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PETTITION TO EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO ADVOCATE FOR KEY ISSUES CONCERNING THE YOUTH

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Youth in EAC constitute more than 63% of the population and are therefore considered to constitute a large portion of the active population, and they significant stakeholders in the integration process.

The role of the youth is envisaged under Article 120(c) of The Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community states that , 'The Partner states undertake to closely cooperate amongst themselves in the field of social welfare with respect to the development and adaptation of a Common approach towards the disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including..... the Youth.'

The Integration process is a reality but is also an aspirational and progressive goal. The fruits of the integration will be enjoyed by the youth and as such it is important that the Youth take part in crafting and mainstreaming the integration Agenda.

Essentially, youth therefore have a fundamental role to play in ensuring the integration process is strengthened and realized. There are a number of initiatives by the youth that are currently on-going. Such includes the EAC Youth Ambassadors Initiative.

The African Youth Charter on its part, recognizes efforts made by State parties and civil societies to address the economic, social, educational, cultural and spiritual needs of youth.

2.0 WHO WE ARE

The EAC, secretariat under the sphere of the EAC Nyerere Centre for Peace Research (EAC-NCPR) organizes the EAC University Students Debate on Regional Integration. It is an annual event that started in 2012 through the Department of Political Affairs under the Nyerere Centre for Peace Research (NCPR). The aim of the debate is to provide a regional platform to promote dialogue among the university students and youth and interest them in advocating for regional integration initiatives.

Youth Ambassadors are appointed at the end of the debate from the Partner States. This team of Youth Ambassadors (and deputy Youth Ambassadors) were appointed during the 3rd EAC University students. We advocate for the EAC Integration with the responsibility of sensitizing, educating and engaging our peers at national level.

3.0 PETITION TO THE EALA

REAFFIRMING THAT the continuous development of Africa rests with its youth and therefore requires their active and enlightened participation as espoused in various charters;

RECALLING THAT Partner States in the EAC are at different stages with respect to the formation of National Youth Councils;

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO the call in Bamako (2005) by the youth organizations across Africa to empower youth by building their capacity, leadership, responsibilities and provide access to information such that they can take up their rightful place as active agents in decision-making and governance;

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT youth need representation at the legislature both nationally and regionally and to enable them espouse their issues in the respective Assemblies and to contribute to the legislative, oversight and representative mandate;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the inter-relatedness of the challenges facing youth and the need for cross-sectoral policies and programmes that attend to the needs of youth in a holistic manner;

RECOGNISING THAT Article 50 of the EAC Treaty on Election of Members to the Assembly provides that the National Assemblies of the Partner States elect nine members who shall represent as much as it is feasible, the various political parties represented in the National Assembly, shades of opinion, gender and other special interest groups in that Partner State.

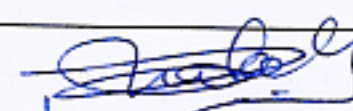
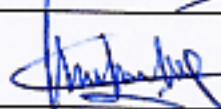
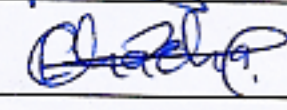
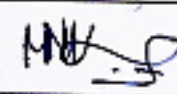
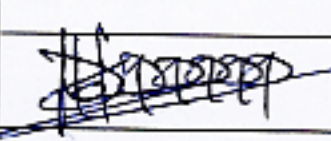
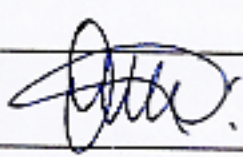
AWARE THAT the Youth constitute over 63% of the East African Community population and as such it is important that there is representation of this large fraction in the EALA and National Partner States

FURTHER AWARE THAT Republic of Rwanda has specific youth representation in the EALA and in the Chamber of Deputies;

We now therefore petition EALA as follows:

1. **URGE** the Partner States through the respective authorities to ensure the establishment of National Youth Council in Partner States where they still do not exist
2. EALA advocates for the operationalization of the NYCs so that they become more vibrant in their activities
3. **URGE** the Council of Ministers to advocate for the establishment of the East African Youth Council that will leverage representation of all youth activities at the EAC.

4. **URGE** the Partner States to adhere to the provisions of the African Charter on the Youth.
5. **APPEAL** to the Partner States' National Assemblies to consider reserving slots for youth representation at the respective Assemblies
6. **URGE** EALA to consider reserving slots for youth representation at the Assembly
7. **URGE** EALA to allocate a specific officer to handle youth matters/issues as and when they arise Urge EALA to advocate for the EAC Secretariat to have a fully pledged officer handling youth affairs.
8. **CONGRATULATE EALA** for resolving the leadership impasse and urge the Assembly to stay the course in addressing matters related to the strengthening the integration process.

	COUNTRY	NAME	SIGNATURE
1	BURUNDI	NDAYISHIMIYE GILBERT	
2	BURUNDI	IRANKUNDA ALAIN GUILLAUME	
3	KENYA	MOSENDA ROBI CHACHA	
4	KENYA	OMUKHULU MAKOKHA RACHEAL	
5	RWANDA	MUKAZI NDEKEZI PEACE	
6	RWANDA	MWUMVANEZA HENRY	
7	TANZANIA	GASPARINO HAULE	
8	TANZANIA	NURU LIYAU	
9	UGANDA	JACOB EYERU	
10	UGANDA	OTIM J. BRIAN	