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NINTH PARLIAMENT- FOURTH SESSION (2005)

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE - H - ON DEFENCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR EAST AFRICA

IMPERIAL BOTANICAL BEACH HOTEL
ENTEBBE, UGANDA.

FEBRUARY 23-24, 2005

PREFACE

Hon. Speaker Sir,

- 1 On behalf of the departmental Committee, DC-H-on Defence and Foreign Relations, which participated in the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee for East Africa on behalf of Kenya National Assembly, I would like to present to you and the House our report on the meeting. The meeting took place in Entebbe, Uganda, from 23 to 24 February, 2005 in accordance with the Calendar of the Activities for the period January –July 2005.
- 2 The participants were drawn from the three member countries Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, and the East Africa Legislative Assembly.

The Kenya delegation comprised of: -

The Hon G.G. Kariuki, EGH, MP - Chairman and leader of delegation

The Hon Kirugi M' Mukindia, MP

The Hon Njoki Ndung'u, MP

Mrs.Lucy Wanjohi – Secretary to the delegation

Hon Speaker Sir,

- 3 The Committee is grateful to you for entrusting it with the task of representing you. Further our gratitude goes to the East African Community for organising the conference and providing logistical and technical support. To the office of the Clerk we are grateful for able facilitation.

Hon. Speaker Sir,

4 It is now my pleasant duty, on behalf of the delegation, to present and commend this report to the House for adoption.

Hon. G.G. Kariuki, E.G.H, M.P

Chairman, D C - H- on Defence and Foreign Relations

April 2005

REPORT OF THE MEETING

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Convening of the Meeting

The Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee for East Africa (“the Inter-Parliamentary Committee”) was convened in accordance with the Calendar of the Activities for the period January – July 2005. The purposes of the meeting were to:

- (a) review the implementation of previous decisions;
- (b) consider the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action in Political Co-operation; and
- (c) exchange views on any other inter-parliamentary business.

1.2 Participation

The Meeting was attended by the Speakers of the National Assemblies of Uganda, Hon Edward K Ssekandi, MP; the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Hon Abdulrahman O Kinana, MLA, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, Hon Juma Akukweti, MP; the Chairperson, Defence and Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly of Kenya, Hon G G Kariuki, MP, who led the Delegation from Kenya; the Secretary General of the East African Community, Hon N Amanyā Mushega, MLA; and Hon Members of the Committee from the four Assemblies. In attendance were senior officials from the four Assemblies and the East African Community Secretariat. The names of the participants at this Meeting are shown in the list attached hereto as Annex II.

Apologies from the Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, Hon Pius Msekwa, MP and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Hon Francis K X ole Kaparo, SS, EGH, MP, both of whom could not attend due to other official commitments, were received and noted.

1.3 Agenda

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee adopted the agenda attached hereto as Annex I.

1.4. Opening Statements

1.4.1. Welcoming Statement by the Secretary General of the East African Community

In his welcoming statement, the Secretary General, Hon N Amanywa Mushega, MLA, appreciated the fact that the Inter-Parliamentary Committee was sticking to its programme to always meet in February and August every year. He outlined the progress which the Community has undergone during the last six months. He singled out the process of Fast Tracking of the Political Federation; the operationalisation of the Customs Union following the enactment of the East African Community Customs Management Act; the ratification of nine out of the ten outstanding protocols and other tripartite instruments; the holding of sports and culture exercises by the Partner States' armed forces at Mandela Stadium in Kampala and; the ongoing "Ongoza Njia" peace-keeping exercise by the armed forces in Monduli, Tanzania.

He urged the Committee to address matters before the meeting with a view to recommending on the best way forward in inter-parliamentary co-operation, in particular, and co-operation in political affairs, in general.

1.4.2. Statement by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Uganda

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Uganda, Hon Edward K Ssekandi, MP, extended his hearty welcome to the visiting delegations to Uganda.

He lauded the East African Community upon the systematic steps taken in forging the integration process towards the creation of the African Common Market. He also indicated that the National Assembly of Uganda was following the fast tracking process keenly as this process has a bearing on the future outlook of the integration process.

While appreciating the fact that the Community, unlike the defunct one, is people-centred and private sector driven, Hon Ssekandi expressed concern that the integration process was not well known to the people of East Africa. However, he appreciated the Secretary General's initiation of an informative outreach programme for the National Assemblies.

He informed the meeting that there was an intention to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda which limit discussion of the East African Legislative Assembly issues to allow the East African Legislative Assembly Members to interact with Parliament directly.

1.4.3. Statement by the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly

The Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Hon Abdulrahman O Kinana, MLA, underscored the important role which the Inter-Parliamentary Committee plays in promoting inter-parliamentary interaction. He outlined the activities in which the East African Legislative Assembly has been involved for purposes of consolidating and enhancing the benefits of integration. These include the convening of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki II) on January 26th – 30th, 2005 in Entebbe, the contribution of the Assembly's views on the fast track process and the enactment of the East African Community Customs Management Act.

Hon Kinana stressed the need to ensure focus and purposeful follow up of all EAC programmes and projects. In this regard, he requested the National Assemblies to urge the Partner States to consider appointing Ministers with specific EAC portfolios and resident in Arusha.

