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EAC SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



The Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko met with the President of African Development Bank (AfDB) Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina at the AfDB headquarters in Abidjan, Ivory Coast on 15 February 2019.

The Secretary General briefed the President on the status of EAC integration, highlighting the progress in the 4 pillars of integration and articulated the support needed from the Bank.

Amb. Mfumukeko appreciated and acknowledged the great support provided by the Bank especially in the area of Infrastructure Development and the Financial Sector.

In their discussions, the Secretary General took the opportunity to seek support in the implementation of the EAC 5th Development Strategy, which he said requires US\$985 million over a period of 5 years. He specifically sought support in the areas of Agriculture and Industry.

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AfDB to provide more support to Agriculture and Industry to the EAC



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The Secretary General also requested support for implementation of the EAC Heads of State approved infrastructure projects during their Retreat in Kampala in February 2018. The Secretary General informed the President that the EAC Heads of State approved a list of 286 Infrastructure Projects which are estimated to cost US\$78 billion to implemented over a period of 10 years.

On his part, the President of the AfDB appreciated the visit by the EAC Secretary General, noting that the EAC is the most active and dynamic Regional Economic Bloc with very clear results and a very high level of political momentum.

Dr. Adesina lauded the EAC for the great gains made in the implementation of the Customs Union and the Common Market. He specifically commended the progress in free movement of people and increased trade. He noted that EAC Countries are now issuing the East African e-Passport.

Both the Secretary General and the President agreed on the following:

1. AfDB will provide more support to Agriculture and Industry and especially Agri-industrialization. The President noted that it is critical to link infrastructure projects with agriculture development and industrial development for the benefits to reach the common citizenry in EAC;
2. AfDB agreed to support establishment of an AfDB coordination and capacity building unit at the EAC HQs noting that the AfDB portfolio has grown and therefore need for more coordination, strategic and analytical capacity;
3. The Bank committed to present EAC bankable projects to the AfDB coordinated African Investment Forum in November 2019 in South Africa. A joint team of EAC and AfDB will work on preparing bankable projects for presentation to that effect.

The President was accompanied by Dr. Khaled Sherif, AfDB Vice-President for Regional Integration and Business Delivery and Dr. Caleb Weggoro, AfDB Executive Director responsible for East Africa; while Amb Mfumukeko was accompanied by Dr. James Njagu, EAC Chief de Cabinet and Ms. Beata Mukabaranga, EAC Principal Resource Mobilization Officer.



EAC, Germany Sign USD 35 Million Agreement

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany committed a grant of over USD 35 million (EUR 31,5 million) to the East African Community (EAC) to further support the regional organisation in the areas of health, regional economic integration and education.

The EAC Secretary General, Amb. Libérat Mfumukeko, and the German Ambassador to the EAC, Dr. Detlef Wächter, jointly signed the Agreements in Arusha on 19 February 2019.

Germany's commitment includes USD 14.5 million (EUR 13 million) for the continuation of the joint financial cooperation programme under the "Regional Network of Reference Laboratories for Communicable Diseases" and EUR 3 million for the technical cooperation programme "Pandemic preparedness in the EAC Region", thereby supporting the EAC's efforts in fighting communicable diseases and strengthening the EAC's capacities in dealing with pandemics.

USD 10.7 million (EUR 9.5 million) were committed to the continuation of the technical cooperation programme "Support to the EAC Integration Process" which supports the EAC in increasing intra-regional trade through value addition in productive sectors, better market access, improved customs processes and harmonized standards. USD 1.1 million (EUR 1 million) were committed for the ongoing programme "Strengthening of a Regional Quality Infrastructure" that focusses on reliable quality control mechanisms and services for products in selected sectors that are traded in the EAC region and exported abroad.

USD 5.5 million (EUR 5 million) are dedicated for the continuation of the "EAC Scholarship Programme" which supports East African Master students and is implemented in cooperation with the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA).

