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KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

TENTH PARLIAMENT - SECOND SESSION

REPORT OF THE KENYA PARLIAMENT DELEGATION TO THE
THIRD SESSION OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE FOR EAST AFRICA

(1ST TO 3RD APRIL, 2008)

AT

PROTEA HOTEL COURTYARD, DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANZANIA

Clerk's chambers,
National Assembly,
NAIROBI

April, 2008

PREFACE

Hon. Speaker Sir,

1. The Inter-parliamentary Committee of East Africa is a forum for Members of Parliament from the five member states of the East African Community, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi and the committee's objectives are:-
 - (i) Establishing permanent framework of dialogue as an avenue for discussing challenges facing the region;
 - (ii) Strengthening inter-parliamentary confidence;
 - (iii) Supplementing government efforts in conflict resolution mechanisms and in pursuit for peace and security;
 - (iv) Fostering political and economic cooperation, freedom of movement of goods and services;
 - (v) Harmonizing views in international fora and encouraging the taking of joint positions for the benefit of the region
 - (vi) Setting up regional inter-parliamentary verification mechanisms especially in matters of cross border accusations

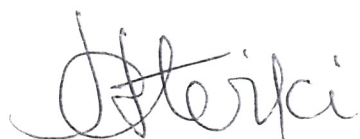
2. The committee held its third sitting from 1st to 3rd April, 2008 at the Protea Hotel, Courtyard in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Participants were drawn from Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. The Kenyan delegation comprised:-
 - (i) Hon (Prof) Hellen Sambili, M.P. - Leader
 - (ii) Hon (Capt) Clement Muchiri Wambugu, M.P.
 - (iii) Mr. George Gazemba - Secretary

Hon. Speaker Sir,

3. On behalf of the delegation, I wish to express gratitude to you for entrusting us with the task of representing this House at the meeting. I also wish to express gratitude to the secretariat of the East African Community for putting in place all arrangements for the meeting and ensuring that the meeting was a success. Finally I wish to commend the office of the Clerk for the technical support and overall guidance, which were very essential.

Hon. Speaker Sir,

4. On behalf of the delegation, it is now my pleasant duty and privilege to table this report to the House for consideration and adoption

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Hellen Sambili', written in black ink.

Hon. (Prof) Hellen Sambili, M.P.

Leader of delegation

3rd April, 2008

1,0 INTRODUCTION

1,1, Convening of the Session

The Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee for East Africa (“the Inter-Parliamentary Committee”) was convened in accordance with the Calendar of the Activities for the period January – June 2008. The purposes of the Meeting were to address the following issues:-

- (a) A review of the implementation of previous decisions;
- (b) Articulation of a Comprehensive Plan of Action in Inter-Parliamentary Co-operation; and
- (c) A review of the Committee’s placement within the East African Community’s institutional framework.

1.2. Participation

The Meeting was attended by the Representative of the Speaker of the National Assembly of The United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Job Yusto Ndugai, MP, (Presiding Officer, National Assembly); the Representative of the Speaker of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Prof. Hellen Sambili, MP; the Representative of the Speaker of the of the Republic of Rwanda, Hon. Seth Esri Kamanzi, Senator, Chamber of Deputies, Republic of Rwanda; and Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee whose names are shown in the list attached hereto as **Annex VI**.

Apologies from the Rt. Hon. Speakers of the National Assemblies of The United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Rwanda who, on account of other pressing official commitments, could not attend the Meeting, were noted.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee noted the inability of the National Assemblies of the Republic of Burundi, the National Assembly of the Republic of Uganda and the East African Legislative Assembly to attend the Session. In view of the strict requirements of the Rules of Procedure on representation of all the Partner States, the Inter-Parliamentary Committee

Final Report



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decided to proceed on a consultative basis in order to save on costs that would be occasioned by an adjournment. The report of the outcome should thereafter be availed to the non-represented parties for comment and adoption.

1.3. Bureau

Upon consultation among the delegations present, the Meeting was chaired by Hon. Job Y. Ndugai, MP, of the National Assembly, The United Republic of Tanzania The rapporteur was Hon. Capt. Clement M. Wambugu, MP, Member of the National Assembly, Republic of Kenya.

1.4. Adoption of the Agenda

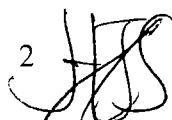
The Inter-Parliamentary Committee adopted the Agenda attached hereto as **Annex I**.

