East African Civil Society Organization’s Forum (EACSOF)

Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society in EAC Integration

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

By EACSOF Secretariat

17th February 2016
INTRODUCTION

East African Civil Society Organizations’ Forum (EACSOF) is the all-inclusive platform for CSOs in East Africa founded in 2007. It is a focal point for CSO’s whose major aims are to promote an East African society based on friendship, solidarity and mutual respect; that endeavors to build an independent, self-reliant economy; upholds respect of human rights; fosters healthy traditions and cultural norms; and fights for democracy, rule of law, social justice, good governance and people-centered development and protects the interests of the forum.

EACSOF is registered in Tanzania as an international NGO with its head office in Arusha national chapters in each of the 5 EAC member states. EACSOF, which started with assistance from the East African Laws Society (EALS) enjoys a formal and cordial working relationship with the East African Community (EAC), the EAC Partner States and national, regional and international networks among them the Centre for Citizen Participation at the African Union (CCPAU), the African Centre for Civil Society (ACCS), the West Africa Civil Society Organizations’ Forum (WACSOF), the Southern African Development Council for NGOs (SADAC NGO) and African CSO on Platform on Principled Partnership (ACPPP). It is a space for shared learning and collective action, in pursuit of Article 127 of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC. According to the EAC CDF, EACSOF was mandated by stakeholders to represent CSOs at the EAC as the voice of civil society in integration processes. EACSOF Vision for East Africa is ... “A community in which citizens are fully engaged in all affairs affecting their lives”. EACSOF envisions a future for people built on self-determination, with citizens in control of the social, economic and political capital. EACSOF Mission is ...” To Make EAC Integration Work for the Citizen”. This is achieved by providing a platform for debate and dialogue, in order to facilitate people-centered integration and co-operation that is designed to promote equitable and sustainable development.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

EACSOF has prepared its strategic plan for 2010-2015 and business case 2013-2015, which gives clear objectives, strategies and priorities which will position EACSOF to fully engage with the EAC, different Partners and secure resource mobilization for its projects.
Strategic directions (SD) of EACSOF are as follows;

1. (SD1): Policy Engagement with the State and Private Sector - policy implementation, policy research and analysis; alternative policy formulation, enhancing policy interrogation, lobbying and advocacy by civil society organizations in the region. The overall objective is ... “To Ensure Citizen Centered Policy Development and Implementation at National and Regional Levels” ... by providing a platform for meaningful engagement with Partner States for accelerated human development”.

2. (SD2): Strengthening the capacities of civil society, by providing capacity building support to members.

3. (SD3): Developing EACSOF into a fully-fledged operational institution - increased IEC outreach services to CSOs and expanded membership; setting up systems to gather, record and process information about regional integration; establishing effective information dissemination and members’ communication strategies.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT THEMATIC PRIORITIES:

1. Democratic Governance
2. Peace and Security
3. Social and Economic Justice
4. Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Climate Change
5. Mainstreaming Science and Technology

OBJECTIVES

Through these strategic directions EACSOF will be able to follow through on the following specific objectives;

1. (Policy Implementation – already existing policies) To provide leadership to civil society and the citizens of East Africa through the dialogue mechanism in demanding for the execution of the EAC Treaty and existing policies, protocols, strategic plans and programs, focusing on EACSOF strategic themes

2. (Policy Development – new policies) To facilitate citizen participation in policy development for the realization of EAC objectives through CSO position
papers, policy proposals and legislative drafting following EACSOF thematic areas, in collaboration with EALA, Sectoral committees and SGs forum through the dialogue mechanism

3. (Policy Monitoring and Evaluation) To monitor and evaluate implementation of EAC policies, strategic plans and programs, in order to provide feedback to the EAC Secretariat and Partner States on successes, progress, obstacles, challenges and proposed solutions to the integration process focusing on EACSOF thematic areas.

4. (Capacity Building) to strengthen the capacities of East African civil society organizations

5. (Organizational Development) To develop EACSOF into a fully-fledged sustainable institution.

**EACSOF Initiatives Undertaken**

The forum has ensured continuity and strong support, networking and linkages with different stakeholders and will continue the good relationships established for further engagements in form of attendance to different meetings, workshops that the Forum is invited to participate. The reports from these meetings are shared and disseminated to the members and stakeholders for information dissemination. In the year 2015, EACSOF representatives participated and carried out different initiatives in accordance to below strategic directions.

- Internal Institutional Strengthening for EACSOF
- Policy Engagement with the EAC and Partner States
- Capacity Building for Members
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Thematic Areas Color Codes</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace and Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Economic Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainstreaming Science and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Cutting All Thematic Areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Strategic Direction</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Developing EACSOF into a fully-fledged operational institution</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tr>
<td>EACSOF recruited a Volunteer Programme Assistant in 2015.</td>
<td>Spearheaded coming up with EACSOF Concepts and proposals on Advocacy Strategy on Civic Space in East Africa. Supported EACSOF in organizing workshop on Right to Nationality in Africa. Represented EACSOF in “Draft Emergency Preparedness and Response...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan of Action for Enhancing Resilience of Pastoralists in the drylands of East Africa” Workshop</td>
<td>EACSOF Staff trained on Advocacy</td>
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<td>Advocacy Training on Elements and Development of an Advocacy Strategy organized by Kepa - The Finnish NGO Platform</td>
<td>“Formalizing EACSOF-Tanzania Chapter”</td>
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<td>“Formalizing EACSOF-Tanzania Chapter”</td>
<td>The Key outcomes of the session include:</td>
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<td>TANGO and the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) with the support of ESSAF and TMEA held a strategic planning meeting on “Tanzania CSO Participation in the EAC Integration” at Morogoro’s Edma Conference Centre on 17th and 18th September 2015 whose aims was two-fold:</td>
<td>CSOs were also informed on the EAC Treaty, Protocols, Organs and Institutions and the integration phases which are Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation.</td>
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</table>
| 1. To Orient CSOs actors to the EAC integration process in particular the CDF.  
2. To strengthen the coordination of the CSOs engagement in the EAC integration process by formalizing EACSOF Tanzania and putting in place a governing council. | The meeting reflected the processes and actions which had been undertaken in terms of fostering organized CSOs engagement in the EAC integration process. Hinting that three years ago CSOs under auspices Foundation for Civil Society and had put in place a task force team which was undertook a study on ascertaining the state of CSOs engagement in the EAC integration process and proposing means of coming up with a well coordination engagement mechanism. The delegates took time to introspect into how they wanted the EACSOF Tanzania Chapter coordination body to look like and who it would relate to the members and other actors. The meeting also reflected on how the members would support the coordination body and make it effective. |
| Stakeholders reviewed of the state of engagement of the participants in EAC trade and business regime highlighting the lack of capacity and skills need for engage in EAC trade and business especially among small-scale farmers; Tanzanian government has not fully educated the civic and scale business interest groups about the requirements and standards of the EAC trade and business regime (only the participants who had earlier participated in training session undertaken by TANGO and TCCIA seemed to have some understanding regarding the trade | The meeting concluded by reconstituting itself into the inaugural general meeting of EACSOF Tanzania Chapter and in one acclamation chose TANGO to be the Secretary and Secretariat of EACSOF-TZ and to host of the organization. Other members who elected to the Governing Council |
regulation and standards required to do business in the EAC); emergence of many new NTBs despite the EAC embarking on NTBs elimination. Lack of in-depth information about the EAC Treaty, EAC Customs EAC Union Protocol and EAC Common Market Protocol. It was noted above challenges are mostly due to lack of a coordination and facilitation body for CSOs, small-scale farmers, small-scale traders and small-scale entrepreneurs in the EAC integration process.

are Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA), Southern Africa Human Rights NGOs Network Tanzania Chapter (SAHRINGON), Association of NGO Zanibar (ANGOZA), MZAITUNI FOUNDATION, FISHERIES UNION, Tanzania National Network of People with HIV/AIDS (TANEPHA), CARITAS, Arusha NGO Network (ANGONET) and VISION FOR YOUTH.