The German Ambassador underlined: "Germany remains a strong supporter of the EAC and the organisations' efforts to enhance regional integration in its different facets. Strengthen-




ing economic integration, supporting the EAC in addressing key health and education challenges are at the core of our joint cooperation. Regarding our health cooperation, we believe it is vital to support the secretariat and the EAC Partner States to be better positioned when it comes to epidemics and pandemics.

The current Ebola crisis in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo highlights the necessity for regional cooperation dramatically." On Germany's commitment in the education sector, the Ambassador went on saying: "We know from our experience in Europe that regional integration is futile if we leave the youth and young generation behind.

The East African students that will benefit from this scholarship programme will not only have improved job perspectives through this programme but they themselves will become ambassadors for the East African Community. We need this young generation to carry the EAC's vision forward. "added, German Ambassador

On his part, the EAC Secretary General, Amb Libérat Mfumukeko said that the Federal Republic of Germany and the EAC have historically had strong and cordial relations since the founding of the EAC almost 20 years ago. For the last 20 years, German development cooperation has supported the EAC to the tune of USD 350M including the new commitments signed today.

"It is my sincere hope and trust that the EAC cooperation with Germany will grow stronger based on the already existing robust foundation of our common goals." 

8th African Union - Regional Economic Communities Sub-Committee Meets in Arusha



The sub-committee meeting on Customs Cooperation organized by African Union Commission (AUC) together with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) met at the Gold Crest Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania.

The main objective of the sub-committee meeting was to exchange ideas on various Trade Facilitation activities being undertaken by respective RECs, as well as to ensure the proper coordination of projects, programmes and activities between the Customs Departments of the RECs and the Customs Cooperation Division of the Commission.

The three-day meeting also provided updates with regards to the adoption of the AU-wide Trade Facilitation Strategy by the relevant Policy Organs of the AU. Furthermore, meeting identified areas of cooperation, the form of cooperation and where possible, considered undertaking joint activities.

Speaking during the official opening session Director of Trade at the EAC Secretariat, Alhaj Rashid Kibowa said the sub-committee meeting on Customs Cooperation is an opportunity for AUC and RECs to strengthen cooperation on matters regarding Customs.

The 8th AUC/RECs Sub Committee Meeting on Customs Cooperation meeting is organized following recommendations of the 7th AUC-RECs sub-committee held in Casablanca, Morocco in April 2018 in order to promote Trade Facilitation on the Continent.

During the 7th Meeting, the RECs presented and shared respective areas of interventions. The 7th Meeting also considered the Draft African Union Trade Facilitation Strategy, which was subsequently presented for considering by AUSCDGCs during their 10th Ordinary Session held in Moroni, Comoros in September 2018.



Arusha Hosts 1st Steering Committee Meeting of EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme



The 1st Steering Committee meeting of the East African Community (EAC) Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP) was held at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Officiating at the meeting's session, the EAC Director General (DG) for Customs and Trade Directorate, Mr. Kenneth Bagamuhunda said that the overarching goal of MARKUP was to contribute to the economic development of the EAC by increasing the value of both extra- and intra-regional agricultural exports, focussing on exports to the European Union (EU).

"It is meant basically to promote increased regional and international trade through improved competitiveness, value addition for enhanced trade and investment," said Mr. Bagamuhunda.

The DG commended the EAC Partner States for engaging in dialogue with the EU and other partners to guide the scope and approach to Market Access Upgrade Programme.

The DG, who spoke on behalf of the EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, said that the MARKUP would also enhance the capacity of the Community to take full advantage of the other free trade arrangements that are being concluded like the Tripartite COMESA-EAC-SADC Free Trade Area and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

He called for high level cooperation amongst the implementing agencies (GIZ, International Trade Centre and UN Industrial Development Organization), Partner States, the private sector, Project Coordination Unit (PCU), the EAC Secretariat, as well as the EU in order to ensure success of the project.

