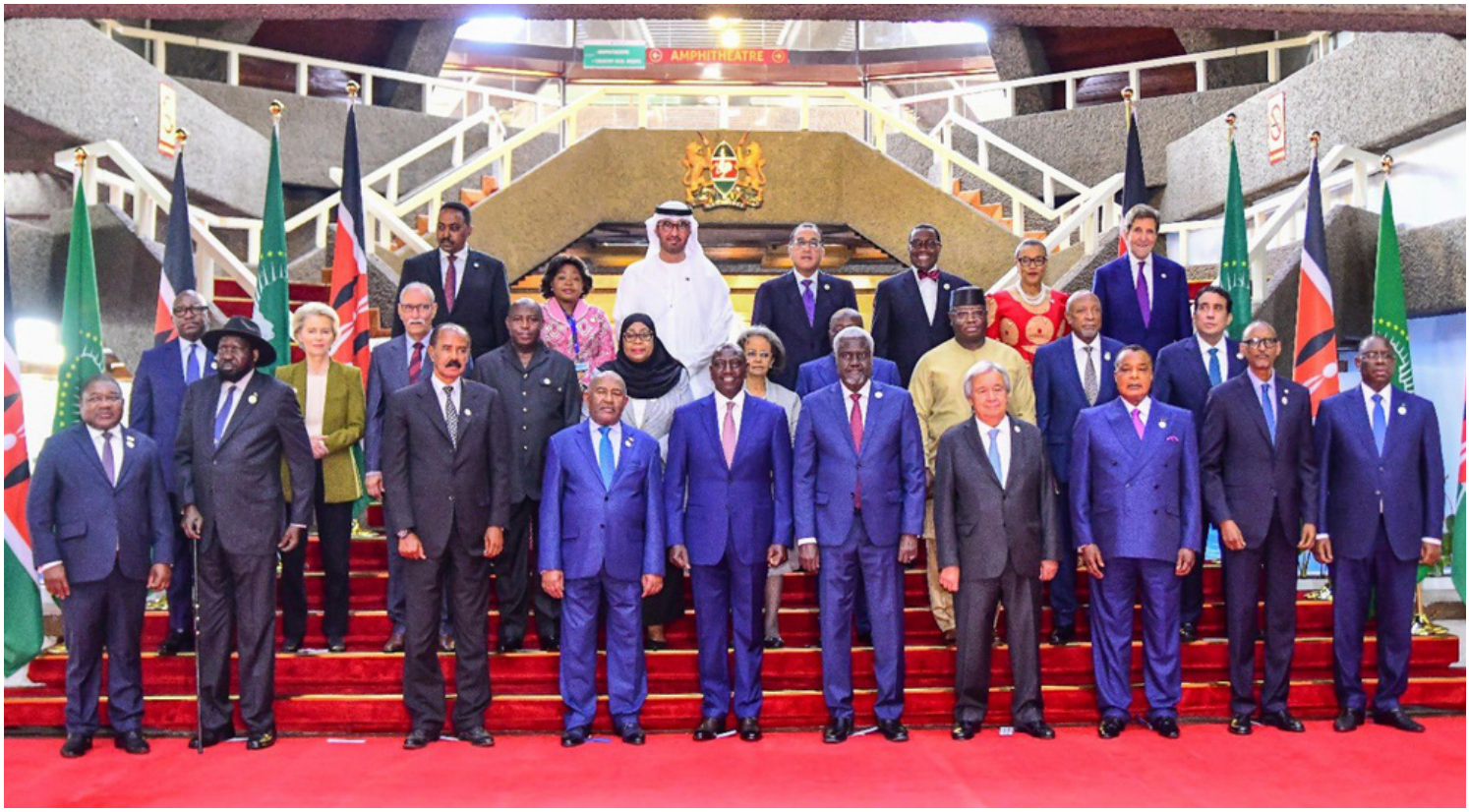
# EAC WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