EACSOF Strategic Plan

EACSOF has conducted national strategic reflections meeting in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. The Tanzania strategic workshop was organised on the 15th and 16th October 2015 at Flomi Hotel, Morogoro, Tanzania. During the national workshops, participants considered and took stock of the issues that affect the East African region and developed strategic responses that will guide the operations of EACSOF in the next 3 years. Through the coordination of a neutral facilitator(s) participants discussed in a participatory, inclusive, frank and constructive engagement, open but cognizant of sensitivities and multi-cultural contexts. The output of the National Strategy Reflection meeting are reports highlighting issues that affect the East African region, recommendations on EACSOF’s role, structure, priorities and strategies. EACSOF engaged a neutral facilitator to compile the reports and come up with a Draft Regional EACSOF’s strategic plan for 2016 – 2018. The Draft Regional EACSOF’s strategic plan for 2016 – 2018 will be approved and adopted in 2016 by EACOSF Governing Council and members.

Draft Regional EACSOF’s strategic plan for 2016 – 2018

EACSOF reviewed Financial and Human Resource Manual
Strategic Direction

Policy Engagement with the EAC and Partner States

Cross Cutting All Thematic Areas

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<tr>
<td><strong>Introducing the Draft CSO-EALA Engagement Framework to EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega</strong></td>
<td><strong>EACSOF Introduced the Draft CSO-EALA Engagement Framework to EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega</strong></td>
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EACSOF developed a proposed framework for strengthening EALA - CSO collaboration, which was developed with representatives from each national chapter including 2 meetings in Arusha during November 2013 and Nairobi during Feb 2014. This initiative builds on the already existing EAC - CDF (Consultative Dialogue Framework)

**On May 26, 2015, Arusha, Tanzania:** EACSOF delegation paid a courtesy call on the EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega and presented the proposed collaboration framework. The EALA Speaker noted that the EAC Treaty had placed a premium on the role of the civil society in the integration process. “We are keen to work more closely with the civil society. This is not a favour but a responsibility. My Office shall thus critically look at the proposed framework, propose amendments and see how we can link up together more effectively”, Rt Hon Kidega said.

The Secretary General of EACSOF, Zaa Twalangeti, said as the
anchor of the civil society, EACSOF was committed to ensuring EALA’s work is ‘felt on the ground’.

“Under the envisaged collaboration, EACSOF hopes that an institutional structure with clear linkages at national and regional level shall be established and that with it, a fora for continuous dialogue between the parties will also be realized,” Mr Twalangeti remarked.

The areas of engagement include participation in the EALA Plenary Sessions and in the annual regional meetings such as the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki Series), engagement with EALA National Chapters and the establishment of an annual CSO-EALA (Speaker’s) Forum where ideas and best practices are exchanged. EALA has held several public fora and outreach activities in the Partner States in a bid to connect with the citizens of East Africa and hear their voices in the integration agenda. Jane Munyoki, Council Member, Kenya, said the proposed civil society- EALA relationship would boost policy and legislative initiatives. She stated that civil society was keen to contribute to research and thus enhance the work of the regional Assembly. Aimable Mwananawe from Rwanda said the role of civil society in strengthening integration was vital as envisaged and provided for under the EAC Treaty.
Enhancing Civil Society participation in EAC

In the context of the EAC Treaty, Article 1, “civil society” is defined as … "a realm of organised social life that is voluntary, self-generating, self-supporting, autonomous from the state, and bound by a legal set of shared rules.”

EACSOF people redefined civil society as … “a realm of organised social life that is voluntary, self-generating, and autonomous from the state, and bound by a set of shared values for the common good of the people”.

On 28TH JULY 2015, The President of EACSOF, Morris Odhiambo and EACSOF Secretariat staff Team; paid a courtersy visit to the EAC Secretary General Hon. Amb. Richard Sezibera, In Attendance also were EAC Deputy Secretary General Hon. Jessica Eriyo , EAC Principal Gender and Community Development Officer Ms. Generose Minani, EAC Programme Assistant Gender Mr. Morris Tayebwa.

EACSOF President highlighted some of the key issues regarding participation of civil society in integration through the CDF.

EACSOF president noted that some of the below issues had been raised in a recent evaluation of Consultative Dialogue Framework (CDF):

The SG, HON. AMB. RICHARD SEZIBERA stated that engagement with CSOs in the region is a treaty obligation for EAC and also is in EAC Strategic Framework and appreciates that the CDF is finally being implemented.

The SG, Hon. Amb, Richard Sezibera recommended the need to:

- Review the CDF – turning resolutions into policy.
  there is need to review internally as the EAC to see the extent to which resolutions were being translated to policies

- Need for better CDF Institutionalization at National level.

The SG, Hon. Amb Richard Sezibera consented on strengthening EACSOF through joint activities via the relevant EAC departments. Additionally, Hon. Jesicca Eriyo stated that the upcoming 4th Annual SG forum and Ministerial Sectoral council will review and report on the progress of the recommendations.

Hon. Jesicca Eriyo urged EACSOF to map out
- How Effective the CDF Framework is in terms of translating resolutions into policy
- CDF institutionalization at National Level is yet to be accomplished and as EACOF there is need to formalize the CDF at National level.
- Possibility of EAC to fund the CDF process - Institutionalization of the CDF process through the EAC Secretary Generals’ Office.
- Successes, Progress and Challenges on EACSOF as a dialogue party for CSOs were highlighted

EACSOF highlighted its plans to do Monitoring and Evaluation of the CDF and also urged the EAC Secretary General, Hon. Amb Richard Sezibera to enhance EACSOF role as a dialogue party for CSOs in the region by considering; EACSOF and EAC to do joint activities in certain areas of interest.

EACSOF appreciated EAC efforts on Burundi situation and called upon EAC and partner states for more efforts where possible on how CSOs Operate in Burundi

elements of national level forums in which CSOs can participate and advance the EAC Integration Process to the Citizens.

| EACSOF CONDUCTS NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING 4TH ANNUAL EAC SECRETARY GENERAL Forum in Uganda and Kenya |
EACSOFT CONDUCTS NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING 4TH ANNUAL EAC SECRETARY GENERAL Forum in Uganda

On 13th August 2015, the Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) in partnership with the East Africa Civil Society Organization’s Forum (EACSOFT) held a National Consultation on the theme “Good Governance and Constitutionalism in the East African Community”. The National Consultation took place at Royal Suites Bugolobi and attracted over fifty Civil Society representatives, Local Government officials, the academia and representatives from the media fraternity to build consensus on CSO proposals for the 4th EAC Secretary Generals’ forum slated for September 2015 in Kigali.

