



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly 13th SITTING - FOURTH MEETING - FIRST SESSION - THIRD ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 23 January 2013

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber of Deputies, Burundi National Assembly, Bujumbura.

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Ms. Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to welcome you to today's sitting. More so, I want to welcome you from yesterday's very important plenary sitting. As you may observe, we want to keep time, we want to be dot com. So, I want to encourage you that you should always keep time.

Again, I want to welcome you honourable members to Bujumbura, Burundi, and again I want to say happy New Year to you all, happy New Year 2013 and many blessings for the New Year.

The Commission met in Arusha last week and reviewed the program for the second and last part of the year. What was agreed upon has been circulated and emailed to you. Please study it and note the changes accordingly.

I wish to take the opportunity to congratulate and salute the EALA sports team of both football and netball upon emerging silver and bronze medallists respectively. This was during the Inter parliamentary games that took place in Nairobi between 7th and 14th December 2012. We salute our team captains hon. Bernard Mulengani and hon. Shy Rose and hon. Tiperu, our netball

coordinators and all the team members for the exceptional dedication, commitment and stamina in which they took this important activity. We say hip-hip-hooray! (*Applause*)

Rt. hon. Eriya Kategaya, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and Minister of EAC from Uganda is not well. He was taken ill to Nairobi, Aga Khan Hospital on Sunday and he is recovering steadily. We continue to pray for his better health and quick recovery.

We are happy also to see hon. Nzeyimana, the Minister of EAC Burundi who was not well at the end of last year. You remember she was hospitalised but we were happy to see her yesterday and I am sure she is on her way to the Chamber. We thank God for her recovery.

We also thank God that hon. Bhangi Shy-Rose underwent two operations in India at the end of last year. She came through it well but she is still weak thus her absence in this session. We also continue to pray for her to get better.

Also, hon. Tiperu Nusura was not well at the beginning of the year. She was briefly hospitalised in Nairobi but I have been communicated to that, she is getting better.

We want to thank God for the members who registered achievements at the end of last year or during this season. We know that hon. Odette Nyiramilimo got a grandson, congratulations. On a humble note, I will also mention that my daughter graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Others I may not have mentioned, we congratulate all of you.

We condole with those who lost their dear ones. Specifically, Uganda lost Prof. James Mulwana who is the former Chairperson of the East African Business Council and has been serving as a chairperson of the Private Sector Foundation for a long time. He has been a very astute business personality in East Africa. He is the one who started the Uganda Batteries among others. Indeed East Africa and Uganda lost an industrialist. We condole with Uganda and the family. The Rt hon. Speaker sent a message of condolences on behalf of the East African Legislative Assembly.

In addition, two other members lost their dear ones. Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga lost two members of her family. We extend our sympathies, and one of our staff members, Abubakar Hassan, an office attendant, lost his father and grandfather very recently on 17th January 2013. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace! (*Members: Amen*)

We continue to pray for the peaceful and good elections in Kenya. We implore all our members and all other members concerned to make sure that they continue preaching what we would call the good values of good governance. We as Members of the East African Legislative Assembly in our respective responsibilities will join you and play our humble role of election observation at an appropriate time.

With those few comments, I want to thank you. (*Applause*)

PAPERS

The following Paper was laid on the Table:-

By the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Tourism
(Ms Isabelle Ndahayo) (Burundi):

The Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources on the Workshop on Climate Change for Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, held in Mwanza from 11th to 13th November 2012.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. The report is already on the Table.

MOTION

FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM, AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE FOR MEMBERS OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Tourism (Ms Isabelle Ndahayo): Rt. hon. Speaker, I beg to move that the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the Workshop on Climate Change for the Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, be adopted.

The Speaker: Secunder...? Hon. Leonce, hon. Pareno, hon. Okumu. Proceed.

Ms Ndahayo: Madam Speaker, as it is my first time to take the floor during this year, I wish, first to wish you a happy new year. (*Applause*)

The report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural resources on the climate change workshop for EALA parliamentarians held in Mwanza has about five main parts. The first one is the introduction, the second is the methodology, and then we will have the third one, which is the findings, and the fourth one, which are the recommendations and emerging issues. The last one is the conclusion.

Madam Speaker, In line with other previous sensitization workshops for Third East African Legislative Assembly's Members, in collaboration with the East African Community Secretariat Department of Productive and Social Sectors, we organized the "Climate Change Workshop for Parliamentarians" on November 11th to 13th, 2012 in Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania. The workshop was organised to materialize one of the recommendations of the national consultations on the need for active involvement of National and Regional Parliaments on Climate Change Governance Process.

The objective of the workshop was to sensitize the Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources of the 3rd East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) on key climate change issues and identify key roles of parliamentarians on climate change policy and practice issues at the regional and international level.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- (i) To create awareness amongst Members of the East African Legislative Assembly on critical climate change science, policy and practice issues; and,
- (ii) To identify the roles of regional Members of Parliament in the implementation of regional and international Climate Change Policies.

Apart from Honourable Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors Hon. Jessica Eriyo, representatives from the East African Community (EAC) Partner States National Parliaments, officers from EAC Secretariat, EALA, and COMESA Secretariat also participated to the workshop. The List of Participants is hereto attached as *Annex I*.

Methodology

The workshop was conducted through a participatory learning approach that included technical presentations on key climate change issues coupled with field visits.

Findings

Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources

Hon. Ndahayo Isabelle, East African Legislative Assembly Member and Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and Tourism, welcomed the participants to the Workshop. She thanked East African Community Secretariat and the Assembly for organizing the workshop, aimed at demystifying climate change, which is highly scientific and technical. Climate change is featuring prominently on the international and national level given its negative impact on socio-economic development particularly in developing countries including East African Community Partner States.

Moreover, the Chairperson noted the timeliness of the Workshop particularly in updating new Members of the Committee on their mandate on climate change issues and its impacts on agriculture and other development sectors. She also expressed her gratitude to the East African Community Deputy Secretary General responsible for Productive and Social Sectors for her presence at the workshop. Finally, she urged the Members to take full advantage of the workshop to gain deeper understanding of the climate change problem with a view of enhancing their oversight, legislative and representation functions in addressing the problem at the national, regional, and international level. She concluded by wishing the Hon. Members fruitful deliberations.

Statement by the East African Community Secretariat

Hon. Jessica Eriyo, EAC Deputy Secretary General for Productive and Social Sectors, welcomed the Honourable Members to the Workshop and thanked them for finding time to deliberate on climate change issues during the early days of the Third Assembly. She highlighted some of the key achievements that EAC had made over the last few years. She particularly mentioned the following regional climate change policy documents:

- (i) *the EAC Climate Change Policy that was approved by the Heads of State during the 9th Extra Ordinary Summit held in April 2011 in Dar es Salaam;*
- (ii) *the draft EAC Climate Change Strategy;*
- (iii) *the draft EAC Climate Change Master Plan;*
- (iv) *the Draft Operational Modalities for the EAC Climate Change Fund;*

(v) *the Draft Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy.*

She also informed the Members that a draft Technical Proposal for the Establishment of the EAC Climate Change Function has been developed to guide the establishment of a Regional Climate Change Coordination Structure.

In conclusion she hailed the collaboration between EAC Secretariat and EALA in organizing and facilitating the workshop and wished the Members fruitful deliberations.

Presentations

Climate Change and Agriculture: Role of Parliamentarians

Madam Speaker, Mr. George Wamukoya, COMESA's Climate Change Advisor, introduced the subject matter linking it to agriculture sector that is one of the key sectors of EAC Partner States. He observed that climate change is a present reality and will continue to pose huge threats to sustainable development and particularly in the agricultural sector given its importance.

With regards to the status of agriculture adaptation and mitigation in the context of climate change international policy negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), he noted that agriculture sector plays a critical role in food security, poverty reduction and economic growth and sustainable development in general. He underscored that agriculture is most vulnerable to climate variability and climate change and at the same time is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emission accounting for 14% of global emissions, and has therefore significant potential to sequester. This gives the sector its special opportunity in contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

On the status of agriculture in the UNFCCC negotiations, he observed that with the critical role of agriculture in national development, all African countries agreed that agriculture is integral under UNFCCC (Art. 2 and 4.1 of the Convention). Negotiations on agriculture under the UNFCCC process has evolved over the last few years and a decision on agriculture was expected at the forthcoming 18th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP18) scheduled to commence from 26th November to 7th December in Doha, Qatar. This was preceded by the discussions between the Parties on agriculture text initiated in Copenhagen and further discussed in Durban in 2009 and 2011 respectively.

