

East African Community

The East African Community (EAC) is the regional intergovernmental organisation of the Republics of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Rwanda and Republic of Burundi with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Treaty for Establishment of the East African Community was signed on 30 November 1999 and entered into force on 7 July 2000 following its ratification by the original three Partner States – Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Burundi acceded to the EAC Treaty on 18 June 2007 and became full Members of the Community with effect from 1 July 2007.

The EAC was established with a vision to set up a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa; and provide platform to widen and deepen Economic, Political, Social and Culture integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments.

Aims and Objectives

The EAC aims at widening and deepening co-operation among the Partner States in, among others, political, economic and social fields for their mutual benefit. To this extent the EAC countries established a Customs Union in January 2005 and established a Common Market in July 2010, subsequently a Monetary Union by 2012 and ultimately a Political Federation of the East African States.

Meetings of the Summit

The Summit meets at least once in every year and may hold extraordinary meetings at the request of any member of the Summit. The tenure of office of the Chairperson of the Summit is one year and the office of the Chairperson is held in rotation among the Partner States.

Membership of the Council

The Council consists of the Ministers responsible for regional co-operation of each Partner State and such other Ministers of the Partner States as each Partner State may determine. The Council meets twice in each year, one meeting of which is held immediately preceding a meeting of the Summit. Extraordinary meetings of the Council may be held at the request of a Partner State or the Chairperson of the Council.

EA Legislative Assembly

The East African Legislative Assembly (Assembly) is an organ of the East African Community (Community); the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (Treaty) was signed on 30th November 1999 and entered into force on

7th July 2000 by the Partner States of The Republic of Uganda, The Republic of Kenya; and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Rwanda acceded to the Treaty on 18th June 2007 and became full members on 1st July 2007, thus expanding the number of the Community Partner States to five.

The Assembly has a Membership comprising nine members elected by each Partner State; ex-officio members consisting of the Minister or Assistant Minister responsible for the East African Community Affairs from each Partner State; the Secretary General and the Counsel to the Community. Currently, the Assembly has 45 elected Members; and 7 ex-officio Members totaling to a Membership of 52. Twenty of whom are female.

Secretariat

The Secretariat, which is an executive organ of the Community, is headed by Secretary General. The Secretary General is appointed by the Summit upon nomination by the relevant Head of State under the principle of rotation, for a tenure of five years.

Presidency

EAC is headed by rotating Presidency from member countries. Tanzania handed over Presidency to President of Burundi, H.E. Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza, in December, 2010.

Secretary General

Currently, Ambassador Juma Mwapachu is Secretary General of EAC whose tenure will be over in May, 2011. As Secretary Generalship is also on the basis of rotation, it is expected that the new Secretary Generalship would be taken over by Burundi.

Enlargement of the Community

The realization of a large regional economic bloc encompassing Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda with a combined population of more than 125 million people, land area of 1.82 million sq kilometres and a combined Gross Domestic Product of \$73 billion (2009), bears great strategic and geopolitical significance and prospects of a renewed and reinvigorated East African Community.

Current status

The regional integration process is at a high pitch at the moment as reflected by the encouraging progress of the East African Customs Union, the signing in

November 2009 and ratification in July 2010 of the Common Market Protocol by all the Partner States.

The consultations on the Monetary Union, which commenced in 2009, and fast tracking the process towards East African Federation all underscore the serious determination of the East African leadership and citizens to construct a powerful and sustainable East African economic and political bloc.

India's engagements with EAC

Our High Commissioner in Tanzania is concurrently accredited to the EAC.

MOU on Economic Cooperation between India and East African Community (28 April 2003). An EAC delegation led by Hon. John Arap Koech, Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Minister for East African Community of the Republic of Kenya paid a six day official visit to India from 19 to 24 February 2007 at the end of the visit a joint communiqué was signed on 22 February 2007 which spelt out a programme of India-EAC cooperation in various sectors. EAC participated in the India-Africa Forum Summit held in April 2008.

The Secretary General of EAC visited India in November, 2010. During the visit, a comprehensive meeting was held with Secretary [West] and Joint Secretary [E&SA]. The following areas were identified for co-operation :

- I. Railways
- II. E-Network
- III. Energy
- IV. Agriculture
- V. Investment in Agriculture
- VI. Capacity Building
- VII. 10 Scholarships for EAC
- VIII. Tourism
- IX. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement

Also, a proposal for holding of India-EAC Summit was discussed. During the meeting of the EAC Secretary General with Minister of State [PK], Ambassador Mwapachu expressed interest in having an institution based on NSIC model.

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