1st EAC INTER-UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEBATE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION
23rd-24th August 2012, IMPALA HOTEL ARUSHA TANZANIA

THEME: Understanding the Benefits and Challenges of Political Integration in East Africa

REPORT OF THE DEBATE

EAC Secretariat
August, 2012
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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>COMESA</td>
<td>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisations</td>
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<td>EAC</td>
<td>East African Community</td>
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<td>EACCM</td>
<td>East African Community Common Market</td>
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<td>EACCU</td>
<td>East African Community Customs Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>EACMU</td>
<td>East African Community Monetary Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
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<td>GIZ</td>
<td>Germany Development Cooperation</td>
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<td>MEACAs</td>
<td>Ministry of East African Community Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAFTA</td>
<td>North America Free Trade Arrangement</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCPHR</td>
<td>Nyerere Centre for Peace Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSO</td>
<td>Private Sector Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>SADC</td>
<td>Southern Africa Development Community</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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I. Introduction and Background

The Treaty establishing the East African Community (EAC), which was ratified in November 1999 and came into force in July 2000, was a tri-partite initiative to revive cooperation between Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania that was disbanded in 1977. The Treaty is a culmination of regional efforts to resurrect cooperation in the planning and implementation of regional programmes for integrated development. The Treaty establishing the EAC has the hallmarks of a constitution including a preamble that highlights the historical and political context, the aspirations of the people and the fundamental principles and rules that define the powers of the various organs of the Community.

The EAC Treaty is unique in Africa and perhaps in the world because its objectives are premised on the development of policies and programmes specifically aimed at widening and deepening cooperation among the three partner states in the political, economic, social and cultural fields. For example, the objectives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are to promote cooperation and integration in economic, social and cultural activities, while the cardinal objective of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) is cooperation within an economic and social framework. Other arrangements elsewhere have purely economic objectives, such as the North America Free Trade Arrangement (NAFTA).

In accordance with the provisions of the EAC Treaty (Article 5, Paragraph 1), the partner states undertook to establish among themselves a Customs Union, a Common Market, a Monetary Union and, ultimately, a Political Federation. The purpose of this unique arrangement is to strengthen and regulate the industrial, commercial, infra-structural, cultural, social, political and other relations of the partner states so that there is accelerated, harmonious and balanced development with sustained expansion of economic activities that will be shared equitably.

Article 120(c)) provides for the adoption of a common approach to the involvement of youth in the integration process through education, training and mainstreaming youth issues into EAC policies, projects and programmes as one of the strategic interventions towards the realisation of a fully integrated Community.

The East African Community Youth Summit held in Arusha, Tanzania from 2nd – 3rd November 2007 set the precedent for youth participation in the EAC integration by Influencing policy formulation, participating in community sensitization and through scientific and technological innovations (research) and developing high-level skills needed to drive national and regional development.

As the EAC integration widens and deepens, there is growing need to bring on board youth to engage with them on a continuous basis on issues pertinent to the integration process. Additionally, the fact
that the EAC integration is people centered, the Youth have the potential to foster creativity, innovation, leadership and sharing of information and nurture a bond of East-Africanness with a distinct East Africa identity that is very much desired.

This report is the record of the debate designed to share the students’ understanding of the EAC regional integration and how to involve them in widening and deepening the process.

1.1 Aim

The ultimate aim of the EAC integration process is the establishment of a Political Federation. The Debate is a platform for the students to participate in and contribute to policy formulation on issues the EAC that impact on the youth and the general population. In this respect, the aim of the Debate is to serve as an entry point To Youth Dialogue and Awareness on the on-going Initiatives on Regional Political Integration.

