



**25<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS  
OF STATE**

**THEME: *"DEEPENING INTEGRATION FOR IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS OF EAC  
CITIZENS"***

**7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**COMMUNIQUÉ**

**EAC SECRETARIAT  
ARUSHA, TANZANIA  
MARCH, 2026**

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**25<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN  
COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE**

**7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**COMMUNIQUÉ**

1. THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE, THEIR EXCELLENCIES WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA; ÉVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI; SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA; YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA; HASSAN SHEIKH MOHAMUD, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA; RT. HONOURABLE JUSTIN NSENGIYUMVA, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, REPRESENTING H.E. PAUL KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA; HON. MONDAY SEMAYA KUMBA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, REPRESENTING H.E. SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN; HON.

A handwritten signature in blue ink is located at the bottom of the page. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'G. M. 1'.

FLORIBERT ANZULUNI ISILOKETSHI, MINISTER OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION, REPRESENTING H.E FELIX - ANTOINE TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO HELD THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE ON 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026 IN ARUSHA IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA. THE HEADS OF STATE MET IN A WARM AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.

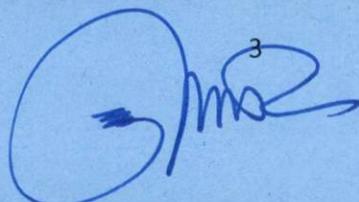
2. THE SUMMIT RECEIVED A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PREVIOUS DECISION RELATING TO THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS ON RESTORATION OF PEACE IN EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO AND:
  - (a) TOOK NOTE OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN RESTORING PEACE AND STABILITY IN EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO;
  - (b) COMMENDED HIS H.E. DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, CGH, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY FOR STEERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE SUMMIT RELATING TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY SITUATION IN EASTERN DRC AND COORDINATION OF THE PROCESS;
  - (c) CALLED ON ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TO CEASE HOSTILITIES AND OBSERVE IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE WHILE RECOMMITTING TO PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THEIR DIFFERENCES;
  - (d) URGED THE AFRICAN UNION TO PROVIDE REQUISITE FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICAL RESOURCES TO THE AU-LED MEDIATION PROCESS ON EASTERN DRC TO ENSURE EXPEDITIOUS AND SUSTAINABLE ENGAGEMENT OF THE PROCESS TILL CONCLUSION.
  - (e) TOOK NOTE OF THE EFFORTS OF H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI PRESIDENT UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION (ICGLR) AND AGREED THAT ALL INITIATIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



ARISING UNDER THE ICGLR SHOULD BE CHANNELLED THROUGH THE AFRICAN UNION;

3. RECEIVED THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR THE PERIOD 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025 AND COMMENDED THE COUNCIL FOR THE PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND:

- (a) VACATED THEIR DECISION OF THE 23<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE SUMMIT ADOPTING A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY ON A 65% (EQUAL CONTRIBUTION) AND 35% (ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS) FINANCING FORMULA AND ADOPTED A NEW FINANCING FORMULA FOR THE COMMUNITY OF 50% (EQUAL PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS) AND 50% (ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS) AND DIRECTED THE PARTNER STATES TO IMPLEMENT THE FORMULA WITH EFFECT FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2026 WITHOUT FAIL AND WITHOUT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS;
- (b) DECIDED TO WAIVE AS A ONE-OFF, 50 PERCENT OF ALL ARREARS DUE TO ALL PARTNER STATES DUE TO THE PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES IN ALL PARTNER STATES ON THE CONDITION THAT THE FIFTY PERCENT IS PAID WITHIN TWO YEARS FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026;
- (c) DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO FINALIZE THE SCHEDULE OF SANCTIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEW FINANCING FORMULA ADOPTED BY THE SUMMIT AND REPORT TO THE 26<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SUMMIT;
- (d) DIRECTED THE PARTNER STATES AND THE COUNCIL TO RESOLVE ALL OUTSTANDING REPORTED NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO TRADE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY BY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2026;
- (e) DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO CONCLUDE THE JOINT ACTION PLAN ON STRENGTHENING TRADE RELATIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF EAC ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS,



PARTNER STATES, PRIVATE SECTOR OF PARTNER STATES  
AND THEIR GOVERNING BODIES/ASSOCIATIONS AND  
REPORT TO THE 26<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE SUMMIT

(f) DIRECTED:

