20TH EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE

4TH FEBRUARY 2023

BUJUMBURA, REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

COMMUNIQUÉ

1. THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE, THEIR EXCELLENCIES ÉVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI; YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI; PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA; PAUL KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA; DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA; FELIX TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO; DR.WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA; HON. DENG ALOR KUOL, MINISTER OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, REPRESENTING H.E. PRESIDENT SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN HELD THE 20TH EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2023 IN BUJUMBURA IN THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI TO EVALUATE THE CURRENT SECURIITY

SITUATION IN THE EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC). THE HEADS OF STATE, MET IN A CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

2. THE SUMMIT RECEIVED REPORTS ON THE CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION IN THE EASTERN DRC FROM THE FACILITATOR OF THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS AND THE FORCE COMMANDER OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY REGIONAL FORCE.

3. THE SUMMIT OBSERVED THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION IN EASTERN DRC IS A REGIONAL MATTER THAT CAN ONLY BE SUSTAINABLY RESOLVED THROUGH A POLITICAL PROCESS AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR ENHANCED DIALOGUE AMONG ALL THE PARTIES.

4. THE HEADS OF STATE DIRECTED THAT THE POLITICAL PROCESS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND ESCALATED TO INVOLVE ALL STATEHOLDERS.

5. THE HEADS OF STATE DIRECTED:

   (i) IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE BY ALL PARTIES;
   (ii) WITHDRAWAL INCLUDING ALL FOREIGN ARMED GROUPS AND DIRECTED THE CHIEFS OF DEFENCE FORCES TO MEET WITHIN ONE WEEK AND SET NEW TIMELINES FOR THE WITHDRAWAL AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE DEPLOYMENT MATRIX;
   (iii) THAT THIS PROCESS BE ACCOMPANIED BY DIALOGUE;
   (iv) VIOLATIONS BE REPORTED TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT FOR IMMEDIATE CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF THE SUMMIT.

6. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED ALL TROOP CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES TO IMMEDIATELY DEPLOY AND URGED THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO TO IMMEDIATELY FACILITATE THE DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS

FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE EAST AFRICAN REGIONAL FORCE.

7. THE HEADS OF STATE REITERATED THEIR DECISIONS AT THE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE SUMMIT ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE EASTERN DRC HELD IN SHARM EL SHEIKH IN EGYPT:

(i) COMMENDING THE FACILITATOR OF THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND EFFORTS ON RE-ENERGISING THE PEACE PROCESS.

(ii) COMMENDING THE AFRICAN UNION PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL, THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EAC-LED NAIROBI PROCESS AND THE LUANDA PROCESS.

(iii) COMMENDING THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA AND THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL FOR THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION WHICH LARGELY FACILITATED THE POLITICAL PROCESS WHICH ARE ON-GOING.

8. THE SUMMIT NOTED WITH APPRECIATION THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND THANKED THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA AND THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EAC PEACE FACILITY FUND AND URGED OTHER PARTNER STATES TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PEACE FUND.

9. THE HEADS OF STATE CALLED UPON ALL PARTIES TO RESPECT AND IMPLEMENT DECISIONS OF THE SUMMIT AND OBLIGATIONS AGREED UPON IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF HEADS OF STATE AND OTHER ESTABLISHED INSTRUMENTS ON RESTORATION OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN EASTERN DRC.

10. THE SUMMIT REITERATED ITS CALL TO ALL PARTIES TO DE-ESCALATE TENSIONS AND TO USE ESTABLISHED REGIONAL, CONTINENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS TO RESOLVE ANY DISPUTES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE EASTERN DRC.

11. THE SUMMIT REITERATED THE NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND DIRECTIVES OF THE 22ND MEETING OF THE SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE ON THE SECURITY SITUATION ON EASTERN DRC AND DIRECTED ALL LOCAL ARMED GROUPS IN EASTERN DRC TO EMBRACE DIALOGUE, LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND JOIN THE POLITICAL PROCESS AS A PATH TOWARDS UNCONDITIONAL DISARMAMENT AND CREATION OF AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES.

12. THE HEADS OF STATE THANKED H.E. ÉVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE FOR HIS CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT AND COMMITMENT TOWARDS SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF DRC IN THEIR PURSUIT FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND SECURITY AND EXTENDED THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL HOSPITALITY ACCORDED TO THEM AND THEIR DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAY IN BURUNDI.

DONE IN BUJUMBURA, ON THIS 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.