1.2 Objective(s)

The debate had the following objectives:

1.2.1 Overall Objective
To Promote Continuous dialogue among the Youth and Interest them in Advocacy for Regional Integration Initiatives

1.2.2 Specific Objectives
• To share information on the benefits and challenges of the East African Community Integration and make recommendations on the way forward
• To facilitate the process of bonding among and between students, and shape and nurture the East African identity among the youth
• To empower the students to continue engaging in debate on matters of EAC integration

1.2.3 Theme

The debate was organised to enable university students to share and understand the benefits and challenges of political integration in East Africa, with assistance and guidance of a team of panelists (staffers of Ministry of East African Community Affairs from Partner States) and a group of Judges selected from among East African Community personnel and civil society, and to prepare them to join the EAC integration efforts. In this respect therefore, the theme of the forum was Understanding the Benefits and Challenges of Political Integration in East Africa.
1.2.4 The Participants

The two-day function, organized by the EAC Nyerere Centre for Peace Research (NCPR) with the support of GIZ, attracted at least 100 students from universities and other education institutions across the EAC region.

II. Where Do we Stand: Strengthening University Students’ Participation in EAC Regional Integration Process

2.1 Introduction

The Opening Ceremony of the Debate was led by Ms. Isabelle Waffubwa Principal Political Affairs Officer who brought the sitting together through the EAC Anthem and a poem designed to trace root of the ills that faced the first EAC integration (1967-1977) and that informed the efforts to re-engineer the new EAC. The Poem urged the East African leadership and citizens to put in place appropriate mechanisms and institutions to nurture, sustain and institutionalise the regional integration process.

The opening was graced by Mr. Philip Wambugu, Director of Infrastructure, EAC Secretariat, who represented the Secretary General, officially opened the meeting by emphasising the importance and strength of the youth in EAC regional integration. He noted that deepening of the EAC integration process through the establishment of a fully-fledged Customs Union, functioning Common Market, the Monetary Union (under negotiation) and the implementation of various projects and programmes at the Community level dictates that a minimum of political aspects of the integration process must now be gradually brought on board to support the growing linkages and interdependencies between the Partner States. Under the circumstance, there is therefore, growing necessity to bring on board youth to engage with them on a continuous basis on issues pertinent to them in the integration process including their concerns in the Political Federation debate. He reiterated that the youth have the potential to foster creativity, innovation, positive leadership and sharing of information to nurture a bond of East-Africanness with a distinct East African identity.

Ms. Heidtmann Miriam Programme Manager, EAC-GIZ Programme on Promotion of Peace and Security (GIZ), saw the meeting as a forum that will enable the students to bring out their fears, hopes, innovative and creative ideas about the potentials and benefits of a potentially united East Africa and mechanisms for channeling them into policy making, awareness raising and sensitization programmes of the East African Community. She also saw the meeting as a demonstration of commitment, on the part of students, to the integration process, and appealed to them to use their many tools and channels – including instant communication tools of Twitter, Facebook, etc to
mobilize their friends and others to join the integration efforts and shape and nurture the East African identity in the long-run.

Both Mr Wambugu and Ms Miriam urged the students to be the drivers of the integration process, and to take ownership and leadership today and tomorrow.

2.2 Debate

2.2.1 Motion – This House Believes that the Benefits of Political Integration in East Africa far outweigh the Challenges

The students were organised into six teams of 5 members each to identify and debate the pros and the cons of political integration. In the process of debate their seemed to be a tendency to focus on political federation (the ultimate) more than political integration (the cushion to economic integration). It was within this context that the teams discussing the cons could bring out their fears, challenges and concerns more aggressively.

In articulation of the pros and the cons the six teams addressed themselves to specific themes. The Matrix below summarises the key themes addressed by each team in their debate.