The National Consultation also provided an opportunity for civil society at country level to share experiences and good practices geared towards promoting good governance and constitutionalism to inform the development of policies and Programmes in the region. As part of the consultation, the five themes for the 4th EAC Secretary General’s Forum that include; electoral reforms in EAC; protecting civic space in EAC, Fiscal decentralization Social protection in EAC and Extractive industries were discussed and key messages emerged.

The Key Outcomes included:

- Key recommendations on need for EALA to expeditiously pass the good governance protocol; review all NGO and CSO legislation in the region to address the challenges of shrinking civic space; scale up awareness and sensitization of citizens on EAC integration and need for EAC secretariat to initiate a process to generate an EAC citizen’s charter;
- The Key Emerging issues included: Restoration of the presidential term limits; fast track the operationalization of the policies on youth and PWDs; need for a gender protocol to enhance women participation and Burundi Crisis;

The General recommendations for the 4th EAC SG Forum:

- EALA should expeditiously pass the EAC Good Governance Protocol EAC partner states should review all NGO and CSO legislation in EAC using the standards in the AU Charter on Democracy, Elections & Governance and AU charter on Human and People rights to address the shrinking civic space in the region
- EAC partner states ensure that their Programmes and policies are harmonized with the commitments and decisions of the EAC Community;
- EAC partner states scale up efforts on awareness and sensitization of citizens on the EAC integration processes
- EAC partner states should review funding to local government to enhance service delivery
- EAC secretariat should initiate a process to generate an EAC citizen’s charter that shall be annually assessed to establish the extent to which EAC processes are citizen-centered as enshrined
in EAC treaty
  • EAC partner states should democratize the extractive sector and implement Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

In a nutshell, it was agreed that poor service delivery, abuse of human rights, discrepancies in the electoral processes all hinge on bad governance and thus called upon the SG’s Forum to extensively confer and address it and also implore member states to respect the protocols they ratified.
EACSOF CONDUCTS NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING 4TH ANNUAL EAC SECRETARY GENERAL FORUM IN KENYA Titled "THE KENYA NATIONAL DIALOGUE FORUM FOR PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER INTEREST GROUPS"

The Kenya National Dialogue Forum (NDF) was organized by the Ministry of East African Affairs, Commerce and Tourism (MEAACT), as well as dialogue partners, key among them, the East African Civil Society Organizations’ Forum (EACSOF) Kenya and with support from Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA). The forum was opened by Hon. Mr. John O. Konchellah, Principal Secretary, State Department of East African Affairs (SDEAA). The overall theme of the forum was, “Good Governance and Constitutionalism in the East African Community”

The outcomes of the forum include:

1. Increased number of CSOs and PSOs participating in the affairs of the EAC
2. Improved capacity by CSOs and PSOs to undertake policy advocacy through organs and institutions of the EAC, and
3. More effective horizontal and vertical linkages between and among key stakeholder groups in the integration process.
4. EACSOF members presented and submitted recommendation and the following sub-themes:
   a. Electoral Reforms in East Africa: Topic- Electoral reforms in the region and their implications in peace, trade and
b. Investment

c. Protecting the Civic Space in the EAC: Topic- The place of EAC citizens in determining the affairs that affect them

d. Women, Peace and Security: Topic- Interrogating the place of women in the EAC peace and security architecture

e. Corruption and its Impact on Business in the EAC: Topic- The role of the private sector in fighting corruption

f. Extractive Industries and Marginalization: Topic- Assessing extractive industries vis a vis the rights of local communities

The overall objective of the national consultations was to provide a platform where civil society and other interest groups could dialogue and develop a consensus on the national position on the sub-themes in which will be reviewed by EACSOF Members and the Regional Dialogue Committee who will attend, present, compile all national recommendations on the different topics at the upcoming 4th EAC Secretary General’s (SGs) Forum on 3rd – 4th Dar es Salaam Tanzania.
Democratic Governance

CSO Operating Environment Update

EACSOF with support from KEPA (The Finnish NGO platform) during the year 2014 worked to promote enabling environment for civil society in East Africa specifically, EACSOF worked together to assess the state of the civil society operating environment at national levels. As a result EASOF prepared country status papers as well as a regional synopsis report highlighting key findings and recommendations which can be accessed at: www.eacsof.net/civicspace.html. In 2015 EACSOF membership are monitoring closely the CSO Operating Environment in Uganda, Kenya and Burundi.

EACSOF Uganda Chapter are monitoring closely the CSO Operating environment in Uganda http://chapterfouruganda.com/sites/default/files/downloads/CSO-Position-Paper-on-the-NGO-Bill-2015.pdf Also, EACSOF undertook national consultations for the Upcoming 4th Annual EAC Secretary General Forum in Kenya and Uganda deliberated on “Protecting civic space in EAC” EACSOF members deliberated on both the Civic Space Mobilization and the Consultative Dialogue Frameworks, their provisions and priorities, highlighting some of the socio-political factors that limit the participation of citizens in the EAC such as, conflicts, minority groups inequalities, legal limitations to participation and low levels of awareness of the EAC processes, institutions and organs.

EACSOF need to take stock of the CSO Operating environment in East African Countries and come up with a advocacy strategy on enabling CSO Operating Environment and advocate for a regional bill at EAC level on CSO Operating Environment.
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>EACSOF and EAHP Advocacy for the Assent to the Rights Based EAC HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management Bil 2015 finaly yields Fruits</td>
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<tr>
<td>The EAC Heads of States have finally concluded the assent process of the EAC HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management Bill 2012 in September 2015 making it a regional legislation on HIV and AIDS.</td>
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<td>The success of this activity which is in the final leg advocacy for assent has come about as a result of a series of efforts by different stakeholders in the region including that of EACSOF.</td>
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<td>The East Africa HIV Prevention and Management Bill Project coordinated by EACSOF member, the Eastern African National Network of AIDS Services Organization (EANASO) in collaboration with EACSOF membership spearheaded the implementation since 2008 including activities such as formation of a regional Task Force on HIV, Law and Policy in the East Africa region, consultations among key stakeholder, drafting of the Bill, validation, submission to relevant EAC authorities and EALA, lobby work and advocacy work that finally resulted in the passing of the Bill by EALA early in April 2012. The assent process commenced in 2012 Kenya, Uganda and Burundi in early 2013. Rwanda and Tanzania followed in the assent process in May and September 2015 respectively.</td>
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<td>The EACSOF members at national level need to advocate for national laws to be harmonized in accordance to EAC HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management Bill 2012 and call for its implementation so as to facilitate access to services for all beyond national borders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Also EACSOF membership and EAHP need to undertake advocacy on the EAC Health Research Commission Bill and Protocol on regional cooperation on Health.</td>
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EACSOF and EAHP joined hands in the last leg advocacy for the assent of the above in collaboration with EANNASO and the EAC Secretariat and other health stakeholders in 2013 who conducted three high level lobby missions with the key influential officials in Rwanda and Tanzania to expedite the assent process by the two heads of States.

