



THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

56TH SITTING – SECOND MEETING – THIRD SESSION - FIFTH ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 12th July, 2025

*The East African Legislative Assembly
met at virtually 12.01 p.m.*

PRAYER

(The Speaker in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable Members,
Good afternoon. Are you getting me?

Honourable Members: Yes, Honourable Speaker, we can get you very well.

The Speaker: We have delayed for more than 20 minutes. I apologise for this. The reason for the delay is because we had an EALA Commission meeting this morning from 10.00 a.m. We had a lot of items to discuss. The meeting took more time than it was supposed to take. We are here today, and we have a very busy schedule. I request that we proceed.

Clerk, call the next order.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON AGRO-ECOLOGY WITHIN THE EAC REGION

The Speaker: Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources, move your motion.

12.05

THE Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms Françoise Uwumukiza) (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move –

THAT, the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the Capacity Building Seminar on Agro - ecology within the EAC Region, that was held from 13th to 15th November, 2024 in Kampala Uganda be adopted.”

The Speaker: Do you have seconders?

(Seconded by Honourable Dr Woda Jeremiah Odok, Honourable Machano Ali Machano, Honourable Amb. Mathias Harebamungu, Honourable Francine Rutazana)

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms Françoise Uwumukiza) (Rwanda): Yes, I do.

The Speaker: You are seconded by a good number of Members. You can move your motion and present the report.

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms Françoise Uwumukiza) (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go through the report quickly, I would like support from the IT Team as we are used to. I will try to summarise the report because I have a have a summary. I will summarise it from my side.

Mr. Speaker, the first page of the report is the cover page. I will skip it. I will go to the table of contents that is there. It was automatic. You can see that it is just the acronyms.

Mr Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Procedure, Mr Speaker, Sir. I make reference to the decision of the Subcommittee on Legislative Business of the EALA Commission that requires that Committee Chairpersons will summarise their work at a specific time. For instance, the Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges and the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural

Resources were each given only 10 minutes to present their reports.

I would like us to follow what the Commission indicated. I do not know if we are compliance with this report like this. We need to be in compliance with the rules of procedure that has been adopted by the House.

I submit.

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms Françoise Uwumukiza) (Rwanda): Mr. Speaker, Honourable Mukulia is even taking some of our time. I clarified that I have a summary that I will use on my side. That is why I cannot read through the big report. Please allow me to proceed as I clarified earlier. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: You can proceed.

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms. Françoise Uwumukiza) (Rwanda): Mr. Speaker, I will skip the list of acronyms and background information. I would like to start on page 5.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Experience has demonstrated that the social and political advancements of agroecology, as an approach to inclusive and integrated rural development, largely depend on the creation and adoption of new enabling institutional frameworks. These institutions must possess the capacity to interpret and regulate the structure and functioning of agrifood systems while ensuring continuity and sustainability

in processes. Additionally, they should serve as tools to guide and centralize the development of agroecology, leading to tangible outcomes such as laws and policies, training programs, alliances and networks and assessment reports.

Parliamentarians, through their powers supporting policy adoption, establishing appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks, raising awareness, promoting dialogue between relevant stakeholders, allocating resources for the implementation of policies and programs, and fostering policy coordination and coherences across sectors and agencies, can also make a significant contribution to the adoption of measures aimed at promoting the development of appropriate institutional frameworks for the promotion of agroecology at local, national and global levels.

Building on the fruitful collaboration in the region through the Eastern Africa Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (EAPA-FSN), the East African Legislative Assembly, (EALA) a member of EAPA-FSN, solicited the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Centre for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT) of Uganda to strengthen the capacity of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR) on agroecology for food systems transformation in the East African Community. The capacity building seminar was conducted from 13th to 15th November, 2024 at Imperial Royale Hotel, in Kampala, Uganda.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this activity were:

- i) To strengthen the capacities and understanding of attending

parliamentarians regarding agroecology and the significance of developing an appropriate institutional framework for promoting and ensuring the monitoring and implementation of progress in this field.

- ii) To raise awareness among parliamentarians about existing processes and experiences that facilitate their engagement in agroecology aimed at transforming sustainable food systems.
- iii) To develop a pilot seminar on agroecology training for parliamentarians, establishing a foundation for a potentially replicable working methodology in other regions.

3. METHODOLOGY

The following methodology was used during the capacity building seminar:

- i) Presentations from experts followed by discussion sessions with questions and answers;
- ii) Roundtable segment where current cases and experiences on agroecology were presented; and
- iii) Conducted a field visit to a local agroecological project at Kisoga, Mukono in Uganda which involved observing practises that integrate ecological principles into agriculture.

4. PRESENTATIONS FROM EXPERTS

- a) Agroecology: A Transformative Pathway Towards Sustainable Food Systems & SDGs' Achievement

The presentation argued that agroecology

is a crucial pathway to achieving sustainable food systems and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It highlighted the failures of current food systems and presented agroecology as a more sustainable and equitable alternative.

Key Points:

- i) **The Global Challenge:** Current food systems face complex, interconnected challenges like population growth, biodiversity loss, climate change, and price volatility, which current agricultural practises exacerbate.
- ii) **Unsustainable Food Systems:** Existing food systems contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss, pollution, and social inequity.
- iii) **East Africa Context:** The presentation recognizes the specific challenges in East Africa, including climate change impacts, unemployment, food security issues, and gender inequality in agriculture.
- iv) **Definition of Agroecology:** It's a holistic approach applying ecological principles to optimize interactions within agricultural systems, emphasizing social aspects and bottom-up, territorial processes.
- v) **Agroecology Principles and Elements:** The presentation referred to the 10 Elements of Agroecology as a framework for transitioning to sustainable systems. These elements are linked to various levels of food system transformation and principles.
- vi) **Benefits of Agroecology:** Agroecology can diversify food production, promote safe and healthy food, safeguard natural

resources, and create employment.

- vii) **Agroecology & the SDGs:** Agroecology is presented as an accelerator for achieving the SDGs, contributing to poverty reduction, food security, climate action, and more.
- viii) **Examples of Agroecology at Scale:** The presentation cited examples of successful agroecology initiatives in various regions like the Sahel, West Africa, Andhra Pradesh, and countries with national agroecology strategies.
- ix) **FAO's Role:** The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is actively promoting agroecology through its strategic framework, knowledge dissemination, policy dialogue, and integration into projects.
- x) **Online Learning:** The FAO provides various online learning tools and resources related to agroecology.
- xi) **Policy Support:** Highlighted various policy approaches that governments can take to support agroecology.

In essence, the presentation advocated for a shift towards agroecological practises as a way to address the interconnected challenges facing our food systems and to achieve a more sustainable and equitable future. It showcases FAO's commitment to this transition.

4.2 Agroecology in the Promotion of Seed Equity and Food Sovereignty

The presentation highlighted that Agroecology promotes seed equity and food sovereignty. Seed equity ensures fair access to seeds, especially indigenous varieties. Food sovereignty allows communities to define their food systems.

Farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS) are vital as Agroecology and FMSS empower farmers and promote resilient, equitable food systems.

Key Points:

- (i) **Agroecology Definition:** A holistic approach integrating ecological and social principles for sustainable agriculture and food systems. Aims for socially equitable food systems with local control over food production.
- (ii) **Seed Importance:** Seeds are fundamental for human sustenance, repositories of genetic potential, embodiments of cultural heritage, and crucial for food security and sovereignty. Seed security directly impacts food security and sovereignty for farming communities.
- (iii) **Problem:** Local farmers face vulnerability due to climate change, market pressures, and seed privatization. GMO seeds introduced by multinational corporations erode local seed systems. A few large corporations control a significant portion of the global seed market, creating economic monopolies. GMOs led to farmers being dependent on buying seeds and costly fertilizers/pesticides. Corporate control and GMO dependence undermine farmer autonomy and increase production costs.
- (iv) **GMO Impacts:** Negative impacts on food security, biodiversity, and insects. Concerns about human health (allergies, cancer, antibiotic resistance, DNA changes), risk of outcrossing, economic inequalities, and reduced

farmer autonomy. GMOs have broad negative consequences, including health risks and loss of biodiversity.

- (v) **Challenges:** Policies favoring seed homogenization and privatization undermine FMSS efforts. Corporate-driven policies threaten local seed systems.
- (vi) **Legal and Policy Framework:** Highlighted the UDHR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, UNDROP, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and EAC Treaty provisions supporting the right to food, seed diversity, and regional cooperation. Existing legal frameworks provide a basis for protecting farmer rights and promoting sustainable agriculture.
- (vii) **Efforts at the EAC Level:** Mentioned Kenya lifting the ban on GMOs and CEFROHT's work to promote smallholder farmers' rights to seed/food security, including filing a public interest case; Activism and legal action are necessary to challenge policies that undermine seed sovereignty.

The presentation called for policy changes through regional policy and law that protects farmers from third parties, supports agroecology, and promotes local and indigenous seed systems, as well as increased investment in agroecological research and Community seed banks.

4.3 Advocating for Agroecology and Highlighting the Need to Establish Appropriate Institutional Frameworks for its Effective Development

This presentation focused on the importance of capacity building for parliamentarians, specifically the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources (EALA-ATNR), to promote agroecology. It emphasized the need for appropriate institutional frameworks to ensure the effective development of agroecology.

Key Points:

Premise of the Capacity-Building: Social and political advancements in agroecology largely depend on creating and adopting new enabling institutional frameworks. The capacity building aims to:

- i) Enable interpreting and regulating agrifood systems.
- ii) Ensure continuity and sustainability.
- iii) Guide and centralize agroecology development (laws, policies, etc.).

New Approach:

Advocated moving beyond traditional law promotion to address the “dilemma of temporality,” acknowledging that legislatures have limited time to achieve concrete results and ensure sustainability.

In short, the presentation stressed the necessity of building the capacity of parliamentarians to understand and promote agroecology through the development of supportive institutional frameworks. It proposed a methodology that includes thematic sessions, roundtable discussions, and practical field visits to foster a deeper understanding and commitment to agroecological principles. The core message is that lasting progress in agroecology requires more than just laws; it requires sustained effort,

strong institutions, and knowledgeable policymakers.

4.4 FAO Parliamentary Networks Team

This presentation outlined the activities and strategies of the FAO Parliamentary Networks Team in supporting parliamentary action related to food security and nutrition (FSN). It described the team’s key functions, areas of focus, and mechanisms for promoting effective parliamentary engagement.

Key Points:

1. What is FAO doing: The FAO Parliamentary Networks Team focuses on:
 - a) Creation/Strengthening of Networks: Building alliances and collaborations among parliamentarians.
 - b) Capacity Building: Providing training and support to enhance parliamentarians’ knowledge and skills.
 - c) Knowledge Tools Development: Creating resources and materials to inform parliamentary action.
 - d) Promote Legislative Processes: Supporting the development and implementation of relevant legislation.
 - e) Global Parliamentary Summits and Pact Mechanism: Organizing events and initiatives to foster global commitments.
2. Examples of Activities undertaken:
 - a) Creation/Strengthening of Networks: Support for Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum and AFROLAC.