1.4.4. Statement by the Leader of the Delegation of Kenya

The Leader of the Delegation from the National Assembly of Kenya, Hon G G Kariuki, SS, EGH, MP, Chairperson, Defence and Foreign Relations Committee underscored the importance of inter-parliamentary co-operation in East Africa. The importance of this co-operation derives from the role of parliamentarians as spokespersons for the people in matters of development.

He urged the Committee and the National Assemblies to always ensure that every step in the integration process is based on consultations and consensus by the Partner States. Hon Kariuki also called for the expeditious consideration of applications by Burundi and Rwanda to join the East African Community as this would be in consonance with an expanded trade and investment area.

1.4.5. Statement by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania

The Chairperson, Hon Juma Akukweti, MP, in his capacity as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania reflected on the progress and the momentum of the integration process.

The Chairperson noted that peace, stability and security in the region are pre-requisites for economic development. In this regard, he lauded the role of the Committee and the Great Lakes' Inter-Parliamentary Forum in articulating programmes on conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution.

While underscoring the significance of the operationalisation of the Customs Union, the Chairperson called upon the Directorate of Customs and Trade and the Secretariat to disseminate more knowledge about the Customs Union to all stakeholders through seminars and other outreach programmes. He also called upon the National Assemblies to support this effort.

The Leaders of the visiting Delegations expressed their appreciation to the Government, National Assembly and peoples of Uganda for the warm welcome extended to their Delegations and the excellent hosting arrangements put at their disposal.

2.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SESSION OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee considered a Report of the Session of Senior Officials which was held on February 21st – 22nd, 2005 (Ref EAC/SO/SR/03/2005). On the basis of that report the Committee addressed the following matters:

2.1. Review of Implementation of Previous Decisions

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee made reference to the decisions it made at its last meeting held on August 27th, 2004 at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi. The Inter-Parliamentary Committee noted a report by the Secretariat that those decisions, which mainly related to the formulation of a Comprehensive Programme of Action in Political Cooperation were considered by the Council of Ministers at its 8th Meeting held on September 9th, 2004. The Council:

- (a) took note of the proposed Comprehensive Plan of Action in Political Co-operation;
- (b) directed that the proposed Comprehensive Plan of Action in Political Co-operation be circulated to Partner States for consideration;
- (c) took note of the decisions on enhancement of co-operation among the National Assemblies and the East African Legislative Assembly; and
- (d) urged the Partner States to accord the East African Community prominence for purposes of enhancing the integration process.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee also received reports that most of the decisions had been addressed within the contexts of the process of Fast Tracking the East African Federation and the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki II) which was held on January 26th – 30th, 2005 at Imperial Beach Hotel, Entebbe. The Inter-Parliamentary Committee received reports of progress on the following matters:

2.1.1.Appointment of EAC Ministers

At the Nanyuki II Seminar, the National Assemblies and the East African Legislative Assembly, noted with appreciation that Kenya had created a specific portfolio for East African and Regional Co-operation matters. The Assemblies recommended that the three Partner States consider establishing posts of East African Community Ministers resident in Arusha and with specific portfolios (such as economic affairs, infrastructure, social affairs etc). At this Seminar, H E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, in a speech read for him by H E the Vice President of Uganda, Prof Gilbert Bukenya, informed the participants that Uganda will appoint such a Minister by March 2005.

2.1.2.According EAC sufficient prominence

The Partner States' Ministries responsible for Foreign Affairs, at the level of Permanent Secretaries, have decided on a mechanism for enhancing the role of the Partner States' Diplomatic Missions abroad with respect to:

- (a) collaboration in the diplomatic and consular services;
- (b) co-ordination of programmes for EAC delegations;
- (c) provision of consular services on behalf of other Partner States;
- (d) co-ordination in the handling candidates for international posts and candidatures in international organisations;
- (e) collaboration in economic and social activities.
- (f) liaison and exchange of information; and
- (g) collaboration in administration and capacity building

basing on the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on Foreign Policy Co-ordination.

However, progress has been affected by the inability by Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs to meet at sectoral level and decide the way forward. The Inter-Parliamentary Committee noted the need to give

prominence to EAC matters at all levels of leadership including that of Heads of State and Government.

2.1.3. Progress Monitoring Mechanism

The Secretariat will, in the preparation of the East African Community Development Strategy 2006 – 2010, propose a progress monitoring mechanism on the implementation of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (“the Treaty”) and decisions of the Council of Ministers.