Addressing the same function, the Team Leader, Regional Cooperation at the EU Delegation in Tanzania, Mr. Jocelin Cornet, said the MARKUP was a pilot programme in the EAC-EU cooperation framework because it integrates national interventions complementing regional ones. Adding that the principle of subsidiarity was key to success in regional integration initiatives.

Cornet said that MARKUP was the first EU regional programme supporting the EAC Secretariat in developing key regional value chains and, in particular, a number of agro-industrial and horticultural products with high economic growth potential.

"We believe that sustainable cooperation programmes require clear ownership by our partners and last year's decision to fully integrate the MARKUP programme in the EAC decisional processes through the EAC Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) was to us a clear sign of ownership, which in itself deserves to be commended," said Cornet.

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He cautioned that MARKUP was a complex project which will require extra efforts in coordination in addition to wide consultations both at the national and regional level. Crucial in this will be the work of the programme's PCU, which he commended for the efforts in this initial phase.

The EU official further said that the setting up of appropriate governance mechanisms at the national level (like National Coordination Groups or Steering Committees) and the foreseen role of National Focal Points was equally very critical.

"Regional integration is not usually well understood by our citizens and therefore the need to put in place a well-coordinated and effective communication and visibility plan for MARKUP activities as this will ensure appropriate knowledge-sharing and buy-in from the many stakeholders," said Cornet.

He expressed satisfaction with the work carried out so far by the main implementing partners in the EAC WINDOW, namely GIZ and International Trade Centre (ITC), and assured them and the Partner States WINDOW implementers (including UNIDO and the EAC Partner States) of EU's trust and support and requested for quality results/outputs.

On his part, GIZ's Senior Trade Advisor, Mr. Bernd Schmidt, said GIZ considers MARKUP as an important complement to the strong, positive and continued cooperation with the EAC Secretariat.

"MARKUP fits very well with the BMZ's Marshall Plan with Africa which inter alia underlines that Africa must be more than the continent of raw materials. The economic policy which powers the German Marshall Plan focuses on diversification, the establishment of value chains targeted support for agriculture and SMEs and dismantling trade barriers," said Schmidt.

Schmidt disclosed that GIZ will, among other things, coordinate activities aimed at improving the harmonization of standards and sanitary and phytosanitary measures in addition to closing implementation gaps.

The two-day meeting, which was chaired by Rwanda's Trade Negotiation and Cooperation Specialist, Mrs. Basemera Peace Mugisha, considered the Report of the EAC-EU adhoc MARKUP Steering Committee meeting held from 27th to 28th February, 2018; MARKUP Progress reports on the EAC and Partner States Window, and: the Work plans under the Partner States Window.



The meeting was attended by Permanent/Principal Secretaries from the Partner States' line Ministries, officials from EU, GIZ, ITC, the East African Business Council and EAC Secretariat staff.



The East African Community (EAC) Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP) is a 4-year initiative funded by the European Union (EU), with co-financing from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ) to the tune of Euro 39 million. It was launched on 20th June, 2018 at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. It covers, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. MARKUP addresses both the supply side and market access constraints of selected key export-oriented commodities: coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, avocados and other selected horticultural products. The overarching goal of MARKUP is to contribute to the economic development of the EAC region by increasing the value of both extra- and intra-regional agricultural exports, focussing on exports to the European Union.

This goal will be achieved through the realization of **4 key results**:

1. Improved capacity to advocate for the removal of sector trade barriers;
2. Improved sector standards and harmonisation of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures;
3. Enhanced export competitiveness for sector SMEs, and;
4. Improved business development capacities for sector SMEs.

Delivery Approach

MARKUP has a two-pronged intervention approach:

- EAC Window: Supporting the EAC Secretariat to co-ordinate selected region-wide policy/regulatory and capacity building initiatives, and
- Partner States Window: Supporting Partner States and stakeholders to implement country-specific or tailor made initiatives to address supply side and market access constraints.

