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Deputy Majority Leader

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THE-TABLE:

Miriam mudo

**16TH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF EAC SPEAKERS OF NATIONAL
LEGISLATURES AND THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
HELD ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2023**

AT

PYRAMID CONTINENTAL HOTEL – JUBA, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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BACKGROUND

The EAC Speakers' Bureau was established in 2008 with a mandate to establish a functional working relationship between and among the Speakers of the then five **(5)** EAC Partner States and EALA, with a view to enhancing the role of the respective National Legislatures in the EAC integration agenda.

The 16th Meeting of Bureau of Speakers of the National Legislatures of the East African Community Partner States and EALA took place at the Pyramid Continental Hotel in Juba, Republic of South Sudan on 16th November 2023. The 16th Meeting of the Bureau was preceded by the 17th meeting of Clerks of the National Assemblies/Parliaments of the East African Community.

INTRODUCTION

The 16th Meeting of Bureau of Speakers of the National Legislatures of the East African Community Partner States and EALA was a follow-up meeting of the 15th Meeting of the Speakers' Bureau held at Gran Melia Hotel, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania on 19th May 2023.

The 16th Meeting of the Bureau was attended by: -

1. Rt. Hon. (Dr) Jemma Nunu Kumba, Speaker, Transitional National Legislative Assembly of the Republic of South Sudan;
2. Rt. Hon. Deng Deng Akoon, Speaker, Council of States (The Senate), Republic of South Sudan;
3. Rt. Hon. NDABIRABE Gelase Daniel, Speaker, Burundi National Assembly
4. Hon. NKURUNZIZA Fabrice, Second Deputy President, Senate of the Republic of Burundi;
5. Rt. Hon. (Sen) (Dr.) Moses M. Wetang'ula, EGH, MP, Speaker, Kenya National Assembly
6. Hon. Senator Veronica Maina, Member of the Speaker Panel, Senate of the Republic of Kenya representing the Speaker of the Senate;
7. Rt. Hon. MUKABALISA Donatille, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Republic of Rwanda;

8. Hon. Tarimba Gulam Abbas, MP, representing the Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania;
9. Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, Deputy Speaker, Parliament of the Republic of Uganda; and
10. Rt. Hon. Joseph NTAKIRUTIMANA, Speaker, East African Legislative Assembly

AGENDA

The issues on the agenda for consideration were as follows: -

1. Prayer
2. Constitution of the Bureau
 - Check for Quorum
 - Handover of the Chairperson
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Communication from the Chairperson
5. Statement by the outgoing Chairperson
6. Statements by Rt. Hon. Speakers
7. Consideration of matters arising as contained in the Report of the 17th Meeting of Clerks
8. Updates on the Preparatory arrangements of the 13th Inter-Parliamentary Games
9. Consideration of the Draft Framework on collaboration between EALA and National Legislatures
10. Consideration of the Report on Challenges facing EALA
11. Any Other Business

1. PRAYER

The meeting was opened with a Prayer from Rt. Hon. Joseph NTAKIRUTIMANA, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly.

2. CONSTITUTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE MEETING

By virtue of the Rules of Procedure for the Bureau of EAC Speakers, and in accordance with the decision of the 15th Meeting of the Bureau, the Chairperson of the meeting is the United Republic of Tanzania and the Secretariat is the East African Legislative Assembly. Therefore, the Bureau is duly constituted.

2.1 CHECK FOR QUORUM

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 10(1) of the Rules of Procedure for the Bureau of EAC Speakers;

(1) "For purpose of quorum, a meeting of the Bureau shall be properly constituted when either:

(a) Members from at least three Partner States and the Assembly are present; or

(b) Members from at least four Partner States are present."

The Rt. Hon. Speakers of the National Legislatures of the EAC Partner States of the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and the East African Legislative Assembly being present, the meeting of the Bureau was therefore properly quorated.

2.2 HAND-OVER OF CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 5(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Bureau, the Chairperson shall be elected on the principle of rotation and shall hold such office for a period of one year.

At its 15th Meeting held on 19th May 2023 in Arusha, Tanzania, the Bureau decided that the United Republic of Tanzania assumes the Chairmanship of the Bureau after the Republic of South Sudan.

The Republic of South Sudan having served as the Chairperson of the meeting of Bureau for a period of one year, handed over the Chair to the United Republic of Tanzania.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was proposed by the Republic of Kenya and seconded by the Republic of Uganda.

4. COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

4.1 Welcoming Remarks by the Outgoing Chairperson, the Rt. Hon. (Dr) Jemma Nunu Kumba, Speaker, Transitional National Legislative Assembly of the Republic of South Sudan

The Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Jemma Nunu Kumba, Speaker of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, Republic of South Sudan welcomed the Speakers to the 16th Meeting of the Bureau.

The Speaker briefed the meeting on the Procedure of EAC Speakers Bureau regarding quorum of the Bureau which shall be either Members from at least three Partner States and the Assembly present or Members from at least four Partner States present. However, Members from the Democratic Republic of Congo were absent with apologies owing to impending national elections in DRC. The quorum was therefore ascertained.

She further pointed out the procedures that apply in the hand-over of the chairperson: According to the Rule of procedures of the Bureau, the chairperson shall be elected on the principle of rotation and shall hold such office for a period of one year.

She recalled that at its 15th meeting held on 19th May, 2023, in Arusha, Tanzania, the Bureau decided that the United Republic of Tanzania should assume the chairpersonship of the forum from the Republic of South Sudan. In view of the above, South Sudan handed over the chairmanship to the United Republic of Tanzania. The meeting confirmed the Chair without reservation or objection.

4.2 Statement by the Chairperson, the Hon. Tarimba Gulam Abbas, MP representing Speaker, National Assembly, United Republic of Tanzania

On behalf of Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania and newly elected President of Inter-Parliamentary (IPU) Honourable (Dr.) Tulia Ackson, Hon. Tarimba Gulam Abbas conveyed her warm greetings to Speakers attending the 16th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers.

He said that the Honourable Speaker wanted to attend the meeting, but due to other responsibilities, she could not. He reported that he had been sent to convey special thanks and deep appreciation to all EAC Speaker's for her endorsement and support during the IPU Presidential Election.

