



THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

53RD SITTING – 2ND MEETING – 3RD SESSION – 5TH ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 8th July, 2025

*The East African Legislative Assembly
met at 2.40 p.m. virtually*

PRAYER

*(The Speaker, Hon. Ntakirutimana
Joseph, in the Chair)*

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Good afternoon Honourable Members. I welcome you all to today's sitting. I would like to make two very important communications.

One is regarding the challenges that this House is experiencing in processing and approving the EAC budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026. Members of the Council of Ministers are not readily available when required; we are experiencing delays. This budget was to pass last week, but we have not gone far in processing it. Due to the failure by Members of the Council to avail themselves, the deadline of Monday, 14th

July 2025 is fast approaching. If we get to the deadline without approving the budget, it collapses, unless a new extension is granted. Last Thursday, this House together with the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, agreed on a roadmap on how to proceed. I had expected that we would proceed as agreed. However, the report I have received is that the Ministers did not attend the meeting of the Committee on General Purpose. The Chairperson of the Council also requested that the meeting be postponed to Thursday, 10th July 2025. This may lead to further delays, unless we are assured of collaboration amongst the ministers. Council Members, please be available, and let us save this budget.

Regarding the report of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges on the investigations levelled against the immediate former Secretary-General, I urge the Chapters who had requested further consultations to conclude them, so that we can proceed harmoniously.

Honourable Members, we have visitors who have joined our sitting today. Allow

me to recognize them. They are Universal Peace Federation (UPF) President for Africa, Hon Adama Doumbia who resides in Ivory Coast, UPF Tanzania Secretary-General Prof Benezer David Mwang'ombe based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Deputy Secretary-General for Zanzibar Mrs Aziza Rashid Mussa based in Zanzibar Tanzania. You are welcome. *(Applause)*

We can now proceed to Order No.2, laying of the papers.

LAYING OF PAPERS

(I) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE REGIONAL POLICE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AND SECURITY AGENCIES COOPERATION IN TACKLING CROSS-BORDER CRIME WITHIN THE EAC REGION (AS AMENDED)

2.47

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda)(Uganda): Honourable Speaker, I take this opportunity on behalf of the Committee to lay the report. I beg to lay on the table the report of the Committee on Regional Affairs And Conflict Resolution on the progresses made by the East African Community on its common foreign and security policies held on the 18th to 21st November 2024 at Kampala, Uganda.

(Hon. (Dr.) Siranda laid the document on the Table.)

The Speaker: Lay the next one.

(II) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EAC SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICIES

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda)(Uganda): Honourable Speaker, I beg to lay the report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on implementation of EAC Security and Foreign Policies.

(Hon. (Dr.) Siranda laid the document on the Table.)

The Speaker: We proceed to item number three on the Order Paper; The East African Community Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation Bill 2025.

Hon. Jacqueline Amongin. Please move you have the floor. Is she with us?

Is she not ready? Can you find her?

Hon. Amongin, can you get us? Is she connected? These are the challenges of virtual plenary sittings.

Mr Kennedy Musyoka Kalonzo (Kenya): Honourable Speaker, maybe the Secunder of the Motion can present it on behalf of the substantive mover.

The Speaker: Procedurally, the Mover should move the Motion.

Mr Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): I think the movers are two. Honourable Falhada Dekow is here. She could move the Motion.

The Speaker: Honourable Falhada, are you there? Even the seconder is not there. We can skip it.

2.57

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda): Honourable Speaker, Procedure. My procedural matter is with regards to the reports that have so far been laid by the Chairperson of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution. Let the soft copies be relayed to us for us to read through before we consider them on the floor of the House. We need to be given time to read through.

The Speaker: I have been informed that the soft copies have been sent to the Members. Did you check your email?

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda): Honourable Speaker, I checked the email that came attached with the Order Paper but the reports were not attached. I can check my email again.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF
THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON ACCOUNTS ON THE AUDITED
ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2022

“THAT, the Report of the Committee on Accounts on the Audited Accounts for the Financial Year ended 30th June, 2022, be adopted.”

(Business interrupted on 7th July, 2025)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, we concluded the debate on the report by the Committee on Accounts yesterday. I called the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers to reply to the debate but

she was not online. Since she is here today, I call upon the Chairperson of the Council or any Minister designated by the Chairperson to reply.

Honourable CTC, what are the arrangements? I can see that you are with us. Is the CTC connected?

3.00

Mr Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Right, Honourable Speaker, I have a procedural matter on issues to do with the guidance given to the Chair of the Council and Council members. This morning, when the Committee on GP was supposed to meet the Council, the Chair was not even aware of what they are supposed to do. Meaning, the Secretariat has not been helping the Council in doing their mandate. I am bringing a procedural matter that, instead of the CTC or the Secretariat connecting online, can the CTC and whoever is responsible be instructed to be together with any of the Council members particularly the Chair Council where the person is. This is to allow us to have an interaction with the Council when they have been briefed.

Would it not be procedural, right, that this Assembly resolves that the CTC or whoever is responsible is in attendance with the Council Chair. Just like you are here with your clerks, we expect the CTC also to be with the Chair Council so that we do not continue to have such kind of non-guidance with the Council members. This plenary is watched worldwide through links, so what kind of information are we sending?

I submit. Thank you.

The Speaker: You are right. The CTC, you are with us. Why are you refusing to interact with us? We can see you.

The Secretary-General, EAC (Ms Veronica Mueni Nduva)(Ex-Officio Member): Honourable Speaker, would you like me to talk as the Secretary-General of the Community? You keep calling the CTC when I am in the meeting. That is why I do not offer to talk. Would you like me to clarify? Would you like to give me the floor?

The Speaker: Yes, you have the floor.

3.02

The Secretary-General, EAC (Ms Veronica Mueni Nduva)(Ex-Officio Member): Good afternoon, Honourable Speaker and Members.

I wish to confirm that earlier on when the meeting began, I could see the Chair of Council and the Honourable Minister from Uganda. We are trying to establish whether they have lost connectivity or they are still there. Regarding their preparation, I wish to confirm that we have shared all the reports. As of this afternoon, we have also shared the responses to the issues that were raised yesterday during the EALA debate on the report of the audited accounts that is being discussed this afternoon. All the responses are available. We have prepared the ministers, we have shared the link on WhatsApp and reached out on the various platforms. We continue to reach out to them.

Honourable Speaker, we also appreciate your remarks that sometimes the virtual meetings and the timings are a challenge. Perhaps that is what is getting on the way.

Allow the team here to try and reach out again. We have also engaged the team in terms of preparation. When the Chair of Council is here, we ensure that she has gotten all the support. Today, the CTC and I had a long discussion with the technical team. We have also engaged with the Chair of Council to ensure that she is adequately prepared. We have also called upon the other ministers to support. As you are aware, the Chair of Council has been supportive and engaging in these meetings. We continue to encourage other members of Council to participate in this important duty. I wish to submit, Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, with that, I propose that we move to the next item. We will come back to item number three and item number four.

I hope they will be ready and available.

3.05

Amb. Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndagiza (Rwanda): Right, Honourable Speaker. Mine is on a procedural motion because the report on foreign policy coordination is a statutory report and it is a Council report. Would it not be procedural right to present that report when the Council is available? The Council should respond after listening to the report. We can proceed with the previous report from the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution, the one that we deferred in Kampala.

Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: I am informed that we have the Honourable Ministers from Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania with us.

Amb. Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndangiza (Rwanda): We are constituted now. Thank you.

The Speaker: Is the Chair Council now available?

Honourable Chair, are you ready? Honourable Chair, if you are ready, you have the floor. Chair now.

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe) (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya) (Ex-Officio Member): Mr. Speaker, which Chair? I am meant to understand that the Honourable Chairpersons in charge of standing committees are also called Chairs. I am also called Council Chair. I do not know which Chair you are talking about.

The Speaker: I am talking about the Chair of the Council of Ministers.

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe) (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya): Mr. Speaker, at least that one is directed to me. I am here.

The Speaker: I have to remind you that we are on item number four, which is the report of the Committee on the Audit and Accounts for the Financial Year 2022.

Yesterday, we had concluded the debate and the members had contributed, but when it came time to give the floor to the

Council to reply to the debate, you were not around and we did not have any member of the Council delegated by you to reply. That is why we could not continue and we adjourned until today. You have to reply to the contribution made by the members yesterday.

You have the floor.

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe) (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya) (Ex-Officio Member): Mr. Speaker, just like I said in the morning that prompted the postponement of the meeting, I have gotten these things now. I have not gotten to understand every content that is captured by me to read. I do not know whether we can proceed with a document that has found its way into where I am just 10 minutes before this plenary started.

The Speaker: As you are not ready, let us go to the next item. We should be back to you when you will be ready. If you are ready today, the better. If you are not, we should come back to you.

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe) (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya) (Ex-Officio Member): Mr. Speaker, allow me to say this. There is no item that I am prepared to answer now unless I just do the reading for the sake of reading. However, my conscience tells me that I need to go through this properly for me to really know what I am speaking for.

In my capacity as the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, I am not meant to just read what has been written. I also need to ascertain what I am reading, that it is true what has been implemented, it is true what has been agreed upon and the recommendations and the answers are moving along. I do not know whether I am making sense. I do not know whether I am making sense.

Mr. Speaker, there is no item here that would be moved and then expect me to answer without really knowing whether whatever I am reading is in line with the realities and the consciousness of what it is that I am committing the Council into

The Speaker: You are right. We will come back to you on Thursday.

Mr Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Right, Honourable Speaker, procedure. I had moved a procedural motion on the same item that the Chair Council has just highlighted. You were unable to rule on my procedure and yet that is what is happening. Somebody is given documents 10 minutes ago. The person is not taken through what shew is supposed to read and we want to proceed with our business as usual, yet someone who is, of course, as I have said, being broadcasted live all over the world. What message are we sending? I think the House has to pronounce itself on this matter.

The Speaker: In my communication, I said that we were concerned by the way we are delaying the budget plenary. I have heard from the Chair of Council. I understand that the Secretariat and the CTC, have to collaborate fully with the Chair of the Council so that she can be

ready and feel comfortable. Considering what the Chair of Council has said, I will have to put off the agenda until Thursday so that she can be ready.

If it is possible, the technical officers that we have, could even travel to the place where the Chair of the Council is and offer her support. We cannot participate in this or that function and not be able to reach the Chair of the Council and help her to understand what they have sent her to read. We hope that the Chair of Council will be ready on Thursday. The Secretariat, make sure that the Chair of the Council is comfortable and ready for Thursday.

3.15

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Mr. Speaker, thank you for your guidance. I think, in addition to the supportive technical staff, my advice would be that all these reports that require responses, be shared today so that by the time the technical people are there and then when she comes, together with all the Council members, they have responses. My Committee report will also require responses because it is a report that came from Council.

I presume that we send our own report alongside their report. Maybe they have it because it was laid by her in the House. I presume that she has already gone through that one and then when we send our report, it can be matched with what was laid by the speaker and then maybe we will be doing justice and not just rubber stamping. I beg to submit, Mr. Speaker.