1.5. Opening Statements

In her welcoming remarks, the Deputy Secretary General (Political Affairs), Hon. Beatrice B. Kiraso, thanked the Speaker and National Assembly of The United Republic of Tanzania for hosting the meeting. Noting with regret the inability of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee to meet for the last three years, on account of electoral and related national processes, she called upon the Partner States to devise a way out of this problem which paralyses many EAC Activities. She briefed the Inter-Parliamentary Committee on the Community's progress in political affairs including the steps being systematically undertaken towards the establishment of a Political Federation. The Deputy Secretary General also highlighted the programmes being undertaken to address such fundamental issues as good governance, democracy, public accountability and social justice. In respect of all this she called for support from the Partner States and all EAC stakeholders.

In a statement read on his behalf by Hon. Ndugai, MP, the Speaker of the National Assembly of The United Republic of Tanzania, Rt. Hon. Samuel Sitta, MP, warmly welcomed the members of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee to Dar es Salaam. While outlining the basis for integration he cited the late Mwalimu Nyerere's 1997 assessment and prioritization of unity for purposes of social and economic progress of the African peoples.



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In this regard, he lauded the revival and progress to date of the East African Community as a purposeful engine for change in the region. While underscoring the need for a big market and investment area in the EAC region, Rt. Hon. Sitta lauded the expansion of the Community's country membership to include the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Rwanda. For purpose of further progress in the integration process, he emphasized the need for wide consultations with the people and all stakeholders to be spearheaded by, among others, parliaments and parliamentarians. This would be the most effective channel for realizing a people centred regional integration.

In a statement read on his behalf by Hon. Prof. Sambili, MP, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Republic of Kenya, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Marende, MP, emphasized the role of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee as a forum for enhancing inter-state co-operation at the level of parliamentarians. He underscored the primary role which parliaments, as the representatives of the population, play in enhancing and sustaining good governance through legislation and oversight. On the issue of co-operation and ultimate integration, Hon. Marende lauded the East African Community as a mechanism for collectively addressing such undertones to development as poverty, poor infrastructure, illiteracy, regional conflicts, HIV/AIDs and other sicknesses and terrorism. He urged for wide consultations and consensus on all aspects of integration and development. He further advised on the need for periodic assessment of the achievements and progress in all integration programmes and activities.

The Leader of the Delegation of the Parliament of the Republic of Rwanda, Hon. Seth Esri Kamanzi expressed his delegation's gratitude for the invitation to the meeting. He noted that the Inter-Parliamentary Committee as a key forum for Rwanda for purposes of further induction into the integration process. He briefed the Meeting about Rwanda's parliamentary system which comprises the Senate and Chamber of Deputies and in which women representation stands at 48.8%, the highest in the world. Sen. Kamanzi reiterated Rwanda's commitment to regional integration as a conduct for the region's socio-economic development.

The statements are attached hereto as **Annexes II, III, IV and V** respectively.



2.0 REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR EAST AFRICA

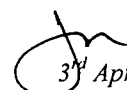
The Inter-Parliamentary Committee recalled that at its last meeting held on 23rd – 25th February, 2005,¹ it reviewed the implementation of previous decisions (*covering the proposed appointment of EAC Ministers, according to EAC sufficient prominence of home and abroad; proposed establishment of a project monitoring mechanism exchange of information by legislatures; Policy harmonization and rationalisation, co-ordination of efforts and enhancement of the role of the National Assemblies in EAC matters;*). The Inter-Parliamentary Committee also took note of the outcome of the Nanyuki II Inter-parliamentary Seminar which took place in Entebbe on February 21st – 22nd, 2005.

Regarding the follow up of the recommendations then made and subsequently adopted by the Council of Ministers at its 10th Meeting held on 8th – 9th August, 2005, the Inter-Parliamentary Committee noted reports that-

- (a) the National Assemblies and the East African Legislative Assembly have been following up closely on the implementation of the outcome of Nanyuki II and Nanyuki III Seminars on enhancement of inter-parliamentary co-operation in political affairs;
- (b) the Governments of the Partner States have appointed Ministers solely responsible for EAC matters; the question of such Ministers residence in Arusha may not be feasible now as these Ministers are still members of the Cabinet in the Partner States and are answerable to their respective National Assemblies;
- (c) the question of the National Assemblies' amendment of their Standing Orders to enable reports by Members of the East African Legislative Assembly on EAC matters to be debated by the respective National Assemblies is being handled through appropriate Standing Committees;
- (d) each National Assembly has a budget line for EAC matters;

¹ *On account of requests by the Partner States often occasioned by such political developments as electoral processes, the Inter-Parliamentary Committee has not met for over three years.*



