



The Secretary General WEEKLY NEWS

Deepening Integration, Widening Cooperation.

17th NOVEMBER 2022



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EAC SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE

- "Embrace Peace" H.E. Kenyatta calls on peace in Eastern DRC as he holds meeting with Pres. Tshisekedi and Community leaders
- EAC in Kinshasa for dialogue with President Tshisekedi on security situation in Eastern DRC
- EAC Heads of State convene urgent meeting to discuss the peace process in Eastern DRC
- EAC Chairperson of the Summit meets the Facilitator of the EAC-led Eastern DRC Peace Process in Eastern DRC
- Develop locally relevant content and software, ICT experts in East Africa urged

"EMBRACE PEACE" H.E KENYATTA CALLS ON PEACE IN EASTERN DRC



From left; EAC Secretary General, Dr. Peter Mathuki, the facilitator of the EAC- Led Nairobi Peace Process in the Eastern region of the DRC, H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta and the Special Representative of DRC President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, Prof. Serge Tshibangu.

The Facilitator of the EAC-led Nairobi process, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta made a three-day visit to DRC to hold consultative meetings on the security situation in Eastern DRC. He kicked off by meeting H.E President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic Of Congo (DRC).

The Facilitator listened to views and recommendations from the Hon Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Jean-Michel Sama, the National Assembly and Senate Leadership, The defense minister, the traditional and civil society leaders from North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri Provinces and the diplomatic corps. He also made an official visit to Goma as part of his outreach session with stakeholders.

The facilitator also held consultations with the MONUSCO leadership focusing on building synergies and the need to collectively mobilize resources to support the EAC-led Nairobi process.

H.E Kenyatta called upon all local armed groups to unconditionally disarm, embrace dialogue and join the EAC-led Nairobi process in the quest for a lasting solution to the insecurity in the Eastern DRC.

He reaffirmed the commitment to ensuring that foreign armed groups that do not voluntarily surrender and return to their countries of origin are forcefully ejected from the territory of the DRC. He underscored the need to strengthen synergies, coordination and complementarity among the various initiatives under implementation in the Eastern DRC, inclusive of the Nairobi and Luanda processes.

This is to provide a comprehensive path to the restoration of security in Eastern DRC and the promotion of peaceful coexistence among the EAC Partner States.

EAC IN KINSHASA FOR DIALOGUE WITH PRES. TSHISEKEDI ON SECURITY SITUATION IN EASTERN DRC



The quest for peace in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) continues to gain momentum as a top priority for the region, with the East African Community (EAC) Facilitator on the Peace Process in the Eastern region of the DRC, H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta, visiting Kinshasa for high-level consultations with DRC's President, H.E Félix Tshisekedi, government leaders and community groups on 13th to 15th November 2022.

The Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State and President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E Évariste Ndayishimiye, also partake in the talks. The EAC Secretary General Dr.Peter Mathuki is also set to join the facilitator for the two-day mission in DRC.

The inter-Congolese dialogue under the EAC-led peace process has been re-energized to incorporate local DRC community leaders and stakeholders to bring a comprehensive solution to the protracted security situation.

This follows the High-Level Consultative Meeting on the peace process in Eastern DRC, held by EAC Heads of State in Egypt.

The meeting chaired by H.E Évariste Ndayishimiye was held with a view to strengthening the political track. The Heads of State committed that all 7 EAC Partner States will now be fully involved with the process, with each Head of State forwarding a technical advisor to support the Facilitator of the EAC Peace Process. This revealing the total commitment of EAC Heads of State to ensuring peace reigns in the region.

The Heads of State from the Republics of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and the United Republic of Tanzania reiterated their commitment to contribute to the EAC Special Fund for the implementation of the peace process and urged all Partner States to sustainably support the facility.

The EAC is set to hold a Peace Summit at the end of the year with a view to strengthening the complementarity roles of the EAC-led peace process and the Luanda Process among other issues.

The next session of the peace dialogue on the security situation in Eastern DRC is scheduled to commence on **21st November 2022** in Nairobi.

EAC HEADS OF STATE CONVENE URGENT MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PEACE PROCESS IN EASTERN DRC



EAC Heads of State commitment to ensuring regional peace and security was reaffirmed by their keen participation in the High-Level Consultative Meeting of the Summit of EAC Heads of State on the Peace process in Eastern DRC.

The meeting chaired by H.E Évariste Ndayishimiye, the Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State and President of the Republic of Burundi was held in Shamar El Sheikh, Egypt on the sidelines of the meeting of United Nations Framework on Climate Change (COP-27).

The meeting was attended by H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the Republic of Tanzania, H.E Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Rt. Hon. Jean- Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenje, the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) , representing H.E President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi and EAC Secretary General Hon (Dr.) Peter Mathuki. The Republics of Uganda and South Sudan relayed their apologies.

The Heads of State reviewed the recent development in North Kivu, particularly the resurgence of violence and called on cessation of hostilities to give chance to political negotiations.