3.16

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your guidance

over this matter of miscommunication and definitely now our failure to come together with Council to handle matters issues on the Order Paper. We all need to be proactive, including Council itself. Right now, we have just a Council Chair and a Council member from Uganda. The rest of the Council Members are not here and we do not know what is going on. We will reconvene on Thursday and you will find another scenario. Perhaps the Council Chair may not be there and you will have totally new ministers who have not attended previous plenaries coming into sit-in for the Council.

I request that all the Council members should be present whenever we have these plenaries. This plenary was scheduled by Council. The 12 days were given to us by Council, so they are aware. They knew of the matters that were supposed to be handled and it is basically Council Bills; the audit report, the budget, the SACA Bill and all the other Bills for the Monetary Union are supposed to be handled in this plenary. We are left with a few days to handle perhaps only the Accounts Committee report and perhaps the budget. We are going to postpone these other reports, especially those on the Monetary Union, and even the recruitment. From August, the Committee are going to be reconstituted. The Committees will have new members. That means the new committees will have to start from zero to reconsider these reports that have already been considered by the committees.

I request the ministers, let us not waste time and in wasting time, we are wasting the taxpayers' money of the Community because if we are not going to consider these Council Bills that came to us in this

plenary, it means we are going to go back to zero. It will take another year or two before these Council Bills are considered because this will be in new committees.

Right Honourable Speaker, I beg the indulgence of Council. Let all Council members be present. If need be, we consider the budget and add a few more days so that we conclude with the Council Bills that are before us instead of having a new cycle of starting afresh with the new committees.

I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I guided the technical team to support the Chair of the Council so that it can be ready on Thursday. I give the floor to the Secretary-General so that she can commit herself to support the Chair of Council.

3.20

Amb. Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndagiza (Rwanda): Right Honourable Speaker, I have a point of procedure.

The Speaker: Okay, you have the floor.

Amb. Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndagiza (Rwanda): Thank you, right, Honourable Speaker. I can see you are about to close the meeting, but the fundamental problem for me has been the issue of communication and this has to be addressed. We have three organs; the Council, the Assembly and the Secretariat. This issue of absence of Council members was witnessed recently when we had the report on the accounts. Today, the Committee on GP could not meet the Council again because of breakdown in communication. It is important to know where we have this gap.

Is it from the office of the Clerk? Is it from the office of the Secretary-General? Is it the Council itself? We need to address this issue so that we prevent future recurrences because at the end of the day, we are all one people, one destiny. We are serving the same people and we need to work together to address this matter. I hope when the Secretary-General or the Clerk talks, they should help us to avoid repeat of this problem of communication.

Thank you, right, Honourable Speaker.

3.22

Ms Françoise Uwumukiza (Rwanda): Mr. Speaker, I have information about what we were discussing because I am reading it through the inboxes. Members are chatting and we have got also the inputs from the SG that can help us to move forward if she has given the floor.

The Speaker: Honourable SG, you have the floor.

3.22

The Secretary-General, EAC (Ms Veronica Mueni Nduva) (Ex-Officio Member): Honourable Speaker, I noticed that the Chair of Council had requested for the floor. From a protocol perspective, it is only right to give her the floor first.

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe) (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya)(Ex-Officio Member): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to speak after the SG because all these things we are supposed to go through are generated from her office. I would want to hear her first before I make my position

clear on the presentation and invitation and all those things put together. I submit Chair.

The Secretary-General, EAC (Ms Veronica Mueni Nduva) (Ex-Officio Member): Honourable Speaker, thank you, for giving me the floor again. I do not have much clarification. I just wanted to put a few facts on the table. One of the things that is important to harmonise. I have three things to say with regards to the timings of the reports. First, I like what has been said that this process is three-way. There is the role of the Secretariat, the role of EALA, the role of the Council of Ministers. On our part, any time we receive the reports, it is a fact that is recorded on our emails that some of the reports we receive the morning of and the clerks are both there and they know what time they have sent the emails. We are happy to share the screenshots of when we receive the reports and the Order Papers.

I speak on behalf of the team here at the Secretariat that we have been working around the clock. Yesterday evening, we received the report of the Committee on Accounts a few hours before the discussion yesterday. When the report was presented, the team here worked into the evening; the finance and the legal teams worked until late to pull out responses. Are those responses from the Secretariat? No, we just collate information. We collate information from previous Council reports on all the issues that have been raised. That is what we submit to the Council to say these are the responses that have been requested because all this is submitted very late. The team worked overnight. I wish to clarify, it is important for record purposes. There is a tendency, I guess the Secretariat

is what is being referred to those people because I keep hearing the reference of the CTC and those other people. I am assuming that the Secretary-General is those other people. I wish to confirm that any time I get the information, I relay. I also want to set a record straight.

The Clerk invited the Chair of Council last week to EALA. We were not copied in that communication. It is a fact. We came later because we were informed that the Chair of Council is in her office. We were all in shock. The CTC was in shock, everybody was in shock. We wondered, how come we do not know? Only for them to do a bit of digging and there was a letter that was sent directly from the Speaker's Office to the Chair of Council, not telling the Secretariat. How will we be there if we have not been informed? Communication is a three-way traffic and I really hope that can be regularised because then you make us not prepare for the Chair and not be able to receive her.

In terms of the participation of the Council members, as soon as we get all this information, we pass it. As soon as we get it, we pass it. If there is anyone who has evidence to suggest that there has been delays on our part, we are more than happy to engage. There is always room for improvement. There has been delays in terms of getting the reports on our part. When we get these reports, the next thing we do is just to share the information. I think the Ministries of EAC (MEACs), all the ministries can confirm because we share through the official MEAC emails. Over and above that, I think there is evidence to suggest that I have been reaching out to the Council members.

I wish to draw your attention to a couple of things. Both Uganda and Tanzania are also preparing for their elections. Sometimes that has led to a disruption of participation, but also the fact that the challenges of virtual participation. Our ministers also have bosses they report to. So, they are not 100 per cent in charge of their diaries. When we expect them to be there, sometimes it is just not possible. There is been a suggestion from the previous plenary that we finished where Council was reminded of perhaps coming up with a rota where two Council members would be on duty for a certain period over the, for instance, a 14-day plenary period. We will continue to find middle ground.

The spirit of regional integration is that we all work together rather than find fault, let us just see how best we can move this together. At the Secretariat, we are more than happy to support where as needed. We have heard that perhaps there is need for Secretariat to be with the Chair of Council. We are always happy to support her. Our technical teams are always in touch. I personally today spoke at length with the senior most technical person at the Ministry of EAC in Kenya, the secretary for integration, just to brief her on some of the issues. We work as a team with the Ministries of EAC in the region. We take due guidance on the matters that are raised.

There is a procedure that was raised there; I see concerns about the Council to the Community. Yes, there is been separations coming up. However, the CTC has not yet retired. His official retirement date is 15th August 2025. I wish to thank the Speaker and his team for celebrating him on all our behalf the other day. I submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable SG. I now give the floor to the Chair of Council.

3.29

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe) (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya)(Ex-Officio Member): Thank you, speaker. Allow me to say this, that some of us in the Community are almost six months old. Fortunately, Kenya took up the chair. Sometimes we are meant to be ready to read anything answered by the chair. I have it in me that before I commit on any figure, I need prior knowledge on existence of that thing, a confirmation from the team that is preparing the report. I know there are cases where people say this is a procedure of reading what is supposed to be. Just excuse me in this matter and allow me sometimes to seek further information on this so that when I read as it is prepared,

I am also sure and up to date that the information I am reading is also true to the fact that it is being implemented. For some of us, it is really about partnership; it is about the coexistence of each one of us respecting every space and being truthful to the roles that we have been given So that we act on behalf of our partner states, truly to the expectation of our citizens.

Secondly, on invitation of Council of Ministers, not only on the Council, we are also speaking on sectoral committees. I remember like three or four weeks ago, we had to call off a meeting because we found that within the sequence of representation, we had the PSs sitting in the coordinating level, but again, they went ahead sitting

in as ministers. Every level here has the level of representation that is supposed to sit in there and make that decision. The reluctance of people not taking up the roles is what beats the logic of being a role taker in terms of what we agreed and took an oath to do. Ministers would only come when invited. The challenge I have had personally at my level now, is where invitation could be with some ministers while some ministers even call to say they have not received. I want a situation where if I am speaking for the Council, all ministers should be here so that now we are agreeing to what we are saying because finally it will reach them to be cascaded to the level of the Summit. I want a concurrence and allow me to operate in this time that I am the Chair of Council. When I am called, it is not only me the chair reading what has been prepared. I also want the ministers on board to agree with some of this quoting that we have put here.

I was not on board in 2021 or 2022 when a particular resolution may have been passed. I would want concurrence of the ministers who were there to agree that that was it. For me, it is not just reading for the sake of reading. Prior to this, of course, communication is already becoming a big deal, we should have a day or perhaps a virtual meeting with the Council to look through what the Chair will be reading, to agree that this is it so that I will get the comfort of reading it word by word, percentage by percentage, because my team would have confirmed that was it then. I do not want to read for the sake of reading. I put that forward. I do not read for the sake of reading. I also want to agree with what I am reading and ascertain that the other ministers are in concurrence

because some have been on board for quite longer than me. I need a concurrence in whatever I am reading. I submit Chair.

3.32

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Chair of Council.

Honourable Members, I think that all of the issues are coming up because of challenges that we all know. I know that the Committees have to get their reports ready on time. Sometimes, it has not been that way. Some reports are dropped to the office of the Clerk at the last minute and that disturbs all the procedures. We know that the Committees have to conclude their reports on time so that our offices can communicate on time according to the rules. The Order Paper normally has to be released at least three hours before the House. But we all have to know that these financial challenges are making us have all of our meetings virtually. With these virtual meeting challenges, they have affected our activities.

Honourable Members, you will remember that the budget document was more than 1,000 pages. I understand that it has been very difficult for the Committee on GP to go through all those pages and scrutinize them. The Committee on Accounts, which had a report of more than 150 pages, went through them through virtual meetings; it has been tough for all of us.

Honourable members, instead of blaming each other, it is better to get a solution, to commit ourselves to do everything we can do to save this budget. That is why, as I had directed before, I urge the Chair of the Council of Ministers, the Secretariat,

the committees, the office of the Clerk and every stakeholder to please communicate and collaborate so that we can save this budget. We do not need to accuse one another. We have been facing challenges since January. Honourable members, have never left their homes since the year began. Now we are meeting virtually. You all know that we are not doing well financially. Honourable members, let us get focused on this budget plenary and get the budget ready within the period that we have.

Honourable Chair of Council and other Ministers, make sure that you are available when we are having these committee meetings and plenary sessions. Honourable SG, make sure that you are collaborating with the Chair of Council. My Clerk, make sure they are collaborating with Chair of Council, SG and committees, so that we can get our meetings well prepared and get ready with the budget. This is what I advise you. I think it is wise to move on instead of blaming each other; let us work. This is what I can say.

3.38

Mr Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, for purposes of clarity and for us to be on record, when you convene a meeting of the Assembly and the EALA Commission sat, you issued a calendar that indicates when the meetings taking place. I believe that calendar was shared a long time ago with the relevant authorities or whoever is concerned. That means that communication was sent. If there is an amendment to the calendar in terms of meetings, a reminder is sent on change of time or date for that meeting, and I believe that is done.

