15TH APRIL, 2025

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

HIGHLIGHTS

DEEPENING INTEGRATION, WIDENING COOPERATION

EAC COMMEMORATES THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN ARUSHA,TANZANIA

The East African Community (EAC), in solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Rwanda, commemorated the 31st Anniversary of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi on 7th April, 2025.

This annual commemoration served as a solemn reminder of the atrocities committed in Rwanda from April to July 1994 and reinforced the collective responsibility of the international community to combat genocide and its ideologies.

In 2014, the United Nations and the African Union designated 7th April as a day of remembrance for the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. The EAC stood united with the Republic of Rwanda and the international community to honour the victims and promote a culture of tolerance and peaceful co-existence across the East African region.

The EAC hosted several activities, including a Walk to Remember, Lighting the Flame of Hope, and laying a wreath of flowers at the Monument for the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi at the EAC Headquarters.

ON THE SPOTLIGHT

Statement of the EAC Secretary General on the Occasion of Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

Regional Agri-Food Workshop Emphasizes Youth Involvement

Building the Future: dSkills@EA Legacy Powers East Africa's Digital Growth

EAC launches innovative Data Governance Training Programme for Judges

STATEMENT OF THE EAC SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE OCCASION OF COMMEMORATION OF THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN RWANDA

31 years ago, the people of Rwanda and the world witnessed one of the most horrific scenes of violence and crimes against humanity of the 20th century. In just 100 days, over one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by Hutu extremists organized and funded by an extremist government.
This occasion marks a solemn tribute to those who lost their lives during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and expresses solidarity with the survivors who have borne the burden of this tragedy for three decades.

We salute the resilience of the children who were orphaned, the parents who were rendered childless, the women and girls who were raped and left to bear children of their tormentors and all those with invisible scars.

Despite enduring deep pain and trauma, they have chosen to forgive and reconcile. They are the epitome of hope, renewal and inspiration for us all to recommit to, “Never Again to Genocide”.

The East African Community (EAC), of which Rwanda is a member, recognizes genocide prevention as a collective obligation. Article 5 of the Protocol on Peace and Security provides for cooperation in the prevention of genocide within the Community. Through Goal 17 of the Strategy on Regional Peace and Security, Partner States commit to organizing commemoration ceremonies for genocide victims at the regional level.

In line with this commitment, the EAC Heads of State Summit established a Genocide Monument at the EAC Headquarters in 2014, to honour the victims and reinforce our obligation to prevent future atrocities.

STATEMENT OF THE EAC SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE OCCASION OF COMMEMORATION OF THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN RWANDA

For over a decade, the EAC Secretariat has worked in partnership with the Rwanda High Commission, the UN Residual Mechanism for International Tribunals, during the walk to remember to commemorate the Genocide against the Tutsi.

The EAC Secretariat remains steadfast in its commitment to uphold this annual commemoration and other related initiatives at national, regional, and international levels aimed at preventing genocide.

As we commemorate, it is vital to recognize that the warning signs that preceded the 1994 Genocide; hate speech, incitement, ethnic profiling, disinformation, and dehumanization, still exist in parts of the region today. In the digital age, these threats are amplified by social media and other mass communication tools, compounded by challenges such as youth unemployment, governance gaps, and the proliferation of small arms.

As former UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng once stated, “We must accept that there is no part of the world that can consider itself immune from the risk of genocide.” All nations must build resilience against such crimes.

Genocide is not spontaneous; it is a process. Prof. Gregory H. Stanton outlined eight stages: classification, symbolization, dehumanization, organization, polarization, preparation, extermination, and denial. He notes that the first stages precede later stages but continue to operate throughout the genocidal process and can be countered with timely, strategic interventions.

The EAC has established an early warning centre at its headquarters and national centres in several Partner States, with plans to extend coverage to all. These centres support the anticipation and management of conflicts through systematic data collection and analysis.

The EAC has mainstreamed genocide prevention into early warning indicators to ensure timely detection and response. Timely action is critical. History shows that warnings about the genocide in Rwanda were ignored. To prevent similar tragedies, stronger coordination between national and regional actors is essential, including efforts to ensure justice for victims and survivors.

