



## **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 4TH ANNUAL EAC SECRETARY GENERAL'S FORUM**

#### **HYATT REGENCY HOTEL**

**4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2016 DAR ES SLAAM- TANZANIA**

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The 4th Annual EAC Secretary Generals' (SG's) Forum was held at Hyatt Hotel Dar-Es-Salaam from February 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> 2016. The Forum was organized by the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the Coordinating Ministries, as well as, East African Local Governments Associations (EALGA), East African Business Council (EABC), East African Civil Society Organisations Forum (EACSO), East African Law Society (EALS), East African Trade Unions Confederation (EATUC) and with the support of Germany International Development Agency (GIZ) under the theme "**Constitutionalism and Good Governance**".

The meeting was attended by over 150 participants from Private Sector, Civil Society, other Interest Groups and Development Partners in the EAC region. The detailed list of participants is hereto attached as **Annex I**.

#### **General Recommendations**

- 1) Declare EAC a zero tolerance zone on corruption within a period of 5 years.
- 2) There should be continuous Civil Society, Private Sector and other Interest groups engagement with the EAC especially through social media interaction besides the SG Forum which is held on annual basis
- 3) Local governments be should engaged through their associations in EAC activities especially through the relevant Sectoral Councils

- 4) During conflict situations, engagement in the mediation process should involve all the dialogue parties including the Youth and Women.
- 5) There should be integration of Gender in the governance processes
- 6) Ensure Partner States ratify the AU charter on decentralization
- 7) Review the programme on youth ambassadors to ensure they are gainfully employed

### **Electoral reforms in the Region and their implications on Peace and Stability**

- 1) The Partner states to expedite conclusion of the EAC Good Governance Protocol.
- 2) EAC should develop an Election score card to hold elected leaders accountable

### **Protecting the Civic Space in the EAC**

#### ***a) "The Place of EAC Partner States in determining Affairs that affects them"***

- 1) EAC should develop a framework to support the activities of CSOs in the region, and
- 2) EAC to formulate a model law on Freedom of Information access.

#### ***b) Interrogating the place of women in the EAC Peace and Security Architecture***

- 1) EAC Secretariat to carry out an independent gender analysis of the Peace and security protocol.
- 2) Facilitate the participation of the EAC Women, Peace and Security Networks in peace and security dialogue within the East African Community

### **Electoral processes on Trade and Investment**

- 1) Professionals should be encouraged to establish strong national and Regional Umbrella bodies to engage on electoral matters with the governments
- 2) A forum should be established for private sector to discuss issues with the political leaders on electoral processes to promote trade and investment in East Africa
- 3) Review the existing Code of Conduct for Business persons to include provisions on how they should be involved in the electoral processes

## **The role of private sector in fighting corruption**

- 1) Partner states should adopt the e-Procurement system to promote transparency in tendering
- 2) Conduct lifestyle audit for elected leaders and holders of public office
- 3) Paperless border transactions should be fast tracked to reduce chances of corrupt practices

## **Extractive Industries and Marginalization**

- 1) EAC Secretariat should be urged to join the Extractive Industry and Transparency initiatives (EITI) to ensure local communities benefit from the local resources
- 2) Partner States have to invest in getting the geological data before negotiating mining contract ,
- 3) Harmonize Taxes and fiscal terms in the Extractive sector across the le's Rights and national constitutions;

## **Fiscal Decentralization: The effectiveness of decentralization policies and their implications on regional integration**

- 1) Regional peer review mechanism should be implemented so as to learn good practices from EAC other and ultimately harmonize tax system in the region;
- 2) Elected leaders as custodians of public resources at the decentralized level should exercise fiscal jurisprudence in order to ensure maximization of social welfare through accountability and transparency;
- 3) There is need to increase the fiscal base at the decentralized unit to increase trade and investment;

## **Rights Based Approach to Universal Health coverage**

- 1) The EAC partner states should abide by the Abuja declaration on health financing of 15 % budget allocation
- 2) The East African Community Partner States to abide by the Kigali Declaration on Universal Health Coverage
- 3) The East African Community to develop a model framework for community empowerment, participation and engagement for attaining universal health coverage
- 4) The EAC to develop a regional framework on public private partnership (PPP) in attaining UHC