### Matrix 1: Key Themes of the Debate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session I Pro Team</th>
<th>Session I Against Team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good Governance</td>
<td>Sovereignty and Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace and Stability</td>
<td>Weak economic and regulatory systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Identity</td>
<td>Implementation of the Treaty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights</td>
<td>Readiness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bargaining Power</td>
<td>Foreign Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Growth</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Cultural Diversity</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session II Pro Team</th>
<th>Session II Against Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fears and Challenges</td>
<td>Sovereignty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment and Trade Development</td>
<td>Ownership, Inclusion, national identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace and Security</td>
<td>Lack of trust and commitment to action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmonisation of political processes</td>
<td>Weak Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good governance</td>
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<td>Cultural Diversity</td>
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consumers

- Political Integration shall safeguard the common values, fundamental interests and independence of the Community and its Partner States
- Fears, challenges and concerns shall always be there. We are at a maternity ward; there will be a period of labour pains, at which we will be tempted to say, "Never Again". But, after the baby is born, we will be saying "How Cute!!"

Community member countries which are highly indebted and their loyalty to their development partners is stronger than their loyalty to the EAC Treaty?

Peace and Security

- Political integration ensures pooling of security resources and expertise, broadening intelligence and security and having a central command to ensure rapid response and to increase surveillance against local and cross-border conflicts. In this respect, political integration is for preserving peace and strengthening international security among Partner States and within the Community.
- Article 123 of the Treaty highlights that to achieve the objectives of the Community as set out in Article 3 of the Treaty, with respect to the ultimate establishment of a Political Federation of the Partner States, the Partner States shall establish common foreign and security policies. A properly structured and coordinated regional security system means a well sheltered people.

Opening borders will increase flow of criminals to otherwise secure countries, opening up and increasing criminal activities.
- Each East African Partner State is pursuing its own foreign and security policy, that is, its own unique problems, and goals making it difficult to form one political body

Human Rights

- Political integration is designed to develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Political federation will ensure complete adherence to Article 3(3)(c) by all members to the Community

The human rights record in East Africa is not impressive, courtesy of the political leadership — the same that will be entrusted with the leadership of the envisaged east African Union. There is no guarantee that the lead politicians will be wired differently then.
- The EAC must first implement
The resulting arguments for and against political integration are summarised in Matrix 2 below.

**Matrix 2: Summary of Pros and Cons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>- Integration should help to harmonise and unify political systems, improve governance and strengthen democratic practices.</td>
<td>- Democracy and governance in most East Africa countries are still in superficial forms, and designed to suit political elites.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- We acknowledge that presently Partner States are at different levels of governance and democracy, the more reason to federate so that standard operations are applied to the whole region and so that all East African citizens can enjoy similar conditions of livelihoods.</td>
<td>- Political integration will promote domination by bigger and stronger economies and political regimes such as Kenya.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Everything good comes with its costs - with political integration there are those aspects of political governance which will need harmonisation, those which the Partner States will have to discard best practices which we must adopt, and more importantly the Partner States will have to give up some of their sovereignty and pool it at the centre.</td>
<td>- The citizens have not been adequately involved in the integration process, raising the question of ownership and therefore accountability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The Summit decisions are reached through consensus and this coupled with questionable political will and determination has often led to lack of or weak implementation of decisions and programmes. This will allow a political integration a joke.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sovereignty</td>
<td>- Political integration means sacrificing some sovereignty for the good of the citizens. This is for long-term benefits.</td>
<td>- No clarity yet on the model EAC political federation and there is no best practice to learn from.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Independence</td>
<td>- This also means that members joining the political integration process are expanding their political clout because the expanded economy and population of</td>
<td>- Integration will lead to Partner States ceding power and authority to the new East Africa Government. This will also go with people’s independence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- What happens to the East African</td>
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Economic Management

Regional integration offers better opportunities for the management of risks. Since the establishment of the EAC, the countries have benefited from regional trade and business, and increased confidence in growth and development through the growth of intra-EAC trade. The EAC Common Market Union and the EAC Customs Union and the EAC Common Market Union and the EAC Customs Union have helped to integrate the economies of the East African States, leading to increased investment in regional infrastructure, common education curricula, and increased standards for goods and services.

Political integration shall support the establishment of higher level institutions to support regional integration. It will also support the development of higher level education curricula, common education standards, etc. It shall also enable the integration of the economies of the East African States, leading to increased investment in regional infrastructure, common education curricula, and increased standards for goods and services.