The EAC calls upon Partner States to establish a joint mechanism for genocide prevention and pursue appropriate actions against perpetrators, in accordance with Article 5(2)(b) of the EAC Protocol on Peace and Security.

REGIONAL AGRI-FOOD WORKSHOP EMPHASIZES YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

As the region confronts pressing challenges such as food insecurity, climate change, and economic disparities, the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat in collaboration with the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) convened the Regional Joint Agricultural Sector Review (JSR) workshop to assess the performance and results of the agriculture sector across East Africa in Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

The objective of the JSR was to provide state and non-state stakeholders to evaluate their implementation and commitments as outlined in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) compacts, National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs), Regional Agriculture Investment Plans (RAIPs), and other related cooperation agreements.

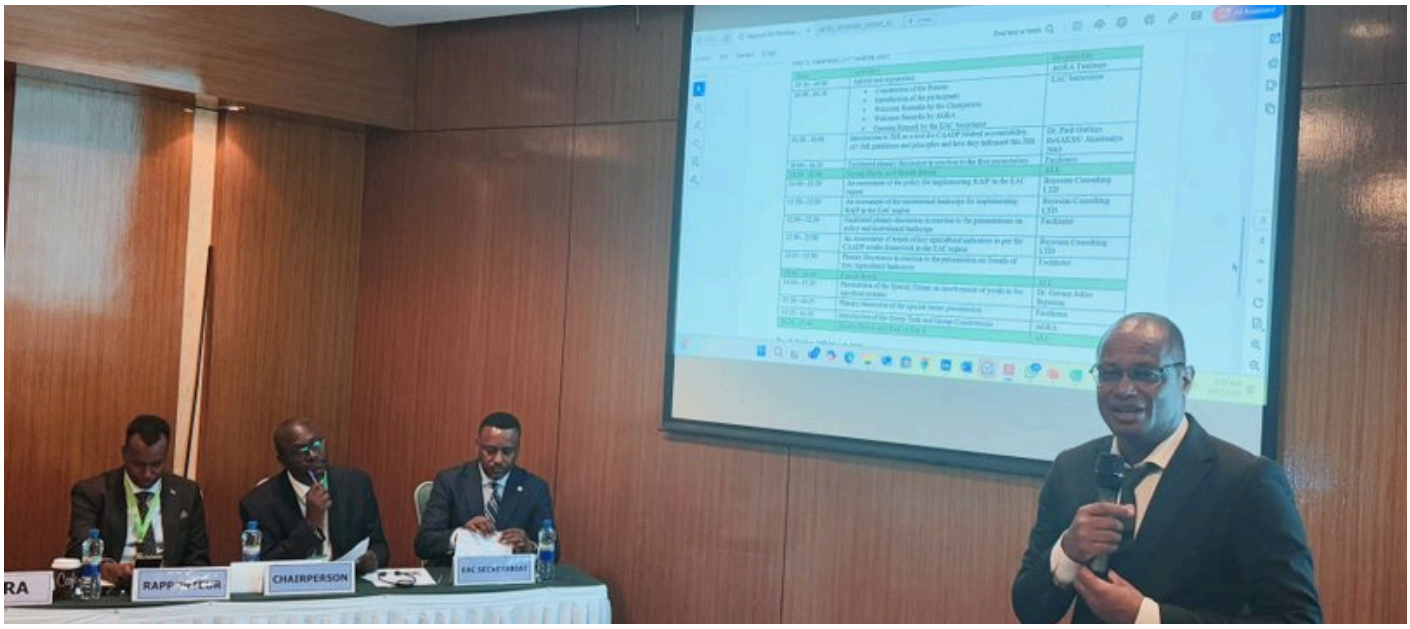
As the continent's population continues to grow, harnessing the potential of young people in agriculture becomes imperative for achieving sustainable food security and economic development.

The workshop further assessed the performance and results of the agricultural sector and in turn assisted governments/regional economic communities in setting sector policy and programmatic priorities. Specifically, it assessed how well state and non-state stakeholders implemented pledges and commitments stipulated in the CAADP compacts.

