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**5TH MEETING OF THE SPEAKERS OF NATIONAL
ASSEMBLIES/PARLIAMENTS OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
PARTNER STATES AND THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY HELD ON 6TH – 7TH MAY, 2010
AT LAKE VICTORIA SERENA RESORT
KAMPALA - UGANDA**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EAC CLERKS AND SENIOR
PARLIAMENTARY OFFICIALS**

Annex I

**SECRETARIAT OF
THE BUREAU OF
EAC SPEAKERS**

MAY, 2010



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 5th Meeting of the Hon. Speakers of the National Assemblies/Parliaments of the East African Community and the East African Legislative Assembly will take place in Kampala, Uganda on 6th and 7th May, 2010. The meeting will be a follow up of the 4th Meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania on 19th November, 2009. The meeting is convened in accordance with decisions of the EAC Speakers to hold such meetings biannually, and as a follow up on the implementation of the previous decisions.

The issues on the agenda for consideration are:-

- Status of implementation of the previous decisions;
- Review of the proposed Rules of Procedure for the Bureau of EAC Speakers;
- Proposal to establish annual Parliamentary Games; and
- Mechanisms for enhancing functional relationships between National Assemblies/Parliaments and EALA.

A consultative meeting of Clerks and Senior Officials of Parliaments/National Assemblies was convened from 3rd – 5th May, 2010 to prepare a report for submission to the Hon. Speakers on the above mentioned agenda.

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2.0 CONSTITUTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE CLERKS AND SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY OFFICIALS

The East African Legislative Assembly chaired the meeting while the Republic of Uganda was the Rapporteur. The list of participants is attached as *Annex I*.

3.0 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The meeting recalled that from the second through to the fourth meetings of the EAC Speakers, the Hon. Speakers, having taken cognizance of the relevant provisions of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC, made decisions relating to the following institutional matters:

- Establishment of the Bureau of EAC Speakers as an EAC organ;
- Establishment of the East African Parliamentary Institute;
- The need to transfer the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee for East Africa to the East African Legislative Assembly;
- Functional relations between EALA and National Assemblies; and
- Harmonization of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assemblies/Parliaments on how to handle EALA business

3.1 Progress on the Establishment of EAPI, Bureau of Speakers and the transfer of activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee for East Africa to the East African Legislative Assembly

The 2nd Meeting of the Speakers held on September 12, 2008 in Kigali agreed to request the Summit of the EAC Heads of State to invoke the Provisions of Article 9(1)(h) of the Treaty and establish a formal Organ of



the Community known as the **Bureau of EAC Speakers** (Speakers' Forum) with the mandate to make formal decisions relating to issues of EALA and National Assemblies/Parliaments.

At the same meeting, it was also decided, and a Memorandum of Understanding signed by all the EAC Speakers of the National Assemblies/Parliaments and EALA to establish the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI) as an institution of the Community. EAPI is intended to serve as a resource centre for legislatures in East Africa and to provide a forum for training Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Officials and any other persons.

It was further agreed that a recommendation be made to the Council of Ministers to transfer the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee for East Africa to EALA. This was in line with the recommendation of the last meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee itself, held in April, 2008 in Dar-es-Salaam.

The above decisions and all the necessary justifications and attachments were formally tabled in the 17th Meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 20th February 2009, for their consideration and onward transmission to the next meeting of the Summit of EAC Heads of State.

The Council, however, decided to defer further consideration of the establishment of new Organs and Institutions of EAC pending the finalization of criteria and procedures to guide the Summit in the discharge of this function.



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At its 18th Meeting held on 28th August, 2009, the Council decided that the "admission of Public Sector Organs and Institutions will be guided by the provisions of the Treaty". Given this decision, the matter of development of the criteria was put to rest.

Meanwhile, at its 19th Meeting held on 18th November, 2009, the Council directed the Secretariat, in consultation with EALA and the EAC Partner States to develop a comprehensive Concept Paper on the three items and submit the same to the Partner States for consideration. The Secretariat complied and submitted the Concept Paper to all Partner States as directed.

At its 20th Meeting held on 26th March, 2010, the Council noted that not all Partner States had made comments on the Concept Paper. It therefore directed the Secretariat to remind the Partner States to forward their comments by 30th April, 2010.

3.1.1 Progress on the Establishment of the Bureau of EAC Speakers

The meeting recalled that at their 3rd Meeting held on 27th April, 2009, in Bujumbura, the Hon. Speakers noted that in respect to the establishment of the Bureau of EAC Speakers, it was erroneous for the Council of Ministers to review their decision. The Council had been requested to transmit the request directly to the Summit since the proposal had no financial implications to the Community as the structures were already in existence, and hence no need to subject it to any criteria. It was therefore agreed that the report be presented directly to the Chairperson of the Summit by the Hon. Speaker of EALA and the President of the Rwanda Senate. This was accordingly done.