**DEEPENING INTEGRATION, WIDENING COOPERATION**

**11th September, 2023**




## Latest from the Office of the Secretary General

- Nairobi hosts inaugural Africa Climate Summit 2023
- Communiqué of the 22nd Extra-Ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State
- EAC & IOM to enhance collaboration in migration and labour
- EAC lauds the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania for waiving visa requirements for citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo
- EAC Partner States called upon to establish strategic partnerships and collaboration in developing "The Internet We Want"
- Tanzania hosts Africa's Food System Forum 2023

# NAIROBI HOSTS INAUGURAL AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2023

EAC Secretary General, Hon. (Dr) Peter Mathuki joined other African leaders in Nairobi, Kenya for the African Climate Summit 2023.

The inaugural Africa Climate Summit, championed by President William Ruto, aims to address the increasing exposure to climate change and its associated costs, both globally and particularly in Africa.

# COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 22ND EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE

**1.** THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE, THEIR EXCELLENCIES EVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI; SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN; DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA; PAUL KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA; SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA; HON. JEAN MICHEL SAMA LUKONDE, PRIME MINISTER, REPRESENTING H.E FELIX TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO; RT. HON. REBECCA ALITWALA KADAGA, 1ST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, REPRESENTING H.E YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA; HELD THE 22ND EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE ON 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 IN NAIROBI IN THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA. THE HEADS OF STATE, MET IN A CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

**2.** THE HEADS OF STATE:

I.TOOK NOTE OF THE OPERATIONAL MILESTONES ACHIEVED BY THE EAC REGIONAL FORCE TOWARDS RESTORATION OF SECURITY IN THE EASTERN DRC, PURSUANT TO PREVIOUS DIRECTIVES OF THE SUMMIT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS.

II. NOTED THAT THE CURRENT MANDATE IN THE EACRF WILL BE EXPIRING ON 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2023.

III. TOOK NOTE WITH APPRECIATION OF THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION BY THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION OF USD 2 MILLION TOWARDS EACRF

**3.** THE HEADS OF STATE AGREED TO EXTEND THE DURATION OF THE MANDATE OF THE EACRF AND THE STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS, AS FROM 9TH SEPTEMBER TO 8TH DECEMBER, 2023 PENDING AN EVALUATION REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL ON MINISTERS.

**4.** THE HEADS OF STATE, WHILE APPLAUDING H.E PRESIDENT FELIX TSHISEKEDI FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO RESTORATION OF PEACE IN EASTERN DRC, THANK H.E EVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT OF EAC HEADS OF STATE FOR HIS CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT AND COMMITMENT TOWARDS SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO IN THEIR PURSUIT FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND SECURITY.

**5.** THE HEADS OF STATE THANKS PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL HOSPITALITY ACCORDED TO THEM AND THEIR DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAY IN NAIROBI.

**DONE IN NAIROBI, ON THIS 5TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023**

# EAC & IOM TO ENHANCE COLLABORATION IN MIGRATION AND LABOUR

The EAC Secretary Geenral, Hon. (Dr) Peter Mathuki engaged with UN ION Director General-elect Ms. Amy Pope on collaboration in Migration and Labour, taking into account that migration and diaspora provide immense opportunities for investment and innovation that need to be tapped.

the Director General-elect expressed commitment by IOM to continue collaborating with the EAC in the area of Migration. They observed that migration is nowadays driven by the vagaries of nature related to climate change such as droughts and floods. In this connection, IOM is keen on working with partners to enhance prediction of weather patterns and consequently develop appropriate response mechanisms.

# EAC LAUDS THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA FOR WAIVING VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR CITIZENS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The East African Community (EAC) has hailed the decision by the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania to waive the requirements of obtaining visas to their territories for the citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) effective 25th August and 1st September, 2023 respectively.

DRC has subsequently lifted visa restrictions for Kenyan nationals effective 1st September, 2023 in a reciprocation of the move by Kenya to waive visa requirements for DRC nationals.