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<tr>
<td>a. The Legality of President Pierre Nkuruziza 3rd Term.</td>
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<td>Monday 6 July 2015, the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) together with the East African Civil Society Organizations’ Forum (EACSOF) filed an application at the East African Court of Justice. The purpose of the application was to obtain a ruling from the East African Court of Justice on the legality of the decision reached by the Constitutional Court of Burundi on 5th May 2015, which allowed President Nkurunziza to run for a third term in elections.</td>
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<td>The Court gave a short Ruling on the case. After reciting the basics (Pleadings on record, respective dates of filing, etc), it ruled that:</td>
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1. It is neither judicious, necessary nor desirable to issue the Orders sought by the Applicants and therefore disallow the application.

2. In line with Rule 68(3) of the EACJ Rules of Procedure, 2013, the Court later furnished the reasons for its Decision on 29th July 2015.


The court ruling decisions will be useful in the medium to long-term, with respect to Burundi, and also towards a broader campaign on presidential term limits within Africa.
Peace and Security

Petition of the Citizens of East African Community on the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the Republic of Burundi

On 16 November 2015, EACSOF, Pan African Lawyers’ Union (PALU), Atrocities Watch Africa, Centre for Citizens’ Participation on the African Union (CCPAU), East Africa Law Society (EALS) and Kituo cha Katiba – The Eastern Africa Centre for Constitutional Development filed and served a Citizens’ Petition on Hon. Dan F. Kidega, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), requesting the EALA to seize itself of the deteriorating political, human rights and humanitarian situation in Burundi.

The petitioners requested the House to:

- Openly condemn the:
  - Assassinations, extrajudicial and arbitrary killings
  - Use of inciting and incendiary language
  - Inordinate use of force by the Police, security officials and members of the Imbonerakure

EALA Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution Committee held a four-day public hearing on the human rights and humanitarian crisis in Burundi, from 13 to 16 January 2016, in Arusha, Tanzania, where the EACSOF and other stakeholders provided background information on the current situation to the Members of the Committee. Further, on 25 January 2016, a delegation from the Government of Burundi was given the opportunity to respond to the Petition and present their own views on the situation.

EALA Plenary concluded its Debate on the Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the human rights and humanitarian situation in Burundi. EALA’s urged the EAC Head of States Summit to:

- To affirm that the Community has a duty of care and responsibility to protect the people of Burundi from violence and guarantee the safety and security of all citizens and persons in Burundi
- To consider to facilitates and supports the establishment of a credible investigative mechanism to independently investigate all allegations of human rights violations in Burundi
- Put in place measures that will fully utilize all possible
The House, or a Committee within it, to hold a public Hearing in Arusha, Tanzania that would welcome Burundian and East African citizens to testify to the occurrences in Burundi, and make proposals for resolution of the crises.

The House, or a Committee within it, to undertake an urgent Fact-finding Mission into Burundi.

The House to make a strong recommendation to the Summit that the Republic of Burundi cannot and will not assume the rotating Chairmanship of the Summit of the East African Community, until resolution of the political, human rights and humanitarian crisis in Burundi.

The House to request the African Union (AU) for robust leadership in intervention and mediation in the political, human rights and humanitarian crisis in Burundi, especially because the AU has a more comprehensive and far-reaching legal and institutional framework for intervention than the EAC currently has, including:

2. The Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, 2002

measures allowed by the Treaty and Community law to be directed against any person or entity that will undermine the establishment and operationalization of a credible investigative mechanism

- To urgently do all that is possible to stop the humanitarian, human rights and political crises in the Republic of Burundi
- To fully empower and facilitate the work of the Mediator and his office including appointing a team of respected States men and women to aid in his cause and/or office
- To consider to apply all possible measures allowed by the Treaty and Community law to be directed against any party, person, group of persons or entity that will undermine the efforts of the Community including the office of the mediator in its work, human rights and political crises in the Republic of Burundi
- To fully empower and facilitate the work of the Mediator and his office including appointing a team of respected States men and women to aid in his cause and/or office
- To consider to apply all possible measures allowed by the Treaty and Community law to be directed against any party, person, group of persons or entity that will
The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, 2007

In particular, therefore, the House to call upon the Chairperson of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU to take concrete steps towards preventing Burundi from descending into Genocide or mass atrocities, including:

- Activating the sanctions regime of the African Union (AU)
- Enhancing the numbers and capacity of the Human Rights Monitors and Military Monitors deployed to Burundi
- Should the above measures not bear fruit within the next one (1) month, the House to call for suspension of the Burundi Government from both the EAC and the AU.

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<td>STOP PERSON WITH ALBINISM KILLINGS CAMPAIGN:</td>
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Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited condition occurring in both genders regardless of ethnicity, in all countries of the world. Both the father and mother must carry the gene for it to be passed on even if they do not have albinism themselves. The condition results in a lack of pigmentation in the hair, skin and eyes, causing vulnerability to sun exposure and bright light.

EACSOF created an Online Petition to Stop PWA Killings in March 2015.

EACSOF seek to undertake the following initiatives on PWAs in 2016:

1) Carry out statistical analysis and research on attacks against PWA in East Africa.
Almost all people with albinism are visually impaired, with the majority being classified as “legally blind”. In Tanzania, and throughout East Africa, albinism is much more prevalent, with estimates of 1 in 1,400 people being affected.

Persons with albinism (PWA) have lacked a strong voice for asserting not only their rights, but their very existence. In recent times, and particularly since 2009, gained the interest and attention of the international community. This is largely due to the shocking experience they faced in a number of countries including normalized singling-out, discrimination, debilitating stigma, and in some cases, attacks namely bodily dismemberment and death. EACSOF using its platform as the umbrella body for civil society organizations seeks to bring a regional perspective and ensure sustainability on the implementations of the policies, measures and plans to ensure justice for PWAs in EAC.

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<tr>
<td>ii)</td>
<td>Create East Africa Database on PWAs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>iii)</td>
<td>Raise awareness among civil society organizations and other interest groups on the PWAs;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv)</td>
<td>Review of current documents: policies, plans, agreements etc through the human rights lens to ensure that PWAs’ rights are considered in the said documents;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v)</td>
<td>Establishment of linkages among the CSOs working in Persons on Albinism issues.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Democratic Governance

Right to a Nationality (R2N) in Africa

In 2009 AfriMAP, now AfRO, published two ground breaking studies focusing on issues of exclusion and citizenship in Africa. Those reports stated that Africa’s wars are fuelled by many factors, most notoriously, natural resources and land. However, citizenship also ranks atop the contributors to conflict on the African continent. The rampant and unresolved issue of discrimination of citizenship has led to conflict in Côte d’Ivoire and Democratic Republic of Congo. The studies made an urgent case for the right to a nationality to be included in Africa’s laws. The studies also argued the case that citizenship discrimination in Africa has reached a crises point. Millions of Africans without citizenship are deprived of the right to vote, to access public services, possibility to leave or return to their countries of origin since they do not have travel documents, or even transfer their nationality to their spouses or children, and right to register their child at birth or enrol them in school.

It is in this regard the East African Civil Society Organisations Forum (EACSOF), Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) in partnership with Open Society Foundation Africa regional office (AfRO) and International Refugee Rights organized a meeting under the theme “The Right to A Nationality” on the 26th of November 2015 at the East Africa Hotel, Arusha Tanzania.

