EAC WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

DEEPENING INTEGRATION, WIDENING COOPERATION

28TH JANUARY, 2023

Latest from the Office of the Secretary General

- EAC officially launches the Verification Mission to assess Somalia's readiness to join the Community.
- How It Works -Federal Republic of Somalia's verification process
- Pictorial

EAC OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES THE VERIFICATION MISSION TO ASSESS SOMALIA'S READINESS TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY

(L-R) The Council to the Community, Dr. Anthony Kafumbe, the Chairperson of the Verification Mission, Mrs. Tiri Marie Rose, Somalia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Abshir Omar, and the Special Envoy of the President of Somalia to EAC, H.E. Abdulsalam Omer, in Mogadishu, Somalia.

The East African Community (EAC) today officially launched the verification mission to assess the Federal Republic of Somalia's readiness to join the Community.

The verification team comprising of experts from the EAC Partner States shall be in Somalia from 25th January to 3rd February, 2023, to establish the country's level of conformity with the criteria for admitting foreign countries as provided in the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC.

Speaking during the official launch, EAC Secretary General Hon (Dr.) Peter Mathuki disclosed that the technical team in Mogadishu will engage Somalia to ensure that the verification was finalized and a report completed in time in readiness for presentation to the EAC Council of Ministers who will table it for consideration by the 23rd Summit of EAC Heads of State scheduled for the end of February 2023.

"The verification team is set to make findings relating to the institutional frameworks in place; legal frameworks; policies, strategies, projects and programmes; areas of Cooperation with other EAC Partner States and expectations from membership," he said.

The Secretary General further said that the team will assess Somalia's development strategies and plans in key areas of collaboration including infrastructure, energy, education and science, peace and security, and international cooperation.

"Somalia has the longest national coastline of over 3,000 kms in Africa, linking Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, which the region will tap into to increase intra-regional trade," he added.
The team will also review the status of Somalia in international law and establish the country's readiness to join the EAC Customs Union, Common Market Protocol, Monetary Union and ongoing political confederation Constitutional Framework.

Somalia shares borders with one EAC Partner State, namely Kenya, and has strong historical, linguistic, economic and socio-cultural links with all the EAC Partner States.

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Somalia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hon. Abshir Omar expressed enthusiasm for the team set to assess Somalia's readiness to join the bloc, saying that Somalia will benefit greatly because of the free movement of people from Somalia and other countries without a visa, if they are fully in the EAC.

"Somalis are already present in the East African region. The Somalis started integrating with their brothers and sisters of the region way before the request of formalizing the decision of joining the EAC," he said.

Further, H.E. Abdulsalam Omer, the Special Envoy of the President of Somalia to EAC, reaffirmed H.E. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's appeal calling on EAC to expedite the process of admission, so that Somalia can be the 8th member of the EAC.

"Somalia will benefit significantly through the increased movement of goods, services and people across the bloc in addition to expanding intra-regional trade. Further, the exploitation of Somalia's blue economy resources such as fish will boost the regional economy," he said.

The EAC verification mission is being chaired by Mrs. Tiri Marie Rose from the Republic of Burundi.

The Federal Republic of Somalia made its application to join the EAC in 2012. Since its application, the matter has been pending due to various reasons.