Two, let us also be appreciative that we are given 12 days to work on the reports and present them. For the purpose of record that the Committee on General Purpose, yesterday the report came up at 2.00 a.m. For someone to say these reports are sent late, yet we worked up to 2.00 a.m. in the morning to finish the report. We already met officers responsible and they knew that these are the issues that are going to come up and to be shared. Let us also look at the timing under which we are given. The committee will only share a report once it has agreed on it. It will never share the report before it agrees on it.

Number two, the debates are done on the floor. Do we have to send the recordings to Council for them to do? Because they are debates on the floor of the House. They are not something that are brought from written somewhere. On some of these things we need to set the record straight that the delay is not one way. It is all about how we prepare ourselves and how we prepare ourselves. We are the same people who give Council advice. The Council does not come with their own writings. Some people write for Council and Council adopt what they have written. That is the problem. The problem is on how we advise Council? Let us look at where the problem is coming from so that we do not repeat this. What I said this morning, that this thing has been happening and we will continue to have this thing happening. If we do not change from defending where we are wrong. We continue to defend it, it will always continue to be there. Whether you bring Jesus Christ, it will be the same. I submit.

3.41

The Speaker: The EALA Commission approved the programme a long time ago, and the roadmap is there. Everyone had this calendar and programme two or three weeks prior. I do not want tell everyone what their role is. However, if the ministers are not available, we cannot do anything. If the Secretariat is not collaborating with the ministers and the Chair of Council, we cannot achieve anything. If my office is not collaborating, we cannot achieve anything. Let all the stakeholders understand that we have to save this budget. For those who have not been behaving well or collaborating as they need to do, kindly change from today. We have a plenary sitting on Thursday. I hope that everything will be okay, and that we will have our budget ready on time.

Honourable Members, remember, we extended the budget consideration process by two weeks which ends on Monday next week, 14th July, 2025. We should have concluded all the businesses before that date.

Honourable members, allow me to proceed with the next order on the Order Paper.

(Putting of the Question on the Motion deferred_)

Is Hon. Amongin ready now to execute Order No.5?

Mr Kennedy Musyoka Kalonzo (Kenya): Honourable Speaker, I had raised my hand. Kindly allow me to suggest something. If it is in order, I would be happy to do so as a way forward on what Honourable Kennedy, my namesake, had submitted.

The Speaker: Honourable Kennedy, let us proceed. We have lost so much time.

If Hon. Amongin is there, we can proceed. If she is not, we go to the next Order.

The Secretary-General, EAC (Ms Veronica Mueni Nduva) (Ex-Officio Member): Honourable Speaker, sorry, I did not hear you. I got a bit distracted. Someone walked into the office.

The Speaker: We are looking for Hon. Amongin.

It looks like she has muted. Let us go to the next item on the Order Paper.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF
THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND
CONFLICT RESOLUTION ON
THE ASSESSMENT OF THE
PERFORMANCE AND FUNCTIONING
OF THE REGIONAL POLICE
CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE
AND SECURITY AGENCIES
COOPERATION IN TACKLING
CROSS-BORDER CRIME WITHIN
THE EAC REGION

“THAT, the Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the Assessment of the Performance and Functioning of the Regional Police Centres of Excellence and Security Agencies Cooperation in Tackling Cross-Border Crime within the EAC Region be adopted.”

(Business interrupted on 5th November, 2024)

The Speaker: The debate on this item had commenced and we had members who had contributed while others had given amendments. We have their names here. The following Members had contributed to the Motion; Hon. David ole Sankok, Hon. Amb. Mathias Harebamungu, Hon. Dr. Jeremiah Woda. Hon. Abubakar Kachwamba and Hon. Amb. Fatuma Ndagiza.

I ask the Chair of the Committee to update the House on the amendment made to that report. Honourable Chair, you have the floor.

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda)(Uganda): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker for the opportunity you granted to me once again on behalf of our Committee to present the report that has been re-tabled in the House after it was withdrawn by a motion on the 5th of November 2024.

Right Honourable Speaker, you are right. We presented the report and there were few concerns and amendments that we accepted as a Committee. We moved back to the Committee in Kampala on the 6th of November 2024 and we put in our input, adopted a lot of the changes from all the members who had presented. There were a few areas that the House felt we needed to align. I want to report, that we have aligned those areas and we have a final report that includes all the contributions of the members.

I have laid that report. I request that the technical team there flashes it for me because specifically on those areas so that we do not take a lot of time. The

centres, we visited the centre that is hosted in Kampala, the centre that is hosted in Kigali, the centre that is hosted in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza, the centre that is hosted in Nairobi, Kenya, and the one of Bujumbura. The areas of contestation or advice were in the centre of Bujumbura. We had proceeded well on all the other areas except when we came to Bujumbura and a few areas.

Right Honourable Speaker, I report that we took the amendments in good spirits the contribution of all the members on the floor but also the Committee members themselves. Today, I present the motion again for us to finalise basically and remove a report with all the amendments and adoptions.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Chair. I have to remind the Members that the motion on the floor is the report of the Committee on Human Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the assessment of the performance of functioning of the regional police centres of excellence and security agencies cooperation in tackling cross-border crime within this region be adopted. The debate continues.

(Question proposed)

Those who want to contribute, you raise your hand and I give you the floor. If there is no one, I will give the floor to the Council for a member to make remarks. I now give the floor to the Chair of the Council of Ministers or any member of the Council.

3.50

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe) (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya) (Ex-Officio Member): Mr. Speaker, I see some of the Council members are in. I see Honourable Rebecca there. I welcome her to contribute.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister from Uganda, you have the floor.

The 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister, East African Community Affairs (Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga) (Uganda) (Ex-Officio Member): Good afternoon, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: The Chair Council has given you the floor to contribute on this report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution.

The 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister, East African Community Affairs (Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga) (Uganda) (Ex-Officio Member): I have nothing to contribute for now.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister. I now give the floor to the Chair of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution to reply.

3.54

Ms Veronica Babirye Kadogo (Uganda): Right, Honourable Speaker, we request that the Committee gives us the reports on our email so that we can leverage. The copies of the report were not supplied to us.

The Speaker: Hon. Kadogo, the report has been sent to you via email already. Kindly check.

Ms Veronica Babirye Kadogo (Uganda): Right, Honourable Speaker, yes, but it was not sent in time. My request is that the reports should be sent to us in time. Notices should be given to us that the reports have been sent to us on our emails.

The Speaker: You are right. That is what we highlighted before when we were giving our remarks.

Honourable Chair, you have the floor.

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda)(Uganda): Honourable Speaker, I appreciate all the inputs. As a Committee, we appreciate. We have all the detailed reports and I believe that our technical people will be ready to share them. All the amended reports, the ones that were laid, so that all members are in position to appreciate and contribute.

Right, Honourable Speaker, I agree that once we are in the House, we are working in the Committees, we are working on behalf of the entire Assembly. When we come to the floor, we present work entirely for the Assembly and all members must be in position to comprehend, to understand that they move with the issues of the Community in general. All of us in our own way are people's representatives of this Community and therefore it is our mandate and a responsibility that we understand all issues across all Committees.

Honourable Speaker, the issues in this report are very interesting and a clear sign

that all of us can be in this Community. They work in line with Article 123, specifically on areas of sharing information on security and defence, so that we all deal with matters of cross-border crimes, on issues of cybercrime, issues of, for instance, the issues of marine, on the issues of Community policing. Once the Community is policed, I mean deal with the few issues on dealing with crime.

Community policing helps in reducing matters of crime and engaging the people, because the first security is for people. It is also very important that we speak as East Africa on matters of our security, because once the areas are secure, then people can benefit in terms of trade, agriculture, and the free movement of people. This is a very good example.

Honourable Speaker when you look at our recommendations, we argue that we should take off a bit of the burden from the partner state. These are EAC centres of excellence. In terms of implementation, you get a bit of the East Africans that are getting involved, in terms of like for training, we should be sharing all these training facilities and also in terms of budget appropriation. When you look at the budget for the last three or four financial years, you get little of the funding that is allocated to these police centres of excellence. Therefore, the burden of shouldering the countries; the partner states, are the ones shouldering a lot of this burden for dealing with these other question of aspects.

Honourable Speaker, I think these are good centres. As a Community, we urge that Council works on implementation, specifically on dealing with the question of budget, staffing, and also supporting with

equipment on a lot of the centres. I believe that it can be a good gesture that we can trade within the region. Once they are fully facilitated, then we will appreciate that I can go to Kigali as a Ugandan, and I will attain the similar training, so that the similarity of all our partner states in terms of areas of gender-based violence, forensics, Community policing, marine, in terms of training of marine and of course, the areas of air forcing within those.

Honourable Speaker, from all that said, I beg to first of all appreciate you, Honourable Speaker, and the Clerk for availing us as a Committee with an opportunity to conduct this study amidst very tough times. Thank you so much to your office, the office of the Clerk, and all our technical people. I appreciate the members of our Community. I responded and replied to all those very good members of our Community that have supported us in doing that work. I appreciate the following Members of the Committee; the Hon. Goreth Bigirimana, Hon. Karerwa Mo-Mamo, Hon. Anastase Manirambona, Hon. Ewanga Is'ewanga Iwoka Jean Bertrand, Hon. Kalala Kwete Evariste, Hon. Kaubo Kalwa Géraldine, Hon. Hassan Omar, Hon. Zipporah Kering, Hon. Suleiman Shahbal, Hon. Amb. Mathias Harebamungu, Hon. Dr. Aisha Nyiramana, Hon. Uwumukiza Françoise, Hon. Luke Thomson, Hon. Gideon Gatpan, Hon. Dr. Anne Itto, Hon. Machano Ali Machano, Hon. James Millya Kinyasi, Hon. Dr. Gladness Salema, Hon. Mary Mugenyi and Hon. Jacquilline Amongin.

I thank Madam Idah Nakabugo, our committee assistant. I thank you, Mr. Manzi, the Committee Clerk, Ms Susan Namusosa who worked with us, Mr. Peter

Asiimwe, and all those that supported such as Dr. Natole Nahayo and all those clerks that supported the committee in doing this work. As you may recall that the work was done in five partner states. Therefore, we had five teams that were doing the work. I appreciate the Chair Council for the input. Thank you, Hon Veronica Kadogo, the SG and all the other members. If I have forgotten a member who made an input, I lost network somehow. I request the colleagues to correct me if I have left anyone out so that we appreciate the contribution of all those members.

Honourable Speaker, a lot of the things were also done online. We appreciate the IT team for the continuous support and the media team for the support that they rendered to us throughout this process.

Honourable Speaker, I beg to submit and report.

The Speaker: Thank you, Chair.

I will now put the question that The report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the Assessment of the Performance and Functioning of the Regional Policy Centres of Excellence and Security Agencies Cooperation in Tackling Cross-Border Crime within the EAC Region be adopted. Those in favour, raise your hands.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Report (as amended) adopted.)

The Speaker: Now, we go back to item No.3 on the order paper.

BILLS
FIRST READING

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
ELIMINATION OF FEMALE GENITAL
MUTILATION BILL, 2025

4.03

Ms Falhada Dekow Iman (Kenya): Mr Speaker, I beg to move -

“THAT, The East African Community Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation Bill, 2025 be read for the First Reading.”