He highlighted the following as the role of parliamentarians: influencing climate-related policies and legislation; oversight function; community representation and more engagement in this sector. In conclusion he called for building the knowledge-base and capacity of parliamentarians to engage more in the climate change agenda as the first step towards securing appropriate responses to the adverse impacts of climate change.

In conclusion, the resource person urged EAC Partner States including Members of EALA and National Parliaments to therefore actively play their roles towards accelerating the regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses informed by the best available scientific information as well as reinforcing efforts at the regional and international arena under the UNFCCC negotiations.

The detailed presentations can be accessed on the EALA website; www.eala.org.

EAC Climate Change Response Measures: EAC CC Policy Framework, the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the Manila Parliamentary Call of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction.

EAC Secretariat's technical staff from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources made presentations on the Status of Climate Change and Disaster in the region and strategies put in place by EAC to address them. The presentations included: EAC's Climate Change Policy framework that includes the EAC Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan and the Establishment of the EAC Climate Change Fund, The EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Strategy, and the implementation of the Manila Parliamentary Call for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Ms. Wivine Ntamubano, the Principal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) briefed on the EAC's efforts to respond to the negative impacts of climate change in terms of Policies, Institutional arrangements and plans, projects and programmes undertaken.

She also briefed participants on the EAC measures put in place to address Disasters in the region and the implementation of the Manila Call for Action of Parliamentarians of 2008. The Manila Call identifies the need to increase the awareness and understanding by all parliamentarians of the importance of disaster risk reduction in protecting the people and in strengthening development. Through the Manila Call, Parliamentarians called upon national governments to take necessary measures relating to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development policies, programmes, practices including allocating at least 1 percent of national budgets towards disaster relief and recovery, and enhancing political commitment on DRR.

The Members were informed that during the Second EALA's Fourth Meeting of the Second Session, which was held in Arusha on 16th-28th February, 2009, deliberated on the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources and passed a motion for adoption of the Manila Call for Action of Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. EAC has since developed a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy.

Mr. Brian Otiende, the EAC Climate Change Coordinator (CCC), briefed participants on the status of climate Change in the East African Region. He highlighted the aim, goal and objectives of the EAC Climate Change Policy with a focus on the policy framework for the implementation of the Policy; it alludes to the differentiated roles and responsibilities for various EAC policy organs and institutions.

Participants were also informed that several climate change programmes and projects had been initiated with funding from development partners and were currently under implementation. The linkages between climate change adaptation as one of the key climate change response measures and disaster risk reduction and management was also highlighted noting that over 80 percent of

natural disasters in the region are climatic related (droughts, floods and their related disasters such as landslides).

The Presentations can be accessed on EALA website: www.eala.org.

Field Visit to the Serengeti National Park and the Shores of Lake Victoria

To showcase the reality and impact of Climate Change on Natural Resources specifically on water, biodiversity, land, and economic activities in the Lake Victoria region the Hon. Members visited the following sites:

- (i) Serengeti National Park that is renowned with international recognition because of the wilder beast migration between Serengeti National Park in the United Republic of Tanzania and the Maasai Mara National Park in the Republic of Kenya.
- (ii) fish market in Kirumba areas that serves as a regional and international market;
- (iii) Mwanza Harbour where the docking port of Lake Victoria showcases the decrease of water level in the lake and its impact on navigation;
- (iv) Lake Cruise on Lake Victoria to Saa Nane Island National Park recently gazetted as a National Game Parks, located 2km Southwest from Mwanza City Centre and home to different species of wild animals such as monkeys, velvets, porcupines and crocodiles.

The site visit was also an opportunity for the workshop participants to interact with nature and appreciate the diversity and beauty of the region's natural resources and associated socio-economic activities.

Emerging Issues and Recommendations

Madam Speaker, the Committee observed and recommended the following arising from the workshop presentations, the site visits, and discussions:

Emerging Issues

Following the presentations, participants deliberated on the matters arising and observed as follows:

- (i) the forthcoming 18th Session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC also serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP18/CMP8) to be held from 26th November to 7th December 2012 in Doha, Qatar is of critical importance given that negotiations for a new Protocol to succeed the Kyoto Protocol under the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (ADP) should start and Africa needs to ensure its concerns are well taken into consideration from the onset; As we report today, note that the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol have not been concluded and have been postponed.
- (ii) The need for EALA Parliamentarians to participate in the consolidation of Africa's common position on climate change with a focus on areas of immediate importance

- and priority to the region through national and regional roundtable talks similar to those facilitated by the EAC Secretariat in the run up to COP15 in 2009;
- (iii) The need for East Africa to identify priority areas of interest within the international climate change negotiations and focus its efforts on the same similar to COMIFAC's focus on forest;
 - (iv) The need for Ministries responsible for Environment in Partner States to identify innovative ways of adequately preparing Ministers to negotiate effectively;
 - (v) EAC has a unique opportunity to actively engage and influence the climate change negotiations given its integrated nature and the mandate given by the EAC Treaty;
 - (vi) Africa's share of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is very low with Africa accounting for almost 2.5% of all CDM projects most of which are in South Africa and Egypt which are developing countries with economies in transition;
 - (vii) The need to increase regional capacity to attract more CDM projects in as much as carbon prices have drastically fluctuated;
 - (viii) EAC Secretariat has been given provisional accreditation under the UNFCCC as an observer organization (no negotiating/voting right) pending formal approval by the COP18/CMP8 in December 2012;
 - (ix) weak and uncoordinated negotiating teams for EAC and Africa
 - (x) need to enhance the capacity for detecting and predicting climate change and particularly climatic related disasters in the region as well as addressing the language barriers in communicating climate change to local communities in the region;
 - (xi) need to fast track the operationalization of the EAC Climate Change Fund established in 2010 through the necessary legal instruments;
 - (xii) It was observed that there was too much degradation of nature in Serengeti National Park and water Hyacinth as well as worrying decrease of water levels in Lake Victoria

Recommendations

- (i) EAC should establish a regional negotiating team on Climate Change and environment issues to enable it conduct proper negotiations;
- (ii) East African Community should build synergies with other Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union (AU) towards consolidating and advancing a common African position on climate change through joint programming;
- (iii) EAC Secretariat to concentrate its attention on mobilization of resources while Partner States need to be responsible for the implementation of actual projects and activities at the national level for the effective implementation of regional policies/programmes with tangible impact;
- (iv) The East African Legislative Assembly should spearhead establishment of a regional network of Parliamentary Committees handling issues of Climate Change to adequately address climate change issues more technically and strategically.
- (v) EALA should advocate for additional internal financial resources to be allocated towards the implementation of regional climate change and disaster risk reduction programmes and activities;
- (vi) EALA should champion for the identification of internal sources of funding from EAC Partner States that can be directed towards supporting and facilitating the

- participation of regional negotiators and reduce over dependence on funding from development partners who usually support negotiators' travels;
- (vii) EAC Secretariat and EALA should work together towards ensuring that necessary technical and legal procedures are finalized and initiated respectively to fully operationalize the EAC Climate Change Fund'
 - (viii) Members of EALA and those from National Parliaments should actively play their roles towards accelerating the regional and national adaptation and mitigation responses informed by the best available scientific information as well as reinforcing efforts at the regional and international arena under the UNFCCC negotiations;
 - (ix) Lake Victoria Basin Commission should enhance their efforts towards prevention of degradation of Lake Victoria.
 - (x) EAC Secretariat and Partner States should develop a capacity building programme for increasing climate change research and observatory skills for climate change detection and prediction ; such a programme should enhance skills of regional climate change negotiators and should focus on publishing EAC Climate Change Policy Instruments into popular version; it should equally facilitate translation of those instruments into local languages;
 - (xi) The Council should bring a Bill on operationalization of the Climate Change Fund to give it a legal basis

Way Forward

From the technical presentations, discussions, observations and recommendations made during the workshop and field visits , participants drafted an EALA Resolution on Climate Change hereto attached as Annex II as a way forward.

