Citizen participation in port reform and regional integration processes in Kenya boosted with Kshs 24m grant to EACSOF Kenya Chapter.

East African Civil Society Organisations’ Forum (EACSOF) Kenya Chapter signed a Partnership Agreement with Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) Kenya Country Programme to enhanced capacity and participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in port reform dialogue and regional integration.

TMEA has committed USD 240,050.77 (Approx. Kshs 24 million) to improve the capacity of EACSOF Kenya to engage in policy formulation on EAC issues, to coordinate the interventions of the Mombasa Port CSO Stakeholder Group, among others and ultimately improve the participation of citizens in the regional integration process. Support within the port of Mombasa initiative, which is TMEAs flagship project, will ensure that all actors, including civil society work harmoniously to achieve the overall goal of improving efficiency of the port. Civil society’s role will be to ensure that the communities are informed of the operations, opportunities and benefits of the Port to their overall well-being, and will contribute towards creating openness and transparency at the port to minimize disruptions and suspicions from the community within and around the port. The process will enable a win-win situation for both the port and the local communities, leading to enhanced productivity.

the project will be implemented over a period of twenty-four (24) months and is expected to: a) Facilitate Port Community to lobby Port Management to incorporate their priority issues in port plans; b) Improve capacity of EACSOF Kenya Chapter to deliver on its mission; and c) to enable EACSOF Kenya lobby for its key priorities to be incorporated by RDC/SG’s Forum as policy recommendations.
The 2nd NDC brought together stakeholders representing members of different sectors including State Department of East African Community Integration (SDEACI), Civil Society Organization (CSOs), Association of Professional Societies in East Africa (APSEA), Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (FEWA), Inter-Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK), Supreme Council of Muslims (SUPKEM), National Youth Council (NYC), and East Africa Tax and Governance Network (EATGN).

The main objective of the meeting was aimed at receiving more views from participants to influence the sub-themes and topics of the 5th SG’s Forum. In addition, the NDC also expected to deliberate on the report of the NDF Steering Committee to finalize on the preparations of the second NDF which is scheduled to take place in Machakos in September, 2016.

The NDC meeting managed to develop a clear action plan with clear time lines and responsibilities for the respective stakeholders. Some of the Key resolutions included the adoption of the panel system and reaching out to county governments through Council of Governors to facilitate their representatives to the meeting.

The Kenya National Dialogue Forum (NDF) was convened by the State Department of East African Community Integration (SDEACI) and coordinated by East African Civil Society Organizations’ Forum (EACSOF) Kenya with support from Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA). 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.

The overall objective of the workshop was to build identify policy recommendations and build consensus on national priorities to be delivered 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:

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.

Figure Above: Participants of the NDF pose for a group Photo in Machakos (Gelian Hotel)
Planning for Port Reform Initiative

EACSOF Kenya Secretariat and the Mombasa Port CSOs Platform organized an inception meeting on Wednesday 7 September 2016 at Sunrise Resort in Mombasa to: Share the work plan & other important information on Project; Review the engage framework between EACSOF Kenya & Mombasa CSOs Platform as well as amongst the CSO members; Share with the platform the requirements of administration of funds; and to build consensus on the key roles of partners on baseline study on port reform agenda.

The meeting brought together EACSOF Steering Committee Members, EACSOF Kenya Host, Mombasa Port CSOs Platform and TMEA – Kenya Country Programme. The major outputs of the meeting included: Consensus on joint implementation work plan for quarter one (August – October); and documented roles and responsibilities of parties in the implementation of the project.