The Heads of State agreed to appoint a Technical Advisor from each Partner State to support the Facilitator of the EAC Peace process. They also deliberated on strengthening the complementarity roles of the EAC-led peace process and the Luanda Process among other issues.

The Heads of State appreciated the Partner States of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and the United Republic Of Tanzania for their commitment to contribute to the EAC Special Fund for the implementation of the peace process and urged all partner states to sustainably support the facility. They also reaffirmed the need for coordination and creation of synergy between Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) and the East African Regional Force for sustainability of achieving peace in the Eastern DRC.

HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF EAC HEADS OF STATE



CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT OF EAC HEADS OF STATE MEETS H.E KENYATTA ON EASTERN DRC



The Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State and President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, held consultations with the EAC Facilitator on the Peace Process in the Eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), H.E (Rtd) President Uhuru Kenyatta, on the current security situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in Bujumbura, Burundi on 4th November 2022.

They reviewed the progress in the implementation of the political and military tracks, set out to stabilize Eastern DRC.

They noted that while the force generation and deployment are in progress, the political track is being energised towards a comprehensive solution to the protracted security situation.

They reviewed the recent developments in North Kivu, particularly the resurgence of violence, which has undermined the gains that had been made; as local armed groups had offered to lay down arms in return for peace and urged all parties, to join in the quest for lasting peace in Eastern DRC through the inter-Congolese dialogue.

The meeting called on all foreign armed groups to return to their respective countries of origin unconditionally. They agreed on a roadmap for the implementation of the political track, toward a sustainable solution to peace and security in Eastern DRC and encouraged continued complimentary engagement between the EAC-Led Nairobi Process and the Luanda Process to ease tension between DRC and Rwanda.

Further, the consultative meeting appreciated the Republics of Burundi, Kenya and Uganda for timely deployment of troops.

They urged other troop-contributing countries to expedite their deployment within the agreed structure and framework.

The Chairperson reiterated that he is engaged in dialogue with all EAC Heads of State on embracing a regional approach, within the agreed framework, in handling the situation and building trust among EAC Partner States. Peace and security in the region as a top priority in the region as it binds the region to focus on development.

DEVELOP LOCALLY RELEVANT CONTENT AND SOFTWARE, ICT EXPERTS IN EAST AFRICA URGED

9TH EAST AFRICA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM 2022

NOVEMBER 10TH - 11TH, 2022 | EAC HEADQUARTERS ARUSHA, TANZANIA



Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) experts in East Africa have been called upon to develop locally relevant content, applications and services so as to make ICT meaningful in the daily lives and operations of people and organisations in the region.

Tanzania's Minister for ICT, Hon. Nape Moses Nnauye, said that to make ICT relevant in socio-economic development programmes in the region, ICT experts should develop locally relevant content and applications for diverse sectors including education, healthcare, environment, agriculture, products that are useful to local communities.

"This could also mean locally relevant applications such as software or computerised systems that present end-user solutions," said Hon. Nnauye.

The Minister's speech was read on his behalf by the Arusha Regional Commission, Mr. John Mongella, during the opening of the 9th East Africa Internet Governance Forum at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania,

The Minister observed that irrespective of the relevance of the content, application, or service, its availability in local languages was critical if ICT is to be relevant and useful to the communities and groups targeted by ICT projects and/or policies.

Hon. Nnauye said that ICT policies highlight a nation's ambitions in the use of ICTs as a tool for better livelihoods as well as an economy with a competitive advantage in the global market. "The potential of ICTs in economic development requires building an 'enterprise ecosystem' that offers 'end-to-end solutions' for the poor".

EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote, said EAC is working closely with Partner States in the development of National ICT policies.

He noted efforts are ongoing towards the harmonization of ICT policies, laws and regulations among the EAC Partner States. The region has also continued to promote ICT as a priority investment sector.

COP 27: EAC LEADERS JOIN IN GLOBAL TALKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- EAC Heads of State and thought leaders join global leaders in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, to deliberate on combating climate change and scout for partnerships to support the region's climate change initiatives, aimed at enhancing the region's resilience.



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- EAC leaders meet Tshisekedi in race to calm DR Congo conflict
- East Africa talks climate change
- EAC MPs tell off EU counterparts, back oil pipeline project
- New round of peace talks between DRC and Rwanda set for November 21st
- Rwanda adjusts school, official working hours
- Tanzania in five-year plan to eradicate malaria scourge
- ICT in EAC urged to develop locally relevant content and software
- Kenyans' visa-free stay in S. Africa comes with costs if one overstays
- Uganda Finance ministry stops entry of projects without feasibility studies
- South Sudan Govt plans to build 7 roads, contracts firms on feasibility study
- Burundi: Japan grants 300 million yen to provide medical equipment to the hospital in Gitega

UPCOMING EVENTS

- EAC Day - 30th November 2022
- You Lead Summit - Arusha, Tanzania - 12th-16th December 2022



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

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