He thanked them for working tirelessly since the beginning of the campaign up to end of the election. He reaffirmed her commitment to work together with EAC Speakers to make the IPU the most effective, accountable, transparent organization and relevant in today's world.

He informed the meeting that the meeting marked a significant step in the collective journey towards regional collaboration and shared prosperity. He extended his gratitude to the government and people of South Sudan for hosting the Bureau meeting. He reiterated that their warm hospitality reflected the spirit of unity that defines our East African Community.

He further reaffirmed the commitment of Rt Hon. (Dr.) Tulia of fostering cooperation, understanding, and growth among member states and assured the Bureau that together, they could build a stronger, more resilient East Africa and hoped that the deliberations would be guided by the principles of inclusivity and shared responsibility.

5. STATEMENT BY THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON

The Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Jemma Nunu Kumba, Speaker of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, Republic of South Sudan stated that the 15th Speaker's Bureau marked a significant moment for her as the outgoing Chairperson of the East African Community Speakers Bureau. She expressed her gratitude and stressed that it had been an incredible journey serving in the role for the past one year and thanked the Bureau for the honour and privilege to work alongside dedicated personalities who shared a common vision of the Community of East Africa.

She added that as reflected in the past one year, she was filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment considering the remarkable milestones that had made a positive impact on the lives of fellow East Africans.

In addition, she said the Bureau had played a crucial role in fostering dialogue, promoting understanding, and sharing knowledge across the region providing a platform for the voices of the Community members to be heard and celebrated.

She further asserted that during her tenure, South Sudan had witnessed the benefits of communication in bridging gaps and building connections. The country organized events and participated in regional conferences that had brought together experts from various sectors.

She also pointed out that South Sudan had hosted the 12th edition of the East Africa Inter-Parliamentary Games in Juba which brought close to one thousand members of parliament and staff together in a friendly environment and atmosphere, fostering, fraternal engagements, solidarity and formation of parliamentary networks and above all the good spirit of regional integration.

She informed that, the EAC parliamentary games not only provide a platform for members to interact and build relationships, but also an avenue of for integration, business connections, and changed people's perception of South Sudan.

At the international level, Rt. Hon. Jemma said the EAC parliaments participated effectively in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) general assembly where the EAC geo-political group presented a candidate in the person of Rt. Hon. Tulia Ackson and diligently lobbied the rest of the regions to vote for her, culminating in her landslide victory in the highly contested elections as the first ever African woman to hold that position. She urged the meeting to congratulate Rt. Hon. Tulia Akson and the people of Tanzania and EAC in general for these tremendous achievements.

Rt. Hon. Jemma said she was proud that the Bureau had become a powerful catalyst for change, empowering individuals to become effective communicators and leaders within their respective communities and the global stage. "We have nurtured talent, provided training opportunities, and supported aspiring speakers in honing their skills. Together, we have created a network of passionate individuals who are now equipped to inspire, educate, and mobilize others towards a brighter future" she added.

Rt. Hon. Jemma, remarked that the success achieved during her tenure was not hers alone; but the result of the collective efforts of a dedicated team.

Rt. Hon. Jemma stressed that since joining the East African Community, South Sudan had made commendable progress in aligning its policies and fostering cooperation with fellow Partner States. South Sudan as a nation had actively engaged in initiatives aimed at promoting economic, political, and social integration, in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Community.

Rt. Hon. Jemma also said one of the significant gains that South Sudan had achieved in the integration agenda was the enhancement of trade and economic collaboration. South Sudan had actively participated in trade negotiations and forums, working towards the reduction of trade barriers and the promotion of cross-border commerce. This had not only strengthened economic ties with the regional partners but has also contributed to the broader objective of regional economic integration. "Today South Sudan presents a lucrative market for all of East Africa as demonstrated by the volume of trade from the region into our market and the number of East African entrepreneurs (large and small) seen in our cities and towns" she stressed.

Rt. Hon. Jemma further elaborated that as the Speaker of the South Sudan Transitional National Legislative Assembly, she was proud to acknowledge the considerable gains that South Sudan had made in the legislative aspect of the integration agenda. Since becoming a member of the East African Community, South Sudan had actively participated in legislative forums and initiatives aimed at harmonizing laws and policies with those of the Community. One of the significant gains in the legislative arena has been the involvement of South Sudan in the process of aligning legal framework with the established laws and regulations of the East African Community, she said. This has been pivotal in fostering common legislative standards and ensuring consistent application of laws across member states, ultimately contributing to the strengthening of regional integration.

However, Rt. Hon. Jemma said amidst these gains, South Sudan had encountered certain challenges in its integration agenda with the East African Community. Foremost among these challenges is the residual impact of conflicts and internal instability, which had posed obstacles to full and meaningful engagement in regional integration efforts. She stated that the

government was exerting all its efforts to resolve these internal challenges to allow the unlocking of the full potential of South Sudan's participation in the East African Community.

Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Jemma further highlighted that the as a new country, there exist, institutional constraints and capacity limitations that have impeded the seamless implementation of regional protocols and agreements within South Sudan. Addressing these constraints is crucial to ensure that South Sudan is able to effectively align with the broader framework of the East African Community. This includes the need to enhance the capacity and expertise of legislative bodies and officials to engage effectively in the development and implementation of regional legislative instruments.

She also briefed the meeting that amidst some of the crises and challenges the Community was facing and; cognizant of the financial constraints which impede the progress of the community, South Sudan has so far paid 7million USD to the EAC, with a commitment to pay its membership fees in due course. We will also continue to lobby.

She informed the meeting that in the spirit of African solutions to African problems, and its commitment to regional peace and security, South Sudan had contributed 700 of its gallant forces to the EAC peace keeping mission in the DRC, which is a sign of commitment to the Community. She further urged that South Sudan was gearing up to ascend to the mantle of chairmanship of the community, at the summit to be held in Arusha from the 23rd-24th of November, she kindly requested the bureau of speakers for its overwhelming support.

The Speaker stressed that this was an opportunity for South Sudan to show its potential despite some of the challenges the Community was facing. By supporting the President of the Republic, it would be reaffirming the commitment of the EAC to the people of South Sudan, its prosperity, future. She said that, the Republic of South Sudan remains committed to the principles of integration and cooperation within the East African Community, despite the challenges encountered. "We recognize the importance of addressing these challenges in a collaborative manner, and we look forward to working closely with our regional partners to overcome these obstacles and further advance our shared objectives of regional integration, collective prosperity, and mutual solidarity" Rt. Hon. Jemma remarked.