- b) Capacity Building: Workshops on CFS RAI (Committee on World Food Security, Regional Approach and Initiative).
- c) Knowledge Tools Development: Development of E-Learning on Nutrition, Publication on Agroecology, and Handbook on Gender.
- d) Promote Legislative Processes: Supporting East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and PARLATINO.
- e) Global Parliamentary Summits and Pact Mechanism: Organizing the third Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition in Africa by 2026.

Pact Implementation Mechanism: The Pact Implementation Mechanism has various components; Creation and Strengthening of Networks, Knowledge Management (Production) Knowledge Systematization (Organize) and activities in the mechanism include - Database, Thematic Sections, Tools//Materials, Events.

- a) How the Mechanism Promotes Parliamentary Action (PACT, ACT, REACT, IMPACT):
 - i) PACT: Through the Pact, parliamentarians commit to transforming agrifood systems to ensure the right to adequate food.
 - ii) ACT: Promotes knowledge development and exchange to prioritize FSN topics.
 - iii) REACT: Provides a platform (HUB) for gathering, organizing, and disseminating data related to parliamentary activities.
 - iv) IMPACT: Aims to drive sustainable transformation of agrifood systems to address hunger and malnutrition.

In short, the presentation highlighted the multi-faceted approach of the FAO Parliamentary Networks Team in empowering parliamentarians to address food security and nutrition challenges. It focused on building networks, enhancing capacity, developing knowledge tools, supporting legislative action, and promoting global commitments through summits and collaborative mechanisms. The ultimate goal is to drive sustainable transformations in agrifood systems to combat hunger and malnutrition.

4.5 AECID – FAO: Framework for collaboration between the EALA-ATNR and the FAO- Catalysing parliamentary action on agroecology for food systems transformation in the Eastern Africa Community

The presentation highlighted the collaboration between AECID (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation) and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) in their effort to support agriculture and food security.

- i) The Project: The FAO-AECID project “Parliamentary work towards SDG-2 in Africa” aims to enhance parliamentary work related to Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) with the overall objective to equip parliamentarians with the tools to advocate for effective food security policies.
- ii) Strategic Alignment: The project aligns with FAO’s new Strategic Framework, emphasizing engagement with parliamentary networks, promoting sustainable food systems, and aiming for better production,

nutrition, environment, and livelihoods.

- iii) Urgency: It emphasizes the urgency for enhanced engagement from all stakeholders to achieve the 2030 Agenda goals.

4.6 Transforming Food Systems through Agroecology

This presentation by the Agroecology Coalition addressed the need for food systems transformation and presented agroecology as a sustainable solution. It outlined the problems with current food systems, highlight the benefits of agroecology and showcased the work of the Agroecology Coalition in promoting agroecological transitions. It explained the role of parliamentarians in advancing Agroecology.

Key Points:

1. Current food systems are not sustainable: -
 - (i) Produce about 1/3 of greenhouse gases;
 - (ii) Are responsible for 80 per cent of biodiversity losses;
 - (iii) Use up to 70 per cent of freshwater resources;
 - (iv) Pollute the soil, air, and water;
 - (v) Are vulnerable to climate change;
 - (vi) Do not address the triple burden of malnutrition;
 - (vii) Maintain social inequity and the loss of cultural values.
2. Agroecology:
 - i) Science, practise, and social movement;
 - ii) Addresses the entire food system

(production to consumption);

- iii) Takes the best of all innovations that are compatible with the 13 principles of agroecology;
- iv) Changing social relations, empowering farmers, adding value locally;
- v) Holistic approach to achieve economic, environmental, climate, health, social and cultural objectives.
- vi) Aims to achieve the sustainable development goals in an integrated manner.

3. The Agroecology Coalition: -

- i) Accelerates food systems transformation through agroecology;
- ii) Facilitates collective action and empowers Members;
- iii) 51 Member States;
- iv) 3 Regional Commissions;
- v) 2 Regional/Sub-national authorities/governments;
- vi) 250+ Organizations.

4. What are we Observing:

- i) A growing space for agroecology;
- ii) Food systems take center stage;
- iii) Thinking through transformation;
- iv) More holistic picture of the food systems;
- v) Multidimensionality.
- vi) Agroecology funding on the rise;
- vii) Recognition of the catalytic role of frontline food system actors;
- viii) A growing emphasis on national policies.

5. Role of Parliamentarians in Advancing Agroecology: -

- i) Engage and collaborate with agroecology practitioners and advocates;
- ii) Stay vigilant regarding greenwashing and conflict of interest;

- iii) Take stock of and analyse bills related to agroecology;
 - iv) Establish clear mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effects of laws.
6. National Agroecology Strategies in East Africa: Presented information about how Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda promote Agroecology in their countries.
 7. Global policy and science documents and reports cite the transformative nature and potential of agroecology.

In essence, the presentation advocated for a shift towards agroecological food systems, highlighting the Agroecology Coalition's role in facilitating this transformation. It emphasized the importance of collective action, policy support, and increased investment in agroecology to achieve more sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems.

4.7 Policy Recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on Agroecological and other innovative approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that enhance Food Security and Nutrition

This presentation provided an overview of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its work on promoting agroecological and other innovative approaches to enhance food security and nutrition. It highlighted the importance of addressing global food system challenges through policy recommendations based on scientific evidence.

Key Points:

1. Committee on World Food Security (CFS):

- (i) An inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to ensure food security and nutrition for all.
- (ii) Develops and endorses policy recommendations and guidance on food security and nutrition topics.
- (iii) Based on scientific and evidence-based reports.

2. High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE): Aims to facilitate policy debates and inform policy-making by providing independent, comprehensive, and evidence-based analysis.

3. CFS Policy Products:

- i) Developed through a multi-stakeholder, inclusive approach.
- ii) Based on scientific and evidence-based reports produced by the HLPE and/or through technical support from FAO, IFAD, WFP, and the CFS Advisory Group.
- iii) Example: Focus area No. 5 Strengthen institutions for stakeholders' engagement, create an enabling environment for empowering people most at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition and people in vulnerable situations, and address power inequalities in agriculture and food systems.

4. Why the HLPE report on Agroecology? The global food system faces challenges:

- i) Demographic changes, climate change, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and competition over renewable resources.
- ii) Agriculture accounts for 60 per cent of terrestrial biodiversity loss and 33 per

- cent of soil degradation.
- iii) 733 million people are hungry, and an estimated 3.1 billion are unable to afford a
 - iv) healthy diet.
5. HLPE report on Agroecology development process: UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) requested its High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) to produce a report on “Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition”.
6. Objectives of the policy recommendations:
- i) Provide guidance to Member States and stakeholders in strengthening agroecological and other innovative approaches
 - ii) Support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and pay particular attention to the promotion of family farming
 - iii) The policy recommendations are voluntary and non-binding
7. The policy recommendations:
- i) Lay or strengthen the policy foundations for agroecological and other innovative approaches (14 actions)
 - ii) Establish, improve & apply comprehensive performance measurement & monitoring frameworks to encourage the adoption of agroecological & other innovative approaches (4 actions)
 - iii) Foster the transition to resilient and diversified sustainable agriculture & food systems through agroecological & other innovative approaches (25 actions)
 - iv) Strengthen research, innovation, training, and education & foster knowledge co-creation, knowledge sharing & co-learning, on agroecological & other innovative approaches (14 actions)
 - v) Strengthen institutions for stakeholder engagement, create an enabling environment for empowering people most at risk of food insecurity & malnutrition & people in vulnerable situations & address power inequalities in agriculture & food systems (5 actions).
- In short, the presentation outlined the role of the CFS in addressing food system challenges through evidence-based policy recommendations that support agroecology and other innovative approaches. It emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration to achieve sustainable agriculture and food security for all.
- 4.8 Legislating to Promote Agroecology Guidelines for a Model Law on Agroecology. Case: The Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO) Model Law on Agroecology
- The presentation discussed FAO’s support for the parliamentary sector in promoting agroecology, focusing on the case of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO) and its development of a model law on agroecology.
- Key Points:
- 1. FAO’s Support: FAO provides support to parliamentarians through:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Facilitating the exchange of information. b. Providing technical support for legislation development. c. Training parliamentarians on food security and nutrition. d. Facilitating links and alliances between parliamentarians. <p>2. PARLATINO: The Latin American and Caribbean Parliament aims to promote integration and economic/ social development in the region while respecting human rights.</p> <p>3. Model Law Opportunity: A model law on agroecology offers opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Influence the region's public and political agenda. b. Contribute to regional legislative unification. c. Redesign agricultural production models. d. Unify dispersed legislation and advance the SDGs. e. Eradicate hunger and food insecurity. <p>4. Institutional Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. FAO study on "Legislating to Promote Agroecology" (2021) b. PARLATINO request for FAO to develop a Model Law Project (2022) c. Public consultations, systematization of results, and draft Model Law d. Approval by the Agriculture Committee (July 2024) and General Plenary (December 2024) <p>5. Structure and Contents of the Model Law: The Model Law includes Chapters on:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. General Provisions b. Institutional Framework c. National Policy d. Monitoring System e. Education, Innovation, and Food Culture f. Representation and Participation of Civil Society g. Jurisdictional Protection h. International Cooperation i. Financing, Promotion, and Incentives j. Final Provisions <p>6. Main Reflections and Lessons Learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Legal frameworks are a concrete opportunity to redesign agricultural models and harmonize laws. b. A successful governing body requires political leadership, multisectoral coordination, and an advisory social participation council. c. Enacting a law is essential but not sufficient; implementation requires enabling institutional frameworks. <p>In summary, the presentation highlighted the importance of legislative action to promote agroecology, emphasizing FAO's role in supporting parliamentarians and the ongoing effort to develop a model law within PARLATINO. It stressed the need for a comprehensive approach that integrates various sectors and ensures effective implementation.</p> <p>4.9 Promoting Agroecology using the Legal and Policy Frameworks within East African Region</p> <p>The presentation discussed the promotion of agroecology (AE) in Africa, with a focus on the East African region. It explored the concept of agroecology, its</p> |
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benefits, barriers to its realization, and the international, regional, and national legal and policy frameworks that support it.