The meeting was organised as a forum on the challenges to the Right to a Nationality in Africa, Statelessness in Africa, and proposing the urgent need for a protocol on citizenship in Africa. Currently the majority of African Union member states citizenship laws are inadequate and subjected to pervasive discrimination, because they do not guarantee the right to a nationality for hundreds of millions of Africans - most of whom are women and children. A full day was dedicated to discussions focusing on citizenship issues, gender, and freedom of movement, refugees, internally displaced persons, regional integration and institutional intervention. The EAC gender protocol, was assessed in terms of contradictions on the right to a nationality for women and children in the region.

The meeting accorded CSOs the opportunity to share information on the recent findings and recommendations of the continental study indicating a need for a protocol on the rights to a nationality in Africa. Additionally, due focus was paid on the concept of accelerated

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1 *Citizenship Law in Africa: A comparative study and Struggles for Citizenship in Africa, Bronwen Manby, AfriMAP, 2009*
regional integration agenda, which is hampered by policies of exclusion at the regional level.

The Key outcomes of the meeting include:

The meeting raised awareness on Right to Nationality and Statelessness to 40 Civil Society Organisations working in the East Africa Region as via presentations on:

- Right to Nationality by African Union Commission Presented By: Olabisi Dare, AU Political Affairs Division
- UNCHR Strategy and Interventions on Statelessness in Eastern Africa Presented by Mrs. June Munala: Senior Regional Protection Officer Statelessness, UNCHR
- Right to Nationality and the EAC integration Project Presented By: Stephen Niyonzima, Principal, Labour and Employment Officer, EAC
- Brief Presentation on Case Studies of Statelessness in Africa Presented by Donald Deya, CEO, PALU
- Gender and a Right to Nationality in EAC- Streamlining the EAC Protocol on Gender Equality and Development Bill, 2015 Presented By: Elizabeth Ampairwe, Project Coordinator, Women and Economic Empowerment, East African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI)
- Burundi: Fleeing in Fear Presented by Dismas Nkunda, Executive Director, Atrocities Watch Africa
- The Game Changer - Right to Nationality: A Win for Refugees Presented by Olivia Bueno, Director, International Refugees Rights Initiative

CSOs were urged to work with relevant partners to ensure that they can minimize the cost of statelessness and come up with new rules and policies on the issue; CSOs should take advantage of the year of Human Rights, 2016 to push for the Right to Nationality and
Stateless agenda and share their technical expertise and advocate for political goodwill.

As a way forward EACSOF will undertake secondary research on Right to Nationality and Statelessness as a preliminary stage of research to determine what is known already and what new data is required, or to inform future research design. EACSOF will also come up with different recommendations and policy position papers on Right to Nationality and Statelessness in East Africa. EACSOF will also advocate for enriching Gender Equality Bill to incorporate Right to a Nationality before being tabled to EALA in 2017.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Direction</th>
<th>Capacity Building for Members</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Launch of the Civil Society Guide on Regional Economic Communities</strong></td>
<td>EACSOF Launched of the Civil Society Guide on Regional Economic Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>A CSOs guide on the functions of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) was also launched immediately after “The Right to A Nationality” Meeting on the evening of 26th of November 2015 at the East Africa Hotel, Arusha Tanzania.</td>
<td>The Civil Society Guide to Regional Economic Communities assists citizens and civil society with engaging the policies and programmes of three RECs in Africa:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction: As regional integration gains momentum, there is growing interest among civil society and citizens to participate in the processes and programmes of regional economic communities (RECs). The constitutive treaties of RECs provide for citizens’ participation, but the accessibility of REC treaties and protocols remains a challenge. Decision-making remains state-centric despite growing citizen and civil society interest in regional integration.</td>
<td>• The East African Community (EAC);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Civil Society Guide to Regional Economic Communities also contains a sampling of the experiences of non-governmental organisations that have interacted with these RECs.</td>
<td>• The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EACSOF in collaboration with OSIEA selected members to aid in</td>
<td>• The Southern African Development Community (SADC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 Copies of the REC Guide distributed to EACSOF Members</td>
<td>The Guide discusses the following for each REC:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• History and legal framework;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Organs and institutions;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The decision-making process;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Budgeting and finances;</td>
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<td>• Relationship with the African Union;</td>
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<td>• Engagement with civil society; and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Current debates within each REC.</td>
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initiatives by eacsof members and affiliates in collaboration with eacsof

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiatives</th>
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<tr>
<td>In the year 2015, EACSOF in collaboration with its members and Affiliates engaged in the following key initiatives:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• EACSOF took part in a meeting organized by Coalition of Pastoralist Civil Society Organization (COPASCO) and the East Africa Working Group on Pastoralism (EAPWG) titled “Draft Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan of Action for Enhancing Resilience of Pastoralists in the drylands of East Africa” on 25th August 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Shaping the TFTA Negotiations through INTEGRATING THE VOICE OF CSOs IN REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS - EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (IVORI - ESA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• EAC 2nd HIV and AIDS, TB and STIs Strategic Plan 2015-2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>• EAHP with in collaboration with EACSOF Launch a project “Towards Rights based Maternal Health in East Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Promoting Agriculture-Trade- Climate Linkages in the East African Community (PACT EAC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Proposed Charter on Good Governance in the Extractive Industry in the EAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Draft Africa Model Mining Legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Global Level Initiative: The Nairobi Ministerial of the World Trade Organization (WTO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Draft EAC framework and Investment Model Treaty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Zinduka Festival</td>
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See Annex I for More Details

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Strategic Direction</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity Building to Members and Affiliates</strong></td>
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**Governance and Diplomacy for Peace and Security (GDPS) Trainees Learn about EACSOF Initiatives**

GDPS is a training program developed jointly in 2012 by International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) and GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economic Development (BMZ) Germany, as a measure towards building capacities for conflict transformation and peace in Eastern Africa. The specific aim of GDPST is to prepare participants to meet current and future challenges in regional governance, diplomacy, peace and security, strengthening their ability to improve the impact of systematic analysis, effective communication, dialogue and cooperation. The trainees were informed about:

- EACSOF Vision, mission and mandate of the organization.
- EACSOF Experiences, challenges and opportunities of working with civil societies in East Africa.
- Overview of Governance, Peace and Security Initiatives.
- EACSOF was awarded a certificate and Trophy for undertaking initiatives in governance, diplomacy, peace and security
- The Study visit offered an opportunity for EACSOF to advocate for improvement on enabling environment in East Africa by highlighting positive contribution of CSO activities to the trainees from Government.
EACSOF Initiatives for the year 2015:

The following are EACSOF Key Initiatives and Successes:

1. EACSOF drafted a new Strategic Plan for the year 2018-2016
2. Introduced the Draft CSO-EALA Engagement Framework to EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega
4. Updated Members on CSO Operating Environment in EAC via e - newsletter.
5. EACSOF Advocacy for the Assent to the Rights Based EAC HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management Bill 2015 finally succeeds. EACSOF filed an application at the EACJ to obtain a ruling from the EACJ on the legality of the decision reached by the Constitutional Court of Burundi on 5th May 2015, which allowed President Nkurunziza to run for a third term in elections.
6. Submitted Petition to EALA on the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the Republic of Burundi
7. Undertook an online petition on STOP PERSON WITH ALBINISM KILLINGS CAMPAIGN
8. Undertook a Right to a Nationality (R2N) in Africa Workshop
9. Launched the Civil Society Guide on Regional Economic Communities
10. EACSOF was awarded a certificate and Trophy for undertaking initiatives in governance, diplomacy, peace and security by GDPST
11. EACSOF E-Newsletter produced every quarter http://eacsof.net/newsletters.html
12. More flow of communications to our stakeholders. Noteworthy is that EACSOF website has attracted 18,278 unique visitors and 22,478 number of visits in the year 2015.
13. Increased EACSOF Brand visibility, increased media coverage about EACSOF, Increased EACSOF recognition by the EAC Secretariat, Organs, Institutions and United Nations.
14. EACSOF has over 61 active members following an increase of 19 membership inquiries in 2013 and 5 new members in 2014 and 1 new member in 2015. Some 59 EACSOF members are umbrella organizations of over 500 CSOs who
are also networked on EACSOF mailing list of CSO subscribers.