2.1.4. Exchange of information by the legislatures

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee noted that the Treaty, under Article 65, provides that:

“In pursuance of the policy of the Community of popular participation in the achievement on its objectives and so that the Council may be able to take into account in the exercise of its functions, the opinion of the general public in the Partner States on matters relating to the achievement of the objectives of the Community as expressed through the debates of the elected members of their National Assemblies, and those of the (East African Legislatives) Assembly and to foster co-operation between the Assembly and the National Assemblies of the Partner States hereinafter referred to as “the National Assemblies”:

- (a) *the Clerk of the Assembly shall as soon as practicable transmit to the Clerk of the National Assemblies copies of the records of all relevant debates of the meetings of the Assembly to be laid before the National Assemblies, by the respective Ministers responsible for regional co-operation, for information;*
- (b) *the Clerk of the Assembly shall as soon as practicable transmit to the Clerks of the National Assemblies copies of the Bills introduced into the Assembly and Acts of the Community to be laid before their National Assemblies for information;*

(c) *the Clerks of the National Assemblies shall as soon as practicable transmit to the Clerk of the Assembly copies of the records of all relevant debates of the meetings of their National Assemblies other than those with respect to the matters laid before their National Assemblies in pursuance of the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph; and*

(d) *the Clerk of the Assembly shall as soon as practicable transmit to the Secretary General copies of all the records of debate referred to in sub-paragraph (a) and (b) of this paragraph for information to the Council".*

Although, in this regard the Clerk of the EALA has been sending EALA records and bills to the Clerks of the National Assemblies the latter have not transmitted copies of debates of the National Assemblies. This has affected the inter-flow of information. Exchange of information has also been hampered by the fact that the Standing Orders of the National Assemblies require Members of the East African Legislative Assembly to report on EAC activities to the National Assemblies indirectly through the Parliamentary Committees responsible for foreign affairs.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee noted the need for the National Assemblies to establish parliamentary committees specifically for EAC matters. This would ensure that EAC affairs are given better attention. There is also need to ensure formal reporting on EAC matters to the National Assemblies.

2.1.5. Institutional framework

There is still need to emphasise the role of the legislatures as agents of change and representatives of the people of East Africa.

2.1.6. Policy harmonisation and rationalisation

The process of adoption of a common stand by the Partner States at international fora and on international issues is being addressed as part of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Foreign Policy Co-ordination as reported under Section 2.1.2 of this report.

The National Assemblies were yet to develop formulae for adequate allocation of resources to the Community, effective budgeting of the Community and surveillance of the resources. Furthermore the National Assemblies, together with the East African Legislative Assembly, were yet to harmonise the outcome of the different seminars workshops and consultations which they jointly and severally conduct on EAC matters; however, at the Nanyuki II Seminar it was proposed that a Committee to harmonise efforts in this regard be set up by the East African Legislative Assembly.

The rationalisation of key sectors of the economies such as railways and the Partner States' regular capitalisation of the East African Development Bank were being respectively addressed under the EAC Transport, Communications and Meteorology and Monetary Affairs sectors.

2.1.7. Implementation of decisions

The Secretariat presented the following summary on the position of bringing into force the concluded protocols and other tripartite instruments:

No	Document	Area of Co-operation/Subject	Date concluded	Purpose	Status
1.	Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect taxes on income	Monetary and Financial co-operation	28.04.1997	To provide for the avoidance of double taxation	All the Partner States have completed procedures necessary to bring agreement into force.
2	Protocol on Decision-Making by the Council	Meeting of the Council (<i>Article 15(4)</i>)	21.04.2001	To provide for procedure for decision-making by the Council of Ministers	All the Partner States have ratified.

No	Document	Area of Co-operation/Subject	Date concluded	Purpose	Status
3.	Protocol on Combating Drug Trafficking in the East African region.	Regional peace and security (<i>Article 124(5)(e)</i>)	13.01.2001	To provide for a regional mechanism and institutional framework in combating illicit drug supply, demand and related corruption in the Partner States.	All the Partner States have ratified.
4.	Protocol on Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing	Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing (<i>Article 81(4)</i>)	15.01.2001	To provide for a regional mechanism on standardization, quality assurance, metrology and testing for goods and services produced and traded in the East African Community	Protocol has been in force (since date of signature)
5.	Tripartite Agreement on Road Transport	Co-operation in infrastructure and services (Roads and Road Transport) (<i>Article 90</i>)	29.11.2001	Promotion and facilitation of international road transport services in the region	All the Partner States have ratified.
6.	Tripartite Agreement on Inland Waterway Transport	Co-operation in infrastructure and services (Inland Waterways Transport) (<i>Article 94</i>)	30.11.2002	Facilitation of interstate inland waterways transport	All the Partner States have ratified.

No	Document	Area of Co-operation/Subject	Date concluded	Purpose	Status
7.	Protocol on the Establishment of the Inter-University Council for East Africa	Establishment of the Organs and Institutions of the Community (Inter-University Council) (Article 9)	13.09.2002	To provide for the establishment objectives, functions and modus operandi of the Inter-University Council for East Africa	Uganda and Tanzania have ratified. <i>Kenya was urged to ensure this protocol is ratified as soon as possible.</i>
8.	Search and Rescue Agreement	Co-operation in infrastructure and services (security)	13.09.2003	Interstate co-operation of search and rescue services.	All the Partner States have ratified.
9.	Protocol for the Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin	Management of Natural Resources (Article 114)	29.11.2003	Provision for a co-ordinated system for the sustainable development of Lake Victoria Basin as an economic growth zone.	All the Partner States have ratified.
10.	Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Customs Union	Trade liberalization and development (Article 75(7)).	02.03.2004	Establishment of the EAC Customs Union	All the Partner States have ratified.

2.1.8. Co-ordination of efforts

Net-working among the EAC organs and institutions has improved. However, the net-working between the East African Legislative Assembly and the relevant Committees of the National Assemblies needs to be articulated.

