EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

COMMUNIQUÉ

HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE SUMMIT OF EAC HEADS OF STATE ON THE PEACE PROCESS OF THE EASTERN OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

SHARM EL SHEIKH – EGYPT

(On the side- lines of the Meeting of United Nations Framework on Climate Change (COP - 27)

7TH NOVEMBER, 2022

1. The East African Community Heads of State, their Excellences: President Evariste Ndayishimiye of the Republic of Burundi; President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda; President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania; President Dr. William Samoei Ruto of the Republic of Kenya; Rt. Hon. Jean Michel Sama Lukonde kyenje, Prime Minister representing His Excellency President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi of Democratic Republic of Congo; held a high level consultative meeting of the summit of EAC Heads Of State on 7th November, 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

2. The Chairperson of the Summit welcomed the Heads of State to the meeting and confirmed to have engaged with all Heads of State who expressed their

commitment to the EAC Peace Process in Eastern DRC and recorded apologies for those not in attendance.

3. The Heads of State offered condolences to H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the families of those involved in the tragic air accident in Bukoba, United Republic of Tanzania on the 6th day of November, 2022. The Heads of State further wished a quick recovery to those admitted in the hospital.

4. The Heads of State congratulated President Dr. William Ruto of the Republic of Kenya on his election and assumption of office of President of the Republic of Kenya and commended the people of Kenya for holding peaceful election.

5. The high Level meeting commended H.E Uhuru Kenyatta for accepting the role of facilitating the Peace Process in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and for his leadership and effort in reenergizing the Peace Process.

6. The High Level Meeting took note that the Force headquarters of the Joint Regional Force of the East African Community in Eastern DRC has been established in Goma and that a Regional Force Commander has been appointed and assumed duties. The Summit decided that each partner State will deploy a Liaison Officer at the Force Headquarters to support the Regional Command Centre.

7. The Heads of State took note and commended the Republics of Burundi, Kenya and Uganda who have already deployed forces in line with the agreed framework and urged the Republic of South Sudan to complete the deployment.

8. The Heads of State took note of the operationalization of the EAC Peace facility to support the EAC- led Nairobi Process and deeply appreciated the Chairperson

of the African Union (AU) and President of the Republic of Senegal H.E Macky Sall and the Chairperson of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and President of the Republic of Angola H.E Joan Lourenco for demonstrating solidarity with the East African Community through contribution to the EAC Special Fund for the implementation of the Peace process.

9. The Heads of State appreciated the partner states of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and United Republic of Tanzania, for their commitment to contribute to the EAC Special Fund for the implementation of the Peace Process and urged all Partner stakes to sustainably support the Facility.

10. The Heads of State reviewed the recent development in North Kivu in particularly the resurgence of violence and called for cessation of hostilities to give chance to the political negotiations due to commence from 16th November,2022 in Nairobi, Kenya.

11. The Heads of State took note of the brief of the meeting between the Chairperson of the EAC Summit and the EAC Facilitator on the Peace Process in Eastern DRC which took place on 4th November in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi.

12. The Heads of State took note of the support for the decision of the 22nd Ordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State on Eastern DRC by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) at its 11030 Meeting held on 31st August, 2022 and the 16th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council held on 14th of October, 2022.

13. The Heads of State reaffirmed the mutually reinforcing mandates and the complementarity role of the Luanda and EAC – Led Peace Processes and urged

consideration of the possibility to harmonize both processes and a final decision would be made during the proposed Peace Summit .

14. The Heads of State reaffirmed the need of coordination and creation of synergy between Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) and the East African Regional Force for sustainability of achieving peace in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

15. The Heads of State agreed to appoint a Technical advisor from each partner State to support the facilitator of the EAC peace process.

16. The Heads of State reaffirmed their commitment to a political solution as the only sustainable path to security in Eastern DRC and underscored the need for inclusivity through the participation of all stakeholders in the political process.

17. The Heads of State commended the Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State for convening the Consultative Meeting in the margins of the United Nations Framework On Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 27, to assess and deliberate on the security situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

THIS IS DONE IN SHARM EL SHEIKH, THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT THIS 7TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022