



# EAC WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

DEEPENING INTEGRATION, WIDENING COOPERATION

5th JUNE, 2023



## Latest from the Office of the Secretary General

- Summit of the EAC Heads of State adopts Verification Report of Somalia to join the Community
- EAC Partner States resolve 10 Non-Tariff Barriers as new ones emerge

# SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE ADOPTS VERIFICATION REPORT OF SOMALIA TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY

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The 21st Extra-Ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State Summit held in Bujumbura, Burundi adopted the Report of the Verification of the Application of the Federal Republic of Somalia to join EAC.

The Summit further directed the Council of Ministers and EAC Secretariat to commence negotiations with the Federal Republic of Somalia with immediate effect and report to the next Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State.

The Federal Republic of Somalia made its first application to join the East African Community in 2012. However, the verification mission was not conducted immediately due to various reasons.

The 22nd Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State directed the Council to expeditiously fast-track the verification exercise in accordance with the EAC Procedures for admission of New Members into the EAC and report to the 23rd Ordinary Meeting of the Summit.

## .... Summit appoints new Deputy Secretaries General and Judges



Somalia shares borders with one EAC Partner State, namely Kenya, and has strong historical, linguistic, economic and socio-cultural links with all the EAC Partner States. Somalia has the longest national coastline in Africa, of over 3,000 kms, linking Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, which the region will tap into to increase intra-regional trade.

if accepted to join EAC by the EAC Heads of State Summit, Somalia will be the 8th Member of the EAC Partner States after Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Democratic Republic Congo and United Republic of Tanzania.

Meanwhile, 21st Extra-Ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State appointed Ms. Annete Mutaawe Ssemuwemba from the Republic of Uganda as Deputy Secretary General in charge of Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs. The Summit also appointed Mr. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth from the Republic of South Sudan as Deputy Secretary General, in charge of Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political Sectors with effect from 31st May,2023.

The two deputies will be serving under the new structure as directed by the EAC Summit to have only two Deputy Secretaries General to assist the Secretary General, who serves as the Head of the Secretariat.

The Summit also designated Lady Justice Anita Mugeni from Rwanda as Vice President of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ). Justice Mugeni will be replacing Lady Justice Sauda Mjasiri from the United Republic of Tanzania, Judge of Appellate Division and Vice President of the Court whose tenure ends on 19th June,2023.

The Summit appointed Justice Omar Othman Makungu from United Republic of Tanzania as a Judge of the EACJ Appellate Division with effect from 20th June,2023. The Summit also appointed Justice Kayembe Kasanga from the Democratic Republic of Congo as a Judge in the First Instance Division of the court with effect from May 31st, 2023.

# 21ST EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE PICTORIAL



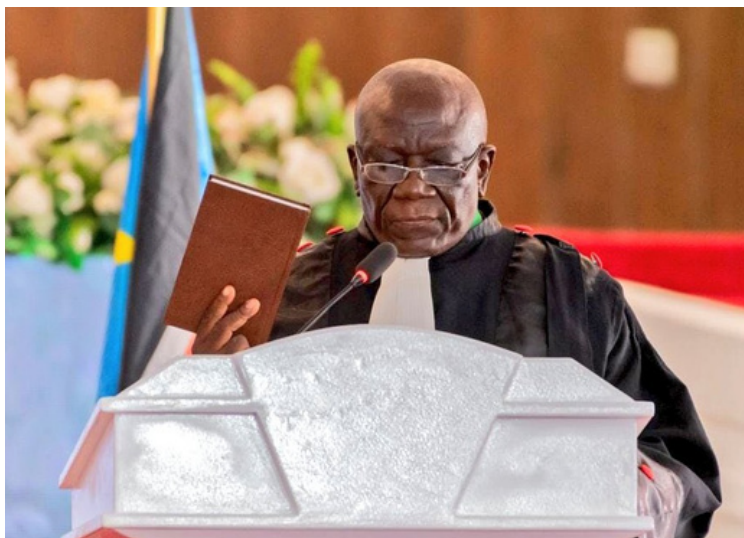
# 21ST EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE APPOINTMENTS



21st Extra-Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State appointed Ms. Annette Ssemuwemba Mutaawe, from the Republic of Uganda as EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs.



21st Extra-Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State appointed Mr. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, from the Republic of South Sudan as EAC Deputy Secretary General, Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political sectors.



21st Extra-Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State appointed Hon. Justice Kayembe Kasanda Ignace Rene, from the Democratic Republic of Congo as a Judge of the East African Court of Justice in the First Instance Division.



