MULTI-SECTORAL MEETING ON FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(Permanent Secretaries Session)

26th May, 2011

Mt. Meru Hotel
Arusha, Tanzania

REPORT OF THE MEETING

(Ref: EAC/SR/26/2011)

EAC Secretariat
Arusha, Tanzania
May, 2011
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Convening of the Meeting

The meeting was convened in accordance with the directive of the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Ministers (EAC/CM/22/Directive 37) which was held in Arusha from 11th - 15th April, 2011. The Council directed the Secretariat to convene a Multi-Sectoral Meeting of the relevant Sectoral Councils by 31st May, 2011 to agree on the implementation modalities of the EAC Food Security Action Plan (2011-2015), EAC Climate Change Policy, and the Summit Declaration on Food Security and Climate Change.

1.2. Objectives of the Meeting

The main objective of the meeting was to enable all the relevant Sectors as directed by the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Ministers to agree on the implementation of the EAC Food Security Action Plan (2011-2015), EAC Climate Change Policy, and the Summit Declaration on Food Security and Climate Change. Specifically, the meeting was guided by the relevant implementation arrangements as stipulated by the respective documents mentioned above.

1.3. Attendance

The meeting was attended by Permanent Secretaries, Senior Officials on Food Security, Climate Change, and other related fields from all relevant sectors as well as EAC Secretariat. The list of participants is hereeto attached as Annex I.

1.4 Opening of the Meeting

1.4.1 Constitution of the Bureau

In accordance with EAC Rules of Procedures, the meeting was chaired by Dr. Romano Kiome, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Kenya, on behalf of the Republic of Burundi while Dr. Charles Mutai, Senior Assistant Director, Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources, Republic of Kenya was the Rapporteur.

1.4.2 Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted and hereby attached as Annex II.

1.4.2 Opening Remarks

Remarks by the Chairperson

The Chairman welcomed the Permanent Secretaries present and their representatives. He noted that the issues of Food Security and Climate Change
are of utmost importance to the region. He observed that the meeting was convened in response to the EAC Full Council of Ministers and Summit directive. He therefore urged all EAC Partner States to take advantage of the opportunity and develop modalities for operationalizing the Food Security Action plan and Climate Change Policy for good of all East Africans.

Remarks by the Secretariat

The Opening Remarks were given by Dr. Julius T. Rotich, Deputy Secretary General Finance and Administration on behalf of the Deputy Secretary General, Productive and Social Sectors, EAC Secretariat and are hereto attached as Annex III.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

The Permanent Secretaries considered and deliberated on the Report of the Senior Officials hereto attached as Annex IV.

The Permanent Secretaries welcomed the approval of the EAC Food Security Action (2011-2015) and Climate Change Policy and reiterated their commitment and support towards their implementation in the context of ongoing efforts to develop national policies and strategies.

The Permanent Secretaries took note of the need to ensure that the Summit Directive on the implementation of the EAC Food Security and Climate Change Policy are immediately implemented.

The Permanent Secretaries made the following observations and recommendations:

2.1 Observations

a) the EAC Food Security Action Plan (2011-2015) needs to be implemented in tandem with the EAC Climate Change Policy, a course informed by the recognition that food production in the region is adversely affected by the impacts of climate change amongst other factors;

b) the Food Security Action Plan and the EAC Climate Change Policy need to be implemented as a matter of urgency taking into consideration the food Situation and adverse impacts of Climate Change in the region;

c) there is need to fast track the finalization of the EAC Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan to pave way for the full implementation of the EAC Climate Change Policy;

d) as enormous financial resource estimated at $43 billion over a five-year period is required to implement the EAC Food Security Action Plan, there is need for immediate, significant and timely financial resources to be
availed to facilitate the implementation of the EAC Food Security Action Plan and the EAC Climate Change Policy;

e) the Food Security Action Plan and Climate Change Policy will be implemented by Partner States’ Ministries responsible for Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and other relevant sector Ministries, including the Private Sector and development partners;

f) the EAC Secretariat will be responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of joint programmes and projects emanating from the Action Plan and Climate Change Policy;