Conclusion

The Sensitization Workshop on Climate Change for Parliamentarians was very successful and met the expectations of members. Committee Members did enhance their knowledge in that sector which for some was a new area. They were also satisfied by the study tours which allowed them to witness impacts of Climate change. The honourable Members appreciated the work being done by the EAC Secretariat in relation to Climate Change and urged them to keep up the good effort.

Acknowledgements

Madam Speaker, before I end my presentation, I wish to thank a number of people who supported us and made this activity successful.

The Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources of the East African Legislative Assembly would like to acknowledge and express deep appreciation to the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) for financing this activity under the EAC Secretariat.

The Committee would like to thank the Secretary General through the Deputy Secretary General of Productive and Social Sectors, Ms. Jessica Eriyo for the support accorded to the EALA

Committee in the execution of this workshop. Further, special thanks go to Dr. George Wamukoya, the core facilitator for the insightful presentations he made during the workshop.

The Office of the Hon. Speaker and the Clerk EALA for the support and for granting leave to the Committee to enable them attend this very important workshop. Appreciation is also extended to EAC Staff: the Principal Environmental Officer, Ms. Wivine Ntamubano and the Climate Change Coordinator of the East African Community, Mr. Brian Otiende in the EAC Secretariat for their facilitation and cooperation.

Finally, the EALA staff that facilitated the Members of the Committees. To all of them, we say thank you.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move that this report be adopted with recommendations and urge the House to grant leave to the Committee to move a Motion to introduce the Resolution of the Workshop before the House for debate and adoption at an appropriate time. (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Isabelle, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Tourism for that very elaborate report. Hon. members, perhaps before I invite debate, I want to note that on the report there is attached a resolution which I think hon. Isabelle is mentioning that she will seek special permission to move but I think it would be in order to move it because it was your resolution when you met in Mwanza. If you want it to be a resolution of the whole House to be adopted then it has to be formally moved. So I think at an appropriate time, I will give you time and you move it formally.

Hon. Members, the motion in the floor is that the report on the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural resources on the climate change workshop for EALA parliamentarians be adopted. Debate is open.

Mr. Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi): Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker for giving me the floor. I am glad to say that I am a member of this Agriculture Committee and I was present when we made this workshop in Mwanza.

I have very few words to say because climate change is very important to all of us. It is not a question of fore living; it is a question of survival on this planet Earth. This question has been ignored for long but at the end of last century, the World realised the dangers of climate change for the survival of the human species.

I have had the opportunity to participate in two world conferences in climate change in Mexico in the Burundi delegation by that time and recently in Copenhagen as a member of EALA.

When you see the World conferences that have been taking place and that concluded the Kyoto Protocol, conferences in Stockholm, in Mexico, Copenhagen and recently in Doha, you realise that the World has taken this matter of climate change very seriously.

We the African countries are not the ones provoking this change but we are the first victims because especially because of our conditions of living, which is still backward in food production and many other fields.

The Earth that we live on depends on the atmosphere, among other things, and this atmosphere is divided into four or five levels. There is a photosphere where we live; there is a stratosphere, the thermosphere and outer space. The photosphere where we live with this envelope of air is between eight and 20 kilometres high, that is crucial for our living. In the North and South Pole, it is very thin, about eight to ten kilometres. Around the equator is up to 20 kilometres high.

When you imagine 20 kilometres from here to any other place, you realise that it is very short. We live on it, and we live in those conditions. If it changes and the ozone atmosphere changes, it becomes too hot. We are realising these in several occasions how Tsunami came in so often, how it is getting hot and especially for our agriculture methods of production. We are really in more difficulty than other continents especially those who provoked the climate change by the industrialisation.

I believe that this report is very well done and the recommendations are very serious. I really support the report and I thank you very much. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Ndarubagiye.

Mr. Christophe Bazivamo (Rwanda): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. I rise to support the report as a member of the committee. I have some comments. Climate change is real and a very challenging issue. Our world is already witnessing here and there serious and very negative impacts of climate change. Let us say that we see here and there very devastating flooding, very devastating...and heavy rains here and there, or hard droughts among these very negative impacts of climate change.

Some of these negative impacts are also observed in our East African Community region; droughts, environment degradation here and there and of course the impacts affects our region's productivity and economies dramatically. For example, we often observe losses of agriculture and livestock production. We have witnessed Lake Victoria navigability and productivity, which is really under danger if no rapid measures are taken. All these are things, which are seen, which we could avoid or at least mitigate.

Rt. hon. Speaker, this topic is of high consideration, and I think the recommendations made here on the floor are to be taken very seriously. And when we adopt them, we should not stop there but follow their implementation to make sure that in the future some things can change. We know several meetings have been held, conferences held but in many cases the problem is implementation of the recommendations or the measures taken.

I think that we can advocate and follow in our Partner States to see in place or to reinforce adaptation mechanisms which are well known and to make sure that projects and programs towards climate change mitigation and adaptation are done or executed efficiently.

If this is done, we can hope that maybe in the future some positive development can be observed. Of course, we know that this is not an East African problem at all. It is an international one and our House has to play its role in the advocacy of measures to reduce climate change impact.

Rt hon. Speaker, I beg to support the motion - *(Applause)*.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Christophe Bazivamo.

Mr. Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker. Since I am taking the floor for the first time, I also wish to take this opportunity to wish you and the entire Parliament a very productive and eventful year. I am not so accustomed to the usual happy New Year because the year can be happy but when you are not productive. So, I prefer a productive and eventful one.

Madam Speaker, I also want to thank the Chairperson of the committee for her stewardship and the leadership she offered in the process of generating this report and the activity and the able way in which she has presented this report to plenary and being very innovative by informing us that we can access it on the website. I think this is a very commendable innovation on the part of the leadership and the committee at large so that as we deal with issues of the environment, we deal with them in an environmentally sensitive manner so that is commendable.

Madam Speaker, I just want to highlight some of the recommendations and my point of departure is to the effect that climate change is real; it is around us. Definitely, I appreciate that Bujumbura is a very hot country but I don't think it has been this hot so the climate change is having its toll on all of us in all our places.

The weather patterns and rainfall patterns have changes and the water levels in our water bodies have fallen to levels that hitherto were never witnessed. We are witnessing droughts, floods, agricultural seasons are very unpredictable and I really sympathise with our farmers who are not yet too sure when to plant because the rains can fail anytime. So, it is creating scenario of unpredictability even in the livelihood of our people.

So, it is a challenge of our time, which we need to engage with a very high degree of seriousness. To get parliamentary intervention is therefore very timely and very necessary because these issues have been hitherto literally the preserve of the Executive. In all our countries you find that it is the ministries, the bureaucrats and technical staff who are engaging with these subjects but they are too important to be left to just a section of our community and our leadership.

So, the parliamentary intervention comes in handy and is very relevant, timely, and important. Therefore, I wish to salute the Committee of Agriculture for taking lead in this matter so that Parliament or the Assembly as an institution defines its position in this regard and carves out its sphere of influence in terms of offering solutions to this very serious problem.

In that regard, I want to highlight specifically those recommendations that are very relevant to Parliament or to the Assembly as an institution. If you look at page seven, the first recommendation that calls upon EAC to establish a regional negotiating team on climate change and environment issues to enable it to conduct proper negotiations.

I think we are blessed as a region to the fact that we are integrated and therefore we have the opportunity of building good synergies and a critical mass in terms of our negotiations. Other countries have to do it individually in a fragmented manner and at times even in an isolated way but as a region if we come together, if we pick our best brains in this area of environmental and climate change and we put them together and we fund them properly and give them all the support even in terms of funding, I believe that we can open a new page in terms of negotiations

regarding matters of climate change. Where we can go as a region, negotiate as a team with a common position that is generated through consensus and through research and technical support of those that are skilled in these areas.

We can do this as a region and we can then be a good example to the rest of Africa. That brings in recommendation number two where we can work out synergies with other regional economic communities. If we are able to pull it off as a region and we successfully do it then we can share it with the rest of the regional communities and at the end of the day, we can then be responsible for generating a strong African position in these negotiations.