The Speaker: Do you have seconders?

Ms Falhada Dekow Iman (Kenya): Mr Speaker, yes, I do.

(Seconded by Hon. Dr. Gerald Blacks Siranda, Hon. Francine Rutazana, Hon. Amb. Fatuma Ntangiza, Hon. Clement Musangabatware and Hon. Amb. Mathias Harebamungu.)

(The Bill was accordingly read for the First Time)

The Speaker: I refer the East African Community Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation Bill, 2025 to the Committee on General Purpose (GP).

Next Order.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF
THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND
CONFLICT RESOLUTION ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF EAC
SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICIES

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda)(Uganda): Honourable Speaker, I beg to move -

“THAT, the Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on implementation of EAC Security and Foreign Policies, be adopted.”

The Speaker: Do you have seconders?

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda)(Uganda): Honourable Speaker, yes, I do.

(Seconded by Hon. Dr. Aisha Nyiramana, Hon. Francine Rutazana, Hon. Amb. Fatuma Ntangiza, Hon. Clement Musangabatware and Hon. Amb. Mathias Harebamungu)

The Speaker: Honourable Chair, you can now proceed with the motion, justify it and present the report.

4.05

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda)(Uganda): Thank you so much, Honourable Speaker. I can now proceed. I present a report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the progress made by the East African Community on its common and security policies. This

activity was conducted between 18th to 21st November 2024 in Kampala, Uganda.

Honourable Speaker, I beg to go over those first pages or table of contents, list of acronyms and table of contents. I beg to start with the introduction.

INTRODUCTION

One of the key mandates of the Assembly is to undertake oversight functions. This is anchored under Article 59 (3), (c) of the Treaty, which inter alia provides that “*the Assembly shall hold an annual debate on the report submitted to it by the Council on the progress made by the Community on the development of its Common Foreign and Security Policies*”. Thus, this obligates the Assembly to consider and submit an annual statutory report on the status of East African Community Common Foreign and Security policies.

The 12th Joint Meetings of the Sectoral Councils on Cooperation in Defence affairs, Inter-state Security and Foreign Policy Coordination met in Dar es Salaam–Tanzania and discussed the report on the progress made by the Community on the development of its Common Foreign and Security Policies. Subsequently, the Meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers convened and approved it.

This report is thus presented as provided for in accordance with articles 59 (3) (c) and 49 (2) (c) (d) of the Treaty Establishing the East African Community. It covers the progress made by the Community in the development of its Common Foreign and Security Policies over the last three years.

During the plenary sitting of the 1st meeting -3rd Session -Fifth Assembly

which was held in Kampala- Uganda from 20th October, to 12th November 2024, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers laid the report on the table. Consequently, the Speaker of the Assembly referred the report to the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution for review and report back to the House in accordance with Rule 81 (e) and Annex 5 (E) of the Rules of Procedure of the East African Legislative Assembly. The report covers the progress of three years namely: 2021, 2022 and 2023.

BACKGROUND

The mission and vision of the East African Community is to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value-added production, trade and investments.

Regional integration accelerates political, social, and economic development. Ensuring durable peace and stability in the East African Region as an ingredient for the successful integration process. Article 6 of the Treaty Establishing the East African Community stipulates the fundamental principles of the Treaty that include mutual trust, political will, sovereign equality, peaceful co-existence and good neighbourliness. This is further amplified in the vision of EAC which envisages “a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa.”

It is worth noting that when the political and security environment is conducive, it will spur and consolidate the gains achieved in the integration journey as well as lay a firm foundation for the next stages

of the integration , notably the Monetary Union and Political Federation.

The Peace and Security policies of the EAC are anchored on articles 123 (1), 124, and 125.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY

These were;

1. To undertake scrutiny of the Council report on the progress EAC has made in developing its Common Foreign and Security policies;
2. To enhance understanding of the status of Common Foreign and Security policies of the EAC; and
3. To make observations and recommendations to the Assembly for the consideration by the Council of Ministers on its Common Foreign and Security Policies.

METHODOLOGY

The Committee used the following methodology to examine the Council report.

- a) *Reviewed and internalized* the Council of Ministers report on the Common Foreign and Security policies of the EAC.
- b) *Studied* and made reference to several documents, including but not limited to the following:
 - i. The Treaty for the Establishment of The East African Community;
 - ii. The Rules of Procedure of the East African Legislative Assembly;

- iii. Protocol on Peace and Security of the EAC;
- iv. Protocol on Foreign Policy Coordination;
- v. Protocol on combating illicit drug trafficking in the East African Region;
- vi. East African Community Protocol on Co-operation in Defence;
- vii. Regional Strategy against piracy and for Maritime Security in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean;
- viii. The Memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the area of peace and security between the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities and coordinating mechanisms of the Regional standby Brigades of Eastern Africa and Northern Africa.

- c) *Held interactive meetings* with the departments of Political Federation and Peace and Security to discuss the Council report.

PROGRESS MADE BY THE COMMUNITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICIES.

Article 123 (1) stipulates the existence of the EAC Common Foreign and Security Policies.

In line with Article 123(5), the EAC Council of Ministers put in place an institutional framework by establishing various Sectoral Councils and Committees to give direction and policy guidance for cooperation in areas of Defence, Inter-state Security as well as Foreign Policy Coordination to enhance peace, security and governance initiatives. These include:

- i. Sectoral Council on Cooperation in Defence;
- ii. Sectoral Council on Inter-State Security;
- iii. Sectoral Council on Foreign Policy Coordination; and the
- iv. Joint Sectoral Councils on Defence, Inter-State Security and Foreign Policy Coordination.

The Department of Peace and Security is mandated to facilitate the above-mentioned Sectoral Councils.

5.1 Foreign Policies

The Foreign Policy Coordination is one of the key priorities of the EAC and it is very critical to the integration process. The Treaty provides that the Community and its Partner States shall define and implement Common Foreign and Security policies. The objectives of such policies are to build the EAC as a cohesive organization in its relations with the international community and to promote cooperation, including commitment to dialogue at international fora. In this policy, Partner States committed themselves to collaborate in diplomatic, consular services, economic and social activities, multilateral diplomacy, liaison, and information exchange programs. A Sectoral Council on Foreign Policy Coordination was established in March 2008.

Below is the progress made in this policy

1. Ratification of the protocol on Foreign Policy Coordination. This Protocol was signed in December, 2010 and is anchored on Articles 5, 6, 7, 123 and 125 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. It obligates Partner States to cooperate and coordinate in matters of Foreign Policy and ensure that they pursue Common Foreign objectives aimed at enhancing the gains of integration.
2. Progress made by the Community on the development of the protocol on Foreign Policy Coordination

During the Committee deliberations with M/s Suma Mukyasi, Principal International Affairs Officer in the Department of International Affairs at EAC, she informed the Committee *that this protocol is yet to come into force as it awaits the United Republic of Tanzania to ratify it.*

She further informed the Committee that URT has expressed reservations towards ratification of the protocol and insists that the consultative processes on the protocol are still ongoing.

Committee observations:

- i. *It has taken 15 (fifteen) years to date since the negotiations of the foreign policy coordination protocol were concluded; however, this protocol is yet to be fully ratified by the United Republic of Tanzania.*
- ii. *The Committee directed the Principal International Affairs Officer to provide proof that EAC has been following/pursuing this matter with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, despite this directive, the department did not provide the Committee with adequate explanation and proof of follow-up on the efforts it has undertaken to engage the United Republic of Tanzania to expedite the conclusion of this Policy; and*

iii. *The report thus does not provide comprehensive information on the progress EAC has registered in foreign policy coordination.*

necessary for the proper discharge of their functions under the Treaty.

It has the following provisions:

Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council to:

1. *Urge the United Republic of Tanzania to expedite ratification of the protocol on Foreign Policy Coordination;*
2. *Urge the Secretary-General to provide an update to the Assembly on the progress made in the implementation of the objectives of the Protocol on Foreign Policy Coordination.*
3. *To provide funding to the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution to undertake a follow-up oversight activity in the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania. The purpose of engaging the Parliament of the URT is to find out any challenges that are delaying the ratification of the Protocol on Foreign Policy Coordination and for the committee to make further recommendations to the Assembly on the way forward.*

1. Protection of funds of the Community;
2. Tax exemptions for the Community;
3. Privileges and immunities of persons employed in the services of the Community.

It also provides for the safety of the assets and properties of the Community wherever they are situated in the Partner States.

This Protocol has been ratified by all the EAC Partner States and is under implementation.

Committee Observations

1. *There is a challenge of harmonizing the different immunities and privileges that are accorded to members and staff who are working in various Organs and Institutions of the EAC; and*
2. *The Headquarters Agreements that were signed between the EAC Partner States have been overtaken by social, political and economic circumstances.*

Committee recommendations

3. Progress made by the Community on the development of the Protocol on Immunities and Privileges

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to:

The Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the East African Community was signed on 30th April, 2015. It gives the East African Community the right to enjoy international legal personality. The protocol provides the staff of the Community Organs and Institutions, the immunities and privileges

1. *Harmonize the different immunities and privileges accorded to staff, Members of the Assembly and other Persons working in the Community;*
2. *Address certain aspects contained in the protocol that are not in tandem*

with all the EAC Partner States. For instance, some EAC Partner States provide national staff working in the EAC Institutions with immunities and privileges yet others do not. The Partner States that do not provide immunities and privileges argue that a person cannot be a diplomat his or her own Country;

3. *Review, the host agreements and recommendations on the implementation of the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities;*
4. *Direct the EAC Secretariat to provide regular updates to the Assembly on the progress made to the implementation of the Protocol on Immunities and Privileges; and*
5. *Ensure that host agreements are binding for all the EAC Partner States.*
6. *Develop a mechanism to engage the countries that are not respecting the already ratified protocols of the community.*

The Speaker: Hon Chair, the report you are presenting has 33 pages. This report will be in the Hansard. I request that you summarise the report. Kindly highlight the most important areas.

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda)(Uganda): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker. Let me try to summarise.

DEFENCE POLICIES

1. Protocol on Cooperation in Defence Affairs and the implementation of the Mutual Defence Pact

In accordance with the provision of Article 125 of the Treaty, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide co-operation in Defence was signed on 30th November, 2001. The MOU was upgraded to a full protocol on 28th April, 2012 and concluded on 19th November, 2015. The protocol is being partially implemented by EAC Partner States. With this protocol in place, the EAC Partner States stand to fortify and cement the Mutual Defence Pact. The Mutual Defence Pact which fosters the implementation of the EAC Protocol on Cooperation in Defence Affairs, was to be negotiated and concluded by the Partner States as an integral part of the protocol.

a. Scope of Cooperation:

- i. The Partner States shall cooperate in all Defence Affairs and collaborate with international and regional organizations to promote peace, security and stability in the Community.
- b. Partner States agreed to cooperate in the following areas:
 - i. Military Training
 - ii. Joint Operations
 - iii. Technical cooperation and
 - iv. Visits and Exchanges of information

The objectives of the Protocol include:

- i. Develop, promote and pursue policies and programs aimed at widening and

- deepening co-operation among the Partner States in Defense Affairs for their mutual benefit.
- ii. Promote Peace and Stability and good neighborliness among Partner States in order to guarantee the protection and preservation of life and property, the well-being of the people in the Community and their environment as well as the creation of conditions conducive to sustainable development.
 - iii. Anticipate and prevent conflicts in circumstances where conflicts have occurred and undertake peace support operations and peace building functions for the resolution of such conflicts.
2. Progress made by the Community on the implementation of the Mutual Defense Pact along with its implementation mechanism

During an interactive session with the Department of Peace and Security, and The EAC Defence Department, the Committee was informed that the Mutual Defense Pact along with its implementation mechanism is yet to be concluded.