g) it is critical for the EAC to mobilise sufficient and timely financial, human and technical resources required for implementation of the EAC Food Security Action Plan (2011-2015), EAC Climate Change Policy, EAC Climate Change Strategy, EAC Climate Change Master Plan and the Paris Declaration on Food Security and Climate Change;

h) the EAC Climate Change Fund will be used to implement the EAC Climate Change Policy and its related instruments. The Fund shall target various existing and emerging sources of climate change finance from multilateral agencies/ global mechanisms and bilateral partners;

i) there is a need for strengthening EAC’s institutional capacity to implement the Food Security Action Plan and Climate Change Policy through institutional arrangements, coordination structures across the key sectors;

j) appropriate technical proposals with regards to the form of implementation structures to be prepared and submitted to the Council for the purpose of ensuring that the establishment of the proposed food Security and Climate Change units are fully considered in the Ongoing Institutional Review. However the onset of the Climate Change and Food Security need not to be held back by the Institutional review process;

k) there is need for the EAC Secretariat to be more proactively engaged in the ongoing regional and international process on Agriculture and Food Security, and Environment and Climate Change such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations and endeavour to facilitate the development of common positions in preparation for the negotiations;

l) there is need for immediate, significant and timely financial resources to be availed to facilitate the implementation of the EAC Food Security Action Plan and the EAC Climate Change Policy;

m) there is need for Partner States to allocate at least 10% of their national budget to the development of agricultural sector in line with the Maputo Declaration;
n) there is need to adopt joint monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the EAC Food Security Action Plan and EAC Climate Change Policy as an integral part of implementing the programmes, projects and activities emanating from the EAC Food Security Action Plan and EAC Climate Change Policy;

o) need for establishment of a Multi-Sectoral Inter-Ministerial team to oversee the implementation of the Food Security Action Plan and Climate Change Policy;

p) need for dissemination and sensitization of the EAC Food Security Action Plan and Climate Change Policy to various stakeholders including development partners;

q) there is a need for incorporating financial mechanisms and instruments for Agriculture Sector including insurance schemes to increase agriculture production through investment; and

r) the meeting was informed that the United Republic of Tanzania is the process of finalizing the ratification of the Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management.

2.2 Recommendations

The Meeting of Permanent Secretaries recommends to the Multi Sectoral Meeting of Ministers to:

a) direct the Secretariat to ensure that institutional arrangements, in view of the ongoing institutional review, resources mobilization strategies and plans for mobilizing financial, human and technical resources and joint monitoring and evaluation of cross cutting issues including gender and youth as related to the EAC Food Security Action Plan and Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan are in place and implemented by September 2011;

b) direct the EAC Secretariat to develop appropriate technical proposals with regard to the form of institutional structures and submit them to the Council for the purpose of ensuring that the establishment of the proposed food Security and Climate Change Units are fully considered in the ongoing Institutional Review;

c) urge Partner States to establish appropriate coordination structures for implementation of the Food Security Action Plan and Climate Change Policy;
d) direct the Secretariat to immediately establish a Climate Change Unit as per the Summit Declaration on Food Security and the Climate Change;

e) direct the Secretariat to mobilize resources and organize a donor and development partners roundtable forum aimed at mobilizing adequate resources and investments towards the implementation of the EAC food security and climate change initiatives by December, 2011;

f) recommend to the Council to formalize the Multi-Sectoral Meeting of all relevant Sectoral Councils and convene its meeting at least once in a year due to the cross-cutting nature of food security and adverse impacts of climate change;

g) direct EAC Secretariat, in collaboration with Partner States, to draw up a detailed annual work plan indicating financial requirements based on objectives identified in the EAC Food Security Action Plan and Climate Change Strategy in tandem with EAC Partner States planning and budgeting process;

h) direct the Secretariat to actively engage in agriculture, food security, environment and climate change policy processes at regional and international levels.

5.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The implementation of the Seed Policy should be considered by the next Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security scheduled to take place by end of June 2011.

Signed by the Respective Heads of Delegation on this 26th day of May 2011.

[Signatures and titles of officials from different countries]