More than 70% of the population of the East African States live below the poverty line, and political integration will mean that these people will benefit from economic growth and development. The weak economic management and political integration means that the tax revenue of people who are not able to feed themselves is not effectively used for the benefit of the population. The economic and political integration of the East African States will lead to increased investment in regional infrastructure, common education curricula, and increased standards for goods and services.
All the debating students made passionate cases for and against political integration, highlighting benefits such as widened markets for products, improved employment prospects, broader and shared resource bases and enhanced security. Students that stood to oppose the motion argued that while political integration was viable, the process should be inclusive, measured and systematic enabling the citizens to appraise and own every step.

2.2.2 Observations by Observers/County MEACAs Representatives

Students have shown intelligence and great level of understanding and wider space should be provided for more student participation in future and the activity should become a continuous process. In this respect, Tanzania being fully committed to political integration, believes that students and other stakeholders should be facilitated to equitably contribute and benefit from the integration process.

Kenya acknowledges this is the beginning and there is more to be done to enhance student participation in the EAC integration process. It was however, observed that the debaters focused more on the political federation which is the ultimate end of the EAC integration process and not the political integration process as required by the motion. There is therefore, need to interrogate the role being played by the existing EAC organs and institutions in the political integration process and also bring out the nexus between economic integration and political integration. The country urges the students to continue the debate in the social media network. Kenya will soon be launching a social media education and information campaign on the integration process for the University students as way of furthering the debate.

Uganda believes that students are primary ambassadors of regional integration and that citizens must know and be updated regularly on the progress of the integration process. As a result, Uganda has established EAC Clubs in Secondary schools to promote the EAC integration. Uganda also understands and believes that the EAC laws and practices are supreme. The Government Ministries are charged with providing the entire requisite infrastructure for sensitization and awareness creation. Political integration will help East Africa consolidate economic integration; therefore the MEAC Uganda is going to implement key recommendations of this meeting.

Burundi is impressed and grateful to the EAC Secretariat for organising this debate. We are aware that each country has its constitution which it holds dearly but this should not be used as an excuse to derail the integration process. Sensitization should be continued and done more aggressively, more actors should be brought on board and the media should help.
Rwanda believes that political federation is important and we must all see this as the ultimate and proceed systematically to realize it. We are all in agreement with the political integration process through involving the youth, especially the students. Youth participation, because this is the information age, and this is the generation that will benefit from the integration and who must drive the integration process. National Youth Councils should be quickly established especially in Kenya and Tanzania, who are yet to do so. This should help the youth to operationalize the regional forum and proceed to claim their stake in EAC regional integration.

2.2.3 Quiz on the EAC Integration Process

The quiz on the East African Community was designed to test general knowledge on the EAC history, process and progress. The quiz contained over twenty questions and included all students present at the function (those who participated in the debate and the panel).

The quiz revealed two issues (i) that information on the EAC has not been systematically disseminated, (ii) that there is need to introduce EAC integration in the education curriculum in the East African education system.

2.2.4 Comments by Judges

This is the first team of students to formally address the EAC political integration issues. The quality of debate was high and debaters spoke from their hearts.

People resist change because it comes with uncertainty. We cannot speak as a strong people if each state continues to stand alone - as an EAC we have a stronger voice. To strengthen this voice the EAC is in the process of implementing a curriculum at the university level on EAC Integration.

The history of the EAC integration, especially the collapse of the first community (1967-77), is found in the preamble to the EAC Treaty – the shared reasons of the collapse. The lessons of this collapse are fodder to students keen to strengthen the current drive for political integration. The obstacles should not derail the process with students on board.

The Students were urged to be the Ambassadors of the EAC Integration Process.

