranties; Partnerships by entrepreneurs and firms in EAC partner States; and Political Infrastructure Projects like the disagreements on the Pipeline Deal

Recommendations

- a) The definition of the term 'local' should be harmonized in a way that the local supplier is not disadvantaged.
- b) The Partner States should harmonize the procurement regimes in the EAC region

5. 0 CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing remarks were done by the chairman of the NDC, a representative from the SDEACI and representatives from the different CSOs, PSOs and Interest groups present. Mr. Masheti Masinjila, the chairman of the NDC, thanked the participants for their vibrant contributions throughout the forum. He acknowledged that the sessions were educative and hoped that some of the issues will be addressed at the regional level. The delegates expressed their appreciation for the contributions made during the workshop and agreed to partner and work together regardless of whether they are in the public or private sector. The meeting resolved that a national interest is the force that drives regional integration initiatives.

Mr. Kahenu noted that the mantra of regional integration is the slogan "One People, One Destiny". He added that, the benefits of the integration process will be felt fully only if the common "*Mwananchi*" is sensitized and aware of the benefits of the integration process. He expressed gratitude to the participants for making contributions for recommendations that will be presented at the SG's Forum and hopefully find their way to the Council of Ministers for decision making. He proposed that potential partners e.g. the counties, be brought on board so that they may participate in future forums. He appreciated the good selection of presenters and topics addressed.

He also urged the participants to share their résumés with the NDC secretariat for purposes of following up on upcoming events and assignments.

Mr. John Owegi, the EACSOFC Coordinator noted that the participation was good with participants coming from at least four counties.