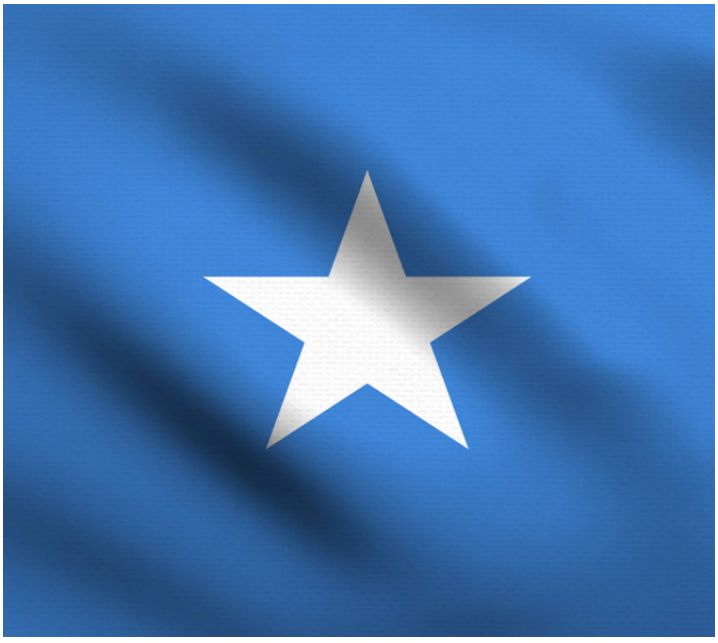
The 22nd Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State observed that the Verification Exercise for the Admission of Somalia into EAC had not been undertaken and directed the Council to fast-track the verification exercise in accordance with the EAC Procedures for admission of New Members into the EAC and report to the subsequent Summit meeting.

Under the Treaty, the Criteria for the admission of new countries into the Community include: the acceptance of the Community as set out in the EAC Treaty;

Further, adherence to universally acceptable principles of good governance, democracy, the rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice; potential contribution to the strengthening of integration within the East African region.

The geographical proximity to and inter-dependence between it (the foreign country) and the EAC Partner States also is looked at. Further, the establishment and maintenance of a market-driven economy; and; social and economic policies being compatible with those of the Community is key.

HOW IT WORKS -SOMALIA'S VERIFICATION PROCESS



The verification exercise's key objective is to assess the Federal Republic of Somalia's readiness to join the Community.

The verification team seeks to make findings relating to;

- Institutional Frameworks in place;
- Legal Frameworks;
- Policies, Strategies, Projects and Programmes;
- Areas of Cooperation with other EAC Partner States
- Expectations from membership;
- Challenges the country is facing.

Further, the team will also review the status of Somalia in international law and establish the country's readiness to join the EAC Customs Union, Common Market Protocol, Monetary Union and ongoing political confederation Constitutional Framework.

The mission is coordinated by the office of the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, in collaboration with other Government Ministries.

The Verification Team in consultation with Somalia President's Office developed a Work Programme that identified ministries, institutions, and private and civil society organizations for engagement during the verification exercise.

In order to effectively undertake the verification task, the ministries, institutions and other organizations are grouped into three clusters namely; Political, Legal and Institutional Affairs; Infrastructure, Infrastructure, Productive and Social Sectors; and Economic Affairs and Trade.

PICTORIAL

Federal Republic of Somalia's Government officials and EAC technical experts in Mogadishu, Somalia for the verification mission.

The United Kingdom High Commissioner to Tanzania and the EAC, H.E. David Concar held a meeting with EAC Secretary General Dr.Peter Mathuki. Discussions centred on areas of collaboration i.e peace &trade.

(L) Military Advisor to the EAC SG on the peace process in Eastern DRC, Major Gen. Ally Mzee Katimbe and EAC Secretary Secretary. (R) The World Bank team led by Ms. Cecilia Guilford, paid a courtesy call on EAC SG while on a pre-approval mission of the Eastern Africa regional digital integration project.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- Somalia's bid to join EAC now enters verification stage
- Uganda in new wave of re-nationalisation
- AfDB and partners mobilise $30 billion for African farmers
- Tanzania police allay fears of possible terror attacks in Dar
- Rebels take east DR Congo town, army claims tactical retreat
- ILO urges East African countries to harmonise labour laws
- Kenya eyes more regional trade after pact with two blocs
- IMF boss in Kigali to discuss climate change financing for EA
- Uganda starts first oil drilling, eyes output in 2025
- Cost of living to hit African nations harder than rich ones
- Burundi to benefit from AfDB support
- South Sudan revives law-making process
- AfDB and partners mobilise $30 billion for African farmers

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Induction of New Members of the EALA 5th Assembly (30t January- 3rd February 2023.)
- Launch of the Nyerere Centre- 6th February 2023

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

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