With the entry into the EAC of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Federal Republic of Somalia, the process has been prolonged by the need to get in their submissions before the signature.

The United Republic of Tanzania has also yet to complete its process of consultations.

Committee Observation

The Committee made the following observations:

- i. The Committee observed that it has taken 15(fifteen) years since this protocol was concluded. To date, the process of finalizing its full ratification is yet to be completed; and
- ii. The objectives for which this pact was founded are likely to be lost and this will leave EAC vulnerable to external and internal threats. This is in addition to failing to galvanise and marshal the much-needed capabilities to resolve the regional conflicts and other associated external threats. For instance, the SADC got an opportunity to operate in the EAC area of operation unchallenged.

Committee recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to continually remind the Sectoral Council on Defence of the need and urgency to conclude consultations on Mutual Defense Pact.

3. Regional Counter Terrorism Strategy

In order to address the increasing threats of terrorism, the Partner States developed Regional Counter Terrorism Strategy. The strategy is based on 4 pillars namely; prevent, protect, disrupt, and respond. The Council of Ministers considered implementation modalities including staffing and funding of the envisaged East African Counter Terrorism Centre (EACTC) which will coordinate the implementation of the strategy.

The Committee was informed that the financial obligations towards the operationalization of the Centre shall be

considered in the upcoming Meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The Committee was further informed that all Partner States have since agreed to establish the Centre with the Republic of Rwanda being the last Partner State to agree on its establishment.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to fast-track the establishment of the East African Counter terrorism centre.

5.2.3 Field Training and Command Post Exercises

The implementation of the EAC Protocol on Cooperation in Defence Affairs is being implemented by the EAC Defence Liaison Office (DLO). In this framework, the DLO undertakes 3 (three) major activities to enhance the civil-military relations. These include;

1. Command Post Exercises:

Within the framework of the East African Protocol on cooperation in Defence Affairs, the East African Command Post Exercises (CPX) code code-named "Ushirikiano Imara" and Armed Forces Joint Field Training Exercises (FTX) are conducted on a rotational basis in the EAC Partner States. The CPX and FTX aim at enhancing Partner States' Defence Forces' capabilities in jointly combating complex security challenges faced in the region. The Exercises involve the Military, Police, Civilian Components and other stakeholders. The military training focuses on peace support operations, disaster

preparedness, piracy, and terrorism. The Committee was informed by the Directorate of the Defense Liaison Office that the Republic of Rwanda hosted CPX in June, 2024. The Republic of Kenya is due to host the upcoming CPX July, 2025.

The Committee was further informed that implementation of the Command Post exercises has been hampered by the following challenges including:

- i. Funding to facilitate the hosting of the exercise. For instance, a Concept Development Conference was supposed to be convened in June, 2025 to discuss the salient matters in regard to its occurrence, but the Secretary-General informed the Directorate that no funds had been allocated to host the conference.
- ii. Non-attendance and participation by EAC Partner States due to strained political relations. This has forced the directorate to convene in neutral Countries, thus eroding the objectives for inclusive integration across all the EAC Countries.
- iii. Financial and liquidity challenges faced by certain countries, thus inhibiting their participation in these exercises.
- iv. Security challenges prevailing in some Partner States thus making it impossible for the member states to host the exercises.
- v. Multiple memberships to the various RECS by certain EAC Partner States. This has created the problem of allegiance, overlapping membership

leading to conflicting policies, duplication of efforts, and increased transaction costs, thus affecting the progress of integration.

- vi. The Committee was further informed that some EAC Countries contribute and honour their financial obligations and annual subscriptions to other RECS timely. This is because they evaluate instances where they get the most benefits or where financial sanctions regimes for non-remittances are very strict and punitive.

Committee recommendations:

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to:

- i. Avail funding to implement the activities of the Command Post;
- ii. Engage on peace building activities aimed at fostering harmony among the EAC Partner States; and
- iii. Address the security challenges within the Partner States that impact on the implementation of the agreed millstones within the command post.

2. East African Community Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC)

CIMIC activities involve the armed forces undertaking outreach activities to provide support to civil engineering works in rural schools and hospitals within the East African Region. The outreach programs are aimed at enhancing cooperation and solidarity with the general population. They provide an opportunity for the military to coordinate regional engagements nationwide and enable EAC

citizens to interact and benefit from the work of their Security Agencies.

During the interactive session with the Directorate of Defence Liaison Office, the Committee was informed that several activities were undertaken. For instance, the recent CIMIC was held in Rwanda, where several activities were carried out;

- i. Assembled a team of medical specialists and carried out outreach projects for quick and immediate impacts in hospitals in areas of surgery, treatment, orthopaedics, paediatrics, ophthalmology, maternity and dental;
- ii. Undertook the construction of homes and provided solar lighting for the needy and vulnerable;
- iii. Commissioned the construction of water projects;
- iv. Constructed the bridges in the rural Communities; and
- v. Elected the road signs and provided jackets to the boda Bodas and the cyclists, aimed at enhancing road safety.

The Committee was informed that the lack of funding, coupled with the unstable political environments in some EAC Partner States have hindered the effective coverage of these exercises by all the EAC Partner States.

Committee recommendations

The Committee applauds the Directorate of Defence liaison Office and recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to ensure that the above-mentioned challenges are addressed to enhance the civil - military relations among the EAC Partner States.

3. EAC Military Games and Cultural Event

Partner States organize biannual EAC Military Games and Cultural Events on a rotational basis. The events aim at fostering solidarity among the EAC Armed Forces as well provide an opportunity to engage with EAC citizens in the promotion of peace through sports and culture. The games involve the disciplines of Athletics (Cross-country Race), Boxing, Football, Netball and Handball and provide high-profile participation. This is intended not only to popularize the event but also to raise the sporting competitive levels, thereby contributing to high standards within the Community commensurate with international standards. The military games were last held in Nairobi – Kenya, in 2019. The Republic of South Sudan was expected to host the event in 2020, but due to financial challenges, it was unable to host it.

Committee observation

The Committee observed that;

- i. The key objective of hosting the games is to promote peace through sports with the sole objective of creating friendly relations between members of the Armed Forces. It is a strong motive and a great opportunity to increase contacts among military sportsmen and sportswomen.
- ii. It further observed that the games are very expensive since the entire cost of hosting the games is borne by the host Country.

Committee recommendations:

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to Council:

- i. *To increase and avail resources for this noble cause;*
- ii. *Enhance publicity and involvement of the local citizenry/ populace is given priority; and*
- iii. *Involve EALA as a people's representative in the participation in the games.*

3. THE INTERSTATE SECURITY POLICIES – PEACE AND SECURITY

a. The Peace and Security Protocol

The EAC Protocol on Peace and Security was signed by the EAC Partner States on 15th February, 2013 and has been ratified by all partner states. The Protocol is a milestone in the political integration process because it creates a binding framework for sustained peace, security and stability in the East African region. It stipulates the exchange of criminal intelligence and other security information, strengthening of inter-agency cooperation and coordination among security agencies such as joint cross-border management, installing joint operations and patrols, common communication facilities, border and interstate security etc. The Protocol also provides space/basis for an institutional framework for the Directorate of Peace and Security, which will spearhead the implementation of the Protocol and all matters related to peace and security in the region.

The objective of the protocol on Peace and Security is to promote peace, security, and stability within the community and good neighborliness among the Partner States.

The protocol on Peace and Security provides that;

- a. The Partner States shall cooperate in peace and security matters and collaborate with international and regional organizations to promote peace and security in the region.
- b. The Partner States shall, where necessary, develop common measures, strategies and programmes and enter into agreements for effective implementation of the protocol.
- c. Partner States agreed to, inter alia, cooperate among other things in the following areas:
 - i. Conflict prevention, management, and resolution;
 - ii. Prevention of genocide;
 - iii. Combating terrorism;
 - iv. Combatting and suppressing piracy;
 - v. Peace support operations;
 - vi. Disaster risk reduction, management, and crisis response;
 - vii. Management of refugees;
 - viii. Control of proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons;
 - ix. Combatting transnational and cross-border crimes, including drugs and human trafficking, illegal migration, money laundering, cybercrimes and motor vehicle theft;
 - x. Addressing and combating cattle rustling; and
 - xi. Prisons and rehabilitation of offenders.

Partner States agreed to establish an early warning mechanism to facilitate the anticipation, preparedness and early responses to prevent, contain and manage conflict and crisis situations in the areas of cooperation.

Challenges in the implementation of the Peace and Security protocol

1. The Committee was informed by the peace and security expert Mr. Didacus Kaguta that the biggest problem is a lack of capacity and capability in terms of human resources to fully address what the protocol wants the EAC to fully undertake. For instance, the Community cannot implement the 23 (twenty-Three) goals of the strategy (the protocols implementation plan) without manpower capacity and capability. This would have been addressed through the establishment of the peace and security directorate as contained in the structure adopted by the 18th Council of Ministers.. The 23 goals cannot be implemented by 3 professional staff only.
2. Another challenge the Committee was informed about related to the lack of funding.. Over 90% of the funds are from donors. The question is. Do East African Community believe that the EU can make EAC thrive and prosper without engaging its financial resources? Who then determines the priorities??? The funders or the funded?
3. Lack of prioritization of the protocol requirements by the Partner states security and later on ownership of the interventions by the Partner States.

Committee observation

There is no clear implementation plan with time frames on the implementation of the EAC peace and security strategy due to funding challenges.

Committee recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to

- i. Streamline the timeframes for the implementation of the peace and security strategy.
- ii. Fast-track the development and processing of the disaster risk reduction Bill for tabling and consideration by the Assembly.
- iii. The Protocol on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking in the East African Region.

Illicit drug trafficking is not only an East African Community challenge but a global threat. The EAC region is increasingly being used as a conduit for illicit drugs for international markets. It is against this background that the EAC Partner States deemed it necessary to develop a Protocol on drugs trafficking in the EAC region.

The Protocol criminalizes illicit drug trafficking, adheres to international conventions on Narcotics, provides for domestic legislation, mutual legal assistance, law enforcement, drug demand reduction, and institutional arrangements in areas of implementation and execution.

The scope of the protocol is:

- i) The ratification of international Conventions;
- ii) Promulgation of domestic legislation;
- iii) Provision of mutual legal Assistance;
- iv) Law enforcement;
- v) Drug demand reduction.