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- (e) the Clerks of the National Assemblies and the Clerk of the East African Legislative Assembly need to be reminded to transmit to each other copies of the records of all relevant debates of meetings of their National Assemblies and the East African Legislative Assembly respectively;
- (f) establishment of parliamentary committees specifically for EAC matters may not meet the requirements of each National Assembly's Standing Orders on the establishment of Committees;
- (g) that the following matters were taken within the context of the fast tracking process on whose progress the Heads of State decided at the 6th Extraordinary Summit which was held in Ngurdoto, Arusha, on 20th August, 2007:
 - (i) Sensitization of the people of East Africa on the projections of the integration process with a view to preparing them for a possible referendum on the establishment of a Political Federation;
 - (ii) Including progress in the Comprehensive Plan of Action in Political Co-operation in the process of Fast Tracking the Political Federation;
 - (iii) The Partner States' establishment of regional election monitoring systems in tandem with the Fast Tracking process; and
- (h) the Heads of State cover EAC developments, projects and related matters in their state of the nation addresses;
- (i) the implementation, by the Partner States, of all the ratified protocols and other instruments is on course;
- (j) the National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya urged the Government of Kenya to legislate the increased participation of women in effective positions and to engender all her legislation; this matter is being taken care of;




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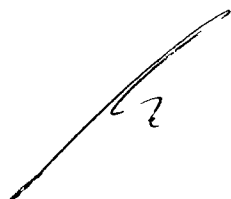
- (k) the National Assemblies do support the Great Lakes Inter-Parliamentary Forum (whose membership includes the 5 EAC Partner States and whose mandate stems from the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Stability and Development), the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa Inter-Parliamentary Forum (which was formed in Mombasa in 2004, and whose membership includes the EAC Partner States), the Amani Forum (whose membership comprises individual Parliamentarians) and do liaise with governmental authorities on this matter.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee recommends to the Council that -

- (a) **co-operation and exchange of views through the Nanyuki series be maintained and strengthened;**
- (b) **the National Assemblies examine the existing Great Lakes inter-parliamentary fora whose focus is similar and harmonise them in order to avoid duplication of efforts;**
- (c) **that the East African Legislative Assembly, through its appropriate Committee, prepares a brief on the role, mandate and progress of the different fora;**
- (d) **parliamentary efforts and contribution on the Political Federation be pursued within the context of the decisions made by the Heads of State at the 6th Extraordinary Summit held on 20th August, 2007.**

3.0 ARTICULATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CO-OPERATION

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee observed that pursuant to the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community “the Treaty”), the Inter-Parliamentary Committee is charged with formulating a Comprehensive Implementation Programme of Action for its role in the integration process i.e. in inter-parliamentary co-operation as far as implementation of the



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Treaty and the East African Community Development Strategy is concerned.²

In determining this programme, the Inter-parliamentary Committee will take into account the following:

- (a) the provisions (strategic interventions) of the East African Community Development Strategy 2006 – 2010);³
- (b) the expansion in 2006 of the country membership of the East African Community to include the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Rwanda whose parliamentary traditions, practices and procedures bear salient differences from the Westminster version that applies to the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Uganda, The United Republic of Tanzania and East African Legislative Assembly; this expansion has brought a new dimension in the strategies and focus of, and challenges to the regional integration momentum;
- (c) the need for amendment of the Treaty; and
- (d) relevant political developments in the EAC region.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee decided that its Comprehensive Implementation Programme of Action for the period 2006 – 2010 will project the following key specific pre-occupations:

- (a) Support for EALA's forging of stronger linkages between EALA and the five National Assemblies;**
- (b) Enhancement of the involvement of the National Assemblies of the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Rwanda in inter-parliamentary co-operation; and**
- (c) Contribution to the Council of Ministers' proposal to amend the Treaty.**

² Articles 20 and 21

³ Paragraph 4.6.3

4.0 REVIEW OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S PLACEMENT IN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY'S INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee, which acquired its current name and definite mandate after the coming into force of the Treaty⁴ recalled that it started as a forum for the Speakers of the National Assemblies. The role of that forum, which started in 1997, was to enable the Rt. Hon. Speakers and other parliamentarians contribute to:

- (a) the revival of co-operation in different fields; and
- (b) the subsequent negotiations of a Treaty to establish a firm basis for co-operation and ultimate integration.