2.2.5 Presentation of Awards

Awards presentation was presided over by EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors Hon. Jesca Eriyo. There were five categories of Awards:
1. Certificate of Participation which recognized participation of all the thirty debaters
2. Certificate of Recognition for Best Debaters which went to five best debaters
3. Best Debaters appointed Youth Ambassadors for the EAC Ms. Ntungane Olena Burundi, Ms. Mbidi Milly Minayo Kenya, Mr. Muramira Gashengu Rwanda, Mr. Maro Raymond Tanzania and Mr. Tayebwa James Bamiwenda Uganda.
4. Team Awards which recognized combined performance of team members with Third Best position going to Team Against in Session 1, Second Best Team Against Session 3, and Best Debating Team being Team For Session 3
5. Quiz Awards: Third Best Team 2, Second Best Team 1, and Best Team 3

Hon Eriyo in her closing remarks noted that the Debate was an important platform for involving the youth of East Africa in the EAC integration process and challenged the organizers to make future editions even bigger. She commended the participants for their passion for the integration, while also thanking GIZ for the support it rendered to make the event a success.

2.2.6 Summary of Findings

Integration is a process for which the whole society bears the responsibility, has to show commitment, and has to buy the idea. In integration the sovereign powers belong to the people of East Africa and not individual partner states. This means the integration process gives power to East Africans to decide on the key issues regarding governance, democratization and development. Therefore,

1. It was the understanding of all participants at the forum that successful integration will require strong WILL, COMMITMENT and drive for ACTION by the political leadership. And for the people and the market, they must be TRUE and SINCERE to the integration process. To ensure these qualities both the East African Legislative Assembly and the East African Court of Justice should be strengthened to defend and protect the political will and secure the peoples space in the integration process.

2. Whereas the Treaty Establishing the East African Community and its protocols are superior, EAC Partner State’s constitutions, laws and practices are yet to be fully synchronized with the Treaty. Efforts towards synchronization and harmonisation are slow and in some ways suggest lack of trust in the EAC process. There is need for a concerted effort, and political will and determination to synchronize local/national laws and practices with the Treaty and emerging protocols.
Diversity: Our ability to integrate these elements in the management of our politics and economics makes the regional more attractive, and also creates wider opportunities.

Capacity of the EAC:
- The EAC organs and processes are still emerging and being consolidated, all towards effective management of the integration process and for effective service delivery to the Partner States, the Market and the people of the region.
- Capacity of individual organs and institutions grows in tandem with need, and speed at which the Treaty is implemented.

The EAC has not been able to adequately implement the Customs Union and the Common Market Protocols on a timely basis.
- The EAC does not have control over Partner States because its institutions are weak, and will be overburdened if political integration is implemented.
- For as long as the Community is 90% dependent on donor funding, neither the Partner States nor the EAC Secretariat could dictate the pace of growth and loyalty to the Treaty.

Legal and Regulatory Framework:
- Partner States are in the process of harmonizing their legal and regulatory systems and practices with the EAC policies and protocols.
- The EAC provides common standards and best practices which the Partner States enforce.
- Regional integration provides for detail "(discipline and technical quality stand which all member states have to implement). Each state has a choice to implement. However, the consequences of not implementing are greater and may include exclusion.

National legal and regulatory frameworks of partner states are still at variance with the Treaty and supporting instruments — the federations of Uganda, Rwanda civil laws, etc. National constitutions have no reference to the East African Community. The EAC does not have the capacity to police/supervise the Partner States in the implementation and enforcement of protocols and decisions.
- Greater authority should be ceded to the EAC Secretariat, the East African Court of Justice and the East African Legislative Assembly for effective implementation of the Treaty.
3. The speed at which the EAC has implemented the East African Community Customs Union (EACCU) Protocol and the East African Community Common Market (EACCM) Protocol has left fears that it does not have the capacity to effectively implement the envisaged political integration. There is need to strengthen institutions charged with these responsibilities and other initiatives so that they address their mandates effectively and efficiently to pave way for practical political integration. The EAC should implement fully the EACCU, EACCM, and speedily conclude East African Monetary Union (EACMU) protocol to renew and build confidence and assure the citizens that political integration is a reality.