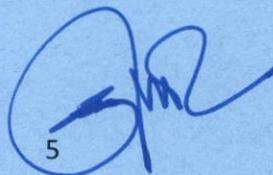
- i. THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN TO CONCLUDE THE DOMESTICATION OF THE TREATY TO FACILITATE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY;
  - ii. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO TO FAST-TRACK DOMESTICATION OF THE TREATY TO FACILITATE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY;
  - iii. THE COUNCIL TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ROADMAP FOR INTEGRATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO INTO THE COMMUNITY BEFORE 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2026;
  - iv. THE COUNCIL TO FAST TRACK IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAPS FOR INTEGRATION OF REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO INTO THE COMMUNITY;
  - v. THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN, THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA TO CONCLUDE NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE EAC POLITICAL CONFEDERATION CONSTITUTION BY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2026.
4. DECIDED THAT THE QUORUM FOR MEETINGS OF ALL ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY SHALL BE TWO THIRDS OF ALL PARTNER STATES AND DIRECTED PARTNER STATES, COUNCIL AND SECRETARIAT TO IMPLEMENT THIS DECISION WITHOUT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS
5. DECIDED THAT NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS OF SPEAKER, JUDGE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY GENERAL AND DEPUTY SECRETARIES GENERAL SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH

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ARTICLE 8 OF THE TREATY AND SHALL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

- i. RATIFICATION OF ALL COMMUNITY LEGAL INSTRUMENTS;
  - ii. DOMESTICATION OF THE TREATY ;
  - iii. FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROAD MAP FOR INTEGRATION OF A PARTNER STATE.
6. DECIDED THAT MEMBERS OF EALA SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE PAID BY THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES WITH EFFECT FROM THE DECEMBER 2027 AFTER THE END OF TENURE OF THE CURRENT ASSEMBLY.
  7. RECEIVED THE REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY AND DECIDED TO INCREASE THE REMUNERATION OF STAFF IN THE ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY BY TWO PERCENT (2%) WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY, 2027
  8. THE SUMMIT LAUNCHED THE 7<sup>TH</sup> EAC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2026/27–2030/31) AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL AND SECRETARIAT TO MOBILISE RESOURCES FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.
  9. THE SUMMIT LAUNCHED THE EAC CUSTOMS BOND AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL AND PARTNER STATES TO ROLL OUT THE EAC CUSTOMS BOND TO FACILITATE TRADE.
  10. THE SUMMIT ASSENTED TO:
    - (a) THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2024; AND
    - (b) THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY STATISTICS BUREAU BILL, 2025



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11. THE SUMMIT THANKED HON. VERONICA MUENI NDUVA, FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE RENDERED TO THE COMMUNITY AND WISHED HER WELL IN HER FUTURE ENDEAVOURS.
12. THE SUMMIT APPOINTED **AMBASSADOR STEPHEN PATRICK MBUNDI FROM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA** AS THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNITY FOR A FIVE-YEAR NON-RENEWABLE TERM WITH EFFECT FROM 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2026.
13. THE SUMMIT RENEWED THE APPOINTMENT OF HON. ANDREA AGUER ARIIK MALUETH AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, INFRASTRUCTURE, PRODUCTIVE, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SECTORS WITH EFFECT FROM 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2026 AND MS. ANNETTE MUTAAWE SSEMUWEMBA AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, CUSTOMS, TRADE AND MONETARY AFFAIRS WITH EFFECT FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 2026.
14. THE SUMMIT APPOINTED **JUSTICE DIEJO STEPHEN ABRAHAM, MR. ABDIWAHID WARSAME ABDULLAHI AND HON. ANNE ATIENO AMADI** AS JUDGES TO THE FIRST INSTANCE DIVISION OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE WITH EFFECT FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026.
15. THE HEADS OF STATE CONGRATULATED AND AWARDED CERTIFICATES TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2024 EAC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ESSAY COMPETITION AND COMMENDED THEM FOR THEIR KEEN INTEREST IN THE EAC INTEGRATION PROCESS.
16. THE SUMMIT COMMENDED HIS EXCELLENCY DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, CGH, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA FOR HIS EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP DURING HIS TENURE AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT.
17. THE SUMMIT DECIDED THAT THE **REPUBLIC OF UGANDA** WOULD BE THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNITY WHILE THE **REPUBLIC OF RWANDA** WILL BE THE RAPPORTEUR.



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18. THE HEADS OF STATE THANKED H.E. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN AND EXTENDED THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL HOSPITALITY ACCORDED TO THEM AND THEIR DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAY IN UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.



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