As a sectoral committee, the Inter-Parliamentary Committee has been primarily charged with policy input on matters of inter-parliamentary interfacing, exchange of views, drawing on best practices and keeping under constant review the implementation of sectoral programmes on inter-parliamentary co-operation..

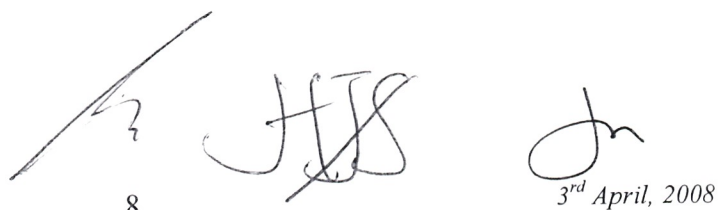
A view has been expressed by East African Legislative Assembly that to the extent that inter-parliamentary co-operation is largely a political process on such issues as parliamentary oversight and legislation, the Inter-Parliamentary Committee ought to be an East African Legislative Assembly Committee. According to the East African Community Development Strategy 2006 – 2010, the development objective of the East African Legislative Assembly, includes as strategic interventions *“the forging of stronger linkages between the East African Legislative Assembly and national parliaments”*⁵.

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee -

- (a) **observes that its role and mandate under the Treaty and its focus within the Development Strategy are political in nature and inter-parliamentary in practice;**

⁴ On 7th July, 2000

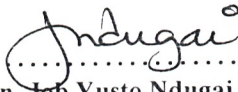
⁵ op cit footnote 3




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- (b) recommends to the Council to transfer the co-ordination of the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee to the East African Legislative Assembly.

SIGNED by the Leaders of Delegation this 3rd day of April, 2008.


.....
Hon. Job Yusto Ndugai, MP
National Assembly
The United Republic of Tanzania


.....
Hon. Prof. Hellen Sambili, MP
National Assembly
Republic of Kenya


.....
Hon. Seth Esri Kamanzi
Senator
Rwanda Parliament
Republic of Rwanda



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**MEETING OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE FOR EAST AFRICA**

FINAL SESSION

**Protea Hotel Courtyard, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Thursday, 3rd April, 2008**

AGENDA

1.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE PRELIMINARY REPORT

2.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**MEETING OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
FOR EAST AFRICA**

**PROTEA HOTEL COURTYARD, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
2ND APRIL, 2008**

**WELCOMING STATEMENT BY THE
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (POLITICAL AFFAIRS),
HON. BEATRICE B. KIRASO**

**Rt. Hon. Chairperson and Speaker of the National
Assembly of
The United Republic of Tanzania, Rt. Hon. Samuel
Sitta, MP**

**The Representative of the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the
National
Assembly of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Prof. Hellen
Sambili, MP**

**The Representative of the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the
National
Assembly of the Republic of Rwanda, Hon. Seth Esri
Kamanzi, MP**

Hon. Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee

On behalf of the Hon. Secretary General of the East African Community and on behalf of the Secretariat, I have the honour to welcome you to this Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee for East Africa. Much as two of the five Partner States and the East African Legislative Assembly have not been able to send their respective delegations to this Meeting, there is need to appreciate your presence and utilize it for consultative purposes. Normally when at EAC meetings we do not realize a quorum, which is made up of all Partner States' representation, we transform the meeting into a consultative forum.

I express my appreciation to the Rt. Hon. Speaker and National Assembly of The United Republic of Tanzania for accepting to host this meeting in Dar es Salaam. Dar es Salaam has a special place in the history of the revived East African Community. It was in Karimjee Hall, a short distance away from here, that the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community finally came into force with the conclusion of the deposit of Partner States' Instruments of Ratification of the Treaty. The ambience and comfort of this aptly called Westminster Hall should augur well with the Committee's deliberations.

Rt. Hon. Chairperson,

Since 1998, when it used to be a forum for the Rt. Hon. Speakers, the Inter-Parliamentary Committee has, played a significant eloquent and sustained role in shaping the revived East African Community. This forum contributed to the negotiations of the Treaty and that of the Treaty's key annexures such as the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Customs Union. The Committee has also contributed to the institutional development of the Community. It, therefore, behoves me to applaud the Committee for its continued contribution to progress of the integration process.

Rt. Hon. Chairperson,

It is with regret that this Committee has not had its regular meetings for almost three years. This unsavoury circumstance has arisen out of Partner States' requests for postponements of meetings during times of national political processes such as elections, and sometimes other commitments. There was always a three year period when elections followed each other in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. And now with the admission of Burundi and Rwanda the situation is likely to get worse as their election years will further affect meetings like this one and others. This process has the tendency to paralyse EAC activities. The Secretariat is urging the Partner States to find a way out of this undesirable tendency, possibly by harmonizing on the National Elections' period of the Partner States. This will be even more necessary as we move to the

ultimate goal of a Political Federation where again Partner States will participate in election of office bearers at that level.