Speaking during the opening session of the workshop, the Director of Productive Sectors at the EAC Secretariat, Mr. Jean Baptiste Havugimana, emphasised the importance of collaboration and accountability in achieving agricultural transformation.

Mr. Havugimana, who spoke on behalf of the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Infrastructure, Productive, Social, and Political Sectors, Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, said that one of the goals of the workshop was to identify actionable strategies that could empower young people to take on leadership roles within the sector, ensuring that they were not just beneficiaries but key players in shaping the future of agriculture in the region.

REGIONAL AGRI-FOOD WORKSHOP EMPHASIZES YOUTH INVOLVEMENT



On his part, Professor Jean Jacques Mbonigaba Muhinda, the Regional Head for East Africa at AGRA, said that the challenges facing the agricultural sector in the region required collaborative action.

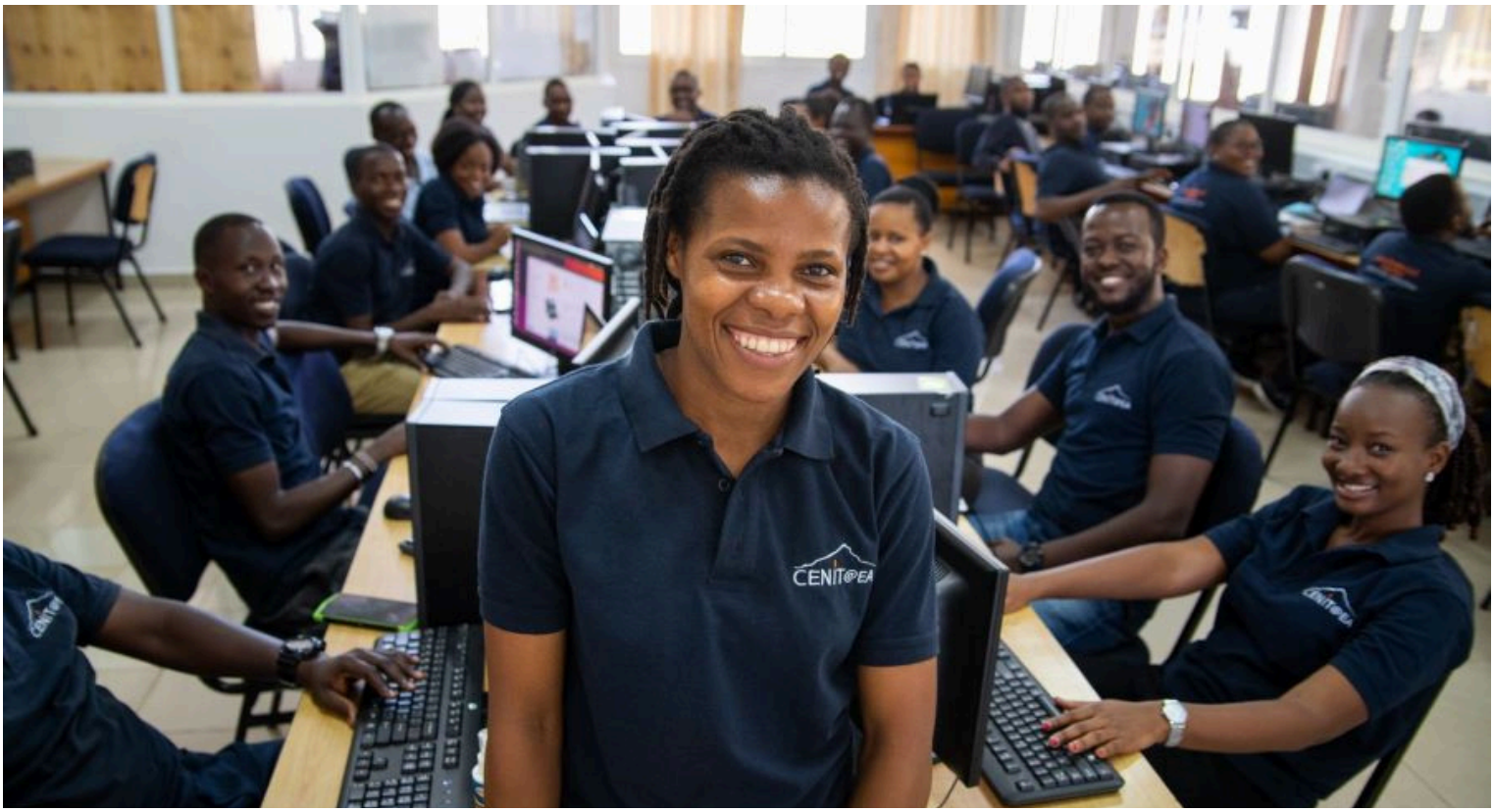
“The JSR workshop was an invaluable opportunity to assess our progress and strengthen our partnerships. We were all stakeholders in this journey, and by aligning our resources and efforts, we could achieve significant advancements in productivity and sustainability. Together, we could ensure that agriculture not only supported our economies but also secured the food needs of our populations for generations to come,” said Prof. Muhinda.