Key Points:

1. Understanding Agroecology: Agro-ecology is a holistic and integrated approach that combines ecological and social concepts for sustainable agriculture and food systems.
2. Ten Elements of Agro-ecology: These include diversity, co-creation of knowledge, synergy, efficiency, recycling, resilience, human and social values, culture and food tradition, responsible governance, and circular and solidarity economy.
3. Benefits of Agro-ecology for Africa:
 - i. It provides a lifeline for long-lasting food systems.
 - ii. Combines social justice, ecological science, and indigenous knowledge.
 - iii. Offers a way out of vulnerability caused by monocultures and dependency on external inputs.
 - iv. Promotes Community bonds.
 - v. Minimizes reliance on energy-intensive external inputs.
 - vi. Offers a pathway to food security, biodiversity preservation, and Community empowerment.
4. Barriers to Realizing Agro-ecology in Africa:
 - i) Lack of policy directions and institutional support.
 - ii) Lack of knowledge about agro-ecology.
 - iii) Lack of political will.
 - iv) Lack of access to credits and markets.
 - v) Limited extension services and weak land tenure systems.
5. International and Regional Frameworks on Agro-ecology:
 - i) Agenda 21 of the Rio Declaration (1991)
 - ii) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1993
 - iii) Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) (2003)
 - iv) Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Food (VGRtF) (2004)
 - v) International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) (2001)
 - vi) SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and related targets
 - vii) CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ATs)
 - viii) Paris Agreement on Climate Change
 - ix) Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
6. Regional Policy Frameworks on Agro-ecology:
 - i) AU Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food (2003)
 - ii) Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) (2004)
 - iii) Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation (2014)
 - iv) Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G) (2009)
 - v) African Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) for 2015-2025
 - vi) Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA)
7. Policy Framework on AE in East Africa:

- i) EAC Treaty (1999) and the Agricultural and Rural Development Policy (ARDP) (2005-2030)
 - ii) Articles 105-110 of the EAC Treaty related to agriculture.
 - iii) EAC Vision 2050 on Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development (2016).
8. Other Relevant Development in EAC: The East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS), growing domestic markets, and the presence of organizations like KOAN, TOAM, and NOGAMU.
9. Examples of Good Practises:
- i) Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy (KCSAS)
 - ii) Madagascar's National Strategy for Organic Agriculture (SNABIO)
 - iii) Uganda's National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP)
10. Concluding Remarks:
- i) Agroecology is critical for food security and sustainability in Africa.
 - ii) Developing laws and policies to enhance AE is indispensable.
 - iii) EAC Members must collaborate and demonstrate political will.
 - iv) EAC Members should pool resources to integrate AE into agriculture and food security plans.
 - v) Continued engagement with EAC organs is necessary.

In essence, the presentation advocated for the promotion of agroecology in East Africa by leveraging existing legal and policy frameworks. It highlighted the benefits of agroecology, acknowledged the barriers, and emphasized the importance of political will and regional collaboration to achieve sustainable food systems.

4.10 Uganda's experience in Developing the National Agroecology Strategy

The presentation indicated that Uganda is actively developing a National Agroecology Strategy through research and comprehensive consultations to address issues in current farming systems. The strategy aims to create agricultural systems that sustainably feed the growing population with quality food while conserving natural resources.

1. Problem Statement: Uganda faces increasing degradation and diminishing biodiversity due to deforestation and wetland loss and major issues affecting agroecology in Uganda.
2. Agroecology as an Alternative: Agroecology is presented as a farming system that prioritizes nature's goods and services without causing damage and promotes ecological balance, as opposed to conventional methods that rely on genetics, inorganic inputs, and may lead to pollution.
3. Strategic Direction: The vision is a sustainable food system and resilient livelihoods for all. The mission is to scale up the use of agroecological principles and practises to boost production, value addition, and market access.
4. Priority Strategies: The strategy involves enhancing the availability of agroecological inputs, strengthening research and innovation, promoting value addition, enhancing social equity, and strengthening systems for agroecology transitioning.

5. Expected Outcomes: The anticipated outcomes include improved food quality and safety, increased competitiveness of agroecological products, reduced production costs, increased farmer incomes, reduced vulnerability to climate change, and improved biodiversity.
6. Financing: The strategy will be funded through government resources, private investments, non-tax revenue, low-interest credit, equity/shareholder loans, and development partner grants/loans.

The presentation called upon EALA to play a role in promoting agroecology in the EAC through advocacy, cross-border collaboration, policy development, accountability, and resource mobilization.

4.11 The National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy 2023-2030 in Tanzania

The presentation introduced the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS) of Tanzania, outlining its vision, mission, strategic objectives, and development process. It emphasized the importance of ecological organic agriculture for environmental conservation, human health, climate resilience, and national economic growth.

Key Points:

1. Vision: To establish Tanzania as a *leading* ecological organic agriculture subsector.
2. Mission: To develop and implement supportive policy instruments, investments, and partnerships to scale up ecological organic agriculture interventions.
3. Strategic Objectives: These objectives cover a wide range of areas, including:
 - i. Enhancing the capacity of institutions.
 - ii. Promoting the availability and accessibility of EOA inputs.
 - iii. Strengthening ICT systems for EOA information dissemination.
 - iv. Facilitating the development of EOA value chains.
 - v. Ensuring compliance with EOA standards and certification.
 - vi. Strengthening environmental conservation.
 - vii. Increasing business and trade volumes.
4. Process of Development: The NEOAS was developed through a multi-stakeholder process, including:
 - i. Initiation by the Ministry of Agriculture
 - ii. Consultations with relevant stakeholders
 - iii. Field Visits in ecological zones
 - iv. Feedback from committees
 - v. Validation by stakeholders
5. Supportive Partners: The strategy development was inclusive by both private and public institutions.

In summary, the NEOAS aims to promote and develop ecological organic agriculture in Tanzania through a strategic and collaborative approach, with the ultimate goal of enhancing sustainability, food security, and economic growth. The engagement of parliament and other stakeholders is crucial for its success.

4.12 Uganda Martyrs University and their contribution in the development and promotion of agroecology in the region and Reflections on how parliamentary action can contribute to the expansion of Agroecology

This presentation focused on Uganda Martyrs University's (UMU) contribution to the development and promotion of agroecology, specifically through the African Centre of Agroecology and Livelihood Systems (ACALISE). It also reflected on how parliamentary action can further expand agroecology.

Key Points:

1. Theme: Advocating for agroecology and highlighting the need to establish appropriate institutional frameworks for its effective development.
2. Problem Statement:
 - i. High engagement in crop production (93.4per cent), but limited access to arable land (20-25per cent of family farms).
 - ii. Low food stocks (only 21per cent of Households), leading to food stress and crisis.
 - iii. Low adoption of research findings
 - iv. High levels of vulnerability/low levels of resilience to shocks
 - v. Agriculture accounts for about 52per cent of Uganda's GDP and is the main source of income, employing 90per cent of the population.
 - vi. The country derives about 85per cent of its export earnings from the sector
 - vii. Women account for about 70per cent of the farming labour.
- viii. Challenges include low production and productivity, lack of sustainability systems, and inadequate funding for research.
3. Uganda Martyrs University and ACALISE:
 - a. Aims to streamline the production of a high level of well-motivated agroecology experts.
 - b. Focus areas:
 - i. Training of M.Sc. and Ph.D. students.
 - ii. Integration of ecological approaches in agriculture.
 - iii. Initiation of critical regional collaborations.
 - iv. Promotion of Public Private Partnerships (PPP).
4. ACALISE output
 - i. Train 60 PhD, 40per cent female, 30per cent should be regional students
 - ii. 300 M.Sc, 40per cent of which female, 30per cent of which should be regional students
 - iii. Train 200 other critical experts.
5. The bigger picture Actions are complementary to other local and international initiatives like Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 21, Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).
6. Synergy with Industry UMU has trained top notch Agroecologists
 - award was given to the faculty of agriculture, was the winner of the Agriculture extension and advisory services award by MAAIF in conjunction with Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (UFAAS).

7. How parliamentary action can contribute to agroecology expansion:
 - i. Increasing climate finance for smallholder farmers.
 - ii. Prioritizing support for the female gender.
 - iii. Helping farmers engage with markets and wealth creation.
 - iv. Addressing high cost, adulteration, and low application of key inputs.
 - v. Prioritize food sovereignty and agroecology over “business as usual” in curricula, policy, and financial investments.

In short, the presentation highlighted Uganda Martyrs University’s dedication to agroecology through ACALISE and emphasized the critical role of parliamentarians in fostering sustainable agriculture by increasing investment, prioritizing gender equity, connecting farmers to markets, and tackling input-related challenges. The ultimate message is the need to prioritize agroecology in curricula, policies, and financial investments to ensure food sovereignty.

4.13 Knowledge Hub in Eastern Africa (KHEA) and Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture & Agroecology in Africa (KCOA)

The presentation focused on the focus areas of the two organisations and their achievements in promoting agroecology:

Key points:

1. KHEA and KCOA: These are initiatives focused on promoting organic agriculture and agroecology in Eastern Africa.
2. Structure: KHEA has a structure involving various partners like Bio vision Africa Trust, PELUM Uganda, TOAM, ROAM, and others.
3. International Partners: Organizations like IFOAM Organics International, ICIPE, FIBL, and Access Agriculture contribute through capacity development, information gathering, and video translation.
4. Coverage: BvAT (Biovision Africa Trust) and PELUM Uganda have specific geographical coverage areas.
5. Focus Areas: The presentation highlighted key focus areas:
 - i. Knowledge Assembly
 - ii. Capacity Building & Dissemination
 - iii. Market Development
 - iv. Policy & Advocacy
6. Digital Knowledge Platform (DKP): An online platform (kcoa-africa.org) serves as a knowledge database, with links to Infonet Biovision, Access Agriculture, and the Africa Organic Manual.
7. DKP and KPs: The DKP has seen user engagement, content development, and utilization metrics.
8. ToTT Cascade: A training model involving Master Trainers, Multipliers, and Community Trainers to reach farmers.
9. Know What You Eat Campaign: A campaign to raise consumer awareness.
10. Policy Advocacy: Efforts to integrate agroecology into policies and

strategies in Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, and Madagascar.

4.14 Development and Promotion of Agroecology in East Africa by Slow Food Movement

The presentation focused on the work of Slow Food movement in East Africa in developing and promoting agroecology. It outlined Slow Food movement's mission, priorities, and various activities aimed at supporting local food systems and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Key Points:

1. Slow Food's movement Mission: To ensure good, clean, and fair food for all.
2. Slow Food's Priorities:
 - i. Defend biological and cultural diversity.
 - ii. Educate, inspire, and mobilize citizens.
 - iii. Influence policies in the public and private sectors.
3. Slow Food Collaborative on Agroecological Food Systems Transformation in Eastern Africa: Works to boost local economies and improve livelihoods through agroecology in Kenya, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
4. Activities Slow food focus on Agroecological food systems
5. Slow Food Farms: Plots of land cultivated for agricultural purposes according to the principles of agroecology.
6. Slow Food Communities: Local groups who share Slow Food values and unite around specific objectives, such as protecting and promoting a particular local food.
7. Slow Food Gardens: Incubating Agroecological knowledge and supporting biodiversity and food sovereignty.
8. Slow Food Agroecological Farmers' Markets: Meeting points where local producers offer healthy, quality food directly to consumers at fair prices.
9. Slow Food Cooks Alliance: Network of cooks and chefs preserving biodiversity and supporting small-scale producers.
10. Slow Food Travel: Sustainable tourism model connecting travellers with local food producers and communities.
11. Community Seed Farmers and Saving Networks: Preserving indigenous seeds through growing and seed banking.
12. Community Agroecology Knowledge Incubation and Sharing Centers: Serve as hubs for fostering sustainable agricultural practises and promoting food sovereignty.
13. Learning Exchanges and Academies: Programs promoting knowledge sharing and skill development among food producers

In summary, the presentation emphasized the diverse initiatives undertaken by Slow Food in East Africa to promote agroecology, build resilient food systems, and support local communities. It highlighted the organization's commitment to preserving biodiversity, fostering knowledge exchange, and creating market opportunities for sustainable food producers.