Rt. Hon. Chairperson,

The agenda before you is designed largely to ensure continuity in the discharge of the Committee's work. It is also tailored in such a manner that the Committee's evidently new membership gets inducted in the work of the Committee. To this extent while you review the implementation of the Committee's previous decisions and recommendations you will be obliged to look ahead and perceive what contribution you will make in realizing the Community's strategy on inter-parliamentary co-operation.

While conceiving a Comprehensive Plan of Action, you will be enjoined to take into account the Treaty provisions of establishing an East African Political Federation and decisions of the Summit of Heads of State regarding the fast tracking. This remains the ultimate goal of the co-operation arrangements which are fast metamorphosing into full integration of the five Partner States' social political and economic arenas.

Rt. Hon. Chairperson,

I need to note there that the work of this Committee will to a large extent support the activities of my Department of Political Affairs, which is charged with the implementation of Article 124 of the Treaty. The mandate of this provision

covers developing and consolidating democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, promotion of peaceful resolution of conflicts among the Partner States, safeguarding common values and fundamental interest and independence of the Community and to promote and enhance interface between the National Assemblies and the East African Legislative Assembly.

I take this opportunity to also update you on the process of Consultations on Fast Tracking the Political Federation. At the conclusion of Consultations in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda a report was presented to the Summit in August, 2007, and while there was support for the Political Federation, the Summit decided that it will remain the ultimate goal to be established after the Common Market and Monetary Union by 2012. The Summit directed us to continue to mobilize and deepen sensitization on political integration, stimulate greater political will to promote deeper economic integration and to lock-in gains achieved from economic co-operation; and further noted that the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Burundi shall commence consultation processes on the establishment of a Political Federation.

Consequently National Consultations were launched in Burundi and Rwanda on 28th February to 3rd March, 2008 respectively.

Your Committee, drawn from arms of Governments that represent the people, is therefore, a key stakeholder in this activity and allow me to invite you to work with us to realize the abovementioned Summit decisions.

Finally, on governance, the Secretariat has initiated meetings with Experts from governments' departments that deal with:

- Democracy and rule of law;
- Anti-corruption, ethics and integrity;
- Social justice and equal opportunities;
- Human rights; and
- Gender equality

The result will be a Regional Framework on Good Governance and Anti-Corruption in East Africa with the above listed areas as the main pillars.

Rt. Hon. Chairperson,

In conclusion, let me assure you of the Secretariat's commitment and ability to facilitate deliberations of this Committee to enable you have your meetings on a regular basis.

With these remarks, I thank you for listening to me and wish you well.

**Asante Mheshimiwa Spika,
Asanteni Waheshimiwa Wabunge.**

**WELCOMING STATEMENT BY HON. SAMUEL J. SITTA (MP),
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO THE EAST
AFRICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
ON 3RD APRIL, 2008 AT COURTYARD HOTEL
DAR ES SALAAM**

Honourable Chairperson;

Honourable Members of Parliament;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Hon. Chairperson,

I can think of no better way to preface my remarks this morning than with the words of the founding father of the Tanzanian nation, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere. At the 40th Anniversary of Ghana's independence in 1997, Mwalimu declared: ***"...of all the sins that Africa can commit, the sin of despair would be the most unforgivable... unity will not make us rich, but it can make it difficult for Africa and the African peoples to be disregarded and humiliated... my generation led Africa to political freedom. The current generation of leaders and peoples of Africa must pick up the flickering torch of African freedom, refuel it with their enthusiasm, and carry it forward"***.

I feel greatly honoured and privileged (on behalf of the Parliament of Tanzania) to warmly welcome you all distinguished delegates to this important meeting. In particular I welcome you to Dar es Salaam, the cradle of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee for East Africa. I trust that given the vicinity of our countries, most of you might have visited Dar es Salaam before. I hope that you will find the weather in Dar es Salaam this time around much more pleasant than the rest of the year. On our side I am gratified to inform you that we have put in place the requisite facilities and arrangements to make this meeting a success and your stay comfortable.