She further said that South Sudan remains firmly committed to the principles of legislative alignment and cooperation within the East African Community, despite the challenges faced. South Sudan recognizes the pivotal role of the legislative agenda in advancing regional integration, and underscore the determination to work closely with the regional partners to overcome these obstacles and advance the shared objectives.

The Speaker extended her sincere gratitude to the Speaker's Bureau for the opportunity to share the perspectives and experiences, and reaffirmed commitment to contributing to the collective success and prosperity of the East African Community.

She asserted that as she passed the baton to the incoming Chairperson, she had full confidence in their ability to lead the Bureau to even greater heights. Rt. Hon. Jemma further encouraged all the participant to extend support and cooperation, as they have done in the past, to ensure a seamless transition and continued success to build upon the solid foundation laid and carry forward the mission of the East Africa Community Speakers Bureau.

In conclusion, the Speaker reiterated that she was glad to have served as the Chairperson. In a similar development, Rt. Hon. Speaker of the Council of States of South Sudan, Deng Deng, thanked the Bureau for the recognition and for having given South Sudan the chance to lead. He congratulated the incoming Chair of the Bureau and expressed readiness of South Sudan in the forthcoming games in Rwanda.

6. STATEMENTS BY RT. HON. SPEAKERS OF THE EAC NATIONAL LEGISLATURES AND EALA

6.1 The Rt. Hon. NDABIRABE Gelase Daniel, Speaker, Burundi National Assembly

Rt. Hon. NDABIRABE Gelase Daniel, Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly, expressed his thanks to the Speaker of EALA, the Rt. Hon. Joseph NTAKIRUTIMANA, for his invitation to participate in the 16th meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers.

He also expressed his gratitude to the people of South Sudan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Burundian delegation since their arrival in the beautiful City of Juba.

He took that opportunity to reaffirm his full support in the ongoing process aimed at making the Bureau of the EAC Speakers and EALA an EAC organ.

In addition, he informed the Bureau that the Parliament of Burundi would be the host of the third workshop of Senior Parliamentary Staff in Bujumbura.

6.2 The Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetang'ula, EGH, MP, Speaker, Kenya National Assembly

The Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetang'ula, EGH, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome by the host, Rt. Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba, Speaker of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly of South Sudan. He recognized the presence of various Rt Honorable Speakers and Deputy Speakers; Clerks and Deputy Clerks present and all other protocols observed.

The Right Honourable Speaker appreciated the Republic of South Sudan for the good work they did during the 12th EALA IPG games, being the youngest republic in the world but managed to host very successful games. He further took pride that Kenya midwifed the birth of Republic of South Sudan and reassured South Sudan of its unwavering commitment to ensure that the country is progressing peacefully with the leadership of the current President, His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit.

He reiterated the importance of the games and expressed the enthusiasm of Members of Parliament and Staff to participate in the games. The Honourable Speaker reminded his fellow Honourable speakers on their important role in deciding matters relating to the next parliamentary games.

Additionally, he appreciated the cardinal duty played by legislators in making laws and encouraged them to make laws that would enhance regional integration. He further proposed that constitution of members to EALA should be through an election from the people, and not from parliaments so as to give a sense of belonging to the people.

Finally, the Rt. Hon Speaker congratulated the Rt. Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson for her recent elected position to the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) and also for the current Chairperson position in the EAC Speaker's Bureau.

6.3 The Hon. Senator Veronicah Maina, MP, Member of the Speaker's Panel Senate of the Republic of Kenya

The Hon. Sen. Veronicah Maina indicated that she had been sent by the Speaker of the Senate of Kenya, Rt. Hon. Amason Kingi, EGH, MP, to deliver the remarks.

The Senator began by appreciating respective individuals for their effort in ensuring the success of the 16th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers and EALA Assembly highlighting that the well-demonstrated fidelity is ample proof of our patriotism as East Africans.

She took note of the Agenda of the meeting, which included an update of major happenings since the last meeting and the upcoming 13th edition of the IPG to be held in Kigali, Rwanda. She highlighted that this was an opportune time to address the issues before EALA and the EAC.

She registered deep appreciation to the Bureau of EAC Speakers and EALA secretariat for sustained diligence in execution of undertakings agreed upon in previous engagements, some of which have translated into tangible actions that have since been approved for implementation, supporting our role as legislatures.

The Senator, on behalf of the people of the Republic of Kenya, proceeded to register her appreciation, to the Bureau of EAC Speakers for the resolution at its 15th Meeting to have the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI) hosted in Kenya on a permanent basis, citing this move as a resounding demonstration of the confidence vested in the country. She therefore declared that as a country, Kenya commits to be diligent, dedicated and steadfast in playing the role of hosting EAPI and ensuring that it delivers on its mandate, further cementing our relations as Member Legislatures.

The Senator went ahead to emphasize the essence of EALA Games, which include supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of Hon Members and Staff as well as strengthening the

bonds and identity of EAC as one family. She therefore encouraged the need for a clear way forward, particularly with regard to the game's timelines, for adequate preparations.

In conclusion, the Senator urged the Bureau, with the help of the Secretariat to pinpoint broadly, the challenges that continue to hamper the work of EAC as a regional caucus, with greater focus on Climate Change, that has resulted to global warming. She encouraged that bold steps be made in countering these challenges. She encouraged that the Bureau of Speakers of the EAC Legislatures and EALA take the lead on this matter by instituting mechanisms that favour EAC Member states and Africa as a whole.

Finally, the Senator applauded the quest to have the Bureau of Speakers established as an organ of the East African Community and challenged the Bureau and EALA to continue lobbying for this transformative initiative, as the Council of Ministers readies it for presentation to the Heads of State for consideration at their Summit. She then thanked the audience.

6.4 The Rt. Hon. MUKABALISA Donatille, Speaker of the Rwanda Chamber of Deputies

The Rt. Hon MUKABALISA Donatille, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies/ Parliament of Rwanda, conveyed warm greetings from the Parliament of Rwanda and thanked the Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly of South Sudan, the host, for the hospitality and courtesies accorded to her delegation since arrival in Juba.