The International Trade Centre (ITC) implements actions for Results 1, 3 and 4 of the EAC Window; while the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) implements actions for Result 2 and provides overall co-ordination of the Programme on behalf of the EAC Secretariat.

Brazil Accredits Envoy to EAC Bloc



The Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the United Republic of Tanzania HE. Antonio A.M. Cesar, on 21 February 2019, presented his accreditation letter to the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko to also serve as Ambassador to the East African Community.

Amb. Cesar informed the Secretary General that his government attaches great importance to regional economic groupings such as the EAC and congratulated the EAC Secretary General for the wonderful regional initiatives.

"Count on Brazil support because the goals of the Community are excellent for the prosperity of the people in the region", asserted the Brazilian Envoy, adding that "regional integration initiatives take time but you need to continue so as to build a strong and powerful bloc".

He hailed the EAC as one of the fastest growing RECs in the world and said Brazil and the Southern American Common Market (MERCOSUR) of which Brazil is a member had a lot to learn from the EAC.

While receiving the Brazilian Ambassador, the EAC Secretary General hailed the existing cordial relations between the EAC and

Brazil. He welcomed the support from the Brazil Government geared towards enabling the Community to achieve its ambitious agenda.

The Secretary General briefed him on the progress being registered by the Community so far that include implementation of Protocols on the Customs Union, Common Market, East African Monetary Union and Political Federation.

Amb. Mfumukeko further disclosed that the EAC Partner States had started drafting Constitution for EAC Confederation which is the model for a Political Federation that had been adopted by the Heads of State Summit.

He informed the Brazilian Ambassador that the EAC has close working relationships with other RECs in Africa which are all geared towards promoting the African Union's vision of an African Economic Community.

Present at the accreditation occasion were the EAC Deputies Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote and Hon. Christophe Bazivamo of the Productive and Social Sector.



Chiefs/Directors of Health Services of Partner States' Armed Forces Meet in Arusha



The Meeting of the Chiefs/Directors of Health Services of the EAC Partner States' Armed Forces concluded on Thursday 21st February 2019 at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The meeting was convened in accordance with Article 2 of the EAC Protocol on Cooperation in Defence Affairs and pursuant to the EAC Defence Sector Calendar of Activities for the period January - June 2019.

Heads of Delegation are as follows:-

Maj (Dr) Desire Harumukiza lead the Burundi delegation, while Brig. GK Ng'ang'a was Kenya's Head of Delegation. Rwanda was led by Col (Dr) Chryso Kagimbana, South Sudan by Maj Gen (Dr) Peter Ajak Bulen , United Republic of Tanzania by Maj Gen (Dr) Janga, and Uganda was by Maj Gen (Dr) Ambrose Musinguzi.

The meeting discussed and shared information on health matters and reviewed the status of implementation of previous decisions of the Sectoral Council on Cooperation in Defence in regard to the health sector.

After realizing the serious risk posed by HIV/AIDS and other health threats to the EAC Partner States' Armed Forces, the Sectoral Council on Cooperation in Defence directed that the Armed Forces initiate co-operation in Health/Medical matters.

In that regard, an operational forum for the Chiefs and Directors of the Health Services of the EAC Partner States' Armed Forces was established to draw strategies and measures to mitigate health threats to the EAC Partner States' Armed Forces.

At its 29th Meeting held on 26th October 2018 in Arusha, Tanzania, the Sectoral Council on Cooperation in Defence made several Decision, among them were:-

(i) EAC Secretariat was directed to constitute a Defence Expert Working Group (DEWG) to study the offer, carry out assessment and evaluate the Medical Modelling and Simulation Centre in the Republic of Rwanda and come up with modalities for sharing the facility;

(ii) The Republic of Rwanda was urged to offer the Radiotherapy Centre at Rwanda Military Hospital for joint utilization; and

(iii) Rotational meetings of the Chiefs/Directors of Medical Services of the EAC Partner States are maintained. 

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