Hon. Chairperson,

East African Community like any other human family has expanded in size over the past few years. This has happened with the admission in recently of our brothers Rwanda and Burundi to the East African Community. We all know that when the treaty to the establishment of the community was signed in 1999, there were only three members, namely: Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. But now membership has increased to five. In this respect, I extend a special welcome to our Rwandan and Burundian brothers and sisters who are attending the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting for the first time. We in Tanzania we have a popular Swahili saying which goes: ***"Umoja ni nguvu na utengano ni udhaifu"***. It is our conviction therefore, that the coming of Rwanda and Burundi to the East African family will further underpin our resolve to achieving sustainable regional integration in the region.

Hon. Chairperson,

This meeting is taking place after the postponement of similar consecutive meetings in the past two years. The last meeting, I am told, took place in Entebbe, Uganda in February, 2005. These meetings did not take place because, in almost all member countries, elections were still going on. Of course, we all know that, we Parliamentarians are a product of the electoral process. Unless elections are conducted there is no way we can claim our existence. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you for your election as people's representatives. Your election is indeed a clear testimony of the confidence and trust that people have reposed in you.

Hon. Chairperson,

Regional integration is about people. Unless, the people, either directly or through their own elected representatives, are involved there can be no sustainable regional integration. This is indeed a historical fact. In this respect, we Parliamentarians have a key role to ensuring that government act in consonance with the needs and aspirations of our people. It is against this backdrop that the treaty for the establishment of the East African Community created the East African Legislative Assembly as one of the organs of the community. It is therefore imperative for us to take the lead in all issues relating to peoples development and welfare. We are enjoined to have a thorough understanding of government policies and programs before people whom we represent are called upon to implement them.

Hon. Chairperson,

The Inter-Parliamentary Committee for East Africa was established in 2002 with one main object: to chart out mechanisms for bringing about effective people centered regional integration in East Africa. This is, to me, still a relevant and overriding object of this important organ. Six years after its establishment, we have seen progressive efforts to move towards political federation which is the ultimate objective of the East African Community. As I said earlier our next-door neighbours have recently joined our family. I sincerely thank the Heads of State of the member countries for the political will they have demonstrated to take us forward.

Hon. Chairperson,

It is gratifying that as we speak today our people are more united than in the past, our economies are much more integrated and our Parliaments closely cooperate with each other. However, as we all know regional integration is a process. Obviously there are still many challenges ahead of us. It is therefore imperative, at this juncture, to take stock of how ~~for~~ we have fared in the past six years.

Hon. Chairperson,

I am delighted to note that among other things this meeting will extensively deliberate on the following topics: -

1. Articulate a Comprehensive Implementation Programme of Action on Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Taking into Account the Expanded Membership of the Community and

the East African Community Development Strategy (2006-2010).

2. Review the Committee's Placement in the East African Community's Institutional Framework.

Honourable Chairperson,

I am hopeful that this meeting will enable every one of us present here to discuss and come up with much clearer understanding of the real issues involved in the integration of East African Countries more importantly it will create an enabling environment for all of us, especially the parliamentarians who are the elected representatives of the people to participate **fully** and **fruitfully** in the on-going integration process in our region.

Honourable Chairperson,

I believe, as all of you do, we Parliamentarians in East Africa have more leverage on the activities of the East African Community. This is because we have in each member state a national assembly whose function is to oversee and advice the government on the implementation of various policies at the domestic arena. Besides, we have the East African Legislative Assembly whose mandate is to legislate on issues of common concern to East African Region. Lastly we have the Inter-Parliamentary Committee for East Africa which coordinates at the regional level, our efforts towards regional integration in East Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I wish to reiterate my warm welcome to you all to Dar es Salaam the birth place of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee. I once again wish you a pleasant stay among your brothers and sisters. Last but not least I wish you fruitful deliberation.

I thank you for your kind attention.

**STATEMENT BY HON. (PROF) HELLEN SAMBILI, M.P.
LEADER OF KENYAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION TO THE
THIRD MEETING OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
INTER-PARLIAMENTARIES COMMITTEE AT PROTEA
HOTEL, COURTYARD IN DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANZANIA, 1ST
TO 3RD APRIL, 2008 ON BEHALF OF SPEAKER OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KENYA HON. KENNETH
MARENDE**

Hon Speakers,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, I take this opportunity to convey apologies from the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Hon. Kenneth Marende, M.P. who could not attend this meeting owing to unavoidable circumstances.

It is my great pleasure and privilege to address this meeting on behalf of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya and Parliament of Kenya. This forum is an important milestone for all of us. As representatives of the people, we have gathered here to put our minds together and agree on the role each one of us both as a Parliament and an individual should play to promote the regional integration process to logical conclusions as spelt out in the treaty establishing the East African Community.