She took the opportunity to congratulate the Rt. Hon Tulia Ackson, Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania, for her well-deserved election at the presidency of the IPU.

She urged her colleagues that while working hard to adjust to the new tough realities, they should ultimately keep focus on the successful regional community by reinforcing the solidarity and the togetherness spirit as a community.

She further emphasized that as Parliamentarians, they need to maintain regular interactions, in order to exchange on best practices, to learn from one another, and synchronize their efforts to overcome the common challenges facing respective member States, and work together to deliver to the citizens' expectations, through the Parliaments' legislative and oversight mission.

She further thanked EAC Parliaments and EALA for having granted Rwanda the privilege to host the 13th Edition of the Inter-Parliamentary Games in Kigali on dates to be agreed on by the ongoing Bureau of EAC Speakers meeting. She assured the audience that Rwanda was doing everything possible to ensure that the games were successful. She invited them to turn up in big numbers to train on climbing the thousand and one hills to test their fitness for the tournament. She concluded her remarks by wishing the participants a productive meeting.

6.5 The Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, representing the Speaker, Parliament of the Republic of Uganda

Hon. Thomas Tayebwa extended gratitude and appreciation to the Speaker of South Sudan for the hospitality accorded to the Ugandan delegation. He conveyed greetings from the Rt. Hon. Anita Annet Among, the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda who couldn't attend due to other official engagements.

He highlighted the Mission of the Community of widening and deepening the economy, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of the people of East Africa.

He emphasized the critical role of the EAC leaders of fostering and maintaining a positive environment strong political and establishing a viable regional structure for fast tracking the implementation of the four (4) pillars of the Community. He further emphasized the importance of establishing a reliable and sustainable financing of the Community;

He concluded by the extending an invitation to the Speakers to attend and participate at the forthcoming conference of the Speakers and presiding officer scheduled to take place in Kampala, in January 2024.

6.7 The Rt. Hon. Joseph NTAKIRUTIMANA, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly

The Rt. Hon. Joseph NTAKITUTIMANA expressed his delight to be at the 16th Meeting of the Bureau of Speakers. He thanked the host, Speaker of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA), Rt. Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba, for the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation since their arrival in Juba. He congratulated the incoming Chairperson of the Bureau of Speakers, the Rt Hon. (Dr.) Tulia Ackson and wished her well as she takes up the Bureau to greater heights.

He also congratulated the Rt. Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson upon her resounding victory as the 31st President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), becoming the first female President of IPU from African Continent and the first ever from Eastern Africa and appreciated members of the Bureau for the unwavering support that led to her victory.

On behalf of EALA he expressed gratitude to the Bureau for always being available for the meetings of the Bureau adding that their attendance was a testimony of their commitment to the integration dispensation by EAC Parliaments.

He informed the meeting that he was still at a learning curve as a member of the Bureau, having come to office as the Speaker of the 5th EALA in December, 2022 and thanked the Bureau for all the support accorded to him by National Parliaments. He promised to complete his introductory visits to all the Partner States.

He expressed gratitude for the support extended by National Parliaments during rotational plenary sittings of EALA. While rotational sittings are a Treaty matter, he stressed that they were a way of ensuring that the sittings are a success.

The Speaker informed the meeting that the Bureau had continued to make progress towards the ideals of integration in line with Article 49 (2) and 65 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. He further outlined EALA's commitment to carrying out its legislative work

He further informed the meeting that the 2nd Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 5th Assembly was expected to commence in Kigali, Rwanda in November, 2023. In line with the principle of

rotation, he promised that EALA would visit each of the EAC capitals in the coming years. He further said that EALA would also engage with the citizens of respective Partner States (women, youth, private sector, civil society, parliaments, academia, religious groups) on various Committee activities (ordinary meetings, sensitizations, public hearings among others.) aimed at fulfilling one of the key principles of the Community; that is "*people-centred*".

With regard to the EAC Inter-Parliamentary Games, he said that the 2023 Inter-Parliamentary Games Tournament would be held in Kigali, Rwanda on dates to be agreed upon by the Bureau. He outlined the key issues for consideration on the Bureau's agenda as the new rules, that would guide the tournament to ensure harmony, notably the digital registration of members to ensure safety and identification of players and also for purposes of records.

He implored upon fellow Speakers to encourage their Members of Parliament to acknowledge that the games should not focus on the winner but should be a platform for networking and strengthening parliamentary relations. Other issues on the agenda of the Bureau he said were adoption of the Bureau of Speakers as an Organ of the Community, which has continued to backtrack, delayed financial remittances to East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI) and urged the Bureau who are (Board of Trustees of the Institute) to intervene.

He reminded the meeting that the EAC continued to grapple with financial challenges but acknowledged that over the past one month, most of the Partner States had honoured their contributory obligations.

Lastly, the Speaker expressed his gratitude to the Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Jemma Nunu, Speaker of the TNLA together with the other Speakers of EAC for their visionary leadership and the support they have been rendering to the integration process.

7.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF EAC SPEAKERS

7.1 Arising from Agenda Item "5.1" Establishment of the Bureau of Speakers as an Organ of the Community

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau took note of progress on the matter and resolved/decided:

- (a) That the Bureau be established as an Organ of the Community as earlier resolved.
- (b) That the Secretariat recast the Bill in the form of explanatory notes and that the Speaker, EALA resubmits the matter to the Council and copy all Speakers of National Legislatures.
- (c) To engage their respective Ministers/Cabinet Secretaries responsible for matters of EAC to have the matter considered before the Council.
- (d) To lobby their respective Heads of State on the matter before is formally presented to the Summit for consideration.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (a) That the Summit approves by proclamation the Establishment of the EAC Bureau of Speakers as an Organ of the Community in line with Article 9(1) (h) of the Treaty for establishment of the East African Community.
- (b) That the Secretariat recast the Bill in the form of explanatory notes and resubmitted to the Council with a copy to all Speakers of National Legislatures vide letter **Ref: EALA/CMIN/36 dated 25th May 2023.**
- (c) The Republic of Burundi, South Sudan and EALA engaged their respective Ministers/Cabinet Secretaries responsible for matters of EAC to consider the matter in the next meeting of the Council scheduled to take place on 23rd November 2023.