15. EACSOF recruited a Volunteer to in running of Programmes and resource mobilization.

CHALLENGES

1. Need for more efforts on how CSOs Operate in Burundi as EACSOF could not conduct different workshops in Burundi due to the Burundi Crisis.

2. Funding constraints continued to impede the institutionalization and implementation of EACSOF Programmes and activities for instance, producing and dissemination of publications, IEC materials and progressing with the computerized membership management system.

3. Registration of EACSOF in Partner States to enable obtaining Observer Status at the EAC: - The designated National Focal Points have not accomplished this important step.

4. EACSOF National Chapters coordination and liason with the secretariat needs to be improved.

5. Delayed signing of MoU with the EAC Secretariat

6. There is need of a consultant to come up with a Communication and Membership Recruitment Strategy and developing the Design Guide of EACSOF brand to reinforce the internal and external communication efforts both at the Secretariat and the NFP.

7. There is need to come up with a management information system to keep the bulk records of membership details which include e-groups/forums, online library and online membership application and invoicing system as the website space is small.

8. There is a need to purchase a mail server as the EACSOF mailing list of over 5000 recipients is too bulky for the ISP.

9. There is a need to come up with a communication budget to cover cost of the press releases during EACSOF events.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Below recommendations taking cognizance of the challenges and successes by EACSOF engagements in the EAC integration process, the envisaged role of the Civil Society Organizations in the process and commitment to a people-centered and participatory EAC.

Organizational Development Strategies

Clarifying EACSOF Institutional Arrangement with the EAC:

- Work closely with the EAC Secretariat and Partner States; connect national focal points and grassroots civil society organizations to EAC structures;

EACSOF to Continue Strengthening Connections with Partner States, members and other Stakeholders by

- Strengthen National Focal Points;

EACSOF to continue enhancing Governance, Policies and Strategy through

- Finalize Review the EACSOF constitution to reflect EACSOF current mandate of engagement from local to national, regional and continental levels. This will also strengthen the organs of the Forum for effective engagement with the EAC, Partner States and other stakeholders at all levels.

- Approve and Adopt EACSOF new strategic plan for the year 2016-2018.

EACSOF to Continue Streamlining Structures, Systems, Staffing

- Establish thematic clusters and organise Thematic Committees for meaningful engagement with the EAC, Partner States and other stakeholders.

- Coordinate EACSOF Planning and Reporting – Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly and Annually.

EACSOF to Facilitate Human Resource Management / Development


- Implement a programme of capacity building and institutional strengthening
in the following 5 areas: Strategic Thinking and Planning; Applied Research and Action; Finance and Administration; Communication and Media Relations;


- Strengthen partnership with TMEA, GiZ, SIDA, WFD, OSIEA, Commonwealth Foundation and KEPA Finland focusing on support to EACSOF Institutional development, and also seek out new partnerships aligning themselves with EACSOF scope of activities.

Providing Accountability

- Conduct EACSOF Annual Performance Review and Evaluation, Continue to undertake Annual External Audit, Publish Annual Progress Reports and Continue to Conduct Annual CSO Conference and General Meeting (AGM)

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

In the period of 2015 EACSOF attracted funding and technical support from different development partners. EACSOF and its partner branches would like to extend their appreciation to development partners for their tremendous support in achieving EACSOF vision and mission. Development partners guidance and facilitation of EACSOF activities has been beyond the call of duty, EACSOF would like to appreciate the guidance and facilitation provided by the development partners without whose support EACSOF would not have come to such a sensible and successful conclusion of its annual activities.

Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA)

The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments are accountable and open to the participation of all people. OSIEA works through two strategic priority areas critical to addressing open society challenges in the region: participation of citizens and human rights.

Trademark East Africa (TMEA) Project

Trademark East Africa (TMEA) is a multi-donor funded organization which works closely with the East African Community (EAC), national governments, business and civil society organizations to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa.

GIZ
German development cooperation has made substantial contributions to the integration process in East Africa, in accordance with the German Government’s Africa Strategy. GIZ has worked with EACSOF in improving dialogue between the EAC Secretariat and private sector/civil society organizations.

**KEPA**

The Finnish NGO Platform (KEPA) is the umbrella organization for Finnish civil society organizations (CSOs) who work with development cooperation or are otherwise interested in global affairs. At the moment KEPA has more than 300 member organizations, ranging from small voluntary-based organizations to major national organizations. KEPA monitors and promotes the state of civil society in East African Community (EAC) partner states through a partnership with East African Civil Society Organizations’ Forum (EACSOF) on an assessment of the legal and policy framework for civil society enabling factors and constraints in the five East African Community member states.

**WFD**

WFD as UK based Organization and supports institutions that work in democracy like parliaments and CSOs. Currently, WFD is working with EACSOF to make the EALA more consultative.

**Commonwealth Foundation**

The Commonwealth Foundation is a development organization with an international remit and reach, uniquely situated at the interface between government and civil society. CF aims in developing the capacity of civil society to act together and learn from each other to engage with the institutions that shape people’s lives. The Commonwealth Foundation is supporting the institutional strengthening of EACSOF and working with it to develop an East Africa regional agenda for action at the EAC.

**Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)**

SIDA works according to directives of the Swedish Parliament and Government to reduce poverty in the world. The overall goal of Swedish development cooperation is to contribute to making it possible for poor people to improve their living conditions. EACSOF has been exploring on potential partnership with SIDA in popularizing EAC integration Benefits and Opportunities to citizens.
**ANNEX I: Initiatives by EACSOF members and Affiliates**

**Policy Engagement with the State and Private Sector**

Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Climate Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Outcomes:</th>
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<tr>
<td>EACSOF took part in a meeting organized by Coalition of Pastoralist Civil Society Organization (COPASCO) and the East Africa Working Group on Pastoralism (EAPWG) titled “Draft Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan of Action for Enhancing Resilience of Pastoralists in the drylands of East Africa “ on 25th August 2015. Deliberation on Pastoralism vis-à-vis climate change adaptation at the regional level focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction &amp; Climate Change (DRR/CC) policies, strategies and legal frameworks in the EAC in line with the plight of the pastoralist communities.</td>
<td>A meeting was organized by COPASCO and EACSOF staff presented on how the EAPWG can link work at regional level through EACSOF an voice on pastoralist issues at the regional level. Members of East Africa Working Group have been linked to EACSOF national Chapters and briefed about the CDF. Members of East Africa Working Group have joined EACSOF Membership</td>
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**Cross Cutting All Thematic Areas**

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<tr>
<th>CSOs Expected to Shape TFTA Negotiations through INTEGRATING THE VOICE OF CSOs IN REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS - EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (IVORI - ESA)</th>
<th>EACSOF recommended for the formulation of an engagement roadmap that can be used for effective engagement of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the project</th>
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34
CUTS-Nairobi held project inception meetings under ‘Integrating the Voice of CSOs in Regional Integration Process in Eastern and Southern Africa’ (IVORI-ESA) project in Nairobi on July 28, 2015 at Sarova Panafric Hotel; in Lusaka on July 31, 2015 at Grand Palace Hotel; and in Addis Ababa on August 04, 2015 at Jupiter Hotel.

