



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**SECOND MEETING OF THE FORUM FOR EAC MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

MINISTERS MEETING

**Hotel Novotel
Bujumbura, Burundi
7th October, 2009**

REPORT OF THE MEETING

Report Ref: EAC/SDF/10/2009

**EAC Secretariat
Arusha, Tanzania
October, 2009**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Convening of the Meeting

The Second meeting of the Forum for Ministers Responsible for Social Development was held on 7th October, 2009 as per the calendar of activities of EAC for the period July-December 2009 to consider and adopt the Report of the Permanent Secretaries.

1.2 Constitution of the Bureau

In accordance with the EAC Rules of Procedure for convening EAC meeting the was chaired by Hon. Protais K. Mitali, Minister, Minister of Youth, Republic of Rwanda, while Mr. Donald Charwe, Ag. Commissioner of Social Welfare, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, from The United Republic of Tanzania was the Rapporteur.

1.3 Participation

The meeting was attended by Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Senior Officials from the EAC Partner States, National Ministries responsible for matters relating social development. Also in attendance, were the representatives of UNICEF (Burundi Office), UNESCO and GTZ as well as EAC Secretariat Officials responsible for social development. The list of the Ministers in attendance and other participants is hereto attached as **Annex I**.

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda of the meeting was discussed and adopted. It is hereto attached as **Annex II**.

3.0 OPENING OF THE MEETING

3.1. Welcome Remarks by the Chair Hon. Protais K. Mitali, Minister, Ministry, Ministry of Youth, Republic of Rwanda

The Chairperson welcomed the delegates to the Second Forum and stated that the First Meeting of the Forum held in Kigali had laid the foundation for cooperation in the four thematic areas of social development. He encouraged people centered approach in the implementation of the social development and gender to ensure success. He urged honourable delegates to leave the areas of health to the relevant sectoral councils unless the issued are cross-cutting. He encouraged all Partner States to adopt good practices such as Umuganda (national cleaning days) an EAC tree planting day. He extended invitation to the delegates to the 4th Annual EAC Health and Scientific Conference scheduled to take place in Kigali, Rwanda from 31st March - 2nd April, 2010.

3.2. Remarks by Ms. Yvonne Matuturu, UNESCO representative in the Republic of Burundi

Representative from UNESCO thanked the Republic of Burundi for hosting the 2nd Meeting of the Forum for Ministers Responsible for Social Development. She appreciated the initiative by the five Partner States to set up this platform for dialogue in social development. She cited examples from other regions where social transformation has been institutionalized and encouraged the East African community to continue building on the work already accomplished in this area. She said the wish of UNESCO was to liaise MOST with the forum for three reasons mainly to provide a space for a regional dialogue at Ministerial level on regional strategies on social policy, facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices on national policies, and encourage the development of horizontal cooperation projects. Finally, the representative stated that UNESCO was open to more suggestion and proposals to the Community.

3.3. Remarks by Mr. Jean Claude Nsengiyumva, Deputy Secretary General Productive and Social Sectors, East African Community

Mr. Jean Claude Nsengiyumva welcomed all the delegates to the Republic of Burundi and thanked the Partner States to allow them to participate in the Forum. He also thanked UNESCO and UNICEF for the support they have given the Community in organizing the meeting of the First and Second Forum. He added this meeting was timely as it is taking place just before the signing of the Protocol on Common Market which covers critical areas in social development. Finally, he informed the meeting that the East African Community is going to celebrate its 10th Anniversary of existence.

3.4 Remarks by H. E. Yves Sahinguvu, 1st Vice President of the Republic of Burundi

In his opening remarks he welcomed the delegates to the 2nd Meeting of the Forum of Ministers responsible for Social development. He thanked all those who have contributed to the success of the Forum. He particularly thanked the EAC Secretariat and development Partners notably the representatives of UNICEF and UNESCO for having facilitated the organisation of this Forum. He was happy over the fact that since the accession of Burundi to the EAC on the first of July 2007, a lot of progress has been made among other things the entry into force of the Customs Union and the Common Market to be focused on by the next EAC Summit in November 2009. He also revisited the Kigali Forum for Ministers responsible for Social Development held in September 2008 in which the recommendations were focused on the four key thematic areas. He also stated that the regional framework will allow the Community to access the basic social services and to attain the MDGs.