- (d) The Republics of Burundi, South Sudan and EALA have lobbied their respective Heads of State on the matter before is formally presented to the 23rd Ordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State for consideration during its meeting scheduled to take place on 24th November 2023.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau resolved/decided:

That the Rt. Hon. Speakers of the National Legislatures to continue engaging their respective Heads of State to have the matter considered before the Summit scheduled for 24th November 2023.

7.2 Arising from Agenda Item "5.2." Functional Relations

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau took note that:

- (a) The Third workshop of senior parliamentary staff has not yet taken place. The workshop was slated for August, 2023.
- (b) The National Assembly and Senate of the Republic of Burundi to host the workshop in August 2023.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (a) That the Third workshop of senior parliamentary staff was scheduled to take place from 26th - 28th November 2023. However, some EAC Partner States may not be ready to attend as they require a notice of 21 days. The workshop is proposed to take place in the second week of March 2024.
- (b) The National Assembly and Senate of the Republic of Burundi will host the workshop.
- (c) That the Third workshop of Senior Parliamentary staff be scheduled to take place in the second week of March 2024.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau resolved/decided:

That the Third workshop of Senior Parliamentary staff be held in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi in the second week of March 2024.

7.3 Arising from Agenda Item "5.4" Dates for the next meeting of the Bureau

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau resolved/decided that:

- (a) That the 16th Meeting of the Bureau be held in early November 2023 in Juba, Republic of South Sudan.
- (b) That the 17th Meeting of the Bureau be held in May 2024 in the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (a) That the 16th Meeting of the Bureau took place on 16th November 2023 at Pyramid Continental Hotel, Juba, Republic of South Sudan.
- (b) That the 17th Meeting of the Bureau be held in May 2024 in the United Republic of Tanzania.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau took note on the matter.

7.4 Arising from Agenda Item "5.5" Framework for enhancing linkages between EALA and National Assemblies/Parliaments

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau was informed that EALA and EAC National Legislatures were to undertake sensitization programme in the Partner States in April 2023. However, the sensitization programme did not take place as scheduled due to budgetary constraints on the part of EALA. The Bureau resolved/decided that:

The East African Legislative Assembly mobilizes funds for Sensitization programme.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (a) That, EALA is mobilizing funds for Sensitization programme.
- (b) That the Sensitization programme has been rescheduled to take place from 14th - 25th January 2024 in the Central and Northern Corridors.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau took note of the progress on the matter.

7.5 Arising from Agenda Item "5.6" Hosting of the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI)

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau resolved/decided that:

- (a) That the Republic of Kenya hosts EAPI on a permanent basis effectively.
- (b) That remittances for Financial Years 2020/2021, 2021/2022 be waived off for all Partner States on account of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (a) The Secretariat wrote to all EAC National Legislatures through letter **Ref. No. EALA/SP(7)/1** dated 12th June 2023 communicating the implementation of decisions of the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of the EAC Speakers among others, that the Republic of Kenya hosts EAPI on a permanent basis as requested.
- (b) That remittances for Financial Years 2020/2021, 2021/2022 were waived off for all Partner States on account of the effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic. **(Letter Ref. EALA/SP(7)1 dated 12th June 2023).**

(c) The current status of EAPI remittances is as indicated below:

SNO	PARTNER STATE	FY 2018/2019	FY 2019/2020	FY 2020/2021	FY 2021/2022	FY 2022/2023	Total Outstanding
1.	Burundi	0	0	Waived	Waived	0	540,000
2.	DRC	-	-	-	-	0	180,000
3.	Kenya	180,000	180,000	Waived	Waived	0	180,000
4.	Rwanda	0	0	Waived	Waived	0	540,000
5.	South Sudan	0	0	Waived	Waived	0	540,000
6.	Tanzania	0	0	Waived	Waived	0	540,000
7.	Uganda	180,000	180,000	Waived	Waived	0	180,000
	Total	360,000	360,000	Waived	Waived		2,700,000

Source: Office of the Clerk, EALA

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau resolved/decided:

Partner States should clear their outstanding arrears and remit their contributions.

7.6 Arising from Agenda Item "5.7" The next Chair of the Bureau

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau resolved/decided that:

- (a) That the next Chair of the Bureau will be the United Republic of Tanzania
- (b) That the next Chair of the Bureau after the United Republic of Tanzania will be the Republic of Kenya.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (a) That the United Republic of Tanzania is the current Chair of the Bureau
- (b) That the next Chair of the Bureau after the United Republic of Tanzania will be the Republic of Kenya.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau took note of the progress on the matter.

7.7 Arising from Agenda Item "5.8" Current and Emerging Issues at EAC

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau resolved/decided that:

To urge the Partner States to remit their annual contributions timely and to clear the outstanding arrears.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

(a) Status of Partner States contributions towards the EAC Budget is as reflected below:

STATUS OF PARTNER STATES' CONTRIBUTION AS AT 15TH NOVEMBER 2023

A. EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY MAIN BUDGET (EAC Secretariat, EALA, EACJ, LVBC, EAKC, EASTCO, EAHRC, EACA), amounts in USD

PARTNER STATE	ARREARS	CONTRIBUTION DUE 2023/2024	CONTRIBUTION PAID 2023/2024		TOTAL OUTSTANDING
1. Republic of Burundi	9,430,352	7,352,124	3,120,165	42%	13,662,311
2. Democratic Republic of Congo	7,352,124	7,352,124	-	0%	14,704,248
3. Republic of Kenya	20	7,352,124	7,352,124	100%	20
4. Republic of Rwanda	1,433	7,352,124	-	0%	7,353,557
5. Republic of South Sudan	29,416,634	7,352,124	6,093,993	83%	30,674,765
6. United Republic of Tanzania	-	7,352,124	7,229,430	98%	122,694
7. Republic of Uganda	-	7,352,124	6,010,720	82%	1,341,404
Total	46,200,563	51,464,868	29,806,432	58%	67,858,999

B. INTER UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF EAST AFRICA (IUCEA), amounts in USD

PARTNER STATE	ARREARS	CONTRIBUTION DUE 2023/2024	CONTRIBUTION PAID 2023/2024		TOTAL OUTSTANDING
1. Republic of Burundi	5,974,103	644,219		0%	6,618,322
2. Democratic Republic of Congo	644,219	644,219		0%	1,288,438
3. Republic of Kenya	(1,900)	644,219	644,194	100%	(1,875)
4. Republic of Rwanda	3,395,224	644,219		0%	4,039,443
5. Republic of South Sudan	3,464,047	644,219	533,977	83%	3,574,289
6. United Republic of Tanzania	2,035	644,219		0%	646,254
7. Republic of Uganda	-	644,219	562,128	87%	82,091
Total	13,477,728	4,509,533	1,740,299	39%	16,246,962

C. LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANISATION (LVFO), amounts in USD

PARTNER STATE	ARREARS	CONTRIBUTION DUE 2023/2024	CONTRIBUTION PAID 2023/2024		TOTAL OUTSTANDING
1. Republic of Burundi	741,971	465,500		0%	1,207,471
2. Republic of Kenya	48	465,500		0%	465,548
3. United Republic of Tanzania	574	465,500		0%	466,074
4. Republic of Uganda	5,106	465,500	380,751	82%	89,856
Total	747,698	1,862,000	380,751	20%	2,228,948

D. CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY OVERSIGHT AGENCY (CASSOA), amounts in USD

PARTNER STATE	ARREARS	CONTRIBUTION DUE 2023/2024	CONTRIBUTION PAID 2023/2024		TOTAL OUTSTANDING
1. Republic of Burundi	100,061	448,793		0%	548,854
2. Democratic Republic of Congo	-	448,793		0%	448,793
3. Republic of Kenya	-	448,793	224,400	50%	224,393
4. Republic of Rwanda	-	448,793	224,397	50%	224,397
5. Republic of South Sudan	1,683,595	448,793	371,993	83%	1,760,395
6. United Republic of Tanzania	-	448,793		0%	448,793
7. Republic of Uganda	0	448,793	448,793	100%	0
Total	1,783,656	3,141,551	1,269,583	40%	3,655,624

Totals	62,209,645	60,977,952	33,197,064	54%	89,990,533
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- (b) That the Republics of Burundi, Rwanda and South Sudan to report to the Bureau the current status of remittances.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau resolved/decided:

- (i) That the respective National Legislatures should ensure that the budget for the EAC is included in the appropriation of their National Budgets.
- (ii) Partner States should clear their outstanding arrears and remit their contributions on time.
- (iii) The Secretariat to verify and update the above matrix accordingly.

7.8 Arising out of Agenda Item 8.0 Proposal to establish Day-Care facilities for Legislators and staff of the EAC National Legislatures and the East African Legislative Assembly

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau took note on the matter and resolved/decided that:

To urge the National Parliaments that have not yet established daycare facilities in their respective Parliaments to do so.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- a) That the Parliament of the Republics of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and South Sudan have Day Care facilities or equivalent facilities.
- b) That the Republic of Burundi will establish day care facilities next year.
- c) That the Republic of Rwanda to determine a budget provision in the next Financial Year.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau took note of the above progress.

7.9 Arising out of Agenda Item 6.0 "Report on the state of preparedness for the next Inter-Parliamentary Games"

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau resolved/decided:

- (a) To await the Report of the Joint Planning Committee.
- (b) The Secretariat circulates the Report once it is adopted.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (a) That the Joint Parliamentary Committee met to discuss the report of the 12th IPG from 8th to 11th June 2023 at the EAC Headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania.
- (b) The Clerk of EALA submitted the Report of the 12th IPG to all National Legislatures on 3rd August 2023.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau resolved/decided:

That this matter be discussed as a substantive agenda item.

7.10 Arising out of Agenda Item 7.0 "Adoption of changes in the Sports Activities and the Rules"

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau took note of the changes in the Sports activities and Rules and resolved/decided:

- (a) To await the Report of the Joint Planning Committee.
- (b) That the Secretariat circulates the Report once it is adopted.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

That the JPC submitted its report on the changes in the Sports activities and the Rules.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau resolved/decided:

That this matter be discussed as a substantive agenda item.

7.11 Arising out of Agenda Item 8.0 "Adoption of the Consultant's Report on the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI)"

The meeting recalled that at the 14th meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 11th November 2022, the Bureau resolved/decided:

- (i) To adopt the Consultant's report for the development of the organizational structure, financing mechanisms, grading of staff and training modules of EAPI.
- (ii) To direct the Secretary to the Board of Trustees of EAPI to submit the Consultant's report to the 43rd Meeting of the Council scheduled for 27th November 2022; and
- (iii) To adopt the EAPI (Board of Trustees) Rules of Procedure, 2019 and the EAPI (Governing Council) Rules of Procedure, 2019 for implementation.

The meeting further recalled that the Secretary to the Board of Trustees of EAPI *vide* his Memo dated 12th January 2023 forwarded the Consultant's report to the Secretary General of the East African Community for inclusion to the agenda of the 43rd Meeting of the Council which was scheduled to take place on 27th November, 2022. The Council deferred the agenda item to the 44th Council meeting which was expected in August 2023.

At its 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau took note that the Council deferred the agenda item to the 44th Council meeting which was expected in August 2023.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (a) That the 44th Meeting of EAC Council of Ministers did not take place in August 2023
- (b) That the 44th Meeting of EAC Council of Ministers is rescheduled to take place on 23rd November in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau took note of the above progress.

7.12 Arising out of Agenda Item 9.0 "Launching of Specialized Courses under the auspices of East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI)"

The meeting recalled that at the 14th meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 11th November 2022, the Bureau resolved/decided to stay the launch of specialized online courses under the auspices of EAPI awaiting the decision of the 43rd meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers which was held on 27th November 2022. However, the matter was deferred to the 44th Meeting of Council of Ministers which was expected to be held in August 2023.

At its 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau further noted that the 44th Council of Ministers meeting did not take place in August 2023.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau took note of the above progress.

7.13 Arising out of Agenda Item 8.0 "Consideration of the draft Bill in the Establishment of the Speakers Bureau as an Organ of the Community"

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau resolved/decided:

- (a) That the Bureau be established as an Organ of the Community as earlier resolved through an amendment of the Treaty as provided under Article 150 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community.
- (b) That the Speaker, EALA submits the proposed amendment to the Treaty to the Council of Ministers for consideration.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (a) That the Summit approves by proclamation the Establishment of the EAC Bureau of Speakers as an Organ of the Community in line with Article 9(1) (h) of the Treaty for establishment of the East African Community.