We are the most disadvantaged part of the world. We are suffering the effects. We may not be necessarily the biggest emitters of the greenhouse gases but we are one of the biggest victims. In that respect, we need to respond accordingly in order to mitigate the effects of this serious problem.

So, as a Parliament, I believe we have opened a very good page and a good chapter for us to play a role. In that respect, recommendation number four, which calls upon EALA to spearhead the creation of a regional network of parliamentary committees handling issues of climate change, also comes in handy. It could even be a parliamentary forum for members of Parliament who are interested; it may not necessarily be committees per se. You could exchange it to a level where those parliamentarians who are interested in the subject of climate change, those who have the knowledge base in this area and the interest could be pulled together and used as a mechanism of championing issues to do with mitigation in this area.

So, I believe that this report is a very useful one. It has come in early in the day and we can be able to use it so that we create a change and meaningful impact in this area in our five years tour of duty as members of the East African Legislative Assembly.

With that, Madam Speaker I beg to support and call upon members to support the report accordingly. (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Sebalu.

Ms Hafsa Mossi (Burundi): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. I wish first of all to welcome you all to Bujumbura. I hope you are enjoying the weather. I wish to wish all of you a happy and prosperous new year.

Madam Speaker, I am rising to support the motion on the floor and specifically to commend the Committee on Agriculture for the job well done and especially for having initiated and for having had thought of organising this workshop. This is because if the East African Legislative Assembly members are more aware of the effects of climate change, they will be able to push for more laws to mitigate and deal with the climate change effects on our region.

Madam Speaker, climate change, and agriculture are inter-related issues. We know that agriculture is one of our top priorities in our region because the majority of our populations live on agriculture.

Madam Speaker, it is proven and we know that climate change impacts have potential and could even undo progress that we have made in socio-economic and in the wellbeing of the population. The negative impact is associated, as others have said it with factors including widespread poverty, human diseases, droughts, floods and all these affect our population.

Madam Speaker, we have witnessed that on Mount Kilimanjaro, the area, which is covered with ice fields, has decreased by about 80 percent and there is a threat that if nothing is done, the ice could even disappear. Kilimanjaro is very dear to us, it is bringing us tourists from all over the world, and this is just one aspect of the impact or effects of climate change.

So, Madam Speaker, I fully support the recommendations made by the committee and I plead that other members support the motion. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Hafsa Mossi.

Mr. Zein Abubakar Abubakar (Kenya): Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker. Permit me to extend good wishes for the year to you, to members of Parliament who are here, to the office of the Clerk and the Chair for the warm welcome and the hospitality extended to us so far. I think we are going to enjoy ourselves very much when we are here.

Allow me also to say to hon. Hafsa Mossi that the weather is just perfect! I come from Mombasa - *(Laughter)*.

Madam Speaker, I agree with the other members who have articulated the negative impact and effects of climate change, but I would like to mention two that I believe have not been mentioned so far. One is the warming and rising of the sea level. You know that the East African countries of Tanzania and Kenya are affected by this. Secondly, the negative impacts of climate change on matters concerning peace and conflict. Specifically water is going to be an important fact in the generation and escalation of conflict in Africa.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I am grateful to hon. Isabelle Ndahayo's leadership and to this committee for bringing to this House the very critical issues that need our utmost attention and action.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to agree with those members who are suggesting that it is important for us to establish a follow-up mechanism that will allow us as a Legislative Assembly to monitor continually what we do and transact in this House, and to ask ourselves every time we look at a legislation before us, what impact it is going to have on our environment.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to say that this report calls upon us to become champions for sustainable environmental practices and thinking because the onus to become advocates in the region and pursue an approach that articulates the idea that a global and integrated approach at community level is more effective and will give us better results particularly given that sometimes individual national policies may be informed by competition.

Last but not least, Madam Speaker, I would like to see and urge the hon. Chair of this committee to work closely with your office and Office of the Clerk to see that this important motion, which

is attached, finds speedy arrival before this Chamber. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Zein.

Ms Judith Nayiai R. Pareno (Kenya): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I rise to support this motion, and Madam Speaker, I would like to say that I was part of the team that went out for this training and I must say that as we went out, we didn't – *(Inaudible)* - to what we got because some of us had not been informed about climate change but I must say that climate change is here and I think it is upon us as legislators to make sure that we have also adapted, that we are able to sensitise our propel now that we have been sensitised, that we are able to legislate on issues that touch on climate change.

I must say that when we went out at the Mwanza harbour, we were able to see the effect of climate change. At the Saa Nane Island, we were able to see the effect of climate change. We were actually shocked to see that where the vessels used to dock, there is a difference of 500 metres or so and you are able to tell exactly that they are not able to dock where they were docking several years back and you are able to tell that the levels of the sea have changed.

We were also able to see, Madam Speaker the menace of the water hyacinth and I think it is upon us now to embrace what we have seen and be able to take the necessary measures.

Madam Speaker if we looked at our report, all that we have done, which is good, but needs, some speed up is that we have an EAC climate change policy that has been adopted. We also have a draft EAC climate change strategy, we have a draft EAC climate change master plan, we have draft operational modalities for the EAC climate change fund, and we have a draft disaster risk reduction and management strategy. As a committee, we recommended and we pray that these recommendations be adopted that we do not just end or be slow on our drafts. I think it is time we acted to ensure that these drafts are completed, that we have final strategies, final policies, and modalities. It is only upon completion of this that we will actually be able to save our people, and be able to adapt to climate change.

In our recommendations, we have actually recommended that we speed up the EAC fund on climate change issues. An interesting aspect that we learnt is that while we have the international negotiations on environment protocols, the African team would always be funded when it comes to their tickets, and they are not even able to conclude their negotiations because their tickets and visas expire at the end of the day they come back, they have not participated in the full negotiations and they leave the decisions to be made by others for them.

We are therefore saying and I think we need to support that, that we need to have this fund to be able to fund our people. We need a technical team that has to go with our people. We cannot be at an international negotiating table when you are worried that your visa is just about to expire before the negotiations.

With that, I fully support this report and we say that it is important that we set aside funds for purposes of ensuring that our technical team; our negotiators at the international table on these climate change issues are able to conclude their business without having to worry.

For that reason, Madam Speaker, I wish to say that I support this motion. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Pareno.

Mr. Daniel Fred Kidega (Uganda): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Like my colleagues have expressed, we don't take God's kindness for granted that has allowed us to join the New Year. I would like to wish you, the entire Assembly, and the Community at large a prosperous 2013.

Madam Speaker, I am a member of the committee. From the onset, I would like in a special way to thank the commitment of COMESA as an RTA and their support to the activity of the committee. The cooperation of RTAs on the continent is paramount. Philosophically you know our founder fathers who you know very well, why they begin this Community is that it is the building block for the eventual United Africa and when we see RTAs on the continent cooperating on current events like this one, I think it is a vote of confidence to the dream of our forefathers.

I therefore commend that we continue with this kind of cooperation. This also cements the initiative of the three RTAs - the EAC, COMESA, and SADC - the tripartite, which is in the offing. When such cooperation on topical issues are done, it builds the initiative of the tripartite. It is upon that background that I deeply congratulate and appreciate the commitment of COMESA.

Not forgetting the hard work and good stewardship of our chairperson and the members who are in Mwanza, we were exposed to a lot of devastating experience of climate change like the one my colleagues have mentioned. I would like to thank the Chair and the committee for that commitment.

Madam Speaker, my good friend hon. Pareno has already expounded on a matter on page three on this draft and the other. I think I would like to get it categorically from the Chair, Council of Ministers when these drafts are going to be turned into effective and concluded legal instruments of the Community.

It would be good for us as an Assembly if a time frame or road map is given to us by the Chairperson, Council of Ministers, when these drafts are going to be concluded. You realise that the Council of Ministers sat in April last year and that is when the policy direction was given and it is just a few months from now to make a year. That means there is laxity somewhere.

I still want to invoke or encourage the Council of Ministers to give the same impetus of policy directive to the necessary organs to conclude this thing.

The other issue is from the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, which is actually the institution that governs and administers the welfare of this Basin. This House is fully aware that to date as we are here, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Bill has not yet been put into law and the only legal framework through which the Basin and the lake can be administered to preserve and protect the fauna and flora in the lake, the aquatic lifespan and the lives of the people who survive on that lake is that legal instrument.