4. Most of the fears and challenges that have been mentioned as hindering the integration process should be managed not only through legal instruments but also through the will and increased participation of the people in the integration process. Therefore, the EAC and the MEACAs should seek to expand space for increased people participation in the management and implementation of the integration process. Infrastructure for sensitization and awareness raising, which has already been created should be consolidated and solidified and enabled to realize its objects.

5. Some threats facing some partner states (civil disturbances, poverty, political deficits etc.) could be easily resolved through integration – there are many best practices that we may all learn from through a unified system> Each of the Partner States has one or two lessons to teach us in terms of cohesion, civil and peaceful co-existence, economic management, etc. Some of these practices are fully documented.

6. Political fragmentation reduces the gains of economic and social integration. For the people of the five member states to fully benefit from the gains of the Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union, and the various institutions – the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, etc, political integration is inevitable.

7. Political integration, whereas it is widely discussed and also argued to be the main reason behind all economic integration efforts world over, is relatively new. There is no clarity yet on the model EAC political federation and there is no best practice to learn from. Therefore, the process should not be hurried

8. East Africa is so interlinked geographically and even security-wise, that anything happening in one part of the region affects all the others Partner States, therefore political integration is important and it means some elements of sovereignty and nationalism will be sacrificed at the altar of political integration.
9. This debate has demonstrated that the students and the young people in general, are the greatest asset for the present and the future of the EAC integration process. It has particularly demonstrated that:

- No matter what country they live in, what university they attend the youth have dreams, new perspectives, time and unparalleled levels of energy to carry the EAC to the next level
- Students are beginning to understand how regional issues are affecting their different countries, and are able to talk across borders and think about how to work together to address these issues
- Young people have outlets and tools to affect massive regional integration.
- Young people are the leaders of today and tomorrow and are ready to embrace the challenges of the EAC integration as opportunities for social development and economic growth of the region.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 Conclusions

The inclusion of students in the integration process is provided for by the Treaty for Establishment of the East African Community. This Debate was timely and benefits from the achievements of operational organs and institutions of the Community, and Protocols now under implementation. The on-going negotiations on the establishment of the Monetary Union and political federation have informed this Debate.

The verdict of debaters is that the process of political integration should continue with concerted efforts to close loopholes and clear any bottlenecks that may be hindering the effective implementation of the Customs Union, Common Market, and the conclusion of the Monetary Union.

As outlined in the latest Policy Research Report on regional integration by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa 2004), regional integration is a means to accelerate economic growth in the developing world. The EAC region holds promise for individual countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) and the Community as a whole.

As East Africa moves forward to develop more advanced forms of integration, citizens of the region look forward to a renewed commitment and sustained partnership between Governments and Citizens of East Africa for full effect of positive socio-economic and political transformation of the region.
3.2 Recommendations and Way Forward

1. The EAC Secretariat should ensure:
   1.1 Flow of right information and message on the EAC integration at national and local levels and strengthen confidence in the EAC integration Process, by intensifying sensitization of the political leadership and politicians at local and national levels on the EAC and its integration.
   1.2 That the student initiative has a strong political commitment from the top, and appropriate policy and institutional framework are put in place to facilitate student participation, mobilisation of resources, and outreach strategy.
   1.3 Sustainability and Institutionalisation of student participation in the EAC integration process
   1.4 Together with Partner States and development partners streamline regional and national sensitization, awareness creation and communication meant to widen and deepen the EAC integration process.

2. The Partner States should:
   2.1 Implement a coordinated process of sensitization and training on the EAC Integration. Currently there are many and parallel initiatives on EAC integration by the civil society, private sector, local government and central government. This efforts need to be effectively coordinated and supported with sufficient and reliable information, statistics and data on the integration efforts and effects.
   2.2 Find mechanisms for instilling the EAC integration message in the population at early age.

