



## **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

### **22<sup>nd</sup> ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE**

**SPEECH BY THE INCOMING CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT, H.E.  
ÉVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
BURUNDI**

**22<sup>nd</sup> JULY, 2022**

- **YOUR EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN,  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA,**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE EAC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE,**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT YOWERI KAGUTA  
MUSEVENI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA,**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY, DR. ÉDOUARD NGIRENTE, PRIME  
MINISTER OF RWANDA, REPRESENTING H.E. PRESIDENT  
PAUL KAGAME**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY, JEAN-MICHEL SAMA LUKONDE  
KYENGE, PRIME MINISTER, REPRESENTING H.E. PRESIDENT  
FÉLIX ANTOINE TSHISEKEDI,**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY, DR. BARNABA MARIAL BENJAMIN,  
MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTING H.E.  
PRESIDENT SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT**
- **OUR SPECIAL GUEST H.E. PRESIDENT HASSAN SHEIKH  
MOHAMUD, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA**
- **HON (DR.) PETER MATHUKI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY.**
- **VERA SONGWE, UN UNDER-SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY OF UNECA**
- **MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS**
- **ALL INVITED GUESTS**

**Your Excellencies,**

Before I go any further, I would like to thank the Almighty God who protected each and every one of us and enabled all of us to have a safe trip to Arusha.

**Kwa niaba ya Wananchi na Serikali ya Burundi na kwa niaba yangu binafsi, nitumie fursa hii kuwashukuru sana kabisa wananchi na Serikali ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, hususan Mheshimiwa SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN, Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, kwa makaribisho makubwa sana yaliyotolewa kwetu tangu tulipofika katika nchi hii nzuri.**

I take this opportunity to thank the EAC Heads of State for trusting me with the role of Chairing the EAC Summit for the next one year.

I thank H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta for his leadership and congratulate him for the achievements the Community registered during his tenure as Chairperson of the Summit.

**Your Excellencies,**

We are all aware that the vision of our Community is to be a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa.

You are also aware that the objective of the Community is to develop policies and programmes aimed at widening and deepening cooperation among the Partner States in political, economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology among others for their mutual benefit.

During my tenure, I will work towards improving the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments. I am keen on ensuring that the Ministries established to coordinate regional matters in the Partner States strengthen communication, collaboration and cooperation thereby enhancing integration.

I look forward to ensuring that in the next one year, we shall make significant progress in using French and Kiswahili in addition to English, as official languages of the Community.

With this I believe more citizens in our region will be able to better appreciate and actively participate in the EAC integration agenda.

### **Your Excellencies,**

I am aware of the outstanding verification exercise of the Federal Republic of Somalia and will endeavor to follow it up in the view to widen our integration.

**Pour créer un environnement commercial stable et améliorer la vie des Africains de l'Est, nous continuerons à renforcer la paix régionale, la sécurité, la responsabilité politique, la bonne gouvernance et à institutionnaliser les mécanismes d'intervention d'urgence de l'EAC.**

**En ce qui concerne la paix et la sécurité, nous veillerons à ce que notre nouvel État membre, la République démocratique du Congo, se rétablisse et fasse un long chemin vers la stabilité et le développement, y compris la mise en œuvre des décisions prises lors du récent conclave de Nairobi.**

To improve the welfare of East Africans, I will endeavor to work towards strengthening the productive and social sectors. I will work with my colleagues to ensure that women, youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly in the region are able to access finance and do business, and improve their standard of living.

To increase intra-regional trade and boost the movement of people across the region, I will work with my colleagues to ensure regional connectivity through infrastructure development, such as roads, railways, waterways, airports and the full implementation of the EAC One Network Area (EAC-ONA).

## **Your Excellencies,**

To realize the benefits of the Lake Tanganyika Basin, I will work with my colleagues to follow-up on the recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lake Tanganyika Basin Development Conference, as well as convene subsequent meetings.

To boost trade and private sector participation we shall work towards taking full advantage of the AfCFTA and endeavor to eliminate Non-Tariff Barriers in the region.

I am aware of the financial challenges the EAC is facing and will therefore work with my colleagues to conclude a sustainable financing mechanism for the Community.

## **Your Excellencies,**

I will endeavor to work with my colleagues to ensure that we remain on track in implementing the priorities we set out in the 6<sup>th</sup> EAC Development Strategy. These are:

- i. Provision of Customs Services that facilitate legitimate trade and investment in the region.
- ii. Full implementation of the East African Monetary Union Protocol.
- iii. Re-engineering of production and logistics arrangements in line with digitalised frameworks to enhance e-business opportunities and streamlining interconnectivity of transport logistics.
- iv. Development of regional infrastructure to support the integration process.
- v. Institutional transformation at the regional level, including skills development.
- vi. Promotion of awareness creation and dissemination of information on the Community

**In specific terms, the Chairmanship of Burundi has ambitions to make the new milestones to promote our shared goals focused in the following areas:**

**One is the regional peace and security agenda.**

I call on all of us to work together to prevent and manage conflicts.

It is, therefore, important to revitalize the EAC Governance and Peace and Security Architecture.

Equally important is to ensure good neighbourliness and effective implementation of decisions regarding peace and security in our region.

**The second is our African solidarity agenda.**

The future of the EAC and our continent in this new global environment lies in solidarity and good neighbourliness. Our Community's solidarity should be called on now more than ever.

Let us create a solidarity framework that cares for the most vulnerable people within our Member States.

**The third goal is the acceleration of integration** by especially developing industrialization and urgently reducing the costs of doing business in our region.

This goes through a full implementation of the One Network Area, the operationalization of all our one stop borders, the elimination of the non-tariff barriers to trade in the region, and the strengthening of e-business opportunities and streamlining of interconnectivity of transport logistics.

In this regards, I intend to push for the implementation of the recommendations of the first Lake Tanganyika Basin Conference

**Fourthly, there is need to consolidate our institutional reforms.** To this end I wish to suggest that national consultations be organized in the remaining countries to pave the right path towards political confederation.

In the same vein, it is important to promote quickly the use of French and Kiswahili as official languages of the Community in order to enhance the domestication of regional policies at national level.

**Lastly and most importantly is the need to improve the inclusion of women and young people** in the activities of our Community.

Our countries are experiencing a galloping demography, and the women and young people are the first to be affected by its consequences.

However, we can benefit from the demographic dividend and these young people and women can serve as an engine for economic take-off and for peace enhancement in our region.

They are also key actors in the integration process. Our people aspire to free movement of services and workers without any discrimination envisaged in the common market.

**In this spirit I'd like to propose the implication of the first ladies of our partner states as is the same in African Union.**

**Before ending my speech, I would once again like to emphasize that the priority should be to promote peace and stability in the DRC; and it is only fair to do this with the help of the very person who initiated the whole process, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta.**

**In this regard, with the blessings of my fellow Heads of States; I wish to propose the appointment of His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta as the facilitator in the peace process in the DRC.**

**He would oversee consultations at all levels and report to the Heads of State Summit whenever required.**

To conclude my Statement, I would like to thank you once again for the confidence you entrusted in me as Chair of the East African Community and wish all of us peace and stability in our respective Countries.

**Long Live the East African Community!**

**Long Live African Unity**

**God Bless you all**

**Thank you for your kind attention.**