4.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIES

4.1 Consolidated National Reports on Social Development

The Forum considered the consolidated national reports on social development. The meeting noted that the said Consolidated Reports were developed by the multi-sectoral working groups on social development in each Partner States.

The consolidated national reports contained salient issues as reflected in key priorities in the four thematic areas. The national consolidated reports and the report from the Secretariat are hereto attached as **Annex III**.

4.2 Status of implementation of the recommendations made by the First Meeting of Forum for Ministers Responsible for Social Development

The Forum considered the Report on the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the First Forum of Ministers Responsible for Social Development, which was presented by the EAC Secretariat. The Report is hereto attached as **Annex IV**.

Recommendation:

The Forum takes note of the Status of implementation of the recommendations made by the First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Social Development and urge Partner States to commit additional resources and to achieve all the recommendations of the First Forum of Ministers on Social Development.

4.3 Draft Strategic Plan on Gender, Youth, Children, Social Protection and Community Development

The Forum noted the Draft Strategic Plan on Gender, Youth, Children, Social Protection and Community Development presented by EAC Secretariat. Further, the meeting agreed that the Strategic Plan would be a resource document towards the development of a regional social development framework/strategy.

In addition, the representative of UNESCO expressed interest in establishing working relationship with the EAC Partner States in addressing the social development agenda by linking it with the UNESCO project that will assess the impact of global

economic and financial crisis on gender to be implemented from 2010-2011. The Strategic Plan is hereto attached as **Annex V**.

Recommendation:

The Forum takes note of the Draft Strategic plan on Gender, youth, children, social protection and Community development and recommend to the Council to direct the Secretariat to ensure that this draft is finalized by the next Forum.

4.4 The Impact of Global Financial/Economic Crisis on the social development in EAC Partner States

The Forum noted the presentation made by the consultant on the Global Financial/Economic Crisis on the social development in EAC Partner States. The presentation is hereto attached as **Annex VI**.

Recommendation:

The Forum takes note of the Presentation on the impact of global financial/economic crisis on the social development and urge Partner States to take necessary action to mitigate the negative impact of the global crisis and to develop appropriate measures to address the same.

4.5 Key priorities of cooperation and strategies of implementation from the National Reports

The Forum considered the report of key priorities of cooperation and strategies of implementing them. The report is hereto attached as **Annex VII**. Furthermore, the Forum decided to separate key priority areas from specific recommendations as reflected below.

4.5.1 Health and Social Services

The Forum:-

(a) Regional Cooperation on Health and Social Services

- i. Took note of the interlinkages between health and social development;
- ii. Urge the Council to direct the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with other multi-sectoral stakeholders to develop the **“EAC Regional Protocol on Cooperation on Health”** in accordance with the relevant provisions of the EAC Treaty;
- iii. Urge the EAC Partner States to establish **“health services Charters”** at national level;
- iv. Urge the EAC Partner States to develop and harmonise electronic early warning and rapid response systems for communicable disease outbreaks and fast-track the establishment of the proposed **“EAC Regional Integrated eHealth Information Management System”**;
- v. Urge the EAC Partner States to promote multi-sectoral collaboration in the implementation of sexual and reproductive health and rights projects and programmes at both national and regional levels in order to enhance the reduction of maternal, neonatal and infant mortality rates; and
- vi. Urge the EAC Partner States to integrate the regulation and practice of traditional, herbal, complimentary and alternative medicine under the national ministries responsible for health;
- vii. Urge the EAC Partner States to establish regional policy on traditional medicine and medicinal plants and practices.

(b) Health Research and evidence based policy formulation and practice

- i. Urge the EAC Partner States' National Ministries responsible for Social Development to support the attendance and participation of relevant national institutions and experts during all future Annual EAC Health and Scientific Conferences, starting with the 4th conference which is scheduled to take place in Kigali, Rwanda from 31st March 2010 to 2nd April 2010;
- ii. Urge the EAC Partner States to strengthen national and regional capacity on health research and information sharing and the utilization of the results

of health research in the formulation of evidence-based health policies and practices.