Honourable Members,

I say this because I believe that we, as leaders have a big role to play in engineering peaceful co-existence of our people and directing the focus and energies of our people towards economic development of their countries and the region.

East Africa Community is faced with the challenge of grounding the process of integration among its people by ensuring that the benefits of the integration are realized at grassroot levels. Indeed, in most instances, the people especially the business community are ahead. It is bureaucracy across common borders that tend to tie or pull them back. If all people in the region were able to focus and do what is required on the potential that exists in the integrated East Africa, with each partner state able to exploit its comparative advantages, then perhaps our fears would be eliminated. The effective implementation of the East African Customs Union is a good starting point and needs our support as leaders to eliminate any bottlenecks.

Our countries face major challenges. They include, corruption, poor infrastructure poverty, HIV/AIDS, terrorism and conflicts in neighbouring countries. In this age of closer integration, we need to deal with these challenges together. There is need to intensify consultations with a view to promoting consensus on matters of common interest. Every action to be taken in the

integration process must be as a result of wider consultation and consensus by stakeholders.

Honourable Members,

Peace, Security and Stability are prerequisites to sustainable development. Conflicts, terrorism and HIV/AIDS pose and impede the development of our region. As global efforts are being made to deal with these problems, team effort on our part will no doubt contribute to our success in tackling these challenges, and to give assurance to our visitors and investors that this region is safe for them to invest in.

There is need for review and improvement of the various East African Community integration programmes. The Inter-Parliamentary Committee and various organs of the community need to be regularly examining the various East African Community Development Strategies against their projections and issuing reports regularly to stakeholders. This will assure stakeholders of the unassailability of the integration. All EAC economic projections should be aimed at building a regional sustainable economy, which is essential for improving living standards of the people.

Honourable Members,

May I recognize and commend the East African Legislative Assembly and the Heads of State of the East African countries for the important role they have played and continue to play in

the integration process. I invite fellow Parliamentarians of the member states to join them in making the integration process a reality within the very near future. We need to sensitize our people on the significance and importance of the integration with a view to getting their support. The region stands to gain more as a block than as individuals. “No man is an island, no man can stand alone”, “united we stand, divided we fall”. The changing global, political and economic dynamics demand that we face global issues as a team.

The inter-parliamentary committee of East African Community initiative was established for a purpose whose end result is for the benefit of member states and I appeal to all member states to take the meetings of the committee seriously by attending and contributing to issues under discussion if the committee is to have a bright future.

Honourable Members,

On behalf of Parliament of Kenya, may I affirm the fact that Kenya is committed to the establishment of functional and meaningful integration of the various East African nations. We believe that regular consultations, honest and sober dialogue on controversial issues and above all, political will and vision will be crucial to a functional and meaningful integration. We also welcome Rwanda and Burundi to the community.

Thank you for your kind attention and long live the East African Community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hellen Sambili'. The signature is stylized with a large, circular initial 'H' and a long, sweeping underline.

Hon. (Prof) Hellen Sambili, M.P.

April 2008

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPEAKER OF
THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, PARLIAMENT OF RWANDA,
HON. SETH ESRI KAMANZI.

- Right Honourable Speaker,
- Honourable Members,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Rwanda Parliamentary delegation, I wish to express our sincere gratitude for the invitation extended to Rwanda Parliament to participate in this very important Forum. This Forum is of great relevance to Rwanda because, being a new member of the East African Community, we need to be conversant with all aspects of the functions of the Community and its institutions, especially the working relations of the five sister national parliaments.

- Right Honourable Speaker,
- Honourable Members,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our deep appreciation goes to those distinguished members who supported our tireless and long-standing application to join the Community. We sincerely thank you for that brotherly solidarity.

As you are aware, the Rwandan Parliament is bicameral, composed of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. By East African standards, we are indeed a small Parliament, just 26 Senators and 80 Deputies. However, being small does not in any way diminish our Parliament's qualitative attributes, and I am happy to point out at this juncture that our Parliament has the largest number of women, not only in East Africa, but in the whole world, standing at 48.8%.

- Right Honourable Speaker,
- Honourable Members,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

We in Rwanda consider our joining the Community as a step in the right direction and as a catalyst for regional integration and socio-economic advancement of our respective peoples and countries, and this further cements the historical and cultural ties between our peoples.

I wish to reiterate Rwanda's full commitment to the philosophy behind the guiding principles and vision of the Community.