Can the Council of Ministers also categorically with time frames, tell us when this Bill will be finalised and a law put in place?

Finally, Madam Speaker, I was devastated when we went to Lake Victoria from Mwanza side and entered one of the ships that used to visit all the three original Partner States of East Africa. The captain and the management took us through a long history of the transport and activity of the ship. I think as a Community, we need to find ways of activating the transport in the lake. It will go a long way to solve some of the problems the Community is experiencing like unnecessary burden on the roads by trailers. Not only that, but it will also go a long way to reduce on the pollution that adds to the climate change trouble. I thank you, Madam Speaker and I support the motion. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Kidega.

Mr. Jeremie Ngendakumana (Burundi): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. First of all, I would like to apologise. Many years ago I have been a member of the Burundi National Assembly and when it was time to ask on the floor for you to raise our hands and now I had forgotten that I was no longer a member of the Burundi National Assembly. I didn't remember that I was now a member of EALA. We used to stand up when we want to ask for the floor.

Madam Speaker, the issue we are debating today came at the right time if it is not a bit late. Climate change is no longer a secret for anybody; it is a visible reality all over the world. One can say that the climate as it was last year is quite different from the one we have now so if you want our children and grandchildren to live quietly in the future, we need strong policies and good legislation so that we can protect our world from climate change maybe to stop as it is now.

Here and there all over the world, conferences are organised but nothing on the ground is visibly changing. East African Community as a Community and as a regional community but also as an inter-governmental community must play its role. We must have the same vision on that issue so that we can have common legislation, common policies, and common projects so that we can do and play our role exactly.

I think that it would be better for the East African Community and for other countries to negotiate with those countries, which are more responsible of climate changes to fund more projects that we initiate in terms of protecting our world from climate change.

It is on this wish that I support the report.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Jeremie.

Mr. Abdullah Ally Hassan Mwinyi (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. First and foremost, I would like to join my colleagues in thanking the people, the Parliament as well as the Chair and the chapter of Burundi for their gracious hospitality in making our stay a home away from home. We thank you.

Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year. May the best of 2012 be the worst of 2013. Think about that, it is a complement. *(Laughter)*

My colleagues have spoken in detail about climate change and it is a vast topic but I would like to contribute on two aspects of it. First of all, the depletion of the ozone layer and second the generation of greenhouse gases.

The depletion of the ozone layer is as a direct result of the technological development that is taking place in the world. For those like me who are lay without a scientific background, ozone is an element as hon. Leonce had informed us earlier that is staying above the eight-kilometre zone above the earth and its key characteristics is actually to deplete the rays of the Sun onto the earth so that it does not affect us who live under there.

The problem of the depleting ozone layer is directly because of technological advancement. We all need technological advancement but one compound that actually converts ozone into oxygen is chlorofluorocarbons. These are CFCs. CFCs are produced by refrigerators. In the olden times, most refrigerators emitted compounds of CFCs. This is especially of challenge to us in developing countries because a lot of us in this part of the world are actually importing second hand used refrigerators from South East Asia predominantly from China. It is very important to check how these refrigerators are made. Are they emitting CFCs, are they going to affect our environment and us in this part of the world?

I request the Council of Ministers perhaps to shed some light into this particular problem if they have any information in relation to CFCs and their effect on the ozone depletion and how they are managed or monitored as these refrigerators come into East Africa. (*Interruption*)

Ms Muhongayire: Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker, and thank you, hon. Mwinyi for giving me way. I just wanted to report some little progress that so far in different international conventions, which are being negotiated, ozone layer is the only one, which has shown response in terms of reducing instead of expanding. To date the report we have says it has reduced, I don't remember by what degree but it is reducing because if the efforts which have been made by I would say the developed world because some of those refrigerators and those types of gases are no longer being produced.

So, the moment the ones that are in circulation finishes, we won't be having that problem anymore but it is reducing or condensing compared to other problems we have.

Mr. Mwinyi: Thank you very much for that information and I would sure the Council of Ministers would thank you as well for taking them off the hook.

The second matter is in relation to the greenhouse gases. These are the direct effect of chopping down of trees. The reduction of those organisms that are actually creating oxygen is directly affecting the production of greenhouse gases that is increasing the temperature in the word, which has devastating consequences.

I have a vested interest, I am from an island in the Indian Ocean, and if we don't take some serious action, we may have to move to the higher lands in the rest of the East African Community.

My proposal to this House and to the Council of Ministers is to take action in a tangible way. The best way to redress the rise of greenhouse gases is to plant trees. (*Applause*) It is a very

simple idea but I will urge the Parliament; the East African Legislative Assembly ourselves to plant trees. To put it in our formal program wherever we are moving in each Partner State to show leadership in a tangible way by starting ourselves and planting trees. I will urge the same for the Council of Ministers as well as the Secretary General to institute programs that are far reaching and are tangible that would encourage the local communities and the Partner States at large in planting as many trees as possible.

Finally, I would like to conclude by supporting the report, and I thank you all. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Mwinzi.

Mr. Abdul Karim Harelimana (Rwanda): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker for giving me the floor. As it is my first time to speak since we opened this plenary yesterday, I want take this opportunity to thank the government and the people of the Republic of Burundi for welcoming us here in this beautiful city of Bujumbura and to thank our honourable brothers and sisters; the Burundi chapter for giving us all the good hospitality we needed at this moment.

Madam Speaker, the climate change issue is a very important issue which we had to discuss years before today especially we the elderly people who are- we and our grandchildren are the most affected by climate change, not only here in the region but worldwide. You hear that in Europe now they have the coolest weather they ever saw since some 50 years ago. The elderly and the children are the ones who are affected, dying, being taken to hospitals and so on.

Here in Bujumbura today, this weather, which we are experiencing today, is very different from the one we know some good years ago. Madam Speaker, we lived in this region seeing rivers flowing. Today we see them drying up. We lived in the region where we used to see people taking water from lakes and today these areas are just dry places where children can play football.

Madam Speaker, we lived in the region where you used to see rain for two or three days without stopping and today we see only rains for 15 to 30 minutes and you say that they were heavy rains. So, things are changing in our eyes, you are leaving it, and they are affecting us.

Madam Speaker, I commend the committee especially the chairperson and these workshops which they attended and the recommendations which they have made. That is why I want to support the motion and at the same time, request the Council of Ministers to accept all the recommendations, brought forth by the committee.

Madam Speaker, if we take it lightly and think that these things can just change by themselves, I think we will go as far as what we see happening in China in these days. People need to put on their mouths and noses a few gadgets to assist them to breathe at least some good breath from outside otherwise people are dying even in China because of the industrialization which is uncontrollable.

So, Madam Speaker, without much ado, I want to support the motion. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Harelimana.

Ms Nancy Kabeyeka Lung'ahi Abisai (Kenya): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you well in the year 2013. Like my colleague, hon. Sebalu said, instead of saying happy maybe I will add happy, productive, and eventful if it makes sense that way. I wish you all well.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate the Chair for the very able leadership of this committee. I think the report was very well structured and the references that she has also given members were a job well done. Congratulations, Madam Chair.

My colleagues have mentioned many of the aspects that I wanted to talk about so I will bring out two very fundamental issues that I thought that we should re-emphasise. One is the whole question of sustainable development in terms of looking at climate change. I feel that this has become more or less like a fashionable terminology that we want to use without looking at the very aspects that affect us as a community. It is about time that we raise the awareness and sensitisation even to the ordinary citizens in terms of the need to engage in climate change programs.

Two, the aspect of planning, budgeting, and prioritising the climate change agenda. I am not very sure at the national level within our national parliaments whether this agenda is being taken seriously in terms of budgeting for activities of programs on climate change. The reason why I say that I want to take a key example is of Lake Victoria. The whole question of Lake Victoria up to date we have had many people claiming that they are doing research; a lot of money has been spent on Lake Victoria but the degradation of Lake Victoria is pathetic and I think it is important that it be fast tracked.

Madam Speaker, I think the whole question of having a lot of – I would like to add my voice to that of the colleagues who have raised concern about having very good documents and papers but without a clear implementation strategy in terms of how we would want to move the agenda on climate change forward. So, I think it is important for us to start with the very simple aspects that affect us like looking at the whole Lake Victoria Basin and knowing how we can be able to track progress within the area.