The following institutions are undertaking drug enforcement in Partner States:

- i. The Republic of Kenya has established the office of the National Campaign against Drug Abuse (NACADA) and the Anti-Narcotics Unit (ANU) of the Kenya National Police Service.
- ii. The Republic of Uganda established a Narcotics Drug Enforcement Unit in the Uganda Police Force, and a multi-sectoral Committee on drugs.
- iii. The Republic of Burundi established a Narcotics and Drug Enforcement Unit in the Burundi National Police.
- iv. The Republic of Rwanda has integrated within the Rwanda National Police an Anti-Narcotics and Drugs Enforcement Unit;
- v. The United Republic of Tanzania has established the National Drug Council that oversees the overall implementation of the Drug Act. This Council is composed of Ministers from various Ministries whose mandates are directly or indirectly related to the control of illicit drugs trafficking.

Committee Observations

- i. The narcotics and drug usage is a very big problem within the East African region affecting the lives of young people.

- ii. Some Partner States have in place legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms to enforce the protocol whereas others do not.
- iii. Continuous drug trafficking has been escalated due to porous borders between the EAC Partner States.
- iv. Weak boarder control mechanisms in the EAC have also increased the prevalence of drug barons who benefit from the illicit trade.
- v. Some weaknesses in the criminal justice system have been exploited by the drug traffickers.

Committee recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to:

- i. Strengthen cooperation with the Interpol, EAC Partner States and other international agencies on the fight against the narcotics;
- ii. Put in place a regional regulatory framework on narcotics;
- iii. Enhance surveillance, investigations, seizures and other cooperative frameworks in the fight against narcotics;
- iv. Intensify its partnerships with the United Nations Office for drugs and crime control.

5.3.3 Adoption of the Regional Peace and Security Strategy, and its Implementation Plan.

The EAC Council of Ministers adopted and updated the Regional Peace and Security Strategy along with its implementation plan in 2014. The strategy identified 23 (twenty three) objectives for intervention

all of which were dully covered by the protocol on peace and security. The implementation plan was mainstreamed into the EAC 5th development strategy for implementation within the confines of available budgetary resources. The Regional Peace and Security Strategy, if effectively implemented will reinforce the protocol on peace and security.

The Peace and Security Strategy was adopted in November 2006, before the adoption of the Protocol on Peace and Security and the EAC Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Mechanism adopted in 2012. The Peace and Security Strategy is a policy framework that mandates Partner States and the Secretariat to jointly plan and respond to issues of peace and security in the region.

Committee Observation

The Committee observes that despite the adoption of the regional strategy for peace and security the following reasons have bedeviled its implementation:

- i. lack of regular comprehensive operational plans providing implementation modality for all 23 (twenty-three) strategic objectives;
- ii. Inadequate funding; and
- iii. Lack of capacity and capability of staff.

Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to:

- i. Evaluate and focus on key areas of the strategy that are implementable in the medium term.

- ii. Review the Institutional Review Recommendations and replace them with those of the 18th Council of Ministers on the same matter which reflect a true ideal situation for the growth of the directorate in line with the growing mandates and security challenges and be able to strategically align and position itself within the current geopolitical order.

4. EAC Youth Policy

The policy is anchored on the EAC Youth Policy 2015, EAC Youth Policy Action Plan 2016, and existing national, regional, and international policy frameworks and charters including National Youth Development Policies, African Youth Charter, the Programme of action for the Year 2000 and Beyond and UN Security Council Resolution 2050.

Committee Observations

- i. The Committee observed a large exodus of youth migrating abroad in search of greener pastures and the need to develop a regional policy to address this emerging situation;
- ii. Involvement of the youth in endless demonstrations;
3. Lack of harmonized age category of the youth in the EAC; and
4. Limited involvement and education of the youth in nation building (patriotism), love for regional integration and Pan Africanism at national levels.

5. The proposed EAC Peace and Security Rapid Decision-Making Mechanism.

The Sectoral Council on Defence in 2011 initiated the proposed EAC peace and Security rapid decision-making mechanism and subsequent EAC Council directive in 2012.

A proposed institutional structure of the EAC Council of Ministers on peace and security matters was referred to the 23rd meeting of the Sectoral Council on Legal and Judicial Affairs held on 1st November 2021, to consider the matter. The Council directed the Council to the Community (CTC) to substantiate to the joint meeting on sectoral councils on cooperation in defence, interstate security and foreign policy coordination the provisions of articles 15, 146, 147 and 148 vis a vis article 6 of the Treaty about whether consensus rule can be exempted in cases where the Council or Summit in considering emerging and urgent peace and security challenges.

Committee Observations.

The mechanism is expected to provide a legal domicile to all Peace and Security interventions. The establishment of the Directorate of Peace and Security should play a key role in generating policy proposals, particularly on those that have a bearing on the peace and security sector.

6. The EAC E-Immigration Policy

The policy is anchored on the EAC Treaty under Article 104 that provides for free movement of persons, labour and services, right of establishment and residence. Immigration is a critical element in the

implementation of the common market protocol. The 20th meeting of the sectoral council of ministers considered the report titled "Final feasibility study for development of harmonized e-immigration information systems and directed EAC secretariat to formulate a joint regional e-immigration policy with the objective of utilization of ICT to transform delivery of immigration services to the citizens, business and non-citizens in the EAC region.

The policy is still a draft and covers the following strategic areas:

- i. Legal and Regulatory framework;
- ii. E-immigration services;
- iii. Human resources development;
- iv. E-immigration information sharing and e-integrated border management systems;
- v. Information security standards; and
- vi. Cross-cutting issues related to research and development, communication and advocacy.

The Committee was informed by the Department of Peace and Security that this policy has been considered by the Immigration Chiefs and experts is due to be considered by the Sectoral Council on Inter-State security.

Committee Observation

- i. The Committee observed that the EAC does not have an EAC diaspora policy and this has curtailed the mobilization and marshalling of the resources and coordinating the diaspora issues. It is the Republic of Kenya and Rwanda that have ministries charge of diaspora issues;

- ii. Discrepancies in the use of the travel documents. Certain Partner States are using national identity cards as a means of travel, whereas others are using passports. For instance, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya use National Identity cards;
- iii. Diaspora engagement policy should be developed by the EAC and integrated in the EAC frameworks
- iv. There are no funds that are allocated to this very important sector; and
- v. Worth noting is that Diaspora is an essential entity in supporting EAC remittances, investment, trade, social and cultural benefits in addition to knowledge and skills transfer that can boost the social-economic integration agenda of the region.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that:

- i. The Council should standardize the use of the travel documents across the EAC partner states.
- ii. The Council to engage the diaspora community to develop a clear and robust regional diaspora policy framework to consolidate and harmonise Partner States' efforts and operationalize the relevant provisions of the protocol on foreign policy coordination.
- iii. The Directorate of Political Federation (Foreign Policy Coordination) to quickly finalise consultations with the only remaining unconsulted Partner

States and finalise the development of a Regional Diaspora Policy.

7. The EAC Transboundary Security Framework

Developed under the Peace and Security initiatives, the overarching objective of the framework is to integrate transboundary communities in the regional security arrangements in a structured manner as a panacea to the challenges created by the long porous borders, but which have community presence. The objective of this policy is to also promote joint investment and development and ownership of the communal boundary resources such as schools, health care services, communal land, markets, water, sports, including strategies towards conflict prevention, management and resolution and good neighborliness.

The EAC Chiefs of Police directed the secretariat to initiate the development of a basic regional border management security, taking into consideration good practices in the implementation of the framework of the One Stop Border Posts (OSBPS), including application of 1-24/7 and involving immigration, customs, and Interpol. It is envisaged that this framework would promote proximate transboundary movement practices such as "Ujirani mwema" across the region. It would also complement the work of the official security apparatus through enhanced information sharing and reduction in cross-border crimes.

The Committee was further informed that working with the African Union border program, a joint funding was solicited

which led to the EAC peace caravan which was organized in October, 2024. The peace caravan targeted border communities of the Toposa and Dinkain Republic of South Sudan; Turkana and Karamajong in Kenya and Uganda; and Maasai in Tanzania – Kenya.

The Committee was further informed that the resolutions of these caravans informed the fast-tracking of the practical peace interventions among the border communities. These interventions have promoted peace, harmony and reduced hostilities among the border communities.

The Committee was informed that both the EAC E-immigration Policy and the EAC Transboundary Security Framework are still undergoing a stakeholders' validation exercise.

The two policy documents have since been adopted by relevant Sectoral Councils.

Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to:

- i. Establish partnerships with other RECS to enhance the cross-border peace programs;
- ii. Enhance sensitization initiatives within the border communities;
- iii. Provide funding to develop and exploit communities' shared resources;
- iv. Develop an integrated transboundary program in the EAC to address the conflicts in the region;
- v. Involve EALA as a people's parliament in the future peace caravans; and

vi. Provide funding for the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution to undertake an oversight activity along the borders and to examine the progress and the impact of peace caravans and the benefits arising from the One Stop Border sensitisation seminars on various Peace and Security Transboundary initiatives.

8. Regional Small Arms and Light Weapons Policy (EAC SALW)

An EAC SALW policy was adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2009. The Policy guides regional efforts towards SALW control with interventions that include capacity development of National coordination entities referred to as National Focal Points. The policy makes it mandatory for Partner States to undertake training, provision of equipment, marking, tracing and record of firearms, arms collection and destruction, stockpile management and security, legislation, harmonization, awareness creation and engendering the SALW process.

Committee Observations

- i. Although the Regional Small Arms and Light Weapon Policy has been adopted, there still exists the prevalence and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the region .
- ii. Inadequate disarmament measures have resulted into perpetual community raids and intra, inter-tribal and cross boarder conflicts within the EAC. For instance, the Karamojong in Uganda vs the Toposa in South Sudan vs the Turkana of Kenya.

9. Eastern and Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) Regional Maritime Strategy

Following the rise in piracy in the Indian Ocean in late 2009 and the resultant security and economic impact on the EAC Partner States and the region at large. The East and Southern Africa- Indian Ocean met in Mauritius in October 2010 and adopted a multi-dimensional regional maritime security strategy and action plan that responds to maritime security needs in all dimensions. To deal with piracy, a strategy was adopted by the EAC Council of Ministers at its 28th meeting, which was held on 29th November 2013. Implementation of the strategy commenced in 2014 with a seed fund from the European Union.

The comprehensive strategy addresses the provision of alternative livelihoods in Somalia, law enforcement, capacity building, combating piracy proceeds, operational capacity building, and information exchange. The implementation of the strategy is being coordinated by the EAC, the Indian Ocean Commission, Inter-governmental Authority and Development (IGAD), and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Committee Observation

The Committee observed that despite the efforts in place, the threat of piracy and other maritime security threats in the region persists. There is a range of myriad issues taking place off the coast of Somalia. For instance, piracy, illegal fishing, arms and human trafficking, which continue to challenge the region. Despite numerous challenges in the

ESA-IO in terms of the counter-piracy response in the Horn of Africa, it has also registered significant progress in the reduction of the involvement of the international community in the counter-piracy campaign.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to direct the Secretariat to enhance EAC partnership with the Indian Ocean Commission to address issues of piracy and maritime criminal aspects.

