



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF ASSEMBLY URGING EAC PARTNER STATES TO TAKE NOTE ON THE 7BILLION WORLD POPULATION MARKED IN SEPT 2011

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WHEREAS the world population is the totality of all living humans on the planet Earth, the world population has experienced continuous growth since the end of the Great Famine and Black Death in 1350, when it stood at around 370 million. The highest rates of growth – globally increases above 1.8% per year – were seen briefly during the 1950s, and for a longer period during the 1960s and 1970s. The growth rate peaked at 2.2% in 1963, and had declined to 1.1% by 2011;

AND WHEREAS a separate estimate by the United Nations, already the population has exceeded 7 billion. In October 31, 2011, the United Nations announced a projected world population figure of 7 billion;

NOTING THAT this global milestone presents both an opportunity and a challenge for the planet. While more people are living longer and healthier lives, gaps between rich and poor are widening and more people than ever are vulnerable to food insecurity and water shortages. The date we reach the next billion—and the ones after that—depends on policy and funding decisions made now about maternal and child health care, access to voluntary family planning, girl's education, and expanded opportunities for women and young people;

FURTHER NOTING that population growth is not the only threat facing humanity, but it will be a major contributor to the crises that await us and the planet in the coming century. Overpopulating the planet puts us all at risk of extreme environmental and social consequences that we are beginning to witness today. Whether we can live together on a healthy planet will depend on the decisions we make now;

HAVING IN MIND THAT Africa is the second-most-populated continent, with around 1 billion people, or 15% of the world's population and that ninety-five percent of human population growth is occurring in countries already struggling with poverty, illiteracy and civil unrest. UNFPA data show that Eastern Africa already in 2010 has a total population of 327 million, thus having advanced into the most populated region in Africa. Recent growth has made smaller East Africa surpassing West Africa (306 million);

Together with the more sparsely populated Central African region, Eastern Africa still has the world's highest population growth, thus securing that the region will keep on surpassing other regions. Both in Eastern and Central Africa, the average population growth is estimated at 2.6 percent annually. In its projection, UNFPA therefore estimates the Eastern African population to have more than doubled by 2050, then reaching a total of 711 million. This fast growth would mean a dramatic shift of population centres globally. Eastern Africa in a few years will have a larger population than all of North America;

AWARE THAT developing countries including our region are in need of approximately \$1 trillion per year in new infrastructure (school rooms, for example) to accommodate the dramatic increases to their populations. This figure is effectively impossible to meet, which means the continued expansion of human population exposes the region to the following challenges;

- a) Increase in the number of people living in poverty;
- b) Unemployment;
- c) Inadequate health care;
- d) Insecurity;
- e) Less land for farming;
- f) Famine;
- g) Water shortages: where by the amount of water available per person will drop by 74% between 1950 and 2050;
- h) Loss of wildlife habitat;
- i) Destruction of vast forest areas which reduces the ability of the ecosystem to combat global warming;

CONSIDERING THAT the most massive population shift is encountered in the East Africa region, with the block growing in population importance at large. Uganda will see the strongest growth - currently 3.3 percent annually - and will surpass Kenya's population in the 2030s and reach 91 million in 2050. Tanzania will get Africa's fifth largest population, totalling 110 million, by 2050, according to UNFPA data. This massive projected population growth will mean both challenges and opportunities. With the establishment of a common market through the East African Community (EAC), the block may develop into a major world player during the next decades if the region's fast economic growth is maintained. A block of 711 million consumers in 2050 cannot be ignored - if the population majority is lifted out of poverty.

RECOGNISING THAT our governments and MP'S are vehicles to development, they have the following roles to play to spin massive populations to be bonus for the century;

- a) The MP's should ensure that the budget allocated by the Governments for a specific purpose is well managed and well utilized according to planning so as to avoid the misuse of public funds for personal gain and thus fostering development and reduce poverty;
- b) The MP's should frequently pressurize their governments to strengthening and provide agricultural incentives to small scale farmers with low cost so as to increase food security, increase their income and to make sustainable utilization of the land;
- c) Governments should ensure an inclusive growth which will fostering on a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion which can be done through modernize labour markets and empower people by developing their skills throughout the life cycle with a view to increase labour participation and better match labour supply and demand, including labour mobility, and also ensure social and territorial cohesion such as the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society;
- d) The governments should educate their people about maternal and child health care, ensure access to voluntary family planning, promote girl child education and expand opportunities for women and young people;
- e) Governments should come up with policies to ensure that rich people don't possess big portions of land therefore solving the problem of land scarcity which result to civil unrest;

- f) There should be smart growth, on developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation basing on the framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation so as to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create growth and jobs, and also to enhance the performance of education systems and facilitate the entry of young people to the labour market;

NOW THEREFORE this Assembly do resolve to;

- a) Urge the Partner States through the Council of Ministers to take note of the most rapidly expanding populations within the region;
- b) Urge the Partner States to take note of the challenges and opportunities awaiting as a result of overpopulating the region with implications on sustainability, urbanization, access to health services and youth empowerment;
- c) Urge the Partner States to prepare her citizens to face the global massive population growth on an optimistic view that the region is able to combine a rapidly growing population with economic growth and poverty reduction only by offering good leadership, fighting corruption, participatory development, commitment and hardworking and selfless leadership.