



EAC WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

DEEPENING INTEGRATION, WIDENING COOPERATION

14th August, 2023



Latest from the Office of the Secretary General

- President Museveni hosts President Ruto in Entebbe
- President Museveni meets Kenya's former President Uhuru Kenyatta
- Mauritius hosts Eastern and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs (ESACD) Conference
- Arusha hosts 6th Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the EAC Sectoral Council on Statistics

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI HOSTS PRESIDENT RUTO IN ENTEBBE



President William Ruto on Sunday, 13th August held talks with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni at State House in Entebbe. The two discussed various issues between the two countries.

President Ruto said they held talks on matters of mutual interest especially on trade, security and agriculture.

"Kenya and Uganda have a firm partnership based on decades of East African brotherhood, strong cooperation, and consistent engagement," President Ruto said.

President Ruto has reaffirmed his commitment to working with other countries for the prosperity of Kenyan citizens.

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI MEETS KENYA'S FORMER PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA



The President of Uganda, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni met the former President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta at State House Entebbe.

Former President Kenyatta visited the Ugandan Head of State in his capacity as the facilitator of the EAC-led Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Peace Process.

MAURITIUS HOSTS EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA COMMISSION ON DRUGS (ESACD) CONFERENCE

The East African Community shares a long coastline with the Indian Ocean, and now the Atlantic Ocean with the recent admission of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), making the EAC region vulnerable to maritime drugs trafficking.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the East African region is a major transit point for drugs from Asia to Europe. In 2021, the UNODC estimated that 100 metric tons of heroin were trafficked through the region. The UNODC also estimates that there are over 2 million drug users in the EAC. However, this is likely underestimated as drug use is often hidden due to stigma and discrimination.

The EAC has instituted a number of strategies to address drug trafficking, including:

- Ratification of the EAC Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in the East African Region in January 2001. This was followed by adoption of a Regional Strategy Against Piracy and Maritime Security in Eastern and Southern Africa in December 2010.
- Strengthening law enforcement and border security across Partner States.
- Raising awareness about the dangers of drugs.

Further, the EAC is working with international partners to combat drug trafficking. The EAC has a Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with INTERPOL Eastern Africa Bureau and UNODC in targeted areas to combat transnational organized crimes in the region and beyond.

Illicit drug trade poses a grave threat to the prosperity and stability of our Continent. It fuels violence, corruption, and organized crime, while draining resources that could otherwise be used for development and welfare. It tears apart families, shatters communities, and undermines the very fabric of our societies.



To combat this scourge effectively, there is need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to drugs reform and maritime drugs trafficking. This can be achieved by:

1. Strengthening inter-agency cooperation and fostering international partnerships, to enhance the capacity to disrupt the drug supply chain, dismantle illicit drug laboratories, and bring the perpetrators to justice.
2. Investing in state-of-the-art technology and training of law enforcement personnel making them better equipped to combat this transnational threat.
3. Instilling in the youth a sense of hope, purpose, and opportunity, to steer them away from the path of drugs and towards a brighter future.

Governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and international partners are called upon to work hand in hand to address this complex challenge. Further, all parties were called upon to pool resources, expertise, and knowledge to find innovative solutions and chart a way forward.

The conference was convened by the Chair of the Eastern and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs (ESACD), His Excellency Kgalema Motlanthe, Former President of South Africa to address drugs reform and maritime drugs trafficking in the Eastern and Southern Africa.

ARUSHA HOSTS 6TH EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE EAC SECTORAL COUNCIL ON STATISTICS



Arusha hosted the 6th Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the EAC Sectoral Committee on Statistics. The meeting considered sector-specific guidelines for:

- Balance of Payments and International Investment Statistics;
- Agriculture Statistics, and;
- Government Finance and Debt Statistics.

TOP REGIONAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

President Ruto holds closed-door meeting with Uganda's Museveni in Entebbe

President William Ruto is meeting his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni in Entebbe, Uganda. Sources who spoke to the Standard intimated that the two Heads of State were discussing a trade blockade. In recent months, Kenya has restricted the issuance of permits needed by Ugandan processors to import dairy products into Kenya. One of Uganda's largest processors, Brookside, trading under the Fresh Dairy brand, whose parent company is also the largest industry operator in Kenya, said it had not exported a single litre of milk to Kenya since the blockade began. [MORE](#)