3. The Youth (being the EAC generation) have the duty to nurture, grow, lead and change (participate in) the integration Process. To do this, the students, and youth in general, need to

   3.1 acquire very deep understanding of the integration dynamics unencumbered by the national positions;
   3.2 agree with the EAC on core enablers for their job, in terms of resources, manpower, networking, sensitization materials, platforms among others;
   3.3 Know and develop their passion in abundance, including educating themselves widely and understanding the integration issues through the people it actually affects;
   3.4 Be facilitated to connect with local organisations (business, civil society, government, etc) involved in the integration process, talk to them about what their barriers are, how they are addressing those barriers, and why they are passionate about the issue and the value it adds to greater EAC integration;
   3.5 be supported to use their online tools to mobilize their peers and get their voice heard on EAC integration; and
3.6 Be supported to bring their communities together through social media, word of mouth, letters, incentives, etc., and educate them about the EAC integration process.

4. Institutionalizing the Inter-University Debate in the EAC Integration Process is investing today for a safer, secure, sustainable and successful regional integration tomorrow.

4.1 The launched EAC Inter-University Students Debate should be seen as a EAC Students Platform of enduring principle, not passing convenience.
   i. The debate should be taken as the product of the most open and transparent process in the EAC integration history, and be offered to the East Africans in the assurance that the EAC regional integration ideals are those that unify the region;
   ii. That as students from Universities across East Africa, they should be able to share information, increase their levels of communication and develop a mechanism of knowledge management and learning essential in driving the integration process;
   iii. That the students should address the key thematic areas of the integration process among them democratic governance, peace and security, environment and natural resources, science and technology

4.2 The inter-university debate should be presented with enthusiasm and confidence in a vision for the future, with genuine humility before a region of free and independent thinkers fighting for the integration principles with confidence that the best ideas will prevail to unify and sustain the EAC integration. In this respect it is important for the EAC to:
   a) Upgrade the debate to a Platform
   b) Develop a concrete agenda to guide the Platform. The agenda should also define the ideals of the Platform within the framework of the EAC Treaty
   c) Link the Platform to other EAC dialogue mechanisms (initiatives) already operational and define these linkages without compromising the Platform’s ideals design to strengthen the integration process.
   d) Create an environment that ensures the Platform should speak to all East Africans in the firm belief that the principles embodied in this platform will prove to be as compelling and persuasive as they are vital and enduring
   e) Be aware that some political regimes and leanings will find these debates provoking. The Platform should, so that to inform and cement the integration process, provide all the freedoms and rights of debate without fear for disagreements and demand for conformity

4.3 The debate of 23-24 August 2012 demonstrated an emerging and unique East African spirit—the spirit of independent minds, and the conviction that open and honest debate is essential
for the development of the East African region and the full enjoyment of freedom. Therefore the Platform properly designed and protected by the EAC, should be testament to that freedom and stand as promise to future generations that the present leadership of the region will do whatever it takes to preserve. This calls for development and implementation of a policy and institutional framework grounded on the belief that the EAC principles (as outlined in the Treaty for Establishing the East African Community), policies and vision will lead the East African families, not just through present dangers, but also to a horizon of prosperity and liberty mankind has only begun to explore. The Treaty promises political, religious and civil liberties designed to transform lives through improved socio-economic and technological developments.

4.4 The Platform should be seen as an alternative to expanding opportunity to promote prosperity, defending the integration process, and for securing the peace that the region needs so much. Intelligence is key to defending the region, promoting peace and ensuring sustainable economic development. Better intelligence is the first line of defense. The EAC should therefore use this Platform to increase the ranks and resources of its human intelligence capabilities, integrate technical and human resources, and ensure gathering and timely flow of relevant and appropriate information to all East Africans to inform desired development.

4.5 The EAC-PSO-CSO Dialogue framework needs to be reviewed to include this Platform as a unifying factor. The Platform should be a recognized annual agenda coming before the EAC anniversary, and to be seen as a culmination of the critical issues identified by stakeholders in the dialogue framework.