(c) EAC Regional Study on the Harmonization of National Social Health Insurance Systems and “Community-Based Social Health Insurance Schemes”

Urge the EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health to fast-track the EAC Regional Study on Harmonization of “**National Social Health Insurance Systems**” and to include the Terms of Reference (ToR) on recommendations and mechanisms for the establishment of “**Community-Based Social Health Insurance Schemes**” at national level, where feasible.

(d) Public Health and Sanitation, Safe Water Supply and Food Safety Programmes

- i. Urge the EAC Partner States to develop and harmonise public health and sanitation, safe water supply and food safety policies, human and animal nutrition policies, guidelines, standards, legal and regulatory framework at both national and regional levels.
- ii. Urge the EAC Partner States to strengthen and harmonise Advocacy and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) about appropriate human and animal nutrition habits and other food-related lifestyles at both national and regional levels in order to promote public health and quality of life and overall well being of the people of East Africa.
- iii. Urge the EAC
- iv. Partner States to dedicate and declare at least one day in a month for public participation in local community mass clean-up activities in order to promote public health and sanitation, safe water supply and food safety, environmental conservation, nutrition and human wellness based on the spirit of “**Community Day**”.

Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports

The Forum recommend to the Council to:-

- i. Direct the Secretariat to fast track the recommendations of the Study on Harmonization of the education system and training curricula after approval by Council;
- ii. Urge Partner States Ministries responsible for adult education to put in place policies which enhance functional adult literacy education;
- iii. Direct the Secretariat to put in place modalities leading to the formulation of regional policies and programmes which eliminate gender disparities in the education system;
- iv. Urge Partner States to put in place structures which promote the advancement of Kiswahili as a lingua franca by promoting the publication of Kiswahili literature, teaching, research and information documentation and dissemination;
- v. Urge EAC Secretariat to nominate and proclaim a day as the regional Kiswahili Culture Day; and
- vi. Direct the Secretariat to operationalise the Regional Cultural and Sports Policies as spelt out in the Protocol for the establishment of the EA Culture and Sports Commission and put in place modalities to establish common cultural and sports infrastructure.

4.5.2 Gender, Youth, Children, Social Protection and Community Development

The Forum recommends to the Council to:-

- i. Urge Partner States to ratify the African Youth Charter for Countries which have not done that.
- ii. Direct EAC Secretariat to adopt employment creation and productivity enhancement strategies for youth within the EAC social development framework.
- iii. Direct EAC Secretariat to highlight International Days on Gender, Youth, Children and community development and make statements on the occasion of those days.

- iv. Conduct regional campaigns against harmful cultural practices including Female Genital Mutilation, Gender Based Violence, HIV AIDs and drug abuse.
- v. Develop a regional Gender policy.
- vi. Identify regional and international markets for women and youth products.
- vii. Harmonize and mainstream Youth, Disabled, and Elderly and Children issues in development policies, strategies and plans.
- viii. Develop a regional youth policy.
- ix. Establish Regional Youth resource centres.
- x. Develop youth exchange programs, skills and entrepreneurship.
- xi. Establish and enhance EAC youth awards.
- xii. Conduct campaigns for prevention of HIV/AIDS, prostitution, drug abuse among youth, child labour and trafficking and all forms of violence against children.
- xiii. Establish and harmonize policies on Orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC's).
- xiv. Promote social protection for poor and vulnerable groups.
- xv. Harmonize regional social protection policies and systems.
- xvi. Encourage synergies among all actors and stakeholders to provide community centred services.
- xvii. Harmonize regional policies and strategies for food supply, nutrition, strategic food reserve, to counter disaster and enhancing social protection.
- xviii. Encourage Partner States to promote peace and set up clear programmes aimed at sensitizing refugees to return home or integrate in ordinary life according to Partner States laws.
- xix. Urge Partner States to establish national children Councils.