10 Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution (CPMR)

Through the support of the African Union Peace Facility, the region developed the CPMR framework to ensure sustainable peace, harmony and co-existence.. The Framework broadly provides for:

- i. Conflict early warning, including establishment of a situation room;
- ii. Mediation and establishment of good offices (Panel of Eminent Persons);
- iii. Peace support operations;
- iv. Demobilization, disarmament, resettlement, reconstruction and rehabilitation;
- v. Post-conflict reconstruction and development; and
- vi. East African Community peace facility.

The Council adopted the CPMR operational modalities, inclusive of the Modality for the Establishment of the East African Community Peace Facility (EACPF). However, at its 28th Meeting held in November 2013, the Council deferred

establishment of the EAC Peace Facility pending evaluation of the proposed East African Community Development Fund. The Council, however, took note of the need to progressively take over funding of Peace and Security interventions and directed that an initial allocation of \$500,000 be availed to the Department and be revised incrementally on an annual basis.

Committee Observations

- i. Although peace and stability are critical to the integration agenda, the department is understaffed and underfunded. The Political Federation Department is the only Department in the entire EAC structure without a directorate. It has only 2 (two) staff members making the implementation of the core functions of the Department difficult. The Peace and Security programs are mainly funded by the development partners, and this makes it vulnerable in case of withdrawal of funding.
- ii. Implementation of protocols has been left to individual Partner states instead of EAC developing a centralized mechanism to ensure harmonized enforcement.

Committee recommendations:

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to appeal to the Council of Ministers to urge:

- i. Partner States provide adequate funding to peace and security programs to ensure ownership and sustainability. The long-awaited sustainable funding mechanism should be expedited.

- ii. The Community should consistently promote the use of special envoys to enhance proactive and preventive approach to conflict management. There is also need to support a mediation support at the EAC Secretariat.
- i. Provide funding to finalize the development of the Refugee Policy and implementation; and
- ii. The Secretary-General should organize a goodwill mission to the Ministry of Internal Affairs at Dodoma and urge URT to finalise its internal processes and give her a clear position on the matter

11. Refugee Management Policy

In line with article 124(4) of the Treaty, the Council has the obligation to develop a Refugee Management Policy with the ultimate objective of harmonizing practices and mechanisms related to the management of refugees.

The policy is expected to put in place common standards in dealing with refugees and common regional and international good practices for the management of Refugees.

The Committee was informed by the Department of Peace and Security that the policy has not been finalized. It is yet to receive the inputs from the United Republic of Tanzania as it continues to undertake internal consultations. There is a need to urge URT to expedite its internal processes and give her a clear position on the matter.

Committee Observation

Delayed finalization of the Refugee policy makes coordination of refugee management in the region problematic.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council to:

12 Protocol relating to the Establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council

The EAC and four other RECS being part of the AU are bound by the protocol relating to the establishment of the AU Peace and Security Council to cooperate with the AU on matters related to peace and security. Through this collaboration framework, a number of regional peace and security initiatives have been implemented through the AU Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the AU border management programs. This has facilitated the promotion of regional coordination and cooperation and the sharing of best practices.

Committee observation

The collaboration between the EAC peace and security department and the AU Peace and Security Council seems ad hoc and not structured.

Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council to request the Secretariat to strengthen its collaboration with AU Peace and Security Council to enhance synergies and partnerships.

13. Co-operation with the United Nations (UN)

The EAC was granted observer status at the UN in March 2003 and remains an active member of the global body. EAC is expected to furnish the UN with regular reports and briefs and in particular to the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, UN Counter Terrorism Directorate and UN Security Council resolution 1540.

Committee recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to strengthen the EAC liaison office at the UN.

14. Co-operation with other International Organizations in the Region

To promote cooperation and ensure complementarity with regional and international organizations several cooperation mechanisms have been concluded with the following organizations:

- i. Regional Centers for Small Arms (RECSA) responsible for the management of Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- ii. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in charge of all programmes regarding the refugees' management;
- iii. International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) responsible for transnational crimes ;
- iv. Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) responsible for Anti-Money laundering and combating

financing of terrorism;

- v. Inter- Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) tasked with regional peace and security issues;
- vi. International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Secretariat (ICGLR) in charge of peace and security issues.

Committee Observations

- i. The Committee observed that although EAC established mechanisms of fostering cooperation with other international organizations, a formal and structured cooperation with other Regional Economic Communities has not been put in place.
- ii. The Committee further noted that the Republic of Burundi is not a member of the Eastern and Southern African Anti-Money Laundering Group and this is likely to affect its financial credibility.

Committee recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council to:

- i. Direct the Secretariat to strengthen partnership with like-minded organizations, including initiating formal cooperation with other RECS;
- ii. Appeal to the Republic of Burundi to join the Eastern and Southern African Anti-Money Laundering Group to strengthen its financial credibility.

Committee Observation

The Committee noted the existence of emerging security challenges that need appropriate responses. These

include: terrorism, human trafficking, and radicalization, cattle rustling, environmental crimes such as poaching, deforestation, illicit trafficking in minerals and natural resources. If no proactive and sustainable interventions are put in place, they are likely to exacerbate the security threats the EAC is currently facing and may derail the integration agenda.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to come up with measures that address emerging security challenges.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

1. Lack of a Directorate of Peace and Security

The Committee observed that the lack of a directorate for Peace and Security has resulted in limited attention in terms of focus, funding, and coordination of programs related to peace and security. If established, the directorate would play a pivotal role in coordinating and implementing the provisions contained in the Peace and Security protocol.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council to fast-track the establishment of the directorate to oversee the peace and security docket.

2. Lack of Sustainable Funding Mechanism to Support the Peace and Security Programs at EAC.

The Committee observed as one of the most strategic sectors in the integration

process, peace and security ought to receive priority funding from the Partner States' contribution. The Community should provide adequate budget allocation for peace and security programs. However, most of the programs are heavily dependent on donor funding, making them vulnerable and unsustainable in the case of donor pullout. The Committee further observed that the matters of peace and security do not attract the necessary attention and funding from the Council, yet peace and security are crucial to the integration process.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to appeal to the Council to:

- i. Prioritize the development of a sustainable funding mechanism to support the peace and security sector; and
- ii. Urge Partner States to create a peace fund to support security and foreign policy coordination programs.
- iii. Increased smuggling of illegal firearms in the region

The Committee observed that the proliferation of illegal firearms in EAC has increased and escalated by violent conflicts, terrorism, piracy, and illicit drug trafficking coupled with weak border control and law enforcement.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to undertake deliberate measures that will ensure effective disarmament and elimination of proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the EAC region.

4. Diaspora desks and policy at the EAC.

Diaspora engagement continues to gain special attention in different countries and on international cooperation forums. Most Countries have established Institutions structures and designed policies to leverage their diaspora capital beyond remittances. Moreover, globalization and advancements in Communication technologies have greatly expanded the avenues for the diaspora to remain actively involved in the cultural, economic, social, and political life of their Countries of origin. As a matter of fact, in recognition of the diaspora's contribution to financial development, the African Union is working to tap into the diaspora capital, including the financial and non-financial for the economic, social and political development of the continent.

The 12th meeting of the EAC sectoral Council acknowledged the need to develop a regional approach to mobilize the E4AC diaspora to actively participate in the EAC integration process based on Progressive of the four pillars. The Council further directed that the mobilization of the diaspora for their involvement in the regional integration process be of a regional policy matter. The EAC secretariate was directed to develop a regional approach to harness the diaspora potential to contribute to the social economic transformation of the region. However, to date, this remains an unfunded sector in EAC.

Committee Observation

The Committee noted that this policy is lacking and its absence is inhibiting the efforts of the community from tapping resources from this virgin sector.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge to the Council of Ministers to expediate the process of establishing a diaspora policy for the EAC .

5. Absence of the EAC Refugee Management Policy

The Committee observed that the issue of funding, staffing and lack of sense of urgency has contributed to the delayed finalization of the Refugee Management Policy. This also applies to various pending policies, strategies and ratification of protocols.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to:

- i. Request the Partner States to find an urgent and durable solution to the push /pull factors causing an influx of refugees.
- ii. Direct the Secretariat to expedite the development of a Regional Policy on refugees and harmonize it with the National policies and Laws on refugee management in accordance with Article 124 of the Treaty.
- iii. Allocate budget and set a time frame to conclude the development of pending policies, strategies, and ratification of protocols.

6. Delays in policy/strategy development and ratification

The Committee observed that various EAC policies, strategies and protocols have not been finalized, hence posing challenges

to the realization of defence, peace and security and foreign policy coordination.

Committee recommendation

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council to direct the Secretariat to mobilize funding and needful staffing to conclude the pending policies, strategies and protocols.

7. Timely and comprehensive reporting on Common Foreign and Security Policies

The Committee notes that in analyzing the provisions on the Article 59 of the Treaty, the cognitive word directed by the Treaty is “progress annual report”. This obligates the Council to submit an annual report on the progress made on the foreign and security policies. The Committee has noted that this provision is not being respected by the Council since the last report was submitted in 2021. The Committee reports to the Assembly the non-compliance of the provision of this Treaty.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council to comply with the Treaty provision and submit the report annually as directed by Article 59(3) (3) (c).

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

- i. The Committee recommends to the Assembly to appeal to the Council of Ministers to comply with the provisions of the Treaty and ensure that it submits an annual report on the progress made in the development of Common Foreign and Security Policies of the EAC.

- ii. The Committee further recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council to present progress reports to the Assembly on the status of the ratification and implementation of various protocols, including those related to peace and security.

- iii. The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to prepare a comprehensive report on its foreign and security policies. It should provide a detailed implementation matrix showing achievements, challenges faced, and future prospects, and any other information that will enhance the oversight function of the Assembly.

CONCLUSION

The Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution held a meeting in Kampala, Uganda November, 2024 to undertake scrutiny of the council report on progress made in the development of common foreign and security policies. In the process of scrutinizing this report the Committee observed that the Community has developed a number of policies, strategies and mechanisms to govern the collaboration and cooperation between the Partner states in the global area of foreign policy coordination. Some of these policies, strategies and mechanisms have been operationalized. The report focuses mainly on the development of policies, strategies and mechanisms. As a way forward, the Community needs to show political will in fast tracking the development and implementation of foreign and security policies. The Committee appeals to the Assembly to adopt this report.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Committee wishes to thank the Rt. Hon. Speaker, Office of the Clerk, staff of the EAC Secretariat for the excellent interaction during the examination of the report. It is however my pleasure as Chairperson to state that in future more time is required to dispose of this very sensitive report.

I beg to move.

5.12

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame: Procedure, Mr Speaker, Sir. I would like to inform the Chairperson of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution submitted that it is only the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Rwanda that has diaspora policies. I would like to clarify that the United Republic of Tanzania has the diaspora matter embedded in the foreign policy. I have shared this foreign policy of the United Republic of Tanzania.

It is from page 41. It addresses the issue of diasporas. I have shared the policy of Zanzibar with relation to diaspora and I will also share the law of diaspora from Zanzibar. I request that the information be captured as part of the report so that the Members are informed that there are some issues that cover diaspora.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the motion on the floor is that the report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on implementation of EAC security and foreign policies be adopted. The debate is open.

(Question proposed)

I will give the floor to Hon. Musangabatware first.