In Nairobi, participants drawn from women cross border traders associations, micro and small enterprises authority, relevant policy makers on trade and regional integration, small-scale farmers associations, CSOs, the private sector and academia were briefed on the status of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Participants were also briefed on the IVORI-ESA project design, methodologies and expected outcomes. The half-day meeting had fruitful discussions on the role and challenges of non-state actors, particularly civil society organisations, in regional integration within respective regional economic communities (RECs). Similar presentations and discussions were held in Zambia in partnership with CUTS-Lusaka; and in Addis Ababa in partnership with the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA).

On 28th August 2015, EACSOF Member CUTS-Nairobi visited EACSOF secretariat to assess and deliberate on implementing a project on the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) and the involvement of Civil Society Organisations in such process.

Social and Economic Justice

EAHP with in collaboration with EACSOF Launch a project “Towards Rights based period and beyond in reference to EAC CDF.

EACSOF members have joined the online platform on the TFTA “Eastern and Southern Africa Civil Society Organisations Network on integration and Development (ESACSONID) that gives updates on the status and outstanding issues of the TFTA.
Maternal Health in East Africa


Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Climate Change

**Climate, Food, Trade: Regional Meeting Workshop**

EACSOF members CUTS International has been implementing this 4-year project titled “Promoting Agriculture-Trade- Climate Linkages in the East African Community (PACT EAC)” with funding support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The overall two project objectives were to build capacity of relevant stakeholders to synergise policies and practices related to trade, climate change and food security, and to assist EAC delegates in the relevant WTO discussions.

The results of PACT EAC project at national, regional and multilateral level was demonstrated highlighting the success of The EAC Geneva Forum. A forum of EAC WTO delegates that met on a bi-monthly basis for 4 years. CUTS provided the delegates with country update notes and issue notes to enhance the delegates’ knowledge and skills, so that they can adopt more coherent and enlightened position during the WTO negotiations.

EACSOF in collaboration the PACT EAC project has assisted CSOs to understand better trade and related issues, and strengthen Geneva-grassroots linkages.

Enhanced the knowledge, capacity and coordination of national, regional and multilateral stakeholders working on climate, food and trade issues. Through research, advocacy, networking and training activities,

Throughout the project implementation phase, the PACT EAC national partners have utilized EACSOF members (EACSOF Rwanda Chapter, EACSOF Kenya Chapter and ESAFF) who led diverse advocacy campaigns’ activities and the project research recommendations inspired national policy campaigns that engaged policy makers in achieving more coherence such as: Integrating trade aspects in the new Kenya environmental policy; allowing the Rwanda environment ministry to sit on the National Trade Forum; and the revised Tanzania Forest Policy to address concerns related to the impact of charcoal trade on deforestation.

There is need for continue ongoing efforts towards fully holistic approaches to Agriculture-Trade-
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Climate Linkages in regional, national and local level policies.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Climate Change</strong></td>
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EACSOF is working closely with the International Alliance on Natural Resources in Africa (IANRA), a network of 41 member organisations – 40 in Africa and 1 in Europe, including 14 national IANRA groupings or networks in Africa with community partnerships and international linkages. IANRA works toward more just and sustainable management of natural resources in Africa through collaboration among member organisations, provision of community support, development of research and conducting advocacy. EACSOF interlinked IANRA national grouping to EACSOF National Chapters to share knowledge and ideas for how to advocate for adoption of the Draft Model Mining Legislation via the CDF: Annual EAC Secretary General Forum. See Annex II

EACSOF took part in EATUC Regional Stakeholders’ Consultative Meeting to Discuss the Proposed Charter on Good Governance in the Extractive Industry in the EAC. This charter is intended to initiate a discourse with the East African Community organs, national governments, employers’ organizations, sub-regional partner organizations to ensure that we promote good governance and democracy in the extractive industry in EAC region. The meeting recommended for more consultation should be undertaken with stakeholders at all levels both national and regional. Specific national forums should be organised to promote the agenda including: MEACA, Partner State Ministries responsible for labour and employment, mineral resources, employers organisations, workers organisations and civil society. Read Draft Proposed Charter on Good Governance in the Extractive Industry in the EAC.

The African Mining Vision has been instrument in calling for a paradigm shift which now requires Governments to put in place mechanisms for better management of the finite/non-renewable mineral. To ensure successful implementation of the AMV, an explicit agreement between AU member States and private sector leaders in the extractive industries is necessary. This agreement which the African Union is developing through the African Minerals Development Center (AMDC), will be in the form of an AMV Compact between AU member States and private sector leaders in Africa. The AMV Compact is drawing on a set of standards that would serve as a benchmark for companies and governments to assess performance, resulting in robust policies that cover a range of principles.

EACSOF shared the draft AMV Compact to members to give input: https://docs.google.com/document/d/13fHIlwMNNQK_dUAoIA52BYWrwR78pua9_OM6si4T8iM/edit
Zinduka Festival 2015 pushes EAC Integration into Full Gear

In celebration of East-Africaness, the East African Community (EAC) Deputy Secretary-General in charge of Finance and Administration, Mr Liberat Mfumukeko, on behalf of the Secretary-General, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera, graced the official opening of the third Zinduka Festival held at Sheikh Amri Abeid Memorial Stadium in Arusha, Tanzania.

“Zinduka” Meaning “re-awakening consciousness” in Kiswahili, Zinduka brought together participants from the fields of academia, social movements, civil society organisations, media, the business community, the EAC Secretariat and East African government bodies to engage in discussions regarding East African integration, to find collaborative measures to strengthen advocacy on EAC integration for sustainable development and to celebrate the region’s rich diversity.

The Zinduka Festival comes in time of EAC Day marked for November 30, 2015. With 15 years of integration already under her belt, the Community was in the forefront of the Customs Union in 2005, the Common Market in 2010, the signing of the Monetary Union Protocol in 2013, as well as continuous efforts in fast-tracking the process towards an East African Political Federation. In addition to this, in 2011, the EAC designed a Forum for the involvement of Civil Society and the Private Sector in the integration process.

The Zinduka Festival originated from the need for a people owned process envisaged in Article 127(3) and (4) of the EAC Treaty. Zinduka is a catalyst that compliments other ongoing as well as future efforts by state and non-state actors to build a sustainable EAC through active citizenry participation.

The festival offered East African Citizens from all diversities an opportunity to share experiences, successes and challenges in the process of East African integration and Pan Africanism. EACSOF played a Key role in coordination by interlinking CSOs with EAC Delegation.

EACSOF was also chosen to be in the organizing committee of the Zinduka Festival.

Social and Economic Justice

EACSOF Initiatives at Global Level: The Nairobi Ministerial of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

The 10th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO MC10), which coincidentally marked the 20th Anniversary since the establishment of the
WTO, was held for the first time on Africa’s soil in Nairobi, Kenya from December 15 to 19, 2015.