4.5.3 Environment and Natural Resources

The Forum recommends to the Council to:-

- i. Urge Partner States who have not ratified the EAC Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management to do so in order to operationalize the priorities contained in the protocol.
- ii. Raise awareness on the importance of environmental management to policy and decision makers.
- iii. Promote appropriate technologies for water production such as water harvesting, valley dams and valley tanks for provision of water in the water stressed areas in the region.
- iv. Develop and operationalise Disaster risks preparedness and management mechanism.
- v. Promote sustainable Management of trans-boundary resources.
- vi. Develop a regional policy on waste management and disposal.
- vii. Fast track the development of the EAC Climate Change Master Plan and promotion of use of alternative sources of energy as one of the mitigation measures to reduce Climate Change.
- viii. Strengthen mechanism/fora for planting of trees to increase on forest cover and generate income to the communities in the short and long term including tree planting campaigns.
- ix. Enhance Community involvement in environmental protection and conservation.
- x. Facilitate the establishment of regional environmental clubs to inculcate knowledge and responsibility on environmental conservation among the youth in partner states.
- xi. Urge EAC Secretariat to convene a Meeting of Ministers in charge of Environment and Natural Resources to discuss and review various environmental issues affecting community livelihoods.

4.6 To develop key priority areas of regional cooperation which will form the draft regional framework on social development.

The meeting considered key priority areas of regional cooperation which will form the basis of the regional framework of social development. The matrix of the identified priority areas of cooperation is as below:

4.6.1 Gender, Children, Youth, Social Protection and Community Development

- i. Conduct regional campaigns against harmful cultural practices including Female Genital Mutilation, Gender Based Violence, HIV AIDs and drug abuse.
- ii. Develop a regional Gender policy.
- iii. Identify regional and international markets for women and youth products.
- iv. Harmonize and mainstream Youth, Disability, Elderly and Children issues in development policies, strategies and plans.
- v. Develop a regional youth policy.
- vi. Establish Regional Youth resource centres.
- vii. Developing youth exchange programs, skills and entrepreneurship.
- viii. Establish and enhance EAC youth awards.
- ix. Conduct campaigns for prevention of HIV/AIDS, prostitution, drug abuse among youth, child labour and trafficking and all forms of violence against children.
- x. Establish and harmonize policies on Orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC's).
- xi. Promote social protection for poor and vulnerable groups.
- xii. Harmonize regional social protection policies and systems.
- xiii. Encourage synergies among all actors and stakeholders to provide community centered services.
- xiv. Harmonize regional policies and strategies for food supply, nutrition, and strategic food reserve, to counter disaster and enhancing social protection.

4.6.2 Health and Social Services

- i. Promote behavioral community change in Partner States on food habits, safe water, sanitation, nutrition and other life-styles affecting their health
- ii. Utilize research findings and ensuring availability of research information in health sector among Partner States
- iii. Harmonize training curricula for health schools (e.g. for medical and paramedical staff) and exchanging students and trainers in the region

- iv. Urge Partner States to establish and enhance Community Insurance Schemes and the EAC Secretariat to include the issue in the TOR of social insurance consultant undertaking the regional study
- v. Establishing/enhancing patients charter in partner states
- vi. Urge partner states to fast track establishment of electronic early warning systems and response for diseases outbreaks
- vii. Introduce a regional nutrition policy and setting nutrition standards in partner states
- viii. Urge Partner States to identify capacities in Public Health and report during the next forum
- ix. Promote transfer of patients and Exchange of skills in the region

4.6.3 Education, Science & technology, Culture and Sports

- i. Urge the Sectoral Council on Education to fast track implementation of harmonization of curricula and accreditation systems at all levels in partner states
- ii. Promote regional culture for Girl-Child education, education for people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups
- iii. Promote functional adult literacy education in Partner States
- iv. The forum recommends to the Sectoral Education Council to direct the Secretariat to conduct the study on education institutional charges in partner states
- v. Urge Partner States to commit adequate funds to ICT in education systems
- vi. Encourage the use of Kiswahili language as a lingua franca in accordance with the spirit of the EAC Treaty by promoting Kiswahili books and publications in partner states
- vii. Urge Partner States to promote culture and sports activities
- viii. Establish regional policy on traditional medicine and medicinal plant and practices
- ix. Urge the Partner States responsible for culture to promote and preserve community properties and historical sites