The EAC Secretary General, Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, said that allowing DRC citizens to travel freely to Kenya and Tanzania and vice versa was in line with the provisions of the EAC Common Market Protocol, which among other freedoms and rights, provides for the free movement of persons and workers across the region.

Dr. Mathuki said that the waiver of the visa requirements was a demonstration of political goodwill among the Partner States in promoting regional integration, adding that it would boost intra-regional trade and the welfare of EAC citizens.

“In addition to improving intra-regional trade, free movement of persons will promote the free movement of goods, labour, cultural exchange and domestic tourism in East and Central Africa,” said Dr. Mathuki, as he urged other Partner States to follow suit in the spirit of reciprocity.

“This is a positive step towards consolidating the gains made in implementing the EAC Common Market Protocol and other stages in the integration process. It is set to expand trade and investment opportunities, and scale up socio-economic growth across the bloc,” he said.

Article 10 of the EAC Common Market Protocol states that citizens of EAC Partner States are at liberty to accept employment within the territories of Partner States other than their own.

“We call on other Partner States that have not yet waived visa requirements for DRC citizens to expedite the negotiations with the bloc’s newest member in line with the provisions of the Common Market Protocol on the free movement of persons and workers,” said the Secretary General.

Article 7 of the EAC Common Market Protocol stipulates that ‘EAC Partner States shall ensure non-discrimination of the citizens of the other Partner States based on their nationalities by ensuring entry of citizens of the other Partner States into the territory of the Partner State without a visa and free movement of persons who are citizens of the other Partner States within the territory of the Partner State.’

It further outlines that ‘EAC citizens are allowed to stay in the territory of a Partner State and exit without restrictions.’

The lifting of the visa restrictions is in line with a directive by President William Ruto on 29th July, 2023 in Mombasa that Kenya would remove DRC from Category 2 to Category 1 of visa regulations.

# EAC PARTNER STATES CALLED UPON TO ESTABLISH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION IN DEVELOPING "THE INTERNET WE WANT"

The 10th Edition of the East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EA-IGF) has challenged ICT experts and stakeholders to unleash the potential of every individual by facilitating affordable access to the Internet.

Speaking during the Forum, the Minister of State in Charge of East African Community, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Rwanda, Hon. Prof. Nshuti Manasseh reiterated the importance of the Internet Governance Forum for the region.

“Developments in the region can only be driven by digital frameworks and platforms, and they must not exclude anyone, and it is only through such discussion that we are able to establish our unified position as a region,” said Prof. Manasseh. “As the continent we have missed many revolutions, we can not afford to miss the digital revolution,” he added.

The Minister called upon all stakeholders at the forum to ensure that the decisions and resolutions arrived at were implemented to ensure universal connectivity of an internet is affordable and accessible by all.

“The internet is a necessity and no longer a luxury, no one must be left behind,” concluded the Minister. **Read More**

# TANZANIA HOSTS AFRICA'S FOOD SYSTEM FORUM 2023

Africa Food Systems 2023 Summit was hosted by H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the AGRF Partner's Group, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 5th to 8th September.

The 2023 Summit theme was Recover, Regenerate, Act: Africa's Solutions to Food Systems Transformation. The 2023 theme was anchored around building back better Food Systems with youth and women at the center. The Summit public and private sector attendees actively engaged in dialogues and re-energized commitment in the food systems conversation with a focus on regeneration as a means of wealth creation for the continent.