Why East African region is at risk of animal diseases transmitted to humans

Arusha. The East African region is at risk of zoonotic diseases, including those from wild animals, experts have warned. They are likely to be fuelled by the increasing temperatures which are favourable for the transmission of pathogens. With the abundance of free-ranging livestock and wildlife and interfaces with humans, the transmission risks could be much higher. [MORE](#)

Regional lobby moves to boost intra-African trade

The East African Business Council (EABC) has entered into a US\$ 78,530 partnership with Afreximbank to foster intra-African trade. The initiative will largely focus on trade promotion within the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement. Under it, deliberate efforts would be made to engage the private sector in trade facilitation and in unlocking new business opportunities in the East African region. [MORE](#)

African leaders push for ban on unprocessed coffee exports

Leaders from coffee-producing countries in Africa are formulating strategies to halt the export of raw coffee beans. This initiative is aimed at elevating the income of farmers and curtailing the exploitation perpetuated by Western nations. The proposal emerged during the second meeting of the G-25 African Coffee Summit, held in Munyonyo in Uganda. All participants at the summit, unanimously emphasized that for Africa to capitalize on the lucrative coffee industry, the continent's producing nations must assume control and dominance within the market. [MORE](#)

EAC to take action over frequent Lake Victoria maritime disasters

Finally, measures are to be taken to contain the increasingly worrying maritime disasters in Lake Victoria. Those to be taken urgently include construction of rescue centres on the islets within the water body shared by Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. The East African Community (EAC), through its body responsible for Lake Victoria, said the intervention was necessary to save lives. [MORE](#)

Govt Ratifies International Labour Organization Convention 190

The Government of Uganda deposited the instrument of ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 190 (C-190) on Violence and Harassment in the world of work. Uganda, deposited the instrument on Monday, with Gilbert Hounghbo, the Director-General of ILO, at the ILO headquarters in Geneva. [MORE](#)

GLOBAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

No African Country Will Be Truly Safe From Terrorism Until All Countries Are

Terrorism has become a real and growing concern for African countries. According to the Global Terrorism Database (GTD), the number of terrorist attacks increased considerably in Africa between 2000 and 2018, from 330 attacks in 2000 to 2365 in 2018, with a peak of 3086 attacks in 2014. This period also coincided with a significant increase in military spending in Africa, from about USD 10.6 billion to USD 32.8 billion, peaking at USD 41.7 billion in 2014. However, results of this expenditure are mixed as terrorism and violent extremism appear to be spreading across Africa at an alarming rate, prominently in the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and Mozambique. [MORE](#)

As Record Warming Puts Climate Targets At Risk, Young People's 'Green Skills' May Help Save the Planet

Young climate advocates are preparing to tell leaders at a UN summit next month that they are out of options: they must deliver now on ambitions climate action that pushes the world faster towards sustainability and empowers younger generations with the 'green skills' that will secure our future. International Youth Day is marked annually on 12 August and the 2023 edition spotlights green skills and the major role young people will play in driving the much-needed shift towards an environmentally sustainable and climate-friendly mindset. [MORE](#)

Russian ruble sinks to lowest level since the start of Ukraine war

The Russian ruble has reached its lowest value since the early weeks of the war in Ukraine as Western sanctions weigh on energy exports and weaken demand for the national currency. On Monday, the Russian currency passed 101 rubles to the dollar, continuing a more than 25 percent decline in its value since the beginning of the year and hitting the lowest level in almost 17 months. [MORE](#)

Niger coup leaders to prosecute deposed president for 'high treason'

Niger's mutinous soldiers said they will prosecute deposed President Mohamed Bazoum for "high treason" and undermining state security, in an announcement hours after the junta said they were open to dialogue with West African nations to resolve the mounting regional crisis. If found guilty, Bazoum could face the death penalty, according to Niger's penal code. [MORE](#)

Govt Launches 2 Youth-Led Green Initiatives in Partnership With UNICEF

The government of Kenya has rolled out two flagship green projects in partnership with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The two programmes - BeGreen Africa and Engaging Kenyan Youth in Agriculture and Nutrition (EKYAN) - will be supported by Generation Unlimited, a youth-led initiative aimed at support transition to greener economies. These initiatives will seek to empower Kenyan youth with the opportunity to learn new entrepreneurial skills relevant to the current market reality. [MORE](#)



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**EAC Close, Afrika Mashariki Road
P.O. Box 1096, Arusha
United Republic of Tanzania
Tel: +255 (0)27 216 2100
Email: eac@eachq.org
www.eac.int**

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@jumuiya | @pmathuki