



## **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

### **EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY URGING THE EAC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE TO TAKE COGNISANCE OF THE NEED AND IMPORTANCE FOR LEGAL FRAMEWORK(S) TOWARDS REALISATION OF FOOD SECURITY AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE REGION**

**The East African Legislative Assembly;**

**Aware** that food security and agricultural activities are prerequisites to safe and secure livelihoods of the people of East Africa;

**Further aware** that Chapter 18 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC obligates Partner State to cooperate in the agriculture sector to achieve food security and rational agricultural production within the Community;

**Appreciating** the signing of the EAC Common Market Protocol in November 2009 as a fundamental pillar of the EAC integration process;

**Recognising** that the EAC Common Market provides an opportunity for the people of East Africa in food production, processing and improved trade flows;

**Further recognizing** that the East African Community Partner States are signatories to the 2003 Maputo Declaration on agriculture which requires that member states dedicate 10% of their budgets to agriculture;



**Recalling** the commitments made by EAC Partner States at the Abuja Food Security Summit of 2006 towards increasing intra- African trade of strategic food commodities, implementation of trade arrangements directed at lowering tariff barriers and elimination of Non Tariff Barriers by 2010 and construction and maintenance of infrastructure to ease movement of these strategic agricultural products across national borders;

**Specifically commending** the political will and commitment demonstrated by the EAC Summit of Heads of State through the November 2009 directive that a special summit on food security and Climate Change involving all key stakeholders be organised;

**Further commending** the efforts made by the EAC Secretariat in the formulation of the EAC Food Security Action Plan (2010- 2030) and the EAC Common Strategy for Food Security;

**Noting with appreciation** the regional review of the food security situation undertaken by experts supported by Kilimo Trust, and subsequent workshops on the same bringing EALA members, members of National Assemblies from Partner States, representatives from EAC Secretariat, FAO and Farmers' Associations;

**Concerned** that the EAC region suffers food deficiency inspite of the natural endowments of fertile soils, favorable climate and human capital available;

**Further concerned** that a very high proportion of people in the EAC region are trapped in poverty and food insecurity, due to dependence on subsistence low inputs - low outputs agriculture, with very low productivity;

**Perturbed** that there is low use of improved seed varieties, chemical fertilizer, and use of appropriate water control systems for agriculture;

**Noting** that low profitability of most agricultural commodities and products is often a result of high losses suffered in quality and quantity at post-harvest stage;

**Further noting** that these post-harvest losses are more serious among smallholder producers due to poor facilities for handling harvested produce;

**Recognizing** the relationship between food security and climate change and the need for adaptation to climate change for sustainable food production in the region;



**Concerned** that at present there is no existing legal and regulatory framework that enables EAC Partner States to work together in combating food insecurity and mitigating the adverse effects of climate change;

**Now, therefore resolves as follows:**

1. THAT the East African Community enacts a Regional Framework that ensures a coordinated regional approach to issues of Food Security and Adapataion to Climate Change.
2. THAT the EAC Heads of State Summit on Food Security and Climate Change, takes a position on the enactment of such legislations, to address, but not limited to, the following:
  - a) In the implementation of the East African Common Market Protocol, trade in food commodities and products should be given priority;
  - b) To eliminate all non-tariff barriers which hinder the transfer of food from surplus food production zones to areas with deficits;
  - c) To prohibit export bans on food commodities and products intended for consumption within the EAC region;
  - d) To accelerate the on-going improvement of transportation infrastructure, but to give an adequate attention to a balanced development of major infrastructure (such as highways and railways) on one hand, and the development of rural feeder roads, on the other, to ensure that major infrastructure is optimally utilized;
  - e) To ensure that other market-supporting infrastructure (such as wholesale markets, consolidation centres, warehouses, primary processing facilities, etc) are established and/or strengthened to reduce post-harvest wastage of food and also to reduce marketing costs;
  - f) To make it mandatory that food commodities and products in the EAC market meet common regional safety standards for the protection of consumers, and therefore standards for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), certification, branding and labeling of food products, and their enforcement should be harmonized and regionalized as a matter of urgency;
  - g) The EAC should facilitate investment in agro-industries to process food commodities so as to (i) increase the tradability of all food commodities especially the perishable food stuff, (ii) improve shelf life through preservation to allow for storage from one season to another, (iii) increase the extent to which food products sold in local and national markets are in the processed form and meet food safety standards desired by consumers, and (iv) ensure that food exports from the region are as far as possible processed products.



- h) The adoption of a Common Strategy and Action Plan for Food Security that takes into account the relationship among land use and ownership, access to capital and increased agricultural production and that necessary agrarian reform should be undertaken;
- i) The EAC should develop regional technical assistance programs, pooling regional resources and expertise to ensure the supply of agricultural technologies, sharing and utilization of such technologies, and supply of inputs and services required for food production, are achieved in a more efficient manner that reduces duplication of efforts;
- j) The fertilizer program that has been initiated by the EAC with the support of African Development Bank towards regionally coordinated procurement and/or manufacture of fertilizer, be accelerated to ensure adequate and cost effectiveness supply of fertilizers in the EAC region;
- k) To ensure increased productivity of water used in agriculture including rainwater through integrated agricultural water solutions that integrates proper tillage to efficiently capture and retain rainwater in the soil, rainwater harvesting to capture water for supplementary irrigation, and efficiently designed and optimally operated conventional irrigation systems;
- l) To establish regulations that will ensure that emergency food aid is always linked to long term development of food supply systems by emphasizing that such food should be procured from within EAC, and the process of supply should include investment in the affected areas;
- m) Support the development of regionally coordinated weather – indexed insurance for Agriculture and Rural livelihoods;
- n) Affirm that EAC Member States will resist the leasing or selling of large chunks of land to foreign entities for production of food or bio-fuel feedstock solely for export, which will be disadvantageous to food security in the region, but the EAC in general and each member state in particular will support its citizens to efficiently use the ample potential in land and water resources to make the region an important exporter of food products to exploit the high and raising global demand and prices for food.

Mr Speaker Sir,

I beg to move

**MOVED BY:** Hon. George Nangale, Chair, EALA Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources.

**SECONDED BY:** Hon. Safina Kwekwe Tsungu, Member of EALA