2.1.9 Enhancement of the role of the National Assemblies in EAC matters

The role of the National Assemblies in:

- spearheading of co-operation in political affairs;
- articulating aspirations of the peoples of East Africa and ensuring timely re-allocation of the gains of integration;
- expediting the process of ratification of protocols and other tripartite instruments; and
- enhancing the utilisation of EAC organs and institutions in the creation of awareness on the developments,

has been enhanced through EAC's Outreach programme. Under this programme, the Community had successful consultations with the National Assembly of Tanzania in Dodoma and the House of Representatives in Zanzibar in 2003. A consultative meeting with National Assembly of Uganda is scheduled to take place on February 26th, 2005.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee:

- (a) took note of the above developments;
- (b) recommends that the National Assemblies and the East African Legislative Assembly follow up closely on the implementation of the outcome of Nanyuki II Seminar on enhancement of inter-parliamentary co-operation in political affairs;
- (c) recommends that the National Assemblies urge the Governments of the Partner States to appoint Ministers with specific portfolios on EAC matters and resident in Arusha as a matter of urgency;
- (d) recommends that the National Assemblies consider amendment of their Standing Orders to enable reports by Members of the East African Legislative Assembly on EAC

matters to be debated by the respective National Assemblies;

- (e) recommends that each National Assembly establishes a budget line for EAC matters;
- (f) urges the Clerks of the National Assemblies to ensure transmission to the Clerk of the East African Legislative Assembly copies of the records of all relevant debates of meetings of their National Assemblies;
- (g) urges the National Assemblies to establish parliamentary committees specifically for EAC matters;
- (h) requests the Council of Ministers to ensure sensitization of the people of East Africa on the projections of the integration process with a view to preparing them for a possible referendum on the establishment of a Political Federation;
- (i) recommends that the Heads of State consider covering EAC developments, projections and related matters in every state of the nation address;
- (j) recommends that the Secretariat be urged to follow up on the implementation, by the Partner States, of all the ratified protocols and other tripartite instruments.

2.2. Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action in Political Co-ordination

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee addressed progress on the targets contained in the matrix on the Comprehensive Plan of Action in Political Co-operation noting relevant developments as follows:

TARGET: ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLITICAL FEDERATION BY THE YEAR 2010				
MILESTONES	ACTIVITY	ACTION PARTY	TARGET DATE OF ACHIEVEMENT	EXPECTED OUTPUT
(a) Establishment of a common foreign policy <i>(Article 125)</i>	(i) Enhancement of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Foreign Policy Cooperation;	Partner States / Secretariat Parliaments and Legislative Assembly	Ongoing	Maximization of advantages of combined efforts in addressing EAC issues of international fora
	<i>There is need to enhance the role of Partner States' missions abroad.</i>	Council Ministers /Summit of Heads of State / Parliaments and Legislative Assembly	November 2004	Enhancement of the achievement of the strategic objectives of the Community including establishment of common missions abroad
	(ii) Conclusion of the Study on the establishment of a common foreign policy; <i>Partner States ought to study and comment on the Report of the Study as soon as possible.</i>	Parliaments and Legislative Assembly	Immediate	

	(iii) Inclusion of establishment of a common foreign policy on agenda of foreign affairs committee of the Legislative Assembly			
(b) Establishment of a common security policy (Peace and Security) (<i>Article 124</i>)	(i) Expediting the establishment of regional mechanisms for security (<i>through training of personnel mobilisation and sensitisation of the population, establishment of disaster preparedness plans and implementation of operational plans to combat terrorism and drug trafficking; addressing key problems like the LRA insurgency in Northern Uganda and the Great Lakes civil wars</i>)	Council of Ministers, Partner States Parliaments and Legislative Assembly (Parliamentary Committees on Defence and Foreign Affairs) <i>and relevant EAC Sectoral Committees on Defence and Security.</i>	Immediate	Promotion of peace and security and maintenance of good neighbourline ss
	(ii) Enhancement of co-operation among security agencies (<i>through strengthening of interstate cooperation activities and adoption of UN Model Law on</i>	Partner States Parliaments and Legislative Assembly (Parliamentary Committees on Defence and Foreign Affairs)	Immediate	Promotion of peace and security and maintenance of good neighbourline ss

	<p><i>Mutual Assistance in criminal matters).</i></p> <p>(iii) Establishment of a regional policy on management of refugee (<i>including issues of repatriation and re-settlement</i>)</p>	Council of Ministers, Parliaments and Legislative Assembly	Immediate	
(c) Establishment of a common security policy (Defence) (<i>Articles</i>) 124(1), (2), (3) and 125)	Enhancement of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Defence	Partner States Parliaments and Legislative Assembly	Immediate	Promotion of peace, security and stability within and good neighbourliness among the Partner States
(d) Establishment of peace building mechanisms	<p>(i) Establishment of confidence building measures to reduce mutual suspicion e.g. easing of border crossing</p> <p>(ii) Reduction of suspicion and enhancement of interaction among populations</p> <p>(iii) Conflict prevention through the Establishment of Conflict Research Centres and sensitisation of the people on the importance of peace keeping.</p>	Partner States Parliaments and Legislative Assembly, Civil Society Organisations e.g. Amani Forum of East African Parliamentarians	Immediate	Enhancement of unity

