EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

COMMUNIQUÉ

MINI SUMMIT ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE EASTERN REGION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

23rd NOVEMBER, 2022

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

1. Following the Mini-Summit of Heads of State and Government held on November 23, 2022, in Luanda, Republic of Angola, the 20th Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community held on February 4th, 2023, in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi, and at the invitation of His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, Champion of the African Union for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa and designated Mediator to maintain dialogue between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Rwanda, and His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chair of the East African Community (EAC), a Mini-Summit on peace and security in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was held on February 17th, 2023, in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

2. Participating in the Mini-Summit were His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda; His Excellency Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of

the United Republic of Tanzania; His Excellency William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya; Her Excellency Jessica Rose Alupo Epel, Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda, representing His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda; and His Excellency Hussain Abdelbagi Akol, Vice-President of the Republic of South Sudan, representing His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan.

3. Also participating in the Summit as guests were Ambassador João Samuel Caholo, Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR); Mr. Peter Mathuki, Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC); Lieutenant General Nassone João, Commander of the Ad-Hoc Verification Mechanism; and Mr. Julius Mbati, Director of Political Affairs, representing General Jeff Nyangah, Commander of the Regional Force of the East African Community.

4. The main objective of the Addis Ababa Mini-Summit was to assess the level of implementation of decisions made during the Luanda Mini-Summit held on November 23rd, 2022, the high-level meeting held on December 12th, 2022, on the sidelines of the United States of America-Africa Summit in Washington DC from December 13th to 15th, 2022, and the 20th Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community held on February 4th, 2023, in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi. It aimed to decide on necessary corrections to ensure their full execution. It also aimed to harmonize and establish regular coordination of the Luanda and Nairobi processes.

5. The Heads of State commended the reports presented by the Commander of the Ad-Hoc Verification Mechanism and the Representative of the Commander of the Regional Force of the East African Community.

6. The Mini-Summit reiterated the need to implement the Joint Plan for the Resolution of the Security Crisis in the Eastern Region of the DRC as the primary instrument for de-escalating tensions and normalizing politico-diplomatic relations between the DRC and Rwanda. It emphasized the following:

a. The cessation of hostilities in general, and in particular, the attacks by the M23 against the FARDC and MONUSCO, in compliance with the dates established by the meeting of Chiefs of Defense Staff of the EAC held in Nairobi on February 9th, 2023, with consequences in case of non-compliance.

b. The full deployment of the EAC Regional Force and rapid implementation of its mandate in accordance with decisions from various Mini-Summits.

c. The cantonment and disarmament of the M23 on Congolese territory under the control of Congolese authorities, the Regional Force, and the Ad-Hoc Verification Mechanism, with the collaboration of MONUSCO.

d. The return of displaced persons to their regions of origin.

e. The repatriation of Congolese refugees in Rwanda as mentioned in the Luanda Roadmap.

f. Discouraging the proliferation of initiatives in this matter and prioritizing the swift resumption and implementation of the Joint Plan for the Resolution of the Security Crisis in the Eastern Region of the DRC, resulting from the harmonization of the Luanda and Nairobi Processes, and encouraging international partners to provide financial support for these efforts.

7. The Heads of State and Government mandated His Excellency Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, Facilitator designated by the EAC and the Republic of Angola, to contact the M23 command to convey the decisions of the Addis Ababa Mini-Summit.

8. The Heads of State and Government committed to establishing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the implementation of the ceasefire and the disengagement/withdrawal of the M23 in the shortest possible time, under the

coordination of His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, and current Chair of the EAC.

9. The Heads of State and Government recommended expediting the implementation of the ongoing Disarmament, Demobilization, Community Reintegration, and Stabilization (DDR-CS) program in the DRC.

10. Finally, the Heads of State and Government reiterated the need to promote political and diplomatic dialogue to find a lasting solution to the security crisis in the entire eastern region of the DRC.

Done in Addis Ababa on February 17th, 2023.