



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**MEETING OF THE REGIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE TO PREPARE
FOR THE 6TH SG'S FORUM AND DISCUSS IDEA PROGRESS AND
SUSTAINABILTY**

6TH TO 8TH JUNE 2018

REPORT OF THE MEETING

IMPERIAL ROYALE HOTEL, KAMPALA, UGANDA

(REF: EAC/RDC/001/2018)

**EAC Secretariat
Arusha.
June 2018**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The meeting of the Regional Dialogue Committee to prepare for the 6th Secretary General's Forum and discuss IIDEA progress and sustainability was convened from 6th to 8th June 2018 in the Republic of Uganda.

The role of the Regional Dialogue Committee, as provided for in the adopted structure of the Consultative Dialogue Framework (CDF), is to facilitate the consultative dialogue process both at national and regional levels and plan & implement the Annual Secretary General's Forum.

Participants to the meeting were members of the Regional Dialogue Committee composed of national representatives of the Private Sector, Civil Society and Other Interest groups; representatives from the Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs in the Partner States; Regional Apex Bodies of the Dialogue Parties; the GIZ and the EAC Secretariat. The list of participants is attached hereto as **Annex I**.

1.2 Objective of the Meeting

The objective of the meeting was to prepare for the 6th SG's forum and discuss IIDEA progress and sustainability.

1.3 Constitution of the Bureau

In accordance with the adopted Rules of the Consultative Dialogue Framework, the meeting was chaired by Mr. Wesonga Lamech, from the East African Business Council Secretariat, while Ms. Liliane Uwantege from Rwanda Civil Society Platform (RCSP) was the Rapporteur.

1.4 Adoption of the Agenda and Programme

The agenda and programme of the meeting were adopted with amendments and is hereto attached as **Annex II**.

1.5 Opening Remarks

1.5.1 Remarks from the Republic of Uganda

Ms. Florence Alarango, Principal Gender Officer, Ministry of EAC Affairs, Welcomed delegates to Kampala, Uganda she also particularly welcomed the new members attending the Regional Dialogue Committee for the first time. Ms. Florence informed the meeting that RDC has existed for 6 years, and there have been lot of progress since the 1st Secretary General's forum in Dar es salaam where Common Market issues were discussed. She Commended Dialogue parties form the initiation process implementation up to where it is now. Ms Florence stated that the 6th Secretary General's forum will offer an opportunity for dialogue parties to share the progress of how far they have implemented recommendations from previous SG's fora as well as share experiences on the lessons learnt through out implementation.

She concluded her remarks by wishing the meeting fruitful deliberations.

1.5.2 Remarks by Mrs. Generose Minani, the Principal Gender and Community Development Officer, EAC Secretariat

Mrs. Minani welcomed delegates to the second Regional Dialogues Committee meeting to prepare for the 6th SG's forum. She mentioned that the preparations started in Nairobi in Oct 2017 where the first meeting to prepare for 6th SG's forum was held. Mrs Minani informed the meeting that the culture has been having four meetings but due to financial constraints only two meetings were conducted. She thanked the members for their time and commitment to be in Kampala to attend the meeting. She further informed the meeting that the Republic of South Sudan wrote officially to inform the Secretariat that they would not be able attend the meeting due to financial constraints. She also informed the meeting that the Republic of Burundi was also not able to attend the meeting due to unavoidable circumstances.

Mrs Minani observed that there was low participation of Private Sectors and Government in the meeting. She mentioned that, if not addressed it might in future affect the decisions and recommendations taken.

She informed the meeting that the EAC Secretariat had drafted a concept note for the 6th SG's forum. She called on the meeting to finalize and adopt it to guide the preparations. She also informed the meeting that during the RDC meeting in Nairobi prioritization of recommendations of 5th SG's forum was not finalized.

Mrs Minani also informed the meeting that the Secretariat has proposed 28th to 29th June 2018 as the dates for the 6th SG's forum. She then urged members to commit and ensure that all aspects are finalized as there was no any other time to prepare. Mrs Minani also reminded the members that the matrix of recommendations for the 5th SG's forum had to be reviewed before submission to the 28th Sectoral Council EAC Affairs and planning.

She thanked GIZ for their continued support to the RDC meeting and for the wider Consultative Dialogue Framework processes. She further appealed to GIZ for continued supports toward the 6th SG's forum. She concluded her remarks by wishing everyone fruitful deliberations.

1.5.3 Remarks by the Chair of the meeting and Regional Dialogue Committee, Mr. Wesonga Lamech, East African Business Council (EABC) Secretariat

Mr. Wesonga welcomed delegates to the meeting and conveyed greetings from the EABC Executive Director, Ms. Lilian Awinja who wished to be there but due to other commitment she was not able to attend the meeting. He thanked the Republic of Uganda for hosting the meeting, and GIZ for supporting the RDC meeting, he also thanked the EAC Secretariat for organizing the RDC meeting and the various preparatory meetings which have taken place in Arusha. The chair also thanked the Apex Bodies based in Arusha for taking initiative to meet and come up with a draft Concept note of the 6th Secretary General's forum.

The Chair stated that the EAC Secretariat proposed that the 6th SG's forum should focus on strategizing and coming up with action plan for the sustainability of the CDF. He informed the meeting of the proposed dates of 5th to 6th July 2018 for the 6th SG Forum.