	(iv) Involvement of all stakeholders e.g. politicians, civil society, organisations, religious centres			
(e) Enhancement of democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities, gender equality and promotion and protection of human rights <i>(Article 6)</i>	(i) Promotion of Gender Equality through affirmative action and ensuring equal opportunities;	Partner States Secretariat Parliament and Legislative Assembly	Immediate	Fulfilment of Treaty's fundamental principles
	(ii) Promotion of Social Justice through enhancement of rights awareness and observance;	Partner States Secretariat Parliament and Legislative Assembly	"	
	(iii) Enhancing democracy through opening up political space	Partner States Secretariat Parliament and Legislative Assembly	2007	Fulfilment of Treaty's fundamental principles
	(iv) Establishment of similar democratic practices e.g. parliamentary representation;	Partner States Secretariat Parliament and Legislative Assembly	Immediate / ongoing	
	(v) Harmonisation of election dates			
	(vi) Enhancement of the rule of law <i>(through fair and objective administration of law and justice empowerment of National Assemblies on the on training of judicial personnel,</i>	Partner States Secretariat Parliament and Legislative Assembly Partner States Secretariat Parliament and Legislative Assembly		

	<p><i>police and security personnel, simplification of the law sensitisation of the population on their rights and obligations of watchdog Ministries and agencies review of anti corruption legislation).</i></p>	<p><i>The National Assembly of Tanzania has passed the 14th Constitutional Amendment to:</i></p> <p><i>(a) increase women seats in parliament from 20% to not less than 30%;</i></p> <p><i>(b) oblige the President to nominate 5 women among the 10 nominated Members of the Assembly;</i></p> <p><i>(c) require the Zanzibar House of Representatives to ensure that out of every 5 Members nominated to the Union Parliament 2 are women.</i></p> <p><i>In Uganda:</i></p> <p><i>(a) it is a legal requirement to engender all legislation;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Parliament has a Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities;</i></p> <p><i>(c) the Domestic Relations Bill is still under consideration</i></p>		
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	(iii) Harmonisation of Municipal laws.	<i>Legislation at EAC level is based on Articles 8 and 49 of the Treaty and takes into account the ongoing process of approximation of laws.</i>		
(f) Safeguard common value fundamental interest and independence of the Community (Articles 4, 127, 129)	(i) Establishment of a forum for consultations between the private sector, civil society organisations, other interest groups and appropriate institutions of the Community on such matters as enhancing interaction of professional levels, exchange of education skills and development of Kiswahili.	Secretary General Parliaments and Legislative Assembly <i>A brain-storming meeting to kick start the forum has been planned to the first second quarter of 2005.</i>	Immediate	Strengthening of the Community as a legal person in international law.
(g) Enhancement of relations with other regional and international organisations and development partners (Article 130)	(i) Enhancement / Establishment of relations through accreditation EAC is already accredited to UN System <i>and to the AU.</i> <i>The EALA has:</i> <i>- associate membership in IPU; and</i> <i>- observer status in the Pan-African Parliament and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.</i>	Secretariat, Parliaments and Legislative Assembly	Immediate “	Enhancement of cooperation

	(ii) Expedition of ongoing studies on the harmonisation of Partner States' parallel and multi-membership in regional organisations within the Customs Union context	Partner States Parliaments and Legislative Assembly		Strengthening of the Community
(h) Capacity Building	(i) Engagement of expertise on regional cooperation to advise and guide; (ii) Collection of views through seminars, meetings and print and audio media involving all stakeholders e.g. National Assemblies, Civil Society, organisations on the EAC ideals and establishment of a Political Federation; (iii) Public invitations for views of East Africans to submit memoranda on EAC ideals and establishment of a Political Federation.	Council of Ministers, Parliaments and Legislative Assembly Partner States Parliaments and Legislative, Civil Society, National Assemblies, Civil Society Organisations Partner States Parliaments and Legislative Assembly, Council of Ministers	Immediate “	Enhancement of awareness and involvement of all stakeholders “

(i) Establishment of EAC Ministers within EAC institutional framework	(i) Designation of Ministries for EAC matters at Cabinet level	Partner States	Immediate	To reduce the burden on Co-ordinating Ministers
	(ii) Establishment of resident EAC Ministers	Summit of Heads of State	2007 (following amendment of the Treaty)	
	(iii) Establishment of EAC Desk Officers in the National Assemblies <i>The National Assembly of Uganda has established an International Collaboration Office under which an EAC desk will be catered for. The National Assembly of Tanzania is yet to establish the desk.</i> <i>Kenya was urged to establish her desk.</i>	Partner States	Immediate	To enhance co-operation among National Assemblies and the East African Legislative Assembly
(j) Consolidation of comprehensive sectoral programmes in all areas of co-operation	(i) Consolidation of comprehensive implementation programmes in all areas of co-operation <i>The matter will be addressed under the East African Community Development Strategy 2006 2010.</i>	Council of Ministers	2010	Merger of all sectoral strategies in preparation for the Political Federation

	(ii) Amendment of the Treaty <i>The matter is undergoing consideration by the EALA Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges.</i>	Partner States	2007	
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The Inter-Parliamentary Committee:

- (a) took note of the progress achieved so far in regard to some of the milestones on the matrix;
- (b) took note of the fact that progress will be further considered in the process of Fast Tracking the Political Federation;
- (c) urges the Council of Ministers to ensure a purposeful follow up of the agreed actions without prejudice to the decisions that will be made by the Summit of Heads of State on the progression of the Fast Tracking exercise.
- (d) recommends to the National Assemblies to urge the Partner States to establish a regional election monitoring system in tandem with the Fast Tracking process;
- (e) recommends to the National Assemblies to urge the Government of Kenya to legislate for increased participation of women in elective positions and to engender all her legislation.