4.15 Preliminary TAPE Results: Impact Assessment of Ecological Organic Agriculture in Walmera, woreda, Ethiopia

The presentation discussed the preliminary results of the TAPE (Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation) assessment on the impact of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) in Walmera Woreda, Ethiopia. The assessment is part of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) in Ethiopia, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The EOA-I aims to sustain soil health and mainstream ecological organic agriculture into national agricultural systems by 2025.

Key Points:

TAPE Tool: The TAPE tool is used to assess the agroecological transition among EOA beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries and to evaluate the relationship between EOA and multidimensional sustainability.

Findings:

1. EOA beneficiaries showed slightly better performance in agroecological transition, with statistically significant differences in overall CAET score, diversity, synergy, efficiency, recycling, and co-creation and sharing of knowledge.
2. More advanced agroecological farms correlate with higher value of agricultural production and better food security.
3. Beneficiaries presented better performance in soil health.

4. Proven use of several EOA practises for horticultural activities and synthetic fertilizers are negligible, and pesticides are limited within the EOA plots.

Recommendations:

1. Provide continued technical support, expand knowledge-raising activities, promote crop/tree growth for biomass, support leguminous species, and explore animal raising opportunities.
2. Further study women and youth empowerment, assess credit access needs, support informal producer groups, promote awareness campaigns, and restore local markets.

In essence, the presentation highlighted the positive impacts of EOA on agroecological transition, agricultural production, food security, and soil health, while recommending further support and expansion of the initiative. The assessment indicated a positive correlation between agroecology and economic and environmental performance.

4.16 Agroecology Performance Evaluation of Farms in Teso: A case of Amuria and Katakwi

This presentation discussed the findings of an agroecology performance evaluation conducted on farms in the Teso subregion of Uganda (Katakwi and Amuria districts). The evaluation, conducted by Dan Church Aid (DCA), assessed the extent to which agroecology is practised and its impact on the farms.

Key Points:

1. Dan Church Aid (DCA):
 - i. Works with partners in North-Eastern Uganda and the West Nile districts.
 - ii. Implements 3 core goals: Build Resilient Communities, Save lives and Fight Extreme Inequality.
 - iii. Implements Agroecology as a strategy for adapting and mitigating climate change.
 - iv. Agroecology initiatives have promoted restoration of degenerated landscapes, created micro-climates, improved biodiversity, incomes and livelihoods.
2. Agroecology Definition:
 - i. A science, practise and social movement applying ecological concepts and principles to manage interactions and design sustainable agriculture and food systems.
 - ii. Combines local and scientific knowledge.
 - iii. Based on four main practises: Farm planning & design, soil and water conservation, soil fertility management, integrated disease and pest management.
 - iv. Considers the entirety of the agricultural food system.
 - v. Based on the 10 elements (FAO), 13 principles (HLPE) and the 6 levels (Gliessman).
3. Objectives of the Evaluation:
 - i. Assess the extent to which agroecology is practised among farmers in the Teso subregion.
 - ii. Analyze the context and enabling environment for transitioning to agroecology.
 - iii. Examine the current agroecological status of farms, highlighting gaps, strengths, and weaknesses.
4. Methodology:
 - i. Used the Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE) to assess agroecology across farms in Amuria, Katakwi, and Kapelebyong.
 - ii. Desk study and focus group discussions (FDGs) with District local government.
 - iii. Out of 1032 farmers, 120 farmers and 12 farms were randomly selected.
5. TAPE Steps:
 - i. Step 0: Description of systems and context.
 - ii. Step 1: Characterization of Agroecological Transition (CAET).
 - iii. Step 2: Core Performance Criteria.
 - iv. Step 3: Joint Analysis of Step 1 and 2 and Participatory Interpretation.
6. Description of Context and Systems:
 - i. Katakwi, Amuria, and Kapelebyong are in the Northeastern Savannah grasslands with two rainy seasons.
 - ii. Land use includes agriculture for crop production (cassava, groundnuts, sweet potato) and livestock production.
 - iii. Production systems include cropping, mixed crop-livestock, agro-pastoral and agro-silvo-pastoral.
 - iv. 80per cent of land is under customary ownership.
 - v. Environmental challenges include prolonged drought, flash floods, pest, and diseases.
 - vi. No policies on agroecology enacted.
7. Results: Overall score was below 50per cent across all farms and districts. Scores greater than 50per cent were observed for human and

social values and culture and food traditions.

8. Recommendations:

- i. Support farmers in transitioning to agroecology by improving production assets, technology use, and market access.
- ii. Take advantage of human and social values, cultural traditions, good soil health, and biodiversity.
- iii. Develop strategies to improve productivity and value addition and create price-responsive market linkages.
- iv. Leverage national policy and government frameworks to strengthen local/Community engagement.
- v. Examine factors affecting the productivity of cassava, sorghum, sweet potato, and maize. 45.

9. What Parliamentarians Can Do:

- i. Push for promotion of agroecological products and entrepreneurs.
- ii. Promote Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS).
- iii. Preserve food and traditions through saving indigenous seed.
- iv. Popularize and disseminate the National Organic Agric. Policy and Agroecology strategy.

In summary, the presentation provided an overview of DCA's work in promoting agroecology in the Teso subregion of Uganda. The evaluation results highlighted the potential of agroecology to improve livelihoods and food security. It recommends supporting farmers in the transition to agroecology. Parliamentarians have a crucial role in advocating for policies and strategies that support these changes.

4.17 Key Takeaways

Key takeaways from all the presentations and interactive discussion are as follows:

- i. Agroecology is a Solution: Agroecology is not just a farming practise but a science, social movement, and policy framework that integrates ecological principles, local knowledge, and social equity. It addresses the failures of current food systems by promoting biodiversity, soil health, and climate resilience while empowering farmers and communities.
- ii. Enabling Policy and Institutional Frameworks are crucial: The seminar emphasized the need for supportive policies and legal frameworks to mainstream agroecology. Examples include Uganda's National Agroecology Strategy, Tanzania's Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy, and the PARLATINO Model Law on Agroecology. These frameworks provide a foundation for scaling up agroecological practises and ensuring their sustainability.
- iii. Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building are important: Initiatives like the Knowledge Hub in Eastern Africa (KHEA) and the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture & Agroecology in Africa (KCOA) play a pivotal role in disseminating agroecological knowledge, building capacity, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. Training programs, digital platforms, and farmer networks are essential for scaling agroecology.

- iv. Evidence of Impact and Case Studies: Evidence from TAPE (Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation) assessments in Ethiopia and Uganda demonstrated the positive impacts of agroecology on soil health, food security, and farmer livelihoods. These case studies highlight the potential of agroecology to transform food systems at the local level.
- v. Advocacy and Social Movements play a critical role: Organizations like FAO, the World Committee on Food and Security, the Agroecology Coalition and the Slow Food Movement are driving advocacy efforts, promoting seed equity, and empowering farmers to reclaim control over their food systems. Their work underscores the importance of grassroots movements in advancing agroecology.
- vi. Role of Parliamentarians and Policy-makers is essential: Parliamentarians have a critical role in advocating for agroecology, developing supportive legislation, and ensuring accountability. Their engagement is essential for integrating agroecology into national and regional policies, mobilizing resources, and fostering cross-border collaboration.
- vii. Research and Education have an important role to play: Institutions like Uganda Martyrs University are contributing to agroecology through research, training, and innovation. Strengthening agroecological research and integrating it into educational curricula are vital for building a skilled workforce and driving systemic change.

5. KEY OBSERVATIONS

- i. The Committee adopted a resolution in recognition of agroecology as a Strategic Priority of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources of EALA for formulating and recommending sustainable policies in Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Management in the East African Region. A copy of the Resolution is hereto attached as Annex 1.
- ii. There is need for an assessment of the existing laws of EAC to ensure the agricultural priorities are oriented to our needs.
- iii. Parliamentary action is crucial for achievement of sustainable food security by shaping public policy and promote government sustainability.
- iv. To effectively foster agroecology, an enabling environment needs to be created through legal and policy framework. This involves developing policies and laws that support agroecological practises and ensuring access to resources.
- v. There is a critical need to transform food production systems to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change. This transformation involves adopting sustainable practises across the entire food chain, from production to consumption.
- vi. There is need for parliamentarians to work with research institutions and empower them with resources

to conduct research on our soil and climate. This is crucial for informed policymaking and effective resource management.

- vii. The Committee welcomes FAO commitment to conducting capacity building on agroecology for all Members of the East African Legislative Assembly. This support is focused on strengthening the capacity of legislators in promoting sustainable agricultural practises and policies, including agroecology.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- i. To commend the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Centre for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT) of Uganda for their financial and technical support offered to the Assembly and the Committee during the organization and undertaking of this activity.
- ii. There is need for a regional legislation on agroecology within the Community which will promote sustainable agricultural practises and improve food security by ensuring institutions adhere to agroecological principles.
- iii. There is need to advocate for policies and laws within the East African Community that prioritize the protection of local seeds and food systems.
- iv. Parliamentarians should actively advocate for increased resource allocation towards transforming food systems, emphasizing food safety and better solutions.
- v. Parliamentarians should strongly advocate for the establishment of Community seed banks to improve food production, nutrition. These banks are crucial for preserving local crop varieties, enhancing biodiversity and promoting sustainable agriculture and ultimate contributing to food security and sovereignty.
- vi. Parliamentarians should champion increased research budgets for food systems to foster innovation and address challenges in food production, distribution and consumption. This will lead to evidence-based policies and sustainable solutions for food security and nutrition.
- vi. Parliamentarians should actively advocate for the inclusion and empowerment of women in agroecology, as they are crucial actors in food production and play a vital role in achieving food security and sustainable agricultural practises.
- viii. There is need for Parliamentarians to advocate for policies that will expand agricultural scholarships to include research and academia. This would foster a more robust and innovative agricultural sector by ensuring a pipeline of skilled professionals and driving advancements in agricultural science and technology.
- ix. There is need to lobby for and implement regional -level programs that support food safety. Such

programs should focus on building capacity, sharing best practises and harmonizing regulations to enhance food safety standards and practises.