Throughout the duration of the workshop, participants engaged in a series of discussions and interactive sessions designed to foster a collaborative environment.

Participants also evaluated progress against established benchmarks, shared successful interventions, and identified new opportunities for investment and innovation in the agricultural sector.

The outcomes of the workshop contributed significantly to setting informed sector policies and programmatic priorities, reinforcing the EAC's commitment to fostering a vibrant agricultural landscape that was inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of all stakeholders.

BUILDING THE FUTURE: DSKILLS@EA LEGACY POWERS EAST AFRICA'S DIGITAL GROWTH



The Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry (dSkills@EA) project officially concluded on 31st March 2025, after three years of impactful work. It was implemented by the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and GIZ, with support from the German Government.

Key Achievements:

- Over 4,000 young East Africans were trained in digital skills.
- The project engaged 300+ private sector partners and 100 universities across the region.
- It strengthened entrepreneurship, provided short-term digital training, and enhanced the MSc program in Embedded and Mobile Systems at CENIT@EA (NM-AIST).
- 164 master's students enrolled, with 124 receiving full scholarships, and an impressive 90% employment rate post-graduation.
- 20% of graduates are now teaching in universities, sharing their knowledge further.

Looking Ahead – EAC AI Regional Alliance:

Building on the success of dSkills@EA, the newly launched EAC AI Regional Alliance aims to:

- Promote AI research and innovation.
- Integrate AI into higher education.
- Develop a regional AI strategy.
- Strengthen academia-industry partnerships.

About the Project:

- dSkills@EA was designed to enhance digital skills for employment and innovation among youth in East Africa. It improved academic offerings, supported startups, and fostered collaboration across universities, innovation hubs, and industry.

EAC LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE DATA GOVERNANCE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR JUDGES

The East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat launched a pioneering Data Governance Training Programme for judicial officers, marking a significant effort to build legal capacity in the digital age.

The programme addressed critical challenges in the region, including fragmented legal frameworks, data security risks, and gaps in judicial capacity, while supporting the implementation of the EAC Data Governance Policy Framework, which had been validated in October 2024.

Hon. Justice Nestor Kayobera, EACJ President, underlined the judiciary's responsibility to balance digital innovation with the protection of fundamental rights:

"Courts needed to be prepared to lead in digital legal adjudication, ensuring a secure and rights-based digital economy."

Key Objectives of the Programme:

- Building judicial expertise in data governance, privacy, and cross-border data flow issues.
- Aligning legal rulings with regional and international standards.
- Supporting regional integration through harmonized data regulation.
- Strengthening trust in East Africa's digital economy and boosting investor confidence.

The training also provided valuable feedback to policymakers, helping to refine the proposed EAC Data Protection and Privacy Act based on real-world legal challenges. By enhancing judicial competence, the programme ensured East African courts were prepared to lead the region confidently into the digital era.

PICTORIALS

The EAC Secretary General Hon. Veronica Nduva led a Walk to Remember in Arusha, Tanzania, to commemorate the victims of the Genocide Against the Tutsi. The event brought together the UN Residual Mechanism for International Tribunal, the Rwandan Community in Arusha, local authorities, and students offering a time for reflection and unity.