# TOP REGIONAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

## EA economies hit by fresh round of fuel price hikes as global crude supply shrinks

East African economies are going through a fresh spike in fuel prices after Saudi Arabia and Russia agreed to extend by three months the removal of 1.3 million barrels of crude per day from the global market in a move that has seen crude price jump by 18 percent to $90 per barrel, the highest since November. MORE

## Reality check on DRC with EACRF getting extension amid protests

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is facing a dilemma on how to secure the country's troubled east by tapping on the support of neighbours still viewed with suspicions by local civilians. This week, the East African Community, to which the DRC belongs, extended the mandate of the East African Community Regional Forces (EACRF) by three months to December. MORE

## Tanzania, Kenya waiver of DRC visa to boost ties

East African Community secretary general Peter Mathuki has lauded the move by Tanzania and Kenya to waive visa requirements for DR Congo nationals, saying it will cement integration of the regional bloc. MORE

## Tough conditions, lack of finances hurting EAC's small traders– lobby

Lack of access to information on trade regulations, violence and harassment and lack of access to finance are hurting women and youth-led businesses in East African Community's cross-border trade. This is according to the East African Women in Business Platform (EAWiBP). Women cross-border traders also often face discrimination at the borders where they have high chances of being harassed by border officials, especially when they travel alone, with cases where they are charged higher fees than men. MORE

## EAC countries urged to support ICT in stimulating digital economy

A statement issued late Wednesday by the EAC said the call was made during the 10th edition of the East Africa Internet Governance Forum held in the Rwandan capital of Kigali. The statement said the forum urged the EAC member states of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda to take proactive steps toward ensuring that the internet continues to be a force for positive change in the region. MORE

## China's surveillance system promising to end malaria in EA

China used the 1-3-7 strategy, which helped them eliminate malaria in 10 years. In areas at high risk of malaria transmission, a combination of intensified surveillance, curative, preventive and control interventions was used. Countries in the EA region have decided to include malaria vaccination as part of their strategy to fight the killer disease. In the middle of this year, Kenya announced it was expanding its malaria immunisation programmes as it steps up the fight. MORE

# GLOBAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

## Group of 20 expands as African Union joins bloc

The African Union joined the Group of 20 leading economies at its summit on Saturday, giving the continent broader representation in the often-divided bloc as host Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks to portray his country as a voice for the Global South. "With everyone's approval, I request the African Union head to take his seat as a permanent G20 member," Modi said in his opening address, banging a ceremonial gavel. MORE

## UK to Finance New Climate Resilience Projects in Africa

After hitting several resets, restoring historic treasures to former colonies, downsizing its military presence and striking new ties elsewhere on the continent, France's Africa strategy seems at an impasse, some experts say. Coups in half a dozen former French colonies in West and Central Africa over three years -- including two, in Niger and Gabon, in just over a month -- are sparking fresh soul searching about what went wrong and how, if possible, to put longstanding relations and interests back on track. MORE

## EU Makes Offer to Africa's Climate Change Fight

The European Union says it doesn't want to be just a natural resource harvester in Africa, choosing, instead, to promise new assistance to help the continent transit to greener energy. On the second day of the African Climate Summit in Nairobi, the European Union said it was backing the continent with assistance to create jobs with a special investment plan on adapting to climate change, an additional stripe to a region that has perennially been accused of exploiting Africa for centuries. And European Union (EU) President, Ursula Von Der Leyen said the European bloc was upending its dealings with Africa through the £150 billion ($156 billion) Global Gateway Investment Plan for Africa. MORE

## African leaders bank on carbon taxes to raise climate finance

African leaders are eyeing a new “sin” tax on global emitters as a way of raising money from those who pollute the environment. The Nairobi Declaration – the culmination of the three-day Africa Climate Summit held this week in Kenya – called on the global community to support Africa’s push for carbon taxation to “provide affordable and accessible finance for climate positive investments at scale.” MORE

## Africa calls for review of model to address climate

African leaders want structures overhauled to tackle development on the continent within the ambit of climate change. Speaking at the inaugural African Climate Summit (ACS) in Nairobi on Monday the leaders argued for a shift from donor-recipient relationships toward investment-based collaborations. However, they insisted on for climate justice in the face of multiple climate disasters on the continent and called on rich countries to fulfil unmet climate finance commitment set in 2009 aimed to mobilise $100 billion per year for developing countries by 2020 — a goal which in any case will expire in 2025, and to scale climate finance for the continent. MORE

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