****

**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**RESOLUTION ON FORESTRY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**PREAMBLE**

*We, Members of the East African Legislative Assembly;*

*Having received the Report on Forestry Management and Climate Change in the Region from the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources;*

**Recalling** the provisions of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, in particular Articles 100, 111, 112 and 114 on Meteorological Services, Forestry, Environment and Natural Resources Management, respectively;

**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 and their impact on forestry 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;

**Aware** of the forthcoming twentieth World Platform on Hyogo Framework of Action to take place in March 2015 in Japan;

**Recalling also** the Declaration of the 9th Extra Ordinary Summit of Heads of State on Food Security and Climate Change of 19th April 2011 where it approved the two documents; the EAC food security action plan (2011-2015) and the EAC climate change policy for implementation.

**Noting** that EALA is in the process of initiating a Private Member’s Bill on Forestry Management and Conservation;

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

**Recognizing** that climate change is a real and actual threat to sustainable development globally and particularly in the region with observable 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;

**Further Recognising** that efficient and effective forestry management is a key measure for adapting to, and mitigating adverse impact of climate change;

**Noting** that illegal logging of timber, expansion of agriculture to forested areas and overexploitation of forest resources are the major causes of deforestation;

**Acknowledging** that over 70% of natural disasters in the region are climate 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;

**Welcoming**  the progress made by EAC 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;

**Noting** efforts by the Lake Victoria Basin Commission in development of a Climate Change Strategy, the REDD+ Strategy including the ongoing East African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) process;

**Aware**of the forthcoming twentieth 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 Lima from 2 to 12 December 2014;

**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:**

1. Urge the United Republic of Tanzania to ratify the EAC Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management;
2. Urge the Republics of Burundi and Rwanda to join and embrace Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), and the Agriculture Forestry and other Land Use (AFOLU);
3. Create a Regional Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change to enhance the understanding of issues related to forestry and climate change;
4. Urge the Council of Ministers to operationalize the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy and finalise the EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Bill;
5. Urge for promotion of research by creating centres of excellence in forestry in the Region;
6. Urge Partner States to support the proposed EAC Forest Management and Conservation Bill;
7. Urge for educating local forest- dependent communities on adverse effects of deforestation, involve them in putting in place strategies for forest conservation and economically empower them to reduce their dependence on forest resources;
8. Urge for development of a regional education programme on new agro-forestry techniques, tools and practices that are adapted to climate change and mitigate its adverse impacts through climate–smart agriculture;
9. Urge the Secretariat to coordinate Partner States joint actions in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) related to Forestry;

**Adopted by the 3rd East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) on the…………….**