- (b) The Speaker EALA submitted to the Chairperson of Council of Ministers explanatory notes on the Establishment of the Speakers Bureau as an Organ of the Community **(Letter Ref. EALA/CMIN/36 dated 25th May 2023)**.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau took note of the above progress.

7.14 Arising out of Agenda Item "10" 2023 Inter-Parliamentary Games

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau resolved/decided:

- (a) That the 13th IPG be hosted by the Republic of Rwanda in Kigali from 8th December 2023 and that the number of days be decided after receiving the JPC Report of the 12th IPG.
- (b) That the Republic of Rwanda take an active role in participating in Inter-Parliamentary Games in other Partner States.
- (c) For purposes of better planning and budgetary allocation:
 - (i) That the 14th IPG in 2024 will be hosted by the Republic of Kenya
 - (ii) That the 15th IPG will be hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (a) That the Republic of Rwanda will host the 13th IPG in Kigali.
- (b) The number of days to be decided by the Bureau.
- (c) That the 14th IPG in 2024 will be hosted by the Republic of Kenya
- (d) That the 15th IPG will be hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau took note of the above progress.

7.15 Arising out of Agenda Item 11 "Any Other Business" on Challenges facing EALA

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau resolved/decided:

That, the Clerk, EALA prepare a background Paper on the challenges facing EALA for consideration at the next meeting in November 2023 as a substantive agenda.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter and resolved to discuss the matter as a substantive Agenda item.

8.0 UPDATES ON THE PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE 13TH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GAMES

The meeting noted that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023 in Arusha, Tanzania, the Bureau resolved that the 13th IPG be hosted by the Republic of Rwanda in Kigali from 8th December 2023 and that the number of days be decided after receiving the JPC Report of the 12th IPG.

The Secretariat informed the meeting that they received a letter from the Speaker of Rwanda Chamber of Deputies requesting that the games take place from 1st – 10th December 2023 due to other engagements scheduled to take place in Rwanda and the availability of the sports facilities.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

- (a) That, the Clerk of EALA sent out letters to National Parliaments inviting them to participate in the 13th IPG in Kigali, Rwanda.
- (b) That, the preparatory meeting for the 13th IPG took place from 5th – 10th September in Kigali, Rwanda.

- (c) That the Rt. Hon. Speaker of EALA informed the Rt. Hon. Speaker of Rwanda Chamber of Deputies that the matter will be decided in the 16th Meeting of the Bureau planned for November 2023.
- (d) That the Bureau decides on the number of days for 13th IPG.

Further, the Bureau took note of the following matters arising from the report of the JPC:

- (i) Participation of the 13th IPG – All EAC Partner States had been invited to participate and have confirmed attendance with exception of DRC.
- (ii) The venue and the dates of the meeting remain Kigali Rwanda from 7th to 18th December, 2023 respectfully, summing up to 12 days. The travel date to Kigali being Thursday 7th December 2023.
- (iii) Participation of Members of Parliament in various disciplines - Teams for the various disciplines will be made up of Members of Parliament.
- (iv) Participation of Staff of Parliament in various disciplines – Staff of Parliament to participate in Athletics against their counterpart during the 13th IPG.
- (v) The JPC to review participation of Staff in Athletics during the 13th IPG and advise the Bureau accordingly.
- (vi) Rules and regulations - to include:
 - a. Adoption and use of a digital software to register and identify Members;
 - b. Formation of a Disciplinary Committee to address conflict;
 - c. Separation of Members and Staff in games; and
 - d. Trophies/ Medals will not be awarded to teams that will have been found to have flouted the rules.
- (vii) Umpires and Referees - The host Parliament facilitates officiation of the games and in case of any need of assistance, to communicate in good time.
- (viii) Accommodation – The host Parliament has identified preferred hotels for the delegates.

- (ix) Secretariat, protocol and other services – Each Parliament to provide at least four members of staff to work in close collaboration with EALA Secretariat during the 13th IPG games.
- (x) Ground Transport and Airport Transfers – The host parliament has recommended various service providers.
- (xi) Guest List – EALA Secretariat to coordinate the submission of a comprehensive guest list.
- (xii) Identification of Members – Parliaments of the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and EALA have submitted the biodata of their respective members of Parliament. The Republic of Burundi was requested to submit the said details to EALA like all other Partner States.
- (xiii) Medical Insurance – All Partner States are encouraged to acquire medical travel insurances and/or scout medical service providers that correspond with their medical insurances.
- (xiv) Disciplinary Matters – Each Member Parliament to forward to the secretariat names of two Members to be part of the Disciplinary Committee.
- (xv) Games for Members of Parliament with Disability – the host Parliament has identified Hilltop sports facility as the venue for the disciplines played by Members with Disability.
- (xvi) Theme for the 13th IPG – The theme for the 13th IPG is: “***For a Progressive, Peaceful and All-inclusive EAC***”.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau resolved/decided:

- (i) **That the number of days for the 13th IPG be 12 days with arrival date in Kigali being Thursday, 7th December 2023 and departure being Monday 19th December 2023.**
- (ii) **Teams for the various disciplines will be made up of Members of Parliament.**

- (iii) **Staff of Parliament to participate in Athletics against their counterpart during the 13th IPG.**
- (iv) **Participation of staff in the Games shall not reflect in the final tally of the results of respective Partner State.**
- (v) **The JPC to review participation of Staff in future Games and advise the Bureau accordingly.**
- (vi) **The following Rules and Regulations be adopted:**
 - (a) **Use of a digital software to register and identify Members;**
 - (b) **Formation of a Disciplinary Committee to address conflict;**
 - (c) **Separation of Members and Staff in games; and**
 - (d) **Trophies/ Medals will not be awarded to teams that will have been found to have flouted the rules.**
- (vii) **Each Member Parliament to forward to the secretariat names of two Members to be part of the Disciplinary Committee.**
- (viii) **The theme for the 13th IPG is: "For a Progressive, Peaceful and All-inclusive EAC".**

9.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT FRAMEWORK ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN EALA AND NATIONAL LEGISLATURES

The meeting recalled that at the 15th Meeting of the Bureau of EAC Speakers held on 19th May 2023, the Bureau directed the Secretariat to formulate a framework on areas of collaboration and report at the next meeting of the Bureau in October/November 2023.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the progress on the matter as follows:

The Secretariat developed the following areas for collaboration between EALA and EAC National Legislatures:-

- (a) Annual joint sensitization and outreach activities for EALA and National Parliaments.
- (b) Dedicated Parliamentary Forum on EAC Affairs for each National Parliament and to foster cooperation between and amongst themselves and with EALA.