- x. There is a recognized need for capacity building on agroecology for all Members of parliaments in East Africa. This is because agroecology offers a sustainable approach to food production that can enhance food security, improve livelihoods and promote environmental sustainability in the region play a crucial role in policymaking and resource allocation, their understanding of agroecology is vital for its successful implementation and scaling up.
- xi. A comprehensive review and analysis of existing EAC legal frameworks related to agroecology is crucial to identify gaps and ensure effective implementation for sustainable agricultural practises.

12.44

Mr Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan) Procedure, Mr Speaker, Sir. With all due respect, the Chairperson of the Committee on ATNR said that she would summarise her report. Where is the summarised report? As I said earlier, let us not violate our own rules. We have a loaded Order Paper and she have taken almost 45 minutes reading this report.

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, Françoise Uwumukiza (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, Sir, I cannot summarize the recommendations.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, let us be patient. Let us allow the Chairperson of the Committee on ATNR to conclude.

Honourable Françoise, kindly proceed to read your concluding remarks.

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms. Françoise Uwumukiza) (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you. This report is key to our Community. I do not know what is more important than this report.

The Speaker: Honourable Françoise, kindly proceed.

12.45

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms Françoise Uwumukiza) (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me to proceed.

7. CONCLUSION

The capacity building seminar on agroecology and sustainable food systems highlighted the need for a multi-faceted approach to promoting agroecology that targets various stakeholders, including farmers, policymakers, researchers, and civil society organizations. Agroecology is not just an alternative but a necessity for achieving sustainable food systems in the East African Community and beyond. By embracing agroecology, we can create resilient, equitable, and sustainable food systems that benefit both people and the planet. The seminar served as a call to action for all stakeholders to collaborate, innovate, and advocate for agroecology as a cornerstone of food systems transformation.

Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of record, I would like to acknowledge it was not included in the report but the Committee would like for the HANSARD to capture and also for the report to be amended to include Acknowledgement.

We express our profound gratitude to the leadership of the East African Legislative Assembly, EALA for their unwavering support and commitment to the Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee, ATNR, in facilitating the successful capacity building initiative on agroecology in Kampala. Your visionary leadership has been instrumental in advocating, in advancing sustainable agricultural practises across the region. Our heartfelt thanks go to all stakeholders who contributed to the success of this capacity building programme. In particular, we acknowledge the invaluable partnership of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, FAO, especially the Department of Parliamentary Partnership, whose expertise and resources enriched the initiative.

Similarly, we are deeply grateful to the Centre for Food and Human Rights Training, CFHRT, for their significant contributions and the collaborative efforts in making this event a success. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the Council of Ministers for their pivotal role in enabling policy reforms and implementation, which will undoubtedly take the lead for a strong foundation for the integration of agroecological principles into regional frameworks. Your dedication to fostering an enabling environment for sustainable development is truly commendable, dear Council, as we appreciate the support by the Secretariat.

Together, our collective efforts will strengthen our shared commitment to promoting agroecology and sustainable development in the East African region. Thank you very much to Members of Parliament of the East African Legislative Assembly, especially the Members of the Committee on ATNR, for your dedication, your resilience, your intelligence, your wisdom during the campaign, and for the support that you are ready to continue to offer to this Community.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

Honourable Members, you remember that yesterday we had this item on the agenda. We discussed and debated enough when we were adopting the motion. I suggest, of course, if the Chair and the House agree with me, that we should go immediately to putting the question. The Chair and the House, has to allow me to do that.

12.51

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): We support you, Mr. Speaker. You can put the question.

The Speaker: Dr Makame, you are not the Chair of the Committee.

I would like the Chairperson of the Committee on ATNR to respond.

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms. Françoise Uwumukiza) (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I concur with you because actually this report was supposed to be a precursor to the Motion. The report should

have come first, but since we started with the motion, it was a resolution. One of the resolutions of this report. Members that made interventions during the debate tackled some aspects of this report. That is why I think it is a combined effort. You can ask the House to adopt this report because it was already referred to for the justification of the motion and also for debating yesterday.

I beg to submit, Mr. Speaker. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Honourable Members, the motion on the floor is that the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources on Agroecology within the EAC region be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Report adopted.)

Ms Mary Rutamwebwa Mugenyi (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I would like to procedurally make a request. When you call do those in favour of a Motion, kindly give us sufficient time to put our hands up digitally. You need to space so that we can then put our hands down for those who are not in favour of a Motion to raise their hands up.

The space that you have been giving us is too short. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Mary Mugenyi.

Next Order

**MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION
OF THE REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON LEGAL, RULES
AND PRIVILEGES ON THE
INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS
LEVELED AGAINST THE
IMMEDIATE FORMER SECRETARY
GENERAL, AS PER DOCUMENTS
LAID BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY ON
6TH AND 12TH MARCH, 2024**

The Speaker: Honourable Members, you will recall that the Chairperson of the Legal Committee had tabled the report and moved the motion, but we could not proceed on that day of 7th November, 2024, because some consultations needed to be undertaken. I trust that this was completed. If they were completed, we have to proceed with the debate.

I go to you, Members, and ask if the consultations have been concluded. You have the floor.

12.55

Mr Godfrey Maina Mwangi (Kenya): Procedure, Honourable Speaker. I am raising the issue of quorum.

The Speaker: Quorum?

Mr Godfrey Maina Mwangi (Kenya): Yes. Quorum.

The Speaker: We have been moving. We have already concluded some items. You should have brought that issue maybe at the beginning.

Mr Godfrey Maina Mwangi (Kenya): I have just realised that there is no quorum for this particular meeting.

The Speaker: The question I had asked is if you had concluded the consultations.

Mr Godffrey Maina Mwangi (Kenya): There are no consultations that have been made, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: We have a procedure from Honourable Siranda.

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Right, Honourable Speaker. The procedure point I raise on is on the matter of how reports get to the House.

Right, Honourable Speaker, there are two reports in the House. You either present the main report which was presented. The other alternative would be a minority report. According to the knowledge I have as a Member of this Committee, there was no minority report. The report was laid on the table. We cannot start on matters of consultation when the report is laid on the table and with no minority report.

Honourable Speaker. Are we proceeding rightly?

Mr Godffrey Maina Mwangi (Kenya): Right, Honourable Speaker. Matters of national security do not constitute opinions or reports. Matters of national security is an issue of fact.

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Honourable Speaker, I rose on the procedural point and a Member cannot take over the House when there is a Speaker in the House.

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, Procedure.

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Honourable Speaker, I am on a procedure point which must be ruled.

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, procedure, please.

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): I have another procedure on the floor.

Mr Godffrey Maina Mwangi (Kenya): I had another procedure on the floor.

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): It was ruled.

The Speaker: This is what I had tried to avoid since the beginning of this plenary. A drama.

Mr Godffrey Maina Mwangi (Kenya): Procedure, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I have the floor.

I was trying to avoid a drama in this House. I will always be on the side of consensus, harmony and of unity.

This report, was first tabled in Kampala. We had a Commission meeting where ex-officio Members also participated. This report has been sensitive. Those who do not maybe feel that it can be very sensitive, that is why I will always encourage consultations until we reach a harmonised report. With this, I, as your Speaker, urge and direct your stakeholders to continue further consultations on this issue before we can proceed to debate the motion.

Mr Godfrey Maina Mwangi (Kenya):

Well guided, right Honourable Speaker.
Well guided.

(Debate on the Motion suspended)

The Speaker: Very good. Let us proceed to the next item on the Order Paper.

1.00

Mr Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Procedure. Right Honourable Speaker, as Honourable Maina raised an issue to do with the quorum. At any time, as the rules at any time, the issue is raised, it has to be checked.

Why should he withdraw his statement when he has risen on point of quorum? The quorum has to be inspected.

The Chairperson, Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges (Mr Khalfan Ngole Mashaka) (Tanzania): This has been already decided by the Speaker. It cannot be brought back again by Honourable Mukulia. Decision has been made.

We proceed, Honourable Speaker.

Mr Godfrey Maina Mwangi (Kenya): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Speaker: Let us proceed to the next item on the Order Paper.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE
EALA COMMISSION
*(Under Rule 83 of the EALA Rules of
Procedure)*

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I will allow the ICT to speak. I hope that everyone will guide me. I hope that the Clerk will guide us.

1.00

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre):

Right Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, Saturday, 12th July 2025 was set aside for election of the new Commission. This follows the first Commission on having been elected on 20th December 2022. The Commission has served its two and a half years and in accordance with the Act, Administration of the EALA Act and Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure, a Commission is put in place through an election by the Members. The rules require nominations from all partner states.

In accordance with the provisions, the Office of the Clerk communicated to all the Members of the Assembly via the Chapters to engage in internal consultations to nominate Members to serve as Members of the Commission. The requirement is that there shall be two representatives of each partner state.

I have also informed all the partner states have complied and have sent in their names. I will proceed to read out...

1.04

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda):

Honourable Speaker, Procedure. We are dealing with a very sensitive matter. I would like to ascertain if we have quorum in the House for us to deal with this very sensitive matter. All the Commissioners are going to determine our welfare and how we conduct business in this Assembly. We do not want to come back tomorrow and another person says there was no quorum in the House. Right Honourable Speaker.

A Honourable Member: Seconded.

The Speaker: Serjeant at Arms, Kindly ascertain quorum.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Right Honourable Speaker, I will proceed to read out the names of the Members.

(The Clerk called register to check on quorum.)

Right Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. From the Republic of Burundi, we have seven Members present. From the Democratic Republic of Congo, we have four Members present. From the Republic of Kenya, we have five Members present. Republic of Rwanda has eight Members present. Republic of South Sudan has six Members present. The United Republic of Tanzania has Six Members logged in and Republic of Uganda has four Members logged in.

Mr Speaker, the rules require a threshold of a minimum of three Members per partner state. All the partner states are represented.

1.18

The Speaker: The House can proceed. It is in order to proceed. Let us proceed.

1.19

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Right Honourable Speaker, As we have confirmed quorum, we proceed. The House has resumed.

I was at the point of submitting that all the partner states have nominated Members to the Commission. All partner states except one have provided two names. The Republic of South Sudan has provided three names. They had a consultative meeting. In the consultative meeting that they had,

the Honourable James Sadia Sebit was unanimously nominated. In the Chapter meeting, Honourable Kim Gai received two votes. Subsequently, Honourable Dr. Woda Jeremiah was nominated by two Members; that is Honourable Dr. Anne Itto and Honourable Gabriel Arol.