On the sidelines of the Global AI Summit on Africa in Kigali, Rwanda, H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, held a meeting with Hon. Veronica Nduva, Secretary General of the East African Community. They discussed the current status of the region.

TOP REGIONAL NEWS

- **EAC must act now: Joint efforts imperative for genocide prevention, justice for victims**

  The EAC calls upon Partner States to establish a joint mechanism for genocide prevention and pursue appropriate actions against perpetrators, in accordance with Article 5(2)(b) of the EAC Protocol on Peace and Security.The EAC has mainstreamed genocide prevention into early warning indicators to ensure timely detection and response. Timely action is critical. MORE

- **Togo accepts AU mediator role in DR Congo conflict**

  Togo's leader has accepted a role as the African Union's mediator in the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the Togolese foreign ministry said Sunday. President Faure Gnassingbe will take over from Angolan President Joao Lourenco, who last month relinquished the role he was appointed to in 2022.Togolese Foreign Minister Robert Dussey shared an AU statement saying Gnassingbe had been appointed as the Mediator for the AU engagement between DRC and Rwanda in the context of protracted insecurity in the Eastern part of the DRC".MORE

- **AU mission vows to intensify security in Somalia**

  The African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) on Saturday pledged to work closely with the Somali government to strengthen stabilisation efforts."We must continue to strengthen SNA by providing the necessary equipment and resources needed to sustain operations against illegal forces," Bam said in a statement. MORE

- **Tanzania set to stop importing explosives as local factory commences production**

  Tanzania is on track to end the importation of explosives and detonators following the commissioning of a major local manufacturing plant in Kisarawe District, Coast Region. Each year, the country imports an estimated 10 million detonators and 26,000 tonnes of explosives to support its growing mining sector. MORE

- **Djibouti's foreign minister elected to top African Union post**

  Mahmoud Ali Youssouf was elected head of the AU's executive commission to replace the outgoing Moussa Faki from Chad. Youssouf is the first person from the East Africa region to lead the AU Commission, or AUC. Djibouti's foreign minister since 2005, there are few who can match Youssouf's experience. MORE

GLOBAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- **US considers funding cut for central Africa over forex**

  The US Congress is examining a law that would withhold American backing for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) support to the central African region until the six-member bloc effects "proper reporting" on forex reserves. If passed, the proposed law will compel the Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States (Cemac) make accurate foreign reserve disclosures or risk losing IMF support. MORE

- **Gabon votes in first presidential election since the 2023 coup**

  Brice Oligui Nguema, who led a coup in Gabon in August 2023, won Saturday's presidential election with 90.35% of votes cast, according to provisional results, the Central African country's interior minister said on Sunday.
  The result cements Nguema's grip on power 19 months after the coup ended more than half a century of rule by the Bongo family in Gabon, an oil producer with a population of around 2.5 million. MORE

- **Tariffs on imported semiconductor chips coming soon, Trump says**

  U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday said he would be announcing the tariff rate on imported semiconductors over the next week, adding that there would be flexibility with some companies in the sector. The president's pledge means that the exclusion of smartphones and computers from his reciprocal tariffs on China likely will be short-lived as Trump looks to reset trade in the semiconductor sector. MORE

- **Oil rises on rebound in China's imports, but trade war concerns persist**

  Oil prices edged up on Monday after Chinese data showed a sharp rebound in crude imports in March, although concerns that the escalating trade war between the United States and China would weaken global economic growth and dent fuel demand weighed.China's crude oil imports in March rebounded sharply from the previous two months and were up nearly 5% from a year earlier. MORE

- **European tech stocks higher after tariff exemptions**

  Shares in European tech stocks rose on Monday after U.S. granted exclusions from tariffs on smartphones, computers and some other electronics imported largely from China. European semiconductor names were up as well, with gains strongest for those most exposed to the U.S. market, like ASM International. MORE

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAC Close, Afrika Mashariki Road
P.O. Box 1096, Arusha
United Republic of Tanzania
Tel: +255 (0)27 216 2100
Email: eac@eachq.org
www.eac.int

©Copyright 2025 EAC. All rights reserved