5.14

Mr Clément Musangabatware (Rwanda): Honourable Speaker, I thank you for granting me the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on the report of the committee on regional affairs and conflict resolution on the progress made by the EAC on its common foreign and security policies. First, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to Hon. Dr. Siranda Blacks, my friend, and the chairperson of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution as well as to all honourable members of the Committee for the commendable work done in preparing this comprehensive report. I would like to express my gratitude to you, honourable members, for your dedication and commitment at the work.

I fully support the report. It is well-articulated and provides valuable insights into the achievements, challenges, and propose the way forward concerning the implementation of EAC's common foreign and security policies. While acknowledging the challenges highlighted in the report, I would like to comment on a key success story worth emphasising that partner states continue to organise the annual EAC military games and cultural events on the rotational basis. These events are crucial in promoting solidarity among the EAC armed forces and creating a platform for engagement with EAC citizens in advancing peace through sports and culture.

Right, Honourable Speaker, I humbly support this report. Just for your information, during the 100 days of

commemoration of genocide committed against the Tutsi in Rwanda, military medical staff from EAC joined Rwanda's security forces and provided health services to thousands of beneficiaries across the country.

Lastly, there is time allocated to the report's presentation as a decision of the Assembly and depending on the committee. I humbly submit and reaffirm my strong support for this report. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Clement. I will now give the floor to Honourable Mugenyi, followed by Honourable Gatpan, and Honourable Kennedy Kalonzo.

5.17

Ms Mary Rutamwebwa Mugenyi (Uganda): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. From the onset, I wish to declare myself as a member of the Committee on Religion Affairs and Conflict Resolution. Therefore, I will be contributing to my own report. Some of the views I have already presented to the Committee, but since the other allows that, I will go ahead briefly to present on an issue of interest to the EAC citizens working for EAC organs and institutions of the Community in their own countries.

If you look at page nine, on issues relating to the progress made by the Community on the protocol of immunities and privileges. Among its provisions is the privileges and immunities of persons employed in services of the Community by partner states. We noted that the protocol was ratified by all partner states and is under implementation. However, its implementation lacks harmonisation. For

example, according our staff, the status of being a diplomat and having certain immunities in their own partner states varies. We then discovered that the reason, the main reason is that this protocol contravenes, the Vienna Convention, 1946.

I have just Googled the Vienna Convention, 1946 to see what it actually says, where a person cannot be a diplomat fully in their own country. You are only given limited immunities and privileges. I therefore call the Council of Ministers to look into the harmonisation of our own protocol on immunities and privileges and harmonise it possibly and preferably with the Vienna Convention and also with the different laws of our own countries so that it does not matter where you are working, you are given the same status and privilege. Whether you are a Kenyan working in Kenya, for EAC or Tanzania, as many of our Tanzanian citizens work for EAC, you should get the same privilege as someone working in Uganda or Rwanda. This is an area indeed that is new for revision and needs to be looked up into because there are reasons why this is not applied across the board. I thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I submit.

Amb. Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndangiza (Rwanda): Right, Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution under its able leadership...

The Speaker: Honourable Ndangiza, I have already given the names of the Members to contribute to this report. We have a queue. After Honourable Mary Mugenyi, Honourable Gatpan is supposed to

speak followed by Honourable Kennedy Kalonzo. You will make your contribution thereafter.

Kindly proceed, Honourable Gatpan.

5.21

Mr Gideon Gatpan Thoar (South Sudan): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker. I want to declare that I am a member of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution and I would like to contribute a few. One is that Article 59(3) of the Treaty has limited the scope of this report. It only focusses on the development of policies on peace and security and foreign and security policies. It does not give the Assembly a mandate to scrutinise the implementation of these policies. This is very crucial. We cannot have policies being developed, unimplemented, but there is no oversight provision for the same policies in terms of implementation. How do we know how these policies are performing? This is very crucial.

The Council needs to think ahead to either incorporate this in the amendments of the Treaty or find a way that the Assembly can also be able to oversight the implementation of these policies. I find that this is a very important submission, because we cannot be able to ascertain the progress made with regards to these policies because developing them is one thing and implementing them is key.

Right Honourable Speaker, my second submission is on the Foreign Policy Coordination Protocol. The process is installed. Most of the countries have ratified it, but the United Republic of Tanzania is still conducting consultations. We have

the Council and we also, as members of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution, and by extension all the members of the Assembly, work in collaboration with our colleagues from the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania to explore means of trying to get to the bottom of this so that the United Republic of Tanzania can be able to ratify this protocol.

It is important in the current world affairs to move and act as a region. Minus foreign policy coordination, our engagement on trade, security and climate, we act in vain. Our negotiation strength and bargain is dependent on how united we are in trying to achieve our objective in foreign policy. Without this foreign policy coordination protocol being operationalised, we are going to continue to bargain and negotiate as independent nations, not as the East African Community. This is a challenge to us as a Community. If we have to move together, then in terms of foreign policy coordination, then we urge the Council of Ministers to consult with their colleagues from the United Republic to see to it that this matter is resolved and this protocol is ratified.

Right, Honourable Speaker, I beg to submit.

5.26

Mr Kennedy Musyoka Kalonzo (Kenya): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I trust I am audible. On the onset, I thank the Committee for a wonderful report on a very crucial matter that is often overlooked.

Right Honourable Speaker, I emphasise that I support the report, but I would

seek the indulgence of the House so that as we focus on these common foreign policy issues, that we should also include in our pursuit a common space policy. I recall very fondly that one of our Summit Members once mentioned that we as a Community do not have presence in space, or for that matter, in the moon, and it is a matter that we need to participate in. However, our challenge being that no one partner state can finance this individually, I would want to urge the Council with the concurrence of the committee that as they look at this common foreign policy and defence policies, they also include in that a common East African Community space and aviation policy that will not only take care of the space aspect, but also what the African Union is trying to do in regards to the Africa Free Continental Airspace Protocol.

Right Honourable Speaker, with those few remarks, I register my support for the Committee and congratulate them on a report well done. It is timely, and we look forward to more common reports of that nature.

I submit.

5.29

Ms Francine Rutazana (Rwanda): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity. I start by thanking the Committee and the Chair for a good report, which is timely under the circumstances and situation in the region. In my observation, some of the issues highlighted in this significant report necessitate proper oversight and a face-to-face discussion with the partner states that have not yet adhered to various protocols concerning foreign and security policies.

Without compliance and complete ratification of these protocols by all partner states, the Community will continue to face issues that could be prevented if all partner states are together and have ratified and are compliant to those protocols. I strongly advise, as we are now in the process of budgeting, that the EAC budget allocates particular attention to this effort for the Committee on Regional Affairs and the Conflict Resolution, so that they engage with the appropriate stakeholders in the partner states, for those who have not yet ratified, but also for those who have not yet harmonised. I am talking about the protocol on privileges and immunities that is ratified by all partner states, but the harmonisation is the most important exercise to be done if we need this protocol to be compliant.

Right Honourable Speaker, with those few remarks, I support the report and appreciate the good work done by the Committee.

5.31

Amb. Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndagiza (Rwanda): Right, Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I start by thanking the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution under the leadership of Hon. Dr Siranda for a brilliant report.

When I looked at the report, as someone who has served under the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution sometimes back, I realised that some of the challenges that impede the effective attainment of both realisation of the policy on peace and foreign policy coordination are still the same. In particular, the delays in the ratification of protocols, notably the protocol on foreign policy coordination,

the mutual defence pact, and these are some of the protocols that have been negotiated for the last 15 years which is a long time in terms of matters on how we lag on matters of peace and foreign policy coordination. These are some of the enablers to the realisations of the first pillars of integration and the ultimate pillar of political federation.

One of the challenges I have, and I want to raise this to the Council, what is the problem? These protocols are generated by the Council. I recall that the foreign policy coordination protocol, when it was being signed, all the partner states by that time, there were five partner states, they are all enthusiastic. Every minister of foreign affairs and those in charge of defence, made political statements stating how their countries support this policy and how it has even delayed giving concrete examples on the need of having EAC ambassadors accredited to countries. If one country is not represented, another country can represent them. However, somewhere in the middle of implementation, that enthusiasm went away. I want to hear from the Council what is wrong, what are the underlying issues as to why these protocols take so long by the same countries that initiated the protocol. It also implies resources wasted in terms of money and human resources on consultations.

These are critical matters of our integration. This is the same issue we have on the policies, the policy on refugee, the policy on diaspora, I am happy that it is being worked on, the policy on e-immigration. These are critical policies for the realisation of the common market protocol. You can talk about free movement of people and goods when these policies

are not in place. One of the findings is that there is an issue of resources, about 90 per cent of the funding for departments for peace, security and foreign relations comes from the development partners, including the funding of the realisation of these policies. I urge the Council of Ministers to provide adequate funding for this important directorate of peace; a directorate that deals with matters of peace and security and foreign policy, so that we fund our policies and strategies, because these are sovereign matters. We cannot leave it to the UNHCR forever. There should be a sense of urgency. The issue of funding is critical. We need to see enough money from the partner states allocated to both peace and security and foreign policy coordination.

The final comment I have is on the issue of synergies. It seems there is a lot that is happening, both in the partner states and the continent. We have a whole architecture, the African peace and security architecture at the African Union. We have early warning systems at the African Union level, at EAC, but even other Regional Economic Blocs (RECs) like SADC have similar initiatives. I urge the EAC, through the Secretary-General and the Council, to ensure that we develop synergies with the other RECs and the African Union on these critical matters, so that we can benchmark from each other's experience, rather than reinventing the wheel. We should share information. For example, when it comes to peacekeeping missions, some of the security threats in the region and transboundary threats are all interrelated. We need to work together as a continent. The need for enhancing synergies and ensuring that there is benchmarking in terms of learning

experiences from each other. With those remarks, I support the report and thank the Committee once again. Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I now give the floor to the Chair of the Council of Ministers or any Member of the Council

The 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister, East African Community Affairs (Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga) (Uganda)(Ex-OfficioMember): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Committee for the report. My concern is one I have raised before, about the lack of implementation of the Conventions we have acceded to. I am very concerned that for 15 years the protocol has not been implemented. I recall that when we were in Kigali for the third Judicial Conference, we addressed this subject and agreed that we need to establish measures to ensure that monitoring machinery about the implementation of the Conventions of the region. I do hope that this is now an opportunity for us to take up that proposal that we picked up in the Judicial Conference and put it into practise because there are many Bills that have been passed but not assented to the Conventions made; they are not implemented or ratified. We need that machinery, which we found was working in the ECOWAS region.

I want the members to start thinking about it and maybe let us have someone move a Member's motion for it. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Honourable Members, I am informed that the Chair of the Council of Ministers has

requested to respond to the remarks on this report and the one of the Committee on Accounts on Thursday afternoon. I will not give the floor to the Chair of the Committee to respond now. He will be back on Thursday after the Chair of the Council of Ministers will have given final remarks.

5.44

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda)(Uganda): That is fine because we need to capture all inputs and appreciate them.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, before I adjourn, on Thursday, we will have a Commission meeting in the morning from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, I now adjourn the House to Thursday 10th July 2025 at 2.30 p.m. Have a blessed evening.

(The House adjourned at 5.45 p.m. to Thursday 10th July 2025 at 2.30 p.m.)