4.6.4 Environment and Natural Resources

- i. Urge Partner States who have not yet ratified the EAC protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management to do so in order to operationalize the priorities contained in the protocol
- ii. Urge the member states to strengthen mechanism/fora for planting of trees to increase on forest cover and also generate income to the communities in the short and long term
- iii. Set aside at least one day in a month for community clean-up exercises
- iv. Facilitate the establishment of regional environmental clubs to inculcate knowledge and responsibility on the environmental conservation among the youth in partner states
- v. Urge Partner States to promote use of alternative sources of energy so as to reduce dependency on charcoal, wood, etc
- vi. Establish and harmonize early warning mechanisms for preventing and managing disasters in partners States Urge Partner states to set aside a day for tree planting campaigns
- vii. Urge the Council to expedite the establishment of the Sectoral Council for Environment and Natural Resources
- viii. Urge EAC Secretariat to Fast track development of Climate Change Master Plan that will deal with adaptation and mitigation measures and safeguard communities from the effects of climate change in the region
- ix. Develop a regional policy on waste management and disposal
- x. Promote appropriate technologies for water production such as water harvesting, valley dams and valley tanks for provision of water in the water stressed areas in the region

4.6.5 Strategies for implementation

The Forum considered and adopted the strategies for implementation of the socio-development agenda as follows:-

- i. Partner States commit substantial and commensurate budget increase for social development programs

- ii. Harmonize the Institutional structures and policy frameworks by 2012
- iii. Establish national multi-sectoral technical committees comprising the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), the civil society and private sector to plan and devise practical ways of implementing social development programs
- iv. Establish a Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism with benchmarks
- v. Identify best practices/lessons that can be documented and shared among the partners states by 2010
- vi. Establish a regional standing think tank forum that will provide technical backing support to social planning, research and development
- vii. Establish a regional fund for disaster management and food security.

Recommendations:

The Forum recommends to the Council to:

- a) **adopt the key priority areas developed above.**
- b) **adopt the Strategies developed**
- c) **establish a Task Force comprising of five experts from each Partner States; two to be drawn from the thematic area of gender, children, youth, social protection and community development and one each from the other three thematic areas namely education, health, and environment and be facilitated by a technical team from the Secretariat to develop a regional social development agenda.**
- d) **direct the Secretariat to develop TORs for the proposed taskforce and circulate them to Partner States for inputs.**

4.7 Development of the matrix for the implementation status by the Partner States of the recommendations made by the First Forum of Ministers Responsible for Social Development.

The Forum considered the report of implementation status of the recommendations of the first Forum, which is hereto attached as **Annex VIII**.

Recommendation

The Forum takes note of the status of implementation of the previous decisions of the Forum and recomend to the Council to:

- a) urge Partner States to commit themselves to achieving all the recommendations.**

5.0 World Human Development Report

The Forum was informed about the status of performance of EAC Countries in the Human Development indicators and noted the level of performance and undterook to improve.

The Forum urges the Partner States to increase the pace of implementation of agreed Social Development agenda which forms a substantial part of the Human Development indices.

6.0 WAY FORWARD

The Third Forum will take place in Kenya in November 2010.

7.0 AOB

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed by the Heads of Delegation this 7th day of October, 2009.

..... Hon. Portais Mitali Minister Ministry of Youth Republic of Rwanda Hon. Dr. Lucy Sawere Nkya Minister Ministry of Community Dev, Gender & Children The United Republic of Tanzania Hon. Jean Jacques Nyenimigabo Minister Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture Republic of Burundi Hon. Prof. Hellen Sambili EGH, MP Minister Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Republic of Kenya Hon. Mwesigwa Rukutana Minister of State for Higher Education Ministry of Education and Sports Republic of Uganda
---	---	---	---	---