3.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee considered the following other business:

3.1. Great Lakes Inter-Parliamentary Forum

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee noted that following informal consultations at the Committee's last meeting held on August 27th, 2004, a Great Lakes Inter-Parliamentary Forum to address peace-making processes in the Great Lakes region was subsequently formed in Mombasa. The Session further noted the significance of this forum in advancing conflict resolution in the Great Lakes region.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee:

- (a) took note of this development; and
- (b) requests the Speakers of the National Assemblies to support the forum through the Inter-Parliamentary Committee and to liaise with governmental authorities on this matter.

3.2. Exchange of views on other key topics

3.2.1. Fast tracking of the Political Federation

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee received a report from the Secretary General on the programme for the handling of the Report of the Committee of Eminent Persons on Fast Tracking the Political Federation. It also received reports from the National Assemblies of Tanzania and Uganda on their involvement on this matter following the Nanyuki II Seminar.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee observed the need for all the Partner States to follow up this matter closely while awaiting the outcome of the Summit of Heads of State scheduled to take place on April 2nd, 2005.

3.2.2. Common positions at international fora

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee was informed by the Secretary General that pursuant to the directive that Partner States act as a bloc and take common positions at international fora:

- (a) The Permanent Secretaries responsible for Foreign Affairs were formulating a mechanism for handling candidatures for international posts and candidatures in international organisations;
- (b) there were ongoing studies to rationalise the Partner States' multiple memberships in international organisations;
- (c) under the Memorandum of Understanding on Foreign Policy Co-ordination the Partner States' Missions abroad regularly consult and take common positions.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee observed that this was a very important process given the requirements of the World Trade Organisation, the ACP/EU parliamentary forum and the ACP/EU requirements on the preparation of economic partnership agreements.

3.2.3. Good governance

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee observed the need to ensure good governance (including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities, gender equality, as well as recognition, promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights). In this regard, there is need for convergence on such critical aspects of good governance as free and fair elections in the run towards the establishment of a Political Federation.

There is also need to put in place a mechanism for the Partner States' self evaluation in creating political space for the population to whom the governments are accountable. Related to this is the need to develop a regional intervention mechanism to deal with regional conflicts and instability. A question was raised on how the Partner States would react if there was a coup in any of the Partner States. In this regard, the Secretariat could develop a concept paper, highlighting what obtains in such

circumstances in other regional organisations for discussion by the Committee at its next meeting.

3.2.4. Involvement of the National Assemblies in EAC matters and dissemination of information

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee noted the need to:

- (a) enhance the involvement of the relevant Committees of the National Assemblies in EAC sectoral areas of respective interest;
- (b) keep the National Assemblies constantly informed of EAC developments including the verification process on the applications of Burundi and Rwanda to join the Community and the implementation of the Customs Union Protocol;
- (c) enhance the Committee's role in articulating common parliamentary positions on such subjects as:
 - (i) promotion of peace and stability including consulting on civil wars, tribal clashes and other local problems;
 - (ii) ensuring that the Community becomes more self-reliant in the management of its affairs through adequate financing by the Partner States themselves;
 - (iii) economic integration in addition to political issues; and
 - (iv) promotion of Kiswahili as an official language of the EAC Partner States.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee received reports from the Secretary General that:

- (a) the verification process on the applications of Burundi and Rwanda starts on February 28th, 2005;
- (b) both Burundi and Rwanda are involved in some EAC programmes such as the sustainable development of Lake

Victoria basin, infrastructural development and the development of the Power Master Plan;

- (c) a draft protocol on the extension of the jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice is under preparation;
- (d) the Secretariat's outreach programme to National Assemblies is still on course but needs support from the National Assemblies.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee undertook to follow up the above matters in liaison with the National Assemblies and the EAC Secretariat.

3.3. Next Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee

Tanzania offered to host the next ordinary meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee in Dodoma or Dar es Salaam in July 2005 as opposed to August 2005 in order to avoid clashing in timing with Tanzania's electoral process.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee:

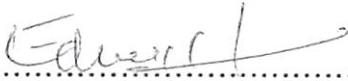
- (a) agreed to hold its next meeting in Dodoma or Dar es Salaam in July 2005; the exact venue will be determined by the National Assembly of Tanzania;
- (b) requested the Secretariat to propose the appropriate dates for the meeting.

SIGNED by the Leaders of Delegation this 24th day of February, 2005.