So, without much ado, I would like to suggest that the aspect -like what the committee clearly recommended of fast tracking operationalisation - is key, and with that, I beg to support this motion. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Abisai. I saw the Secretary General trying to stand up to respond to a few comments. I thought that after hon. Kidega, hon. Mwinyi, hon. Pareno, and hon. Abisai raising a few of their concerns, they would deserve at least a comment. But on the part of the EALA Commission, I would say that we would pick the recommendations from hon. Mwinyi on planting trees every time we go to a Partner State as a visible action coming from the Assembly.

The Secretary General to the East African Community (Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera): Thank Madam Speaker for giving me the floor. I have to say, Madam Speaker, as usual you are extremely persuasive. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, since this is the first time that I am taking the floor this year, I would also wish to join hon. Members who have wished you and the entire Assembly a very Happy New Year, 2013- a happy and productive tree planting year. (*Applause*)

I also wish to thank the committee for this important report and especially for the interest that the hon. Members, not only those of this committee but also all Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, have in climate change. We don't take it for granted. The interest that the hon. Members have in climate change is extremely commendable and gives us hope that this agenda will move forward quickly.

Madam Speaker, it is interesting to note that interest in climate change for many years was limited to a few scientists and actually, when they began getting worried about climate change they were worried that this world – this earth would freeze – that we would have a new Ice Age. And they began studying the glaciers in the North to make sure that they did not extend to the South. It is only later on – very late in the process that we actually realised that instead of cooling down, the earth was warming up and a lot of science went into it. But for too long it was the preserve of scientists, the technical people who were doing carbon dioxide measurements in the sea and elsewhere.

Therefore, I wish to concur with the hon. Members who have said on this floor that climate change is too important a subject to be left only to the technicians. And the involvement of EALA is very commendable. (*Applause*)

Madam Speaker, there are a number of questions which I have heard. First of all, it is true that there are some documents that are still in draft form, including the operational modalities for the Climate Change Fund, as well as the Draft Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy. I would urge the Members to get copies of these drafts, which are very good. We shall avail copies to you. But I should say that they are on the programme of Council for consideration. They were scheduled for the Sectoral Council on Environment and Natural Resources, which was supposed to have taken place late January, but unfortunately this Sectoral Council was postponed at the request of a Partner State but they are still in the process. And I look forward to conclusion of these documents by Council this financial year.

Madam Speaker, there are also other recommendations in this report which are extremely important. I am sure the members of Council are here and they have taken note but certainly, as we prepare for Council and for the discussions by Council, these recommendations will be brought before Council for their consideration and decision.

I also wish to say, Madam Speaker that in the area of climate change, I am glad to report that this is a tripartite endeavour. And the East African Community, COMESA, and SADC have very close relationships, cooperation, and coordination in this area and we will continue to do so. In fact some of the financing for EAC activities on climate change is through COMESA under the IRCC, which is a grouping that brings all of us together to agree on common programming. This is so because climate change can only be handled at a continental level or at a bigger sub-regional level, certainly not only at a Partner State level.

Finally, Madam Speaker I wish to congratulate EALA for this decision to plant trees all the time and everywhere. It is a very good tool for sensitisation. *(Applause)*

I have to report that at our beginning of the year staff meeting for all staff of the Community, this same matter came up and staff of the Community have decided that they want to plant trees beginning with around the headquarters where we are and Arusha but also certainly where we have activities. So, there is a meeting of the minds, which shows that this is an important activity where all of us will participate. I am ready to participate and so is everyone. Thank you, Madam Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much. I will invite hon. Dr. Saadalla

Dr Abdallah Saadalla Abdallah: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. Traditionally, this being my first time to contribute in this august House this year, I would like to wish all the Members including you, Madam Speaker a Happy New Year. *(Applause)*

Secondly, I would like to congratulate the chair of the committee for a well-narrated report with good recommendations but also with well-done work by the committee on this special and noble issue. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, I can see two issues here that we need to discuss and give recommendations for the way forward; the first issue is about food scarcity and disturbances of the eco system and the second one is on how we can unite our forces towards responding to the adverse impact of climate change.

Madam Speaker, we as the Council of Ministers received a report and we can almost say that 100 percent agree with the recommendations not only by just hearing them but also by implementing them. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, I know there are many recommendations, some of them are opinions from Members but a member of the Council of Ministers, and I would just say that we take them all on board though there were some few, which were very important. The first one is that of hon. Kidega that he was in doubt on how the policies, strategies, and master plan will be put forward for implementation. I would like to assure him and the august House that some of the issues, which are in the policy, strategies, and master plan, have already been taken aboard and are now being implemented.

Most of them have been sent to the Partner States environmental committees and are being implemented. Some of them are being implemented bilaterally between Partner States while some of them are being operated through the East African Community, for example, is a very sensitive issue which hon. Zein touched on and subsequently touched me, which is the issue of conflicts that he said we have to take care of lest we suffer from the conflicts. Conflicts like the one we have been dealing with within the Lake Victoria of water obstruction and release. This was a longstanding issue, but we are very happy to report that the issue has been resolved together as an East African issue within the Council of Ministers and the report has been signed. So, this is one of the points. *(Applause)*

We also have bilateral issues and problems on the environment, which are being taken care of between the concerned countries.

Madam Speaker, I just wanted to give an assurance to the Members. I don't have much more to talk about it. I have also stood to support the motion and give assurance to the Members of EALA that the Council of Ministers will take on board all the recommendations for implementation. Thank you so much. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much. I wish to invite the Chair, Council, perhaps to also make sure that he assures us when the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Bill is coming back.

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Mr. Shem Bageine): Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker. Let me also add my voice to all those who spoke before me in wishing you, Members of EALA, and all members of staff a prosperous and a happy 2013. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank the committee for a job well done. Madam Speaker, the committee members who attended the workshop and site visits gathered a lot of knowledge and information and I would like to urge them to use this knowledge in an effort to try and fight against the adverse climate change.

Madam Speaker, the activities that our populations engage in mainly growing food for home consumption and trade have gone on for years to the extent that we have ended in some parts of the countries have over cultivation that has not only degraded the soils but also led to soil erosions in some of the hilly parts of our region. Recently we had landslides in Eastern Uganda and some in the Western part of Uganda and these are continuing.

Madam Speaker, we have degraded the environment through deforestation, in the name of commerce, trading in timber. We have dried swamps in an effort to find land on which to grow crops, what sometimes happens is when it rains the soil in the hills cascade and covers the foods in the valleys, and we lose in both ways.

So, I am happy that the committee has come up with this report and the recommendations and the resolutions that I have glanced at, which I believe will take us a long way in an effort to try and reverse the trend that has led to climate change and the adverse results on our survival.

Madam Speaker, my colleague has answered the questions, which were raised, and the Secretary General but let me point out to Members that the Council of Ministers can only be an avenue through which certain decisions are made and forwarded to the Partner States for implementation. But I want to urge the Members of this august House to lead by example and begin walking the talk so that all of us together we can help in sensitising the populations about the bad habits of farming that have resulted into climate change.

I belong, Madam Speaker to a Lions Club organisation and last year our International President's theme was tree planting. Globally the Lions Clubs planted over 12 million trees and within our region, we planted around 3 million trees, that is, in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Seychelles and Ethiopia. And so I would like to urge Members, and I support the resolution- it is a decision made that wherever we are, we must plant trees because that is the only way we can turn round this dreadful change of climate.

I want to assure Members that as my honourable colleague said, the plans, which have been approved, are already being incorporated in the national plans relating to the environment. I can testify to this that recently when we had our retreat, the issue of the environment came up and reports to its effect were made whereby these plans put forward by EALA have already been put in practice. And so I would like to encourage Members to continue the fight against this change that is destructive so that we can leave a better environment for the future generations.

I want to once again assure Members that the Council of Ministers will take these recommendations and transmit them to the various Partner States so that if there are new recommendations that have not been put into practice, we urge them to do so, so that we can improve our environment. Once again, thank you and I want to thank the committee for a very well structured report. I thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Chair Council for that assurance. At this juncture, I should invite the chairperson of the committee to wind up debate.

The Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources (Ms Isabelle Ndahayo): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. I would first of all like to thank the following hon. Members who have contributed to this report: Hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye, hon. Bazivamo, hon. Hafsa Mossi, hon. Mike Sebalu, hon. Abubakar Zein, hon. Pareno, hon. Kidega, hon. Ngendakumana Jeremie, hon. Mwinyi, hon. Abubakar Karim, hon. Nancy Abisai, hon. Sezibera, hon. Dr. Saadalla and hon. Bageine. *(Applause)*

As you have said in your contributions, and as we had it in our report, climate change impact is a reality in our region and it should be taken seriously. But the major problem we have is about the implementation of the recommendations made which are times difficult and even ignored. But for this case, I think this report is clear, it has identified the different responsibilities that can be undertaken to ease its follow up.

Our committee will continue to take the lead in pursuing this issue. And I would like to tell you that during this workshop, we were not alone. We were with Members of the EAC Partner State national parliaments, and so this will help us to easily make a follow-up of what we have decided much easier, and take care of what hon. Bageine has said. We shall submit it and once our House adopts it here, we shall submit to the National Parliaments and in case they have more recommendations then we adopt them so that we can move forward together.

I would for that matter like to make a small correction on the title of this report instead of saying, “A Climate Change workshop for EALA Parliamentarians” it should read as “ A Workshop for Parliamentarians” and not only EALA because we had also Members from National Parliaments.

I also support the idea of the decision made here about planting trees. I think it should even start here in Burundi for this period. We can arrange and start planting the tress here in Burundi, why not? With these few remarks, Rt. hon. Speaker, I beg to submit. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Isabelle Ndahayo for that report and I want also to thank the Members who have very constructively debated and supported this report. Hon. Members, the motion on the floor is that the report on the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources on Climate Change Workshop for Parliamentarians be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I earlier on had received expression of interest from the Chair of the Committee of Natural Resources. Therefore, I want, by the powers conferred upon the Speaker under Rule 16 (5), to amend the Order Paper so that we have item number four to deal with the resolution on climate change, which resolution is attached on the report we have just adopted. And considering that the resolution has a similar bearing and also recognising that it is a resolution which is of urgent nature, and looking at it from the perspective of its convenience, I want to, under Rule 26 (4), ask that the Order Paper is amended by inserting item number four, which is a resolution on climate change. This resolution is going to be moved by hon. Isabelle Ndahayo. I wish to invite her to move this resolution.

The Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources (Ms Isabelle Ndahayo): Rt. hon. Speaker, I beg to move that the resolution on climate change be adopted.

The Speaker: Seconded by hon. Kidega, hon. Sebalu, hon. Hajabakiga and hon. Odette Nyiramilimo.

Ms Ndahayo: Madam Speaker, the resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

PREAMBLE

We, Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Tourism of the Third East African Legislative Assembly (EALA),

HAVING MET in Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania, from 12 to 13 November 2012;

RECALLING the provisions of the Treaty for Establishment of the East African Community, in particular Articles 100, 111, 112 and 113 on Meteorological Services and Environment and Natural Resources Management, respectively;

NOTING that not all Partner States have ratified the EAC Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management;

FURTHER NOTING the EALA Motion of 2009 on the Manila Call for Action of Parliamentarians on Applying Disaster Risk Reduction as an Instrument for climate change adaptation and achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs);

RECOGNIZING that climate change is a real threat to sustainable development globally and particularly in the region with adverse impacts across all sectors of the economy including agriculture and food security, water resources, ecosystems, tourism, human health and settlement, industrial development and peace and security;

ACKNOWLEDGING that over 70 per cent of natural disasters in the region are climatic related and that the greatest impacts of climate change are evidenced in form of climatic disasters including floods and droughts;

RECOGNIZING the opportunities for sustainable development accruing from climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, in particular those geared towards green economy and low carbon development;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to making every effort to contribute to climate change adaptation, including through disaster risk reduction and management measures;

CONSIDERING that EAC Partner States resolved to collect and disseminate meteorological information in order to facilitate the efficient operation of air navigation, coastal shipping, inland waterways transport and the issuing of cyclone warnings and other adverse weather phenomena and cooperate with in all activities of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) affecting the interests of the Community especially the monitoring of the atmospheric and global climatic changes;

RECALLING the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol to achieve the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system;

FURTHER RECALLING the objective of the Hyogo Framework for Action to reduce disaster losses by 2015 by building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters and its five priorities for action;

RECALLING ALSO the Declaration of the 9th Extra Ordinary Summit of Heads of State on Food Security and Climate Change of 19th April 2011;

WELCOMING the progress made by EAC Secretariat in the development and implementation of the Regional Climate Change Policy, Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan that aims to ensure harmonized and coordinated approach to addressing climate change in the region;

AWARE of the forthcoming eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Doha from 26 November to 7 December 2012;

RECOGNIZING that a coordinated structure provides a link between the political and technical processes and also provides political guidance to the negotiators and enhances the region's visibility in the negotiations process;

ACKNOWLEDGING that national and regional Parliaments have a critical role to play in fostering climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk management and awareness creation.

NOW, THEREFORE, we do hereby resolve to:

- (i) *Urge Partner States to ratify the EAC Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management;*
- (ii) *Urge Partner States to consolidate a common position on climate change with a view of feeding into the African Common Position on Climate Change;*
- (iii) *Call for the establishment and building of technical and financial capacities of the EAC Climate Change Group of Negotiators;*
- (iv) *Call for the establishment of a Regional Climate Change Parliamentarians Forum to enhance the understanding on issues related to climate change and network with national Parliaments;*
- (v) *Urge for the operationalization of the EAC Climate Change Policy, Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy;*
- (vi) *Urge Partner States to align their Climate Change actions with the EAC Climate Change Policy, Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy so as to avoid duplication and conflicts;*
- (vii) *Call for the establishment of an EAC Climate Change Unit to coordinate climate change actions;*
- (viii) *Urge for the fast tracking of the operationalization of the EAC Climate Change Fund;*
- (ix) *Call for enhancement of the application of disaster risk reduction as a tool for climate change adaptation;*
- (x) *Urge for the mainstreaming of climate change into national and regional development planning and budgeting;*
- (xi) *Urge EAC Secretariat and Partner States to enhance public awareness, education and training on climate change and disaster risk reduction;*
- (xii) *Urge EAC Secretariat and Partner States to promote joint actions in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs);*
- (xiii) *Urge EALA and national Parliaments to enhance their role in climate change and disaster risk reduction legislation, oversight and awareness;*
- (xiv) *Urge EAC Secretariat and Partner States to facilitate EALA and national Parliaments to be actively involved in the international negotiation processes on climate change.*

Adopted by the Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Tourism of the 3rd East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) on the 13th day of November 2012 at Mwanza, United Republic of Tanzania.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Isabelle Ndahayo. Hon. Members, then proposal on the floor is that the resolution of the East African Legislative Assembly on climate change be adopted. Debate is open.

Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo (Rwanda): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. As my predecessors did, I wish all of you a very fruitful, happy, and eventful year, 2013.

Rt. hon. Speaker, I rise to support this motion and as one of the members of the committee, I wish to bring some minor corrections. In the preamble, I would wish not to only correct that member of the committee but Members of EALA and not the “Third EALA”. We are EALA in our own capacity and not the third.

The second paragraph recalling the provisions of the Treaty in particular Articles; I think for better English we should say, “Particularly in Articles 100, 111 ...”

Paragraph 5, further noting that; there is “that” which is missing; paragraph 6 in the last line maybe there is “and”, which is not necessary - to read: “industrial development, peace, and security”, I think the first and can be deleted.

On the second page the second last paragraph; aware that the 18th Session has taken place and unfortunately it has not concluded with a clear strategy or plan of action in Doha so, I think if we wish to still mention it, we should say, “AWARE of the 18th Session of the Conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Doha from 26th November to 7th December, 2012 in which we could not conclude on tangible strategies or plan of actions...” So, I am proposing those corrections if the Members think they are appropriate. I thank you, Madam Speaker and I support the motion.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Odette Nyiramilimo. I think we shall also use then opportunity that within our rules we have the opportunity to improve on the resolution in that perspective. I will take hon. Sebalu, hon. Ogle and hon. Hajabakiga in that order.