Rule 83(3), of our Rules of Procedure indicates that nominations for Membership of the Commission shall be forwarded to the Clerk by Members. I have cross-checked the nominations, which I am going to read out. They were forwarded by the elected Members. No external party sent the names. I confirm that it is only the elected Members, the 62, who were eligible to send in the names. I have received those names from a member or Members of the Assembly. Since we received three names from South Sudan and precedence has already been established by the Fourth Assembly, where there are more than two nominees, the House shall proceed first to separate the top two from any list. That requires the Republic of South Sudan to be subjected to the first vote to select the top two nominees.

There is precedence to that in the Fourth Assembly. Still again, it was South Sudan. Elections will be conducted via an integrated system, which permits secret voting. The elections to the Commission are to be undertaken via a secret vote as per Rule 83(2). A simulation for this will be run for the Members for about 15 minutes, so that you get acquainted with the system. The following were the nominations.

Republic of Rwanda. Honourable Ambassador Fatuma Ndagiza. The name is corrected and Honourable Clement Musangabatware. Those are the two from Republic of Rwanda.

Republic of Burundi has Honourable Saidi Kibeya and Honourable Karerwa Mo-Mamo.

Democratic Republic of Congo has Honourable Ngate Mangu François and Honourable Kaubo Kalwa Géraldine

Republic of Kenya has Honourable Iman Falhada Dekow and Honourable Kalonzo Kennedy Musyoka.

United Republic of Tanzania has Honourable Mashaka Khalfan Ngole and Honourable Nadra Juma Mohamed.

Republic of Uganda has Honourable Musamali Paul Mwasa and Honourable James Kakooza.

Republic of South Sudan has Honourable Sadia James Sebit, Honourable Kim Gai Rut, and Honourable Dr. Woda Jeremiah Odok.

Right Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, the Commission being an important part of the management of the affairs of the Assembly, has the opportunity to hear from each of the nominated Members. First of all, to confirm whether that is the position as I have stated, and also to speak to their candidature. We have provided two minutes because of the element of time so that they speak to the Members they want to serve and for the Members to know why they have a calling to the Commission. Why that calling and what they have to offer.

If you allow them to be permitted two minutes, that is the position as it was up to the time I am reading. If anything has changed along the way, it has changed

after the House has already started the process. I submit.

The Speaker: We do not have time to lose. I immediately give the floor to the nominees starting with Honourable Ambassador Fatuma Ndagiza.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Honourable Members, I am reading this in order of how the list came in. Rwanda was the first. I therefore call upon Honourable Fatuma Ndagiza.

The Speaker: You have a maximum of two minutes.

1.26

Mr Kim Gai Rut (South Sudan): Procedure, Right Honourable Speaker. Since the other Chapters have consensus, I request that the two minutes be limited to South Sudan only. There will be no voting on any other partner state apart from South Sudan. So, the two minutes should be limited to only the Republic of South Sudan. That is my proposal. Thank you very much.

1.27

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Procedure Mr. Speaker. On that issue submitted by Honourable Kim Gai, as we are seconding him, the procedure is that we move Rule 30 (d) –

Motion which may be moved without Notice

The following motions may be moved without notice –

(d) any motion for the suspension of any of these Rules

The House should then we suspend Rule 83(2) which states –

The election of Members of the Commission shall be by secret ballot and in accordance with Section 3(2) of the Administration of the Assembly Act, 2012 and shall hold office for two and a half years.

With respect to the countries that have only forwarded two nominations. So that we are going to elect them by, you putting the question and then we just say ‘Ayes’ and then they pass. With consensus from the Chapters and there is no issue of voting. I therefore request that we suspend Rule 82(2) because we are only going to be voting for the Republic of South Sudan after they make their turn and we listen to them and then we vote on the three candidates.

I beg to move Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

1.28

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the motion by Honourable Kim. Because this is a very important aspect. I want a Commission that is going to go to the House. I mean, it is a very important aspect that you completely suspended that you will just sweep over. One minute. I think it is okay. Let us maintain the vote for the other South Sudan. And one minute each of the Commission from the other partner states. I have not heard them speak in a long time. Maybe they do not speak of late. I think it is important that we give them at least one minute to each person to say I ‘Hi’. I therefore propose that we give one minute to every nominee from the other partner

state and two minutes be allocate to the nominees from South Sudan.

1.29

Ms Mary Rutamwebwa Mugenyi (Uganda): Mr. Speaker, I hold the same opinion as Honourable Dr Siranda. Procedurally, let us not suspended any rules. Let us allow the nominees to speak even if the member is just saying one or two sentences to confirm that still he or she is willing to take up the responsibility. Procedurally, that is right. There is no need of suspension. We do not expect a campaign from those who have already been nominated by their Chapters.

(Interruption of debate)

MOTION FOR THE EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME

Mr Kim Gai Rut (South Sudan): Procedure, Right Honourable Speaker. I rise pursuant to Rule 11(1) –

Sittings shall, unless the Assembly otherwise resolves, ordinarily commence at 9.00 a.m. in the morning up to 1.00 p.m. in the afternoon, and resume at 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon and conclude at 6.30 p.m. in the evening.

I move the procedural motion on the extension of time today until conclusion of the business on the floor.

Mr Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Can I amend the Motion with regards to suspension of Rule 11.

Mr Kim Gai Rut (South Sudan): I have just moved it properly.

The Speaker: Do I have seconders?

(Seconded by Honourable Dr Gerald Siranda, Honourable Francios Uwumukiza, Honourable Kennedy Mukulia and Honourable Francine Rutazana)

The motion is moved.

Motion without notice to suspend the Rule 11 in terms of time. Those in favour, raise your hands.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Time of sitting extended until conclusion of business on the Order Paper.)

(Resumption of debate_)

The Speaker: Clerk, you can guide us. I can see several Members have raised their hands.

Mr Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Clarification, Mr Speaker, Sir. I thought we were going to move immediately to hearing from the candidates.

The Speaker: I was just inviting Clerk to proceed. Taking into account that the Members from South Sudan should be given two minutes. The nominees from the other partner states should be given one minute to. You have the floor.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Right, Honourable Speaker and the House. As it is already well guided. We will start with the Republic of Rwanda. It has only two nominees. Honourable Ambassador Fatuma Ndagiza. Her name has been corrected. Honourable Ambassador Ndagiza to come on the floor for one minute.

1.35

Amb. Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndagiza (Rwanda): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker. I am just here Honourable colleagues to once again to request you to nominate me to represent you in the Commission. In this capacity. I have been there for the last two years and a half. I have never disappointed in leadership. Be it at home, at the level of African Union and at the level of East African Community. I normally serve with commitment and Dedication. As I have always done before, I will always put the interest of Members ahead of my interest. I will seek for the welfare of Members and ensure that. Our programme related to legislature, representation and oversight is implemented. There have been financial challenges. I think we shall work together. To ensure that we are able to address them. If not possible, try to be innovative. Even if it means. Undertaking virtual sessions to ensure that Members will not sit at home. For another six months. With those remarks, know that I am committed. I need your support in nominating me as I have already been nominated by my Chapter. And I thank my Chapter for your commitment and also trust in me.

I thank you.

1.37

Mr Clément Musangabatware (Rwanda): Thank you very much Honourable Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I want to request the support of the Honourable Members. I take this opportunity to thank Honourable Members from Rwanda for the trust given to me again. I am offering myself for the position of Commissioner in EALA based on a strong track record of service, commitment to

regional integration and dedication to the Assembly's mandate.

Right, Honourable Speaker, my experience in the legislative work as a Commissioner in the previous mandate and as a member of committee has equipped me with the skills necessary to contribute effectively to the Commission. Thank you, Honourable Members from the Rwandan Chapter, again, for your trust and support.

Thank you, Honourable Members, for your collaboration and support. I am committed to promoting transparency, accountability, inclusive leadership within EALA with a consultative and principled leadership style. I pledge to work collaboratively with all Members to advance the Assembly's objectives and deliver meaningful results for the people of East Africa.

I thank you very much and rely on your support, again.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Right, Honourable Speaker, I can confirm that the Members, the two Members were duly nominated. They have accepted their candidacy. If there will be an opportunity to formally nominate, it should be so, but with the reference to submission of the required form, they are duly nominated.

We proceed to the public -

Dr. Jeremiah Odok Woda (South Sudan): Right, Honourable Speaker, information, Honourable Dr. Aher is logged in.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): We have taken note of that.

We proceed to Republic of Burundi, Honourable Saidi Kibeya, to be followed by Honourable Karerwa Mo-Mamo.

1.40

Dr. Saidi Kibeya (Burundi): Right, Honourable Speaker, I hereby confirm my candidature to the Memberships of the Commission of this Fifth EALA.

I have been a member of the 5th Assembly for two and a half years. Allow me, first of all, to appreciate the good time I got to learn from you, from all of you on the various business and contribution of EALA to the EAC integration agenda.

I have been delighted to be a Member of the General Purpose Committee and the Legal Rules and Privileges Committee. I take the opportunity to request for your support to be elected as a member of the EALA Commission. I assure you that I will put all my energy required with capacity and integrity for the realisation of the function of the Commission.

Finally, I affirm that I will always be indebted to you, humble, and all my effort will be in the protection of the Commission of EALA. Thank you, all of you.

1.41

Ms Karerwa Mo-Mamo (Burundi): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker for this opportunity. I want to thank the Honourable Members from Burundi who nominated me once again to be a member of the EALA Commission. I have served in the Commission for two and a half years. I declare that I am willing to continue to serve in the Commission in respect of the rule of law and procedures. Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker.

1.42

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Right Honourable Speaker and the House, the two Members were duly nominated and it is on record. A formal nomination may as well take place, but for the record, we have the two from Burundi.

We proceed to DRC, starting with Honourable Ngate Mangu.

1.43

Mr François Ngate Mangu (DRC): Honourable Speaker, the DRC Chapter nominated me to take the same place at the EALA Commission at it was at the beginning of the Fifth EALA.

You also did receive a letter a few months ago nominating Kaubo Kalwa Géraldine...

Mr Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Talk for yourself.

(Honourable François Ngate Mangu lost connectivity)

The Speaker: Honourable François Ngate Mangu is disconnected. Let is Honourable Kaubo Géraldine.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Honourable Kaubo Géraldine, you may proceed.

The Speaker: She is not logged in. Let us move to the next Chapter. Next is the Republic of Kenya. Honourable Iman Falhada Dekow, you may proceed.

1.44

Ms Falhada Dekow Iman (Kenya): Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like first of

all to thank the Members of the Kenya Chapter who trusted me in this position with the firm understanding of East Africa Community mandate and the integral role of this parliament. I offer my experience, my commitment and the results driven approach to advance the work of this Commission.

I thank each and every one who gave me this chance. Not only will I bring a legislative background but I am also a team player. I bring transparency and fairness.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and God bless you all.