Hon Juma J Akukweti, MP
Deputy Speaker
National Assembly of Tanzania
TANZANIA

.....

Hon Edward K Ssekandi, MP
Speaker
National of Assembly of Uganda
UGANDA


.....

Hon Abdulrahman O Kinana, MLA
Speaker
East African Legislative Assembly
ARUSHA


.....

Hon G G Kariuki, SS, EGH, MP
Chairman, Defence and Foreign
Relations
National Assembly of Kenya
KENYA


.....



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee for East Africa

Session of the Senior Officials

Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda
February 21st – 22nd, 2005

AGENDA

- 1.0 REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS
- 2.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION IN POLITICAL CO-OPERATION
- 3.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

TANZANIA

1. Hon Juma J Akukweti
Deputy Speaker
Parliament of Tanzania
P O Box 941
Dodoma
Fax No: 2324218

2. Hon Dr Kabourou Aman
Member of Parliament
Parliament of Tanzania
P O Box 941
Dodoma
Tel No: 0744 308086
E-mail: akabourou@hotmail.com

3. Hon Rhoda Lugano Kahatano
Member of Parliament
P O Box 941
Dodoma

4. Hon Dr James A Msekela
Member of Parliament
P O Box 941
Dodoma
P O Box 3431
Dar es Salaam
Tel No: 0744 364350
E-mail: nkwabi59@yahoo.com

5. Mr Japhet Sagasii
Director, Table Office
Parliament of Tanzania
Office of the National Assembly
Dodoma
Tel No: 026 2322761-5
Fax No: 026 2322624

6. Mr Angumbwike Lameck Ang'wavi
Clerk Assistant
Parliament of Tanzania
P O Box 941
Dodoma
Tel No: 026 2322761-5
Fax No: 026 2322624
E-mail: angumbwike@yahoo.co.uk

UGANDA

1. Hon Edward K Ssekandi
Speaker
Parliament of Uganda
P O Box 7278
Kampala
2. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa
Chairperson, Presidential and Foreign Affairs
Parliament of Uganda
P O Box 7178
Kampala
Tel No: 348584
E-mail: mzziwa@parliament.go.ug
3. Hon Rwamirama K Bright
Member of Parliament and
Chairman , Committee on Finance, Planning and
Economic Development
P O Box 7178
Kampala
Tel No: 077 501419
Fax No: 256 41 345221
E-mail: brwamirama@parliament.go.ug
4. Hon Mugambe Joseph K
Member of Parliament
Chairperson Committee on Tourism, Trade
and Industry
Parliament of Uganda
P O Box 7178
Kampala
Tel No: 077 601480
E-mail: jkmugambe@parliament.go.ug

5. Hon Prof Ephraim Kamuntu
Member of Parliament
Parliament of Uganda
P O Box 1569
Kampala
Tel No: 077 774 876
E: 256 41 267 545
E-mail: ekamuntu@parliament.go.ug

6. Hon Dr Simon D'Ujanga
Member of Parliament
Parliament of Uganda
P O Box 7178
Kampala
Tel No: 077 506 317
Fax No: 041 345 195
E-mail: paidhafm@atlonline.co.ug

7. Hon Odit John
Member of Parliament
Parliament of Uganda
P O Box 7178
Kampala
Tel No: 077 512856
E-mail: jodit@parliament.go.ug

8. Hon Nathan Byanyima
Member of Parliament
Parliament of Uganda
P O Box 7178
Kampala
Tel No: 075 758725
Fax No: 256 41 231 296
E-mail: nbyanyima@parliament.go.ug

9. Mr Emmanuel Bakwega
Director, Department of Clerks
Parliament of Uganda
P O Box 7178
Kampala
Tel No: 347440
Fax No: 231296
E-mail: ebakwega@parliament.go.ug

10. Mr Obatre Alex Lumumba
Clerk Assistant
Parliament of Uganda
P O BOx 7178
Kampala
Tel No: 256 41 347440
Fax No: 256 41 231296
E-mail: aobatre@parliament.go.ug

11. Ms Martha M Kaganzi
Clerk Assistant
Parliament of Uganda
P O Box 7178
Kampala
Tel No: 077420400
E-mail: mkaganzi@parliament.go.ug

KENYA

1. Hon G G Kariuki, SS, EGH
Chairman, Defence and Foreign Relations Committee
Kenya Parliament
P O box 57105
Nairobi
Tel No: 0722 830328
Office – 315957
2. Hon M'Mukindia Kirugi Laiboni
Member of Parliament
National Assembly
P O Box 16875 – 00620 Muthaiga
Nairobi
Tel No: 0723 – 701295
E-mail; kirugimmukindia@yahoo.com
3. Hon Njoki S Ndungu,
Member of Parliament
National Assembly of Kenya
P O Box 41842
Nairobi
Tel No: 254 722 519482
E-mail: ndungunjoki@yahoo.com