Mr. Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also want to thank the chair of the committee. This resolution is important because it is a reflection of what we went through and the idea of having it in place is to consolidate our efforts with a method that can be followed up in terms of implementation of the recommendations. So, it was to strengthen the output from the report.

And like hon. Odette has indicated, this is a reflection of when we met and so there is need to be amendments to reflect the time at which the resolution is being passed in Parliament so that this meeting can never be in the future. It did take place and what came out of it is known so that it can be amended to reflect the status as is pertaining now regarding that meeting so that we don't appear to be reporting something that has already passed as if it were to take place in the future. With those comments, Madam Speaker I beg to support.

Mr. Abubakar Ogle (Kenya): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I fully support the recommendations and the resolutions herein but noting that climatic change is closely related to environmental management and further aware of the fact that as East Africans we have had a

very bad and poor record of management of our environment, I am particularly thinking about the Partner States and how they were not able to manage the hyacinth around Lake Victoria.

In view of the fact that out of the three Partner States in East Africa, two have oil explorations going on and in Tanzania there is huge mineral excavation going on, I am suggesting that the resolutions therein, we add a provision that “In view of the expected explorations of oil in Kenya and Uganda, and the mineral excavations in Tanzania, there be incorporated a provision that in so doing there must be very strong policies in place to ensure that the environment is accordingly managed so as to mitigate the climate change.” Thank you, Madam Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: I will request hon. Ogle to draft that proposed addition to the resolution so that you can forward it to the Clerk and it is added properly on the resolution.

Ms Patricia Hajabakiga (Rwanda): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. I think it is my first time to take the floor. I would also like to wish you and hon. Chairperson, Council of Ministers, my colleagues, Hon. Members and the staff of EAC and EALA who are here a Happy New Year, 2013.

I would also like to thank our colleagues, the Burundi Chapter for the warm reception they have accorded us since we arrived, the Parliament of Burundi and H. E. the President in particular to have opened our session yesterday. *(Applause)*

Rt. hon. Speaker, probably this is like the third time since I joined EALA in 2008 that we debate or bring a resolution on matters relating to climate change. And I think that shows how critical the whole situation is. I am not going to go into the details of debate because my colleagues have already done so but I wanted to come back to one particular issue, which is found in both the resolution and report. This is the issue of negotiations.

Rt hon. Speaker and hon. Members, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was negotiated and adopted in 1992 while the Kyoto Protocol was concluded in 1996 but was not effective until some years later because some countries had refused to sign it and yet the Kyoto Protocol is the implementation framework for the convention itself.

And as you may be aware, Rt. hon. Speaker the negotiations for the post Kyoto which was supposed to be concluded in November 2012, which was last year, was supposed to have been concluded in 2007 in Bali but it did not; it stalled in Bali; it has stalled all along up to last year where it still stalled showing that the world is not speaking one language as far as climate change matters are concerned. This is something East Africans and African as a whole must look at because we are poor and we are the weak child as far as climate change impacts are concerned. We are the most affected and yet we are not the causers of climate change variations.

As I wanted to discuss issues of negotiations, I am glad that starting with Copenhagen, there has been an improvement as far as negotiations on the part of Africa are concerned. Africa spoke with one voice when they went to Copenhagen and this indeed had a push in stopping certain things from happening or even to conclude on the issues, which we didn't agree with.

However, we need to continue and keep pushing because if we are not careful, we are on our own. We shall have to deal with issues of both adaptation and mitigation on our own without

any support because the Kyoto Protocol was exactly indicating the mechanism as to how the responsibilities of what they called “Annex 1” vis-à-vis “Non Annex 1”, which are developed countries, were supposed to do for us. So, the Kyoto Protocol has now been extended to 2014. I assume and hope that between that now and then, it will be concluded and it will give us the way forward. Otherwise, Rt. hon. Speaker, we are in danger; we have a problem and we need to continue to engage developed countries to abide and agree to support the developing world and in particular, Africa, which is more, affected by climate change more than any other region on the planet. With those remarks, Madam Speaker I wish to support the motion. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Hajabakiga. I will now have hon. Bonaya.

Ms Sarah Bonaya (Kenya): Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this chance to contribute to this very important motion. I will start by thanking the Parliament of Burundi for their hospitality while hosting us here in this beautiful Assembly of Burundi.

I would also like to contribute to this important issue of climate change and others have already mentioned as, this is a very critical issue to us as a region and I would like to congratulate the committee for the very serious work they have done in focusing on this issue and giving us the way forward.

I would also like to point out one issue that I do not find in the recommendations and that is the issue of networking with continental and regional bodies.

Two, we have been told that we need to fit in into African Climate Change Group but we need a common position in Africa. We realized in Africa since its one of the most fragmented and vulnerable continent, we find that most of the times our voices are scattered because we do not have any binding legal instrument. Most of the times we come into our forum like before Copenhagen we were in Nairobi with African Parliamentarians and they said one people, one voice, and one position. But when we went there, some other divergent voices were raised and that could have easily jeopardised the position of Africa. So, EALA as one of the regional bodies has to come up with some recommendations and we need to network and come up with legislations. Those are the two areas I wanted to make an input. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Sarah Bonaya. You can draft something to see how we can add it within 2 as you have proposed. The last will be hon. Kessy Nderakindo.

Dr. Kessy Nderakindo (Tanzania): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I would like to support the others who have given you good wishes for yourself and your family and the whole of this House together with the country of Burundi.

I have two things to add in the sense that since change is the only constant thing right now, we know that definition changes and there is a big debate right now as to what sustainable development means. In our mother countries and within our region, should we sustain the development that we have? In that sense, should we sustain the poverty that we have?

There is also a big debate on what development is. Should China sustain the development that it has which is causing the climate change? Therefore, I am just asking the committee to add a

footnote as to whom are they referring or which definition of sustainable development are they using. They can refer to the internet where there are a couple of definitions, which they can use.

Secondly, I would like to have more clarity on the first page when they talk about “over 70 percent of national disaster in the region are climate related” it would be beneficial to us to have a reference to that because I know there are many scientists in the world that are doing research on this. So, we don’t know which year they are referring to and which group of scientists came up with that result. Thank you, Madam Speaker. With that, I support the motion. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Nderakindo, Of course, like I said a little earlier that within our rules we have the opportunity to redraft or to improve on the resolution. Within that arrangement, I think we shall have the opportunity to substantiate with the year as you are suggesting and perhaps substantiate with the development you want to talk about and perhaps the kind of sustainable development you want to mean.

Ms Ndahayo: Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank all hon. Members who have contributed to this resolution; hon. Odette, hon. Sebalu, hon. Ogle, hon. Hajabakiga, hon. Bonaya and hon. Nderakindo. I thank them for their contribution and I am very happy to see that all the Members have supported this resolution. This shows how they have given attention to these climate issues.

I thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker for having taken into consideration our wish of having this resolution being debated immediately. Thank you for that. I would like to add that we should take into consideration all the advice given here and all amendments on this resolution. With this, I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Isabelle Ndahayo. Hon. Members, the motion on the floor is that the resolution of the East African Legislative Assembly on climate change be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I would like to thank you and with that resolution we have come to the end of today’s session. But before I adjourn the House, I wish to make some important announcements.

First, tomorrow, 24 January 2013, the Rt. hon. Speaker of the National Assembly of Burundi has graciously invited all of us, hon. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly to a dinner in honour of our presence in Bujumbura to take place at Hotel Royal Palm Resort. You take the route of Gatumba. I wish to invite you, hon. Members, spare tomorrow so that we can respect this invitation. The buses, as usual, Sergeant at Arms will facilitate our movement to that specific place.

In the same breath, I wish to bring to you the invitation of the Ministry of East African Community Affairs of Burundi graciously organised by hon. Leontine Nzeyimana on Friday, 25 January 2013 starting at 6.00 p.m. at *Club du lac Tanganyika Hotel*. I wish to thank her and all the members of her staff for this invitation. I would like to call upon you, hon. Members that you prepare yourselves to effectively do justice to this very important invitation. With these very

important announcements, I wish to adjourn the House to tomorrow, 2.30 p.m. House stands adjourned.

((The House rose at 5.00 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 24 January 2013 at 2.30 p.m.))