- (c) Annual EAC State of the Community Address to be graced by representation from National Parliaments.
- (d) National Prayer Activities in the respective Partner States and to be attended by EAC Speakers or their designate and Speaker EALA.
- (e) Study and Bench-marking Visits to EAC Parliaments and EALA.
- (f) Online courses for staff and Members of Parliaments facilitated by resources mobilized by EALA.
- (g) Rotational sittings of EALA to provide an opportunity for Speakers and Presidents to Address EALA and for the Speaker EALA to address National Parliaments.
- (h) Inter-Parliamentary Games to entrench and deepen integration among EAC National Legislatures.
- (i) Inter-Parliamentary Liaison Committees.
- (j) Joint meeting at the start of every major international activity such as IPU, CPA, AU.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau took note of the progress.

10. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON CHALLENGES FACING EALA

The meeting recalled that at the 15th meeting of the Bureau held on 19th May 2023 in Arusha, Tanzania, the East African Legislative Assembly was tasked to prepare a background Paper on the challenges facing it for consideration by the Bureau at its 16th Meeting.

The Rt. Hon. Speakers took note of the following challenges being faced by EALA:

- (a) Inadequate Budget Allocation to EALA - The budget allocated to EALA since FY' 2020/2021 has steadily declined from an allocation of USD 21,138,783 million to USD 17 million despite the expansion of the Assembly in terms of Membership following the admission of the DRC and oversight activities in the seven Partner States.

- (b) Lack of Autonomy of EALA – Despite the Council decision of 26th February, 2016, in its 33rd meeting granting EALA and EACJ both financial and administrative autonomy; this resolution is yet to be implemented. The Assembly requested the intervention of the EAC Speakers’ Bureau and the Summit of the EAC Heads of State on this matter to reach its conclusive end.
- (c) Language of the Community - Article 137 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community stipulates that English shall be the official language of the Community. For effective participation by all Members of EALA, the Treaty needs to be amended to include Kiswahili and French as official languages of the Community.
- (d) EX-Officio Members of the Assembly (Council of Ministers) have not properly seized this opportunity to offer the expected linkages between the two organs. The Council of Ministers is the policy making organ of the Community whereas the Assembly is required to translate all these policy directives into laws for the Community. The policies are not properly enunciated; Bills are neither initiated nor submitted on time. This slow decision-making process impacts negatively on how much other Organs can do.
- (e) Lack of a legislative agenda - the Council has never communicated to the Assembly the proposed legislative agenda for each respective year and thereby planning and budgeting for EALA sessions remains an unforeseen. Whereas Members of EALA have initiated Private Members’ Bills on diverse subjects, the Council has always opposed almost all the Private Members’ Bills, instead of giving the Assembly support and appreciate their initiatives.
- (f) Establishment of the Bureau of EAC Speakers - EALA Commission feels that the Summit may consider to issue a Communique and proclaim the EAC Speakers Bureau to be an organ of the Community in line with Article 9(1)(h) of the Treaty.

In consideration of the above progress, the Bureau resolved/decided:

- (i) **The resolution of the Council to grant EALA and EACJ both financial and administrative autonomy should be implemented.**

- (ii) Amendment of the Treaty to recognize Kiswahili and French as official languages of the Community should be expedited. Further, adequate funds should be set aside to facilitate the necessary infrastructure such as human resources to enable the Community and EALA in particular, to transact its business in either English, Kiswahili or French.**
- (iii) The Council to focus more on legislation as opposed to protocols. EALA holds the view that legislation has more effect than protocols.**
- (iv) The Council of Ministers be urged to table the legislative programme before the Assembly to facilitate effective planning and budgeting.**
- (v) The Bureau be established as an Organ of the Community.**
- (vi) The Speaker EALA, conveys the above challenges under paragraph (i – v) facing EALA to the Chairperson, Council of Ministers.**

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Any Other Business.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The report was adopted after being proposed by the Republic of South Sudan and seconded by the Republic of Burundi.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on Thursday 16th November 2023 at 1850 hrs.

Signed by:

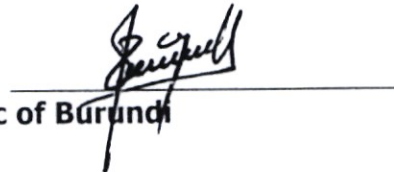
Hon. Tarimba Gulam Abbas, MP
**Representing the Speaker of the National Assembly of
the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson**



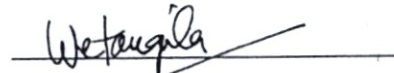
Rt. Hon. NDABIRABE Gelase Daniel
**Speaker of the National Assembly
Republic of Burundi**



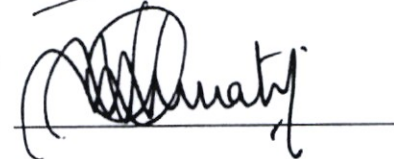
Rt. Hon. NKURUNZIZA Fabrice
Second Deputy Speaker of the Senate, Republic of Burundi



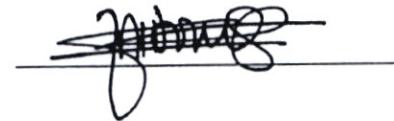
Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Moses M. Wetang'ula, EGH, MP
**Speaker, National Assembly of the
Republic of Kenya**



Hon. Sen. Veronicah Maina, MP
**Senator & Member of the Speaker's Panel
Representing the Speaker of the Senate of the Republic Kenya**



Rt. Hon. MUKABALISA Donatille
**Speaker of Chamber of Deputies
Republic of Rwanda**



Rt. Hon. (Dr) Jemma Nunu Kumba
**Speaker of Transitional National Legislative Assembly
Republic of South Sudan**



Rt. Hon. Deng Deng Akoon
**Speaker, Council of State (The Senate)
Republic of South Sudan**



Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, MP
**Deputy Speaker
Representing the Speaker, Parliament of Uganda**



Rt. Hon. Joseph NTAKIRUTIMANA
Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly