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

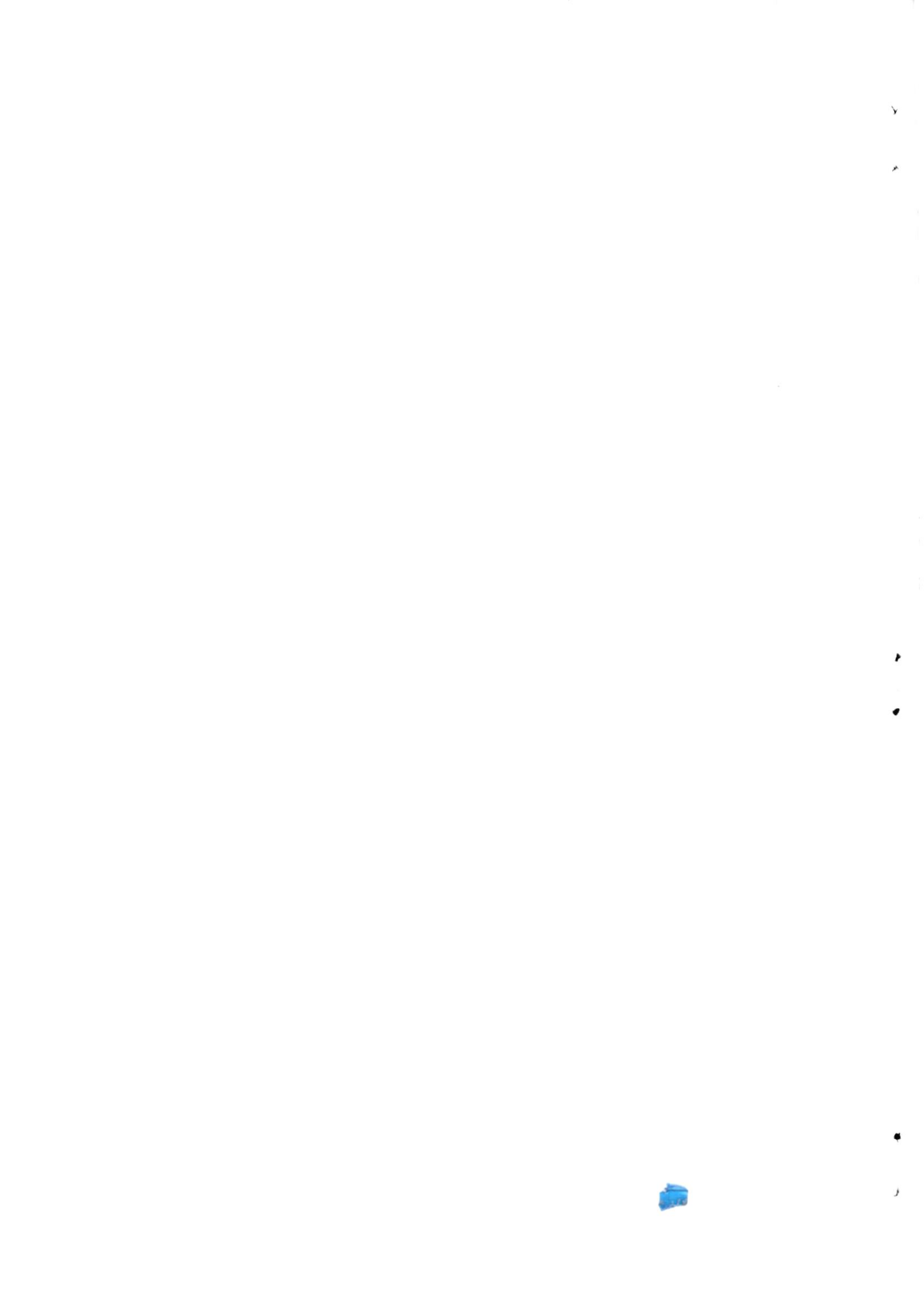
1. Hon Abdulrahman O Kinana
Speaker
East African Legislative Assembly
P O Box 1096
Arusha
Tel No: 2504253
Fax No: 2504255
E-mail: kinana@eachq.org

2. Hon Mugisha Muntu
Member of East African Legislative Assembly
P O Box 5067
Kampala
Tel No: 077 431900
E-mail: mmuntu@yahoo.com

3. Hon Kate Sylvia Magdalen Kamba
Member of East African Legislative Assembly
P O Box 8508
Dar es Salaam
Tel No: 0741 252544
Fax No: 022 2123583
E-mail: kate_kamba@excite.com
kate@raha.com

4. Hon Maxwell Shamala
Member of East African Legislative Assembly
P O Box 18329
Nairobi
Tel No: 0722 717273
E-mail: kabrras@yahii.com

5. Mr Justin N Bundi
Clerk
East African Legislative Assembly
P O BOX 1096
Arusha
Tel No: 2504253-8
E-mail: bundi@eachq.org



EAC-SECRETARIAT

1. Hon Col N Amanyanya Mushega
Secretary General
P O Box 1096
Arusha
Tel No: 2504253-8
Fax No: 2504255
E-mail: mushega@eachq.org

2. Hon Wilbert TK Kaahwa
Counsel to the Community
P O Box 1096
Arusha
Tel No: 2504253-8
0744 336777
Fax No: 2504255
E-mail: kaahwa@eachq.org

3. Ms Monica E Mnandara
Secretary
P O Box 1096
Arusha
Tel No: 2504353-8
Fax No: 2504255
E-mail: mnandara@eachq.org