1.45

Mr Kennedy Musyoka Kalonzo (Kenya): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker. First of all, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Kenyan Chapter for this position they have entrusted me to. I can confirm that I am willing and ready to serve. I will bring to the Commission with all my colleagues who have been nominated a youthful innovation and results driven Commission to ensure that the House is well presented and retains its position against all those naysayers who have been trying to make EALA redundant.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Right Honourable Speaker, the House I can confirm that those were the two nominees from the Chapter and on record they were formally and duly nominated.

We now proceed to United Republic of Tanzania starting with the Honourable Mashaka Khalfan Ngole.

1.47

Mr Khalfan Ngole Mashaka (Tanzania):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the Members. I am truly honoured by the trust from the Members of my Chapter for giving me this opportunity to be a Member of the Commission of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, during the period of two and a half years, I have shown my commitment to work for the Assembly. I will work closely with the Members of the Commission to ensure that the matters of importance of the Commission are given priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1.48

Ms Nadra Juma Mohamed (Tanzania):

Honourable Speaker, thank you very much, my fellow Members from the Tanzanian Chapter for nominating me. I am honoured, *Alhamdulillah*.

Honourable Members of Parliament, I am seeking your support for this post. My promise to you, I will not fail you and I will not disappoint you. I really, really, really need your support. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre):

Right Honourable Speaker I can confirm that was the formal nomination from United Republic of Tanzania. It is on record.

We can now proceed to Republic of Uganda, starting with Honourable Musamali Paul Mwasa.

The Speaker: Honourable Musamali is not in. Let us go to the next.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre):

Honourable James Kakooza. Is he in?

The Speaker: Honourable Kakooza is not in.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre):

I can confirm that those were the two names from Republic of Uganda. It is on record and the nomination done by Members of this House.

We proceed with the Republic of South Sudan.

Mr Luke Thomson Thoan Teny (South Sudan):

Right Honourable Speaker, may I have your audience?

The Speaker: Honourable Luke the nominees have been given one minute each because we do not have time. If you can take one minute, you have the floor.

1.50

Mr Luke Thomson Thoan Teny (South Sudan):

Right Honourable Speaker, I take this opportunity to inform the House that I am deeply engaged. This is why I wanted to cast my vote as early as possible for the three nominees from the Republic of South Sudan.

Can I proceed?

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre):

You will not proceed immediately because the system is timed to commence and it will be open for 20 minutes. If it is open for you, it will close out the rest of the Members. I beg your indulgence. In the next 15 minutes, we should be able to open the system. You cast your vote and then you proceed.

Mr Luke Thomson Thoan Teny (South Sudan): Thanks for the guidance. Thanks for the guidance.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): We proceed to the Republic of South Sudan.

Honourable Sadia James Sebit, you many proceed..

The Speaker: Honourable Sadia is not logged in. Let us proceed to Honourable Kim Gai.

Mr Kim Gai Rut (South Sudan): Thank you very much Mr Speaker and Members.

Let me begin by appreciating the democratic experience that we share in this House. An experience that has continuously advanced the ideal of inclusion, equity and unity; the very pillars upon which the East African Community was formed. Both the Treaty and the Act has emphasised the principle of gender equality and equitable representation. Article 121 of the Treaty calls for the promotion of gender equality.

Article 121 further call for gender mainstreaming and full participation in all areas of integration. The EALA Election Act affirms that no gender is dominated and that a minimum of one third representation of either gender must be observed on elected or appointed for the election. Historically, most Chapters of the EALA respect this balance in the EALA nomination.

Ms Sadia James Sebit (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I am here.

The Speaker: Honourable Sadia, you will have two minutes after honourable Kim Gai is done with his submission.

Mr Kim Gai Rut (South Sudan): Mr Speaker, nomination of one male and one female is the most common and accepted practise. On very rare occasion, when two of the same gender are nominated, it happen only when clear consensus and is the condition of a special circumstances in the same Chapter. In the absence of such consensus, the given solution has always been one male and one female, a practise aligned with both legal obligation and to our digital fairness.

Honourable Members, most of us in this House have championed gender equality. Some are even responsible for support a bill, aimed at empowering women and promoting gender justice. It would be unfortunate and contradictory if we are seen to speak only about gender issues in public yet failing to practise them in our own internal process.

Let our action reflect our value. Let this election be a living example of our commitment to fairness, not just theory but in practise. Honourable Members, I did not call any one of you or campaign aggressively for this position and I do not stand here as a candidate merely seeking a title.

I stand here to remind all of us of our shared responsibility to uphold the law, our values and the principle of non-compromise of gender equitability. I respectfully ask you to support me, not just my candidacy but the South Sudan Chapter official position. We seek to nominate and maintain gender balance while ensuring that each Chapter's

voice is respected equally, let this election reflect our value, not undermining them.

I appreciate and thank my Chapter for nominating me. Based on my institutional memory I would like to conclude the work we started. The EALA needs a Commissioner who can operate beyond narrow interest, navigate complex issues with experience, and uphold Assembly's independence, support both leadership and Members with fairness.

Honourable Speaker, I beg you to support me and nominate me as a Commissioner. Thank you very much.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Honourable Sadia, are you still there? I cannot hear you.

1.56

Ms Sadia James Sebit (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker and dear Honourable colleagues, I thank you all for the opportunity to speak before you. First of all, I would like to thank my South Sudan Chapter for their unanimous support towards my candidature.

Honourable colleagues, my candidature is to serve you diligently and effectively with integrity. I will ensure that together we work towards achieving the objectives, vision and motto of the Community; that is one people, one destiny. I will always collaborate with each member effectively in the affairs of the Community. I will ensure that all invaluable contribution is always valued to the aspiration of the Community.

Right Honourable Speaker and Honourable colleagues, I ask for your

vote. I ask for your support towards my candidature. I hope that we will have a united Commission that will advocate for the welfare of each member. With that, my dear colleagues, I seek your support for my candidature. May you all have a blessed day.

Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker.

1.58

Dr. Jeremiah Odok Woda (South Sudan): Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk.

Right Honourable Speaker and esteemed Members of this Assembly, I seek your support to join the Commission. I know very well that I will this Commission diligently. I thank all who nominated me. I want to bring to the attention of this august House that served in the Fourth EALA in the Commission with all diligence. I will do the same if given this opportunity.

Right Honourable Speaker, I believe in my ability in leadership, hard work, commitment to EALA and in my country, As a former director of the South Sudan Bureau, which led to the Independence of South Sudan. I am an associate professor, a women rights activist and climate change activist. I know that together with my colleague in the Commission under your leadership, I will work very well for the Members of this House and the offices of the Assembly.

Right Honourable Speaker, I will make effective contribution to advance EALA's vision. Together with my colleagues, I will listen carefully to the Members of this august House and take their views and concern with seriousness. I will try my level best together with my colleagues

under your leadership, Honourable Speaker, to address this concern.

One of the mandate of the Commission is to avail a conducive environment for the Members of this Assembly to carry their mandate and their duties for the welfare of this Commission. This will be one of my objective so that EALA will not stay at home. The EALA will continue working according to the schedule stipulated by the Treaty of the East African Community.

Right Honourable Speaker, with these few remarks, I know that my colleagues will support my candidature to the Commission. Thank you very much.

2.01

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Honourable Speaker, I confirm that all Chapters have now spoken.

All Chapters have now made the presentations. It is time to proceed to the vote. Like I said earlier, to first separate the three candidates from the Republic of South Sudan (RSS). I request the IT department to guide us briefly on what is to be done.

The Speaker: We will start by what you call the presentation. Simulation. The ICT officer will guide the House.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Honourable Speaker, the ICT Officer will first give instruction before we proceed to the simulation to put the instructions in practice.

The Senior ICT Officer (Mr Makuei Deng De Mabior): Honourable Speaker, I will give the instructions to the Members

on how to vote. After that, I will show you the two pages that are very important for you to look at when you are voting.

First instruction, the system will invite you to vote. How do we invite you to vote? We send a link to you and this link will go to your email. The invitation email is from the office of the Clerk. We configure those email and then you will see something like this on that email. When you click here to vote, it will take us to the next page.

In the next page, you will see the nominated Members, which are the three Members from South Sudan. You will then be able to cast your vote. How do you do that? On the left hand side where you are seeing the three Members, you just choose the member that you are interested to vote for. That is where you put the signs. Immediately after you will see a prompt to submit the ballot. So you click on submit the ballot for purpose of record keeping by the Office of the Clerk.

The same link that you have used, you can be able to view later after we have published, you can be able to see the results. Those are the instruction. At this point, if there are no questions, I will just go to the system direct and do that simulation.

Dr. Gabriel Garang Aher Arol (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I have a question. My email has a problem. It has some glitches. I will not be able to get a message for the voting. How can IT address that differently?

My second concern, there are three candidates from South Sudan in case a member supports two candidates. So it is okay to take two, right?

The Senior ICT Officer (Mr Makuei Deng De Mabior): Honourable Speaker, that is what is indicated in the system. It will not allow me to pick three. It only allowed me to pick two.

Dr. Gabriel Garang Aher Arol (South Sudan): Address the issue of the glitches on my email because, if you send it to my email, I will not get it and I cannot vote. If there is a way you can handle that differently, I will appreciate it.

Thank you.

The Senior ICT Officer (Mr Makuei Deng De Mabior): Honourable Speaker, What we will do for that case, we will send you a link on your WhatsApp, you click on the link, and you follow the same procedures that I have instructed you to do.

Dr. Gabriel Garang Aher Arol (South Sudan): I appreciate it. Thank you so much. Thank you.

2.06

Mr James Kinyasi Millya (Tanzania): Honourable Speaker, I also have a concern as well. Honourable Speaker, first, I appreciate the process and the leadership of this Assembly, but just to express my concern about the IT. I am not an IT literate, and I am quite busy now, but can I vote openly even now, like I mentioned the two names, and done? Why would I just hide? Is it possible to vote openly so that I go away? Is it possible?

The Speaker: What are the rules? It has to be a secret ballot.

Mr James Kinyasi Millya (Tanzania): All right, send to my WhatsApp, and then I vote and I will be done with it. Thank you.

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Procedure, Mr. Speaker. We are trying to complete this very important task. We have two nominations from each partner state. The candidates have said they are willing to serve. They are not competing with any other person from these six partner states. There is only competition in the Republic of South Sudan.

I had initially suggested using the same rules. We are using the rules to help our work, and we need to have a very simple exercise to vote for the candidates who have no competition, that we are okay with them, and then we just concentrate on voting for the candidates in South Sudan, and then we will be done. We did what we have already done. After voting for the South Sudan nominees, we will just need to say the 'Ayes', for the rest of the partners states and then that will be done for the Republic of Rwanda, DRC, URT, Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda.

2.08

Mr Khalfan Ngole Mashaka (Tanzania): Why do you not move a Motion so that we support him.

MOTION FOR SUSPENSION OF RULE
83(2) PURSUANT TO RULE 30(D)

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, before I move a motion, let me just kindly request you to call Honourable Dr Siranda to order, because

you are the speaker and he is intervening in this space.

Now, let me move the motion.

I beg to move a Motion under Rule 30(d) *Motion which may be moved without Notice*

The following motions may be moved without notice –

(d) any motion for the suspension of any of these Rules;

We are also suspending Rule 83(2) - *Commission*

(2) The election of Members of the Commission shall be by secret ballot and in accordance with Section 3(2) of the Administration of the Assembly Act, 2012 and shall hold office for two and a half years.

I propose that we suspend the secret ballot, so it is only for the countries that have brought in candidates. Order, order.

2.08

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Right Honourable Speaker, Order.

Honourable Speaker. My name must be cleared.

Right Honourable Speaker, I do not know if Honourable Dr Makame just likes my name or if he is joking, but for serious matters like this, I would not love my name to be mentioned to go to the Hansard.

I am not doing an interruption, Right Honourable Speaker. Is the Honourable Makame in order?

The Speaker: Honourable Members. Right Honourable Speaker, maybe before you rule on the motion of Honourable Makame, I have a clarification that I am seeking.

Mr Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, if Honourable Makame moves that motion, is it not going to take the IT to square one to start also reworking on the link? I think that this link is already set, and it is only for the Republic of South Sudan.

If that motion is moved by Hon Makame in case it is a complete link, is it not going to again take them to square one? I want clarification maybe from the IT.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, let us clear first South Sudan. After clearing South Sudan, we then consider that motion by Honourable Makame.

Honourable Makame, our colleague here, Dr. Siranda, has clearly requested you to withdraw his name.

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, I would request that any member who is speaking on the floor, is addressing the speaker, and is speaking after being granted by the Speaker, or after having been requested from the speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable Makame, Dr. Siranda has requested you to withdraw his name.

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, his name has been expunged. I

request the Hansard to expunge the name of Honourable SG of a very strong Opposition Party, and a former Chairperson of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution, Barrister, Advocate, Honourable Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda.

The Speaker: Let us proceed.

Honourable Members, let us clear South Sudan first. Then we will consider the motion by Honourable Dr Makame.

2.12

Amb. Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndangiza (Rwanda): Right Honourable Speaker, for clarification, I have not received this email invitation to vote.

The Senior ICT Officer (Mr Makuei Deng De Mabior): Honourable Speaker, we have not launched the election yet.

Honourable Speaker, should I go through the instructions again.

The Speaker: Yes, please.

The Senior ICT Officer (Mr Makuei Deng De Mabior): Honourable Speaker, the first thing is that we invite you, we send a link to you through email, that is the invitation to vote. The invitation email will look like what is displayed on the screen. Just click here to vote, then it will take you to the next page, which is where you will view the Members from the South Sudan Chapter. Then you cast your vote on the same page by clicking on the member that you are interested to vote for. Then you submit the vote. On this green bar, you will see a green bar like that written 'submit ballot.' Once you submit this one, you can never redo it again. It has

been submitted, and the voting continues until we get the final result for those who have voted for the Members from South Sudan. Thank you.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): How long will the system be valid? Once you open it, will it have a closing time?

The Senior ICT Officer (Mr Makuei Deng De Mabior): Honourable Speaker, we have to explain, what we have done. During the voting time, we put 30 minutes. Then with a period of 2 days, which will be around on Tuesday we will open. When we have already published the ballot, after you have said voting, allow us, we will publish. After the publishing, we cannot be able to vote again.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): So the voting, the voting will be concluded today within a specified time and the results will be announced today?

Senior ICT Officer (Mr Makuei Deng De Mabior): Honourable Speaker, yes.

Mr Alex Bahati (Rwanda): Procedure, Honourable Speaker. In my view, I thought we should amend our procedure because we can continue. We do not have provision for such electronic voting in our rules.

2.16

Ms Veronica Babirye Kadogo (Uganda): Right, Honourable Speaker, Clarification. This is Honourable Kadogo.

The clerk has said that the voting will be today, but I am wondering today at what time shall we spend the whole day just waiting for voting? The time of the voting

needs to be mentioned. I submit. Thank you.

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, Information.

The Speaker: Honourable Makame, let us proceed.

Ms Gai Deng Nhial (South Sudan): Information, Clerk and the IT. There is just a message from Honourable Luke. I think he has got problems with his email. So please send it to his WhatsApp as well.

The Speaker: Honorable Members, the link has been sent. You have 20 minutes to vote.

For those who have some issues, you can tell us to help you. Those who do not have emails, addresses, who needs to use WhatsApp kindly communicate. We have Honourable James Millya, Honourable Dr Arol Gabriel, Honourable Luke Thomson, Honourable Gideon Gatpan.

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Honourable Speaker, Bahati's proposal was to amend the procedures, but electronic voting is provided for in the rules; virtual rules. Page 101 recognises electronic voting. Added together, all read together with Rule 83(2) secret voting. The House will be in order to proceed without amending the rules.

The Speaker: Thank you. Let us proceed to vote.

(Voting in progress)

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Honourable George Odongo and Honourable

Ngate Mangu François will vote using the WhatsApp.

The Speaker: Honourable Kennedy Kalonzo, Honorable Dr. Leonardo Anne Itto, Honourable Saidi Kibeya, Honourable Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda and Honourable Amb Fatuma Ndangiza will receive their invitations to vote through WhatsApp.

(Voting in progress)

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Honourable Members, we have closed the voting. We now proceed to publish. We have the results.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the results for South Sudan are there on display.

Honourable Sadia James Sebit has received 49 per cent, an equivalent of 42 votes; Honourable Dr Woda Jeremiah Odok has received 38 per cent, an equivalent of 33 votes and Hon Kim Gai Rut has received 13 per cent, an equivalent of 11 votes.

I congratulate these two elected Commissioners.

We proceed to the next. Motion.

2.53

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Honourable Speaker, I move a motion to invoke Rule 30 and suspend Rule 83(2), regarding the nomination from the other partner states.

My reasoning is that the nominees spoken to us. Therefore the partner states have already done the duty of harmonising, and they have come to the House with

harmonised lists that all of them have appreciated. Even after the presentation of each of the Members, nobody rose on the floor to challenge the nomination of each of the two from the other remaining six partner states, namely; the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Burundi, Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of the Democratic Republic of Congo. All the nominees that have spoken to us on the floor have not been challenged.

Honourable Speaker, I beg to move the Motion for purposes of saving time.

2.54

Mr Khalfan Ngole Mashaka (Tanzania): Point of order, Mr. Speaker. There is a Motion on the floor waiting for your decision. Is it in order for a member to raise another motion while there is a pending motion?

The Speaker: There is no motion on the floor.

Mr Khalfan Ngole Mashaka (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, you said earlier that you will determine the motion by Honourable Dr Makame after the voting procedure is completed, and we are waiting for your decision. It is on the same motion.

The Speaker: Honourable Makame had the same motion. We have to consider the first motion.

Mr Khalfan Ngole Mashaka (Tanzania): Yes, that's correct, Mr. Speaker. We want to make it clear in our proceedings.

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Honourable Speaker, I concede by your

guidance, by seconding the motion by Honourable Makame, given that it addresses the same interests. Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I now put the question that those who are in favour of the motion raised by Honourable Dr Makame to suspend Rule 83(2), raise your hands.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Rules 83(2) suspended pursuant to Rule 30.)

The Clerk, EALA (Mr Alex Obatre): Honourable Members, Rule 83(2) has been suspended, but the voting process continues now either by show of hands or any other method. The aspect of secret voting is no longer there. Having said that, I proceed to read the names of nominees from each partner state.

Republic of Rwanda we have Honourable Ambassador Fatuma Ndangiza and Honourable Clement Musangabatware.

Republic of Burundi has Honourable Saidi Kibeya and Honourable Karerwa Mo-Mamo.

Democratic Republic of Congo has Honourable Ngate Mangu François and Honourable Kaubo Kalwa Géraldine

Republic of South Sudan has Honourable Sadia James Sebit and Honourable Dr. Woda Jeremiah Odok.

Republic of Kenya has Honourable Iman Falhada Dekow and Honourable Kalonzo Kennedy Musyoka.

United Republic of Tanzania has Honourable Mashaka Khalfan Ngole and Honourable Nadra Juma Mohamed.

Republic of Uganda has Honourable Musamali Paul Mwasa and Honourable James Kakooza.

Those are the names up for election to the EALA Commission.

The Speaker: Thank you. Honourable Clerk, Honourable Members, I now proceed to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Members of the EALA Commission approved)

2.58

Ms. Françoise Uwumukiza (Rwanda): Clarification, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Kim Gai raised the issue of gender equality and equity as we vote. I have just learnt that the Republic of Uganda did not respect this principle. It is just a clarification. I am seeking if it is compulsory to stick on it or if we can get rid of it as we vote.

The Speaker: No, it is not. Even South Sudan has two females while Uganda has two males.

3.00

Ms Mary Rutamwebwa Mugenyi (Uganda): I wanted to give information because my Chapter has been mentioned. I wanted to give information on the Chapter of Uganda. We are gender sensitive. There is no doubt about it. If you look at the record of the Commissioners from Uganda, we have always used other parameters to vote.

For example, when I was a Commissioner in the Fourth EALA, I was there with Honourable Rose Akol. Our nomination was followed by two males. We now two last males. The reason why we do that is that we do rotation. These two Members from Uganda Chapter are serving their second term. They have not had the opportunity to go into the Commission. There is no other chance. This is the last chance for them to be also Members in the Commission.

We rotate. We give each other a chance. That is what guided our decision as a Chapter. I beg to submit, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. Gabriel Garang Aher Arol (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, the information I am trying to give is there is actually a precedent for either taking two males or two females to the Commission.

In the Fourth EALA, we had a precedent like that. Nobody ever spoke against it. In this Assembly, it has been done so. The choice of Members to the commission is within the prerogative of the Assembly and each Chapter to decide whether they want a male and female, two males or two females. There is nothing wrong with it.

The Speaker: The House has already voted. We will not go back to the House again. It is done.
Let us proceed.

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, I request you to approve that we move a motion our vote of thanks to the Outgoing Commission to thank the Members for their cooperation and their support and their understanding.

The Speaker: Honourable Makame, you can do it on Monday.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected Members of the Commission. I wish them a successful term. I wish to also extend gratitude to the outgoing Members of the Commission. We have worked together and I enjoyed the collaboration. I wish them well.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: The new Commissioners, you have a meeting on Monday at 10.30 a.m. in the morning. We have to deal with the nomination of Members to the standing committees

Honourable Members. It is now 3.05 p.m. I have to adjourn this House to Monday, 14th July, 2025, at 11.30 a.m. Thank you.

*House adjourned at 3.05 p.m. to Monday
14th July 2025 at 11.30 a.m.*