He reminded the RDC to mainstream RDC activities within their work plans and mobilize resources to have them implemented. In addition, he urged the RDC to consider using Video conference facilities for some regional meetings given resources constraints.

He thanked the Republic of Kenya for holding national dialogue meetings and called upon the rest of Partner States to emulate Kenya. He finally wished the dialogue parties fruitful deliberations.

2.0 PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE ON THE CONVENING OF THE 6TH ANNUAL EAC SECRETARY GENERAL'S FORUM

Ms. Generose Minani presented the draft Concept note on the convening of the 6th Annual EAC Secretary General's forum. The following comments were made:

- i. Context analysis needed to be improved
- ii. The meeting proposed that lessons learned, impact and possible gaps to be included in the concept
- iii. The meeting noted that the concept note should capture how different the 6th SG's forum would be from the previous ones
- iv. The meeting suggested that concept note should reflect how recommendations made during SG's fora were taken up by the Council and have contributed to the greater EAC integration.
- v. The meeting requested the Secretariat to provide the background information to the concept note
- vi. The concept should highlight the wider application of the CDF beyond the Annual SG's forum

The Concept note for 6th Secretary General's Forum was finalized and is hereto attached as **Annex III**

3.0 PREPARATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE 6TH SG'S FORUM

Purpose

The purpose of the 6th Secretary General's Forum is to provide an opportunity for the dialogue parties to review the dialogue process and strategize on how to improve its impact, responsiveness and sustainability in the integration process.

Themes, Subthemes and Topics

The meeting agreed on the following theme, subthemes and topics;

Theme "People centered and market driven integration: strategizing for impact"

Subthemes and topics

- i. The Impact of the CDF's Projects and Programmes on the EAC integration process
- ii. The responsiveness of the current structure of the CDF in respect to its implementation
- iii. The sustainability of the CDF

Methodology and the Role of the Dialogue Parties

The meeting recommended that a consultant be hired to prepare a working paper focusing on the theme and subthemes. The meeting developed the Terms of Reference for the Consultant and are hereto attached as **Annex IV**.

The dialogue parties will be discussants to the issues that affect them and draw strategies and action plan on how those issues can be addressed.

The meeting also prepared the programme for the 6th Secretary General's forum. The draft programme is hereto attached as **Annex V**

The meeting observed that since the 6th forum will focus on the review of the CDF and sustainability it was important that the All the Partner States are represented at the highest level possible preferably at the level of Permanent/ Principal Secretary.

Participants

The meeting agreed that the 6th Secretary General's forum should have at least 60 people drawn from Regional Dialogue Committee and targeted representatives of the Partner States Ministries, PSOs, CSOs, Professional bodies, Academia/Universities, Media and EAC Organs and Institutions, Development Partners and other interest groups.

Venue and Resource Mobilization

The meeting was informed as per the approved EAC Calendar of activities (January to June 2018) the 6th Secretary General's forum is planned to take place in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting further agreed that the resource mobilization should be the responsibility all of Partners.

Exhibitions and Presentations by Dialogue Parties

The meeting resolved that there will be provision for dialogue parties to exhibit their products and services, therefore the EAC should put provision for the same.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE UPDATE ON IIDEA: PROGRESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Ms. Clara Koschies from GIZ made a presentation on IIDEA progress and sustainability. The full presentation and IIDEA progress report 2018 are hereto attached as **Annex VI (a and b)**

The following comments were made:

- i. Members raised concern on the selection process of the new projects. They proposed that shortlisted projects should not be accompanied by comments. In addition, a list of projects not shortlisted should be shared.
- ii. The time given for selection process was not adequate
- iii. There are some very innovative ideas that do not meet the selection criteria.
- iv. It was observed that there is no involvement of EAC, RDC and MEACAs in due diligence, monitoring and other aspects of the project implementation.
- v. It was observed that there is low awareness of the IIDEA projects in the Partner States

General Observation

The meeting noted that there is need to clarify and strengthen the formal reporting requirement under the CDF.

Recommendations:

The meeting recommended that;

- i. The dialogue parties to nominate three discussants for each topic and submit the names to the EAC Secretariat by 15th June 2018**
- ii. The dialogue parties to submit contacts of proposed session chairs and resource persons of the 6th SG's forum to the EAC Secretariat by 15th June 2018**
- iii. The EAC Secretariat to specifically invite the Permanent/ Principal Secretaries and include them in the programme**
- iv. The EAC Secretariat to send invitations to Resource Persons by 19th June 2018**
- v. The EAC Secretariat to confirm and advise on the agreed dates for the 6th SG's forum by 11th June 2018**

vi. there should be enhanced awareness of on-going projects in Partner States


5.0 AOB

The representative of GIZ Ms. Clara Koschies on behalf of the GIZ programme Manager Dr. Kirsten Focken communicated to the meeting the reason why Burundi did not participate. She stated that the GIZ was unable to support some of the members from Burundi based on their rules

The meeting recommended that in future EAC Secretariat should look for alternative sources for funding in case of such eventualities

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm.

SIGNED on this 8th day of June 2018 by the representatives of the Regional Dialogue Committee hereunder:


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RAPPORTEUR

Ms. Liliane Uwantege
Rwanda Civil Society Platform (RCSP)


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CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Wesonga Lamech
East African Business Council
(EABC) Secretariat