You realize that it is the first time that the Rwanda Parliament has participated in this Forum. However, we are of the opinion that our modest contribution now and in the future will have an impact on strengthening the cherished ideals of the Community.

- Right Honourable Speaker,
- Honourable Members,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my sincere wish that the recommendations and decisions adopted in this meeting will, as expected, bear fruits for the mutual benefit of our respective Parliaments and peoples.

I thank you for your kind attention

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. **Hon. Prof. Hellen Sambili, MP**
Kenya National Assembly
P. O. Box 41842 - 00100
Nairobi
Tel. No.: 254 2848000
254 722 692 842
Fax No: 254 20 243694
E-mail: terikihellen@yahoo.com

2. **Hon. Capt. Clement M. Wambugu, MP**
Kenya National Assembly
P. O. Box 41842 – 00100
Nairobi
Tel. No.: 254 722 776606
Fax No: 254 20 243694
E-mail: wambugu@iuttsurf.com

3. **Mr. George Gazemba**
Clerk Assistant
National Assembly of Kenya
P. O. Box 41842 – 00100
Nairobi
Tel No: 2848384 / 0728 024252
Fax No: 254 243694
E-mail: gazemba@yahoo.co.uk

TANZANIA

1. **Hon. Job Yusto Ndugai, MP**
National Assembly of Tanzania
P. O. Box 914
Dodoma
Tel No: 255 26 2322761 – 5
Mob: 255 786 384475
E-mail: jobndugai@hotmail.com

2. **Hon. Zubeir Ali Maulid, MP**
National Assembly (Bunge)
Zanzibar
Tel. No.: 0777 413121

E-mail: zubeir_maulid@hotmail.com

3. **Hon. Kabwe Z. Zitto, MP**
Chairperson POC
Tanzania Parliament
P.O. Box 31191
Dar es Salaam
Tel. No: 0713 730256
E-mail: zitto@chadema.net

- 4 **Hon. Ruth Blasio Msafiri, MP**
P. O. Box 80078
Dar es Salaam
Tel. No.: 0784 520457
E-mail: rmsafiri@parliament.go.tz

5. **Hon. Mohamed Rished Abdallah, MP**
Parliament of Tanzania
P. O. Box 5134
Tanga
Tel. No.: 255 784 693555
E-mail: M_rished28@yahoo.com

- 6 **Mr. Angumbwike Lameck Ng'wavi**
Senior Clerk Assistant
Tanzania Parliament
P. O. Box 941
Dodoma
Tel. No.: 0784 324964
Fax No: 026 2324218
E-mail: angwavi@yahoo.co.uk

- 7 **Mr. Eliufoo Daniel Ukhotya**
Private Secretary to the Speaker
Parliament Office
P. O. Box 941
Dodoma
Tel. No.: 255 26 232 2761/5
Fax No: 255 26 232 4218
E-mail: ukhotya@hotmail.com

RWANDA

1. **Mr. Seth Esri Kamanzi**
Senator
Rwanda Parliament
P.O. Box 6729
Kigali
Tel. No.: 08309970
E-mail: esrik2002@yahoo.co

2. **Mrs. Pelagie Mukantaganzwa**
Chamber of Deputies, Rwanda
P. O. Box 352
Kigali
Tel. No.: (250) 08467084
E-mail: mupelagie@yahoo.fr

3. **Mr. Kaboneka Francis**
Member of Parliament
Rwanda Parliament
P. O. Box 352
Kigali
Tel. No.: (250) 08303650
Fax No: 582042
E-mail: kabsf2000@yahoo.com

4. **Mr. Rwigamba Fidel**
Clerk Senate
Rwanda Parliament
P. O. Box 6729
Kigali
Tel No: (250) 582283
(250) 08300492
Fax No: (2500) 582283
E-mail: rwigamba_fidel@yahoo.com

EAC-SECRETARIAT

1. **Hon. Beatrice B. Kiraso**
Deputy Secretary General
(Political Affairs)
P. O. Box 1096
Arusha
Tel No: 2504253-8
Fax No: 2504255

E-mail: kiraso@eachq.org

2. **Hon. Wilbert T. K. Kaahwa**
Counsel to the Community
Chambers of the Counsel to the East African Community
P. O. Box 1096
Arusha
Tel. No.: 2504253-8
Fax No: 2504255
E-mail: Kaahwa@eachq.org

3. **Ms. Monica E. Mnandara**
Personal Secretary
P.O. Box 1096
Arusha
Tel. No.: 2504253-8
Fax No: 2504255
E-mail: mnandara@eachq.org