21st Extra-Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State appointed Hon. Justice Omar Othman Makungu from the United Republic of Tanzania as a Judge of the EACJ Appellate Division with effect from 20th June 2023.

# EAC PARTNER STATES RESOLVE 10 NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AS NEW ONES EMERGE



East African Community Partner States resolved a total of 10 Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) as four (4) new ones emerged.

The 42nd Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) that was held at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania was informed that eight (8) NTBs remained outstanding and were at different levels of resolution.

The Ministerial Session of the 42nd SCTIFI that was chaired by Burundi's Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, Hon. Marie Chantal Nijimbere, consequently directed Partner States to resolve all outstanding NTBs.

The Ministers were informed that the Republic of South Sudan was still charging EAC citizens visa fees, specifically those from Rwanda and Burundi, with EAC citizens who had travelled to the country complaining of visa charges at Juba International Airport. In her response, South Sudan informed the meeting that South Sudanese are also still charged visa in some EAC Partner States.

The Ministers noted that there is a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol under the Sectoral Council on EAC Affairs and Planning where the issue can be handled and resolved.

The meeting further directed Partner States that still impose visa requirements on EAC citizens to remove the requirement by November 2023.

The Ministers expressed concern that Partner States still impose visa requirements on EAC citizens and emphasised the need to expeditiously remove the requirements, adding that such requirements could also hinder access to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The meeting observed that it was high time the Community considered putting in place a borderless bloc to facilitate the smooth flow of capital services and goods.

## ... SCTIFI resolves import ban and denial of market access by Kenya for powdered milk from Uganda



Among the resolved NTBs were a 25% excise duty imposed by Kenya on Ugandan table eggs and 25% Kenyan excise duty on onions, potatoes, potato crisps and chips from Uganda that became effective 1st July, 2022.

Also resolved was an import ban and denial of market access by Kenya through non-issuance of import permits for powdered milk from Uganda as a means of cushioning the surplus production and low producer prices in Kenya.

Another resolved NTB was that of 13 roadblocks between Nimule and Juba with Ugandan traders losing more than 150,000 South Sudanese pounds each. South Sudan reported that she had already complied with a SCTIFI directive to remove all roadblocks, adding that there are now only two roadblocks from Nimule to Juba.

Among the new NTBs is a complaint by Kenya that Uganda was denying market access to EAC Partner States under preferential treatment by charging full Common External Tariff of 35% to juices originating from Kenya.

Kenya also reported that Tanzania was subjecting to discriminatory treatment Kenyan exports of animal and animal products despite their commitment in the bilateral meeting to amend the Act to resolve the discriminatory charges on Kenyan animal and animal products by June 2022.

On her part, Tanzania reported that Kenya was charging a 25% excise duty on hatching eggs exported by some Tanzanian companies.

Kenya said that Uganda charges 18% Value Added Tax on exercise books from Kenya while Uganda manufacturers of the exercise books are VAT-exempt as per the provisions in the Uganda VAT Act.

The Partner States committed to addressing the new NTBs through the 35th Regional Monitoring Committee for NTBs.

## ... EAC Secretary General urges Partner States to eliminate NTBs to boost intra-regional trade



Speaking during the opening session, Chairperson Hon. Nijimbere disclosed that the value of intra-EAC trade represents 20% share of intra-regional to global trade making the EAC bloc the first ranked compared to other regional economic communities in Africa.

Hon. Nijimbere said that the region was still faced with challenges that included NTBs imposed by Partner States which negatively affect the movement of goods and the welfare of EAC citizens.

In a speech read on his behalf by Dr. Irene Isaka, the Director Social Sectors at the EAC Secretariat, EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki hailed the SCTIFI as a mechanism that gives policy direction, reviews and approves policy measures and activities that EAC has been implementing or plans to implement with regard to trade, industry, finance and investment matters.

“It is in this respect that we underscore the importance of SCTIFI since it is an engine for the socio-economic transformation of the region,” said Dr. Mathuki, even as he urged Partner States to eliminate NTBs to boost intra-regional trade.

“While we aim and work hard to increase intra-regional Trade, Non-Tariff Barriers particularly denial of market access and other institution administrative measures remains a major factor impeding the free movement of goods across the region,” said the Secretary General.

Dr. Mathuki said that the SCTIFI has the mandate to adequately address the bottlenecks and challenges that undermine the Community’s efforts in improving the quality of life of citizens and attaining sustainable development objectives through the implementation of the Common Market Protocol.

Also present at the meeting were Hon. (Dr.) Dier Tong Ngor (Minister of Finance and Planning, South Sudan), Hon. Simon Chelugui (Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and MSMEs Development, Kenya), Hon. Dr. Jean Ngabitsinze (Minister of Trade and Industry, Rwanda) and Hon. Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba (Minister for Finance and Planning, Tanzania). Uganda was represented by Mr. Patrick Ocailap, the Deputy Secretary to the Treasury, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. ●

# TOP REGIONAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

## **AU seeks to tap the influence of civilian groups in Sudan peace**

The African Union's proposal to expand the peace search in Sudan has received early backing from the West, suggesting mediation will now go beyond warring generals and rope in civilian groups. After Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni chaired a meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council last week, the AU's peace building body for which Uganda was chair in May, said it was pursuing the "Roadmap on the Resolution of the Conflict in Sudan", a proposal in which there will be a centralised mediation and more parties involved according to their influence. [MORE](#)

## **Africa warned against 'ditch the dollar' calls**

African countries have been cautioned about a suggestion by President William Ruto of Kenya, urging them to ditch the US dollar. Analysts say that although the idea was good, it was hardly practicable given the current level of economic development on the continent. "It is a good idea. The concept is good. But before we jump on that train, we have to develop our economies," said a business consultant. [MORE](#)

## **Uganda: Al-Shabab killed 54 Peacekeepers in Somalia, says Museveni**

54 Ugandan peacekeepers died in an attack by al-Shabab on a base housing African Union peacekeepers in Somalia, Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni said during a meeting with members of his governing National Resistance Movement party on Sunday, June 3, 2023. Museveni's statement comes a week after al-Shabab fighters stormed the base in Bulamarer, 130 kilometers (80 miles) southwest of the Somali capital, Mogadishu. [MORE](#)

## **ICGLR summit tasks DR Congo to speed up disarmament of armed groups**

Regional leaders have asked DR Congo to accelerate the process of disarming all armed groups in the eastern part of the country as part of the essential condition for the resolution of conflict in eastern DR Congo. The call is part of the 16-point communique issued on June 3, at the end of the 10th Extraordinary Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). [MORE](#)

## **What Somalia's entry into EAC means for the region**

Somalia is a few steps away from officially joining the East African Community (EAC), a move that has elicited mixed reactions as the country is still roiled by civil conflict. On Friday, Somalia issued a public statement noting that the seven presidents of the EAC countries had signed off the verification report, paving the way for its admission into the bloc.. [MORE](#)

# GLOBAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

## What Africa needs to achieve its digital economy potential

Africa's digital economy is expected to be worth \$712 billion by 2050. However, for this to happen, the continent must invest more in digital infrastructure, business-friendly settings, education and youth motivation. Currently, Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is \$3.1 trillion, with digital contributing approximately \$200 billion, but stakeholders believe the continent has enormous potential to become the heart of the digital economy in the future years. [MORE](#)

## Moscow prefers Africa's non-aligned stance to isolation

Russian top diplomat Sergey Lavrov may have received the reassurance he was looking for in Africa on his fourth trip on the continent since Moscow launched a war on Ukraine. And it appears he prefers the continent's relative neutrality to the conflict, rather than a backing of the West, which could isolate Moscow. In Nairobi where he met with President William Ruto, Lavrov said he had an opportunity to provide details of the war: To defend the Russian state from annihilation. [MORE](#)

## South Africa avoids Putin arrest dilemma at BRICS meeting

At least 261 people have been killed and 1,000 are injured in a crash involving three trains in India's eastern Odisha state, officials say. One passenger train derailed on to the adjacent track and were struck by an incoming train on Friday, also hitting a nearby stationary freight train. A massive rescue operation was launched, with hundreds of emergency services searching the wreckage. It is India's worst train crash this century and the cause is not yet clear. Officials said several carriages from the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express derailed at about 19:00 (13:30 GMT) in Balasore district, hit a stationary goods train and several of its coaches ended up on the opposite track. [MORE](#)

## Over 260 passengers perish in India triple train crash

At least 261 people have been killed and 1,000 are injured in a crash involving three trains in India's eastern Odisha state, officials say. One passenger train derailed on to the adjacent track and were struck by an incoming train on Friday, also hitting a nearby stationary freight train. [MORE](#)

## UN extends arms embargo on South Sudan

The United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution to renew for a year, till May 31, 2024, arms embargo measures against South Sudan as well as targeted travel ban and asset freeze sanctions against individuals and entities. Resolution 2683, which was adopted on Tuesday with 10 votes in favour and five abstentions, also decides to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts, which assists the work of the South Sudan Sanctions Committee, until July 1, 2024. [MORE](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- 18th Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports



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