EACSOF Secretariat and membership in collaboration with civil society in Africa and India, wrote a joint statement to the Heads of Governments in Africa’s 54 countries met for the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) through 26-29th October in New Delhi, India to deliberate on a ‘reinvigorated partnership-shared vision’. Civil Society urged for consideration of the common economic, social and environmental challenges that all our countries face, while recalling nding on issues at stake at the forthcoming Tenth Ministerial Conference (MC10) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that took place in Nairobi, Kenya, between December 15-18th this year. See Annex II I

EACSOF membership and other civil society organizations including trade unions, environmentalists, farmers, development advocates, and public interest groups from over 150 countries wrote an open letter to the **Nairobi Ministerial of the World Trade Organization (WTO)** The letter expressed extreme alarm about the current situation of the negotiations in the WTO, urging for change on existing WTO rules to make the global trading system more compatible with people-centered development in regards to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). See Annex IV


Historic agreement on export subsidies. Ministers agreed in Nairobi for developed Members to immediately eliminate their remaining scheduled export subsidy entitlements, with few exempted products; developing countries to eliminate export subsidies by 2018 or 2022; while LDCs are allowed to continue using marketing and transport cost subsidies until 2030.

MC10 extended the waiver on preferential treatment in favour of services and service suppliers of LDCs for 15 years, as of the date of the Decision.

**Arising Issues from the MC10 include:**

Disagreement among ministers of Member States on the future of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA), which was thought to take care of the development needs and interests of developing and least developed.
MC10, however, bore no fruit on securing deadlines for a permanent solution on food stockholding and the use of special safeguard mechanisms to protect farmers from sudden import surges in developing countries, including specificities on volume and price triggers.

In regards to Cotton, MC10 resulted no commitment on the elimination of trade distorting domestic support by developed countries, neither did it result in binding commitments on ‘LDC package’.


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<th>Social and Economic Justice</th>
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<td>EACSOF took part in “Promoting Pro-Development investment policies and agreements in the East African Community” meeting organized by SEATINI on 24th -25th September 2015 in Uganda. Investment agreement need to be examined based on how balances state commitments with investor obligations and promote responsible investments; ensure an appropriate balance between protection commitments and regulatory space for development and shield host countries from unjustified liabilities and high procedural costs. To achieve this in the EAC, it is important for stakeholders to have it place appropriate policy, legal and institutional frameworks to regulate investments and direct it to achieving the regions development objectives. A draft EAC framework and Investment Model Treaty has been developed, in response to the EAC Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFi) directive to develop a model treaty which</td>
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would be used to guide the region in negotiating investment treaties with third parties.

ANNEX II: Moving Africa Forward: Towards a People-Centered Model Mining Legislation for Africa Conference

The International Alliance on Natural Resources in Africa (IANRA) is a network of 41 member organisations – 40 in Africa and 1 in Europe, including 14 national IANRA groupings or networks in Africa (at various stages of development) with community partnerships and international linkages. IANRA works toward more just and sustainable management of natural resources in Africa through collaboration among member organisations, provision of community support, development of research and conducting advocacy.

Since 2010 IANRA members and partners have had discussions about potential initiatives at sub-regional and Pan-African levels to develop and advocate for mineral resource legislation and related policies that would protect and promote human rights, while also working toward inclusive development and policymaking around mining governance frameworks. This was informed by various initiatives of IANRA from strategy meetings to community exchanges such as the Road to Remedy Project which saw mining community representatives visiting others across the sub-regions from Johannesburg to Mombasa via Malawi and Zimbabwe.

The project has included case studies on human rights impacts of extractive industries as per the African Charter and Human and Peoples’ Rights (African Charter), and a Legal & Policy analysis – focused on regional instruments and national level legislation in 5 countries in Africa: Angola, DRC, Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The findings of the case studies was published in a synthesis report highlighting key findings, similarities and differences among the 5 countries. A document that IANRA has named the “First Principles,” ie, First Principles towards People Centred Mining Legislation and Policies that would provide for Sustainable Extraction and Equitable Use of Natural Resources for Local, National and Regional Development of Africa has been developed to articulate the impacts and consequences of the mode of mineral resource extraction that dominates wealth accumulation in many African countries.

The document also highlights the aspirations of communities to define their own development paths with due regard to their land and culture through enshrining the first principles of consent, respect, dignity and self-determination. And finally, it also serves as a basis to guide elements of land and minerals legislation to result in a
developing rural economy where various development alternatives are explored in the interests of people and future generations.

One of the most comprehensive analyses of international and national legislation and policies related to extractive industries and human rights was released as well as a policy advocacy guide for use by communities, civil society, policymakers and other stakeholders. This analysis and the Case Study Synthesis Report form the basis for the call for a model mining law for Africa. Some laws were found to be archaic, developed during the colonial era and thereby ensuring that people do not benefit from the natural resources of their land. Others conflicted with other acts and policies which override basic human rights and freedoms. It is against this background that IANRA saw it fit to draft a model law informed by these findings and various IANRA reports from communities across its membership in 14 African countries.

Building on above outcomes IANRA held a 2-day Conference to be held in Johannesburg from 11-12 November 2015 to share and further develop the above mentioned documents in a multi-stakeholder setting and to discuss a collective way forward for advocating for the recommend policy changes and the model law. The Conference was organised around presentations and working groups were created to engage and give necessary input and comments to the First Principles and the Draft Model Mining Legislation.

EACSOF interlinked IANRA national grouping to EACSOF National Chapters to share knowledge and ideas for how to advocate for adoption of the model law/policies via Annual EAC Secretary General Forum.

Annex III Joint Statement on issues at stake at the forthcoming Tenth Ministerial Conference.

EACSOF Secretariat and membership in collaboration with civil society in Africa and India, wrote a joint statement to the Heads of Governments in Africa’s 54 countries met for the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III) through 26-29th October in New Delhi, India to deliberate on a ‘reinvigorated partnership-shared vision’. Civil Society urged for consideration of the common economic, social and environmental challenges that all our countries face, while recalling on issues at stake at the forthcoming Tenth Ministerial Conference (MC10) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that took place in Nairobi, Kenya, between December 15-18th this year. See Annex II

The joint statement highlighted challenges on the WTO as:

Not only that the WTO is not helping realize development pathways in the South; it is actively threatening development policy space and development-oriented programmes in the developing world. The stiff resistance by the USA, EU, and other developed countries to negotiate a permanent solution to the food security
proposal and a development-oriented outcome in agriculture, which is not only of key interest to India and several African countries, but also to many other developing countries, is a clear evidence of this challenge. Agriculture and food, and the ability to continue to produce food, is a core development need in both India and Africa.

In NAMA (Non-agricultural market access), the developed countries continue to insist not only on adverse formulas on tariff cuts that will force developing countries to cut more tariffs, but also on “Sectorals or zero-for-zero” where some sectors will see total elimination of tariffs with immediate effect. The NAMA proposals will severely limit domestic industrialization and job creation prospects in Africa and India.

The TRIPS Agreement under the WTO set up intellectual property rights (IPRs) standards which are being pushed through trade rules; it creates barriers to technology development and transfer in developing countries with impacts on access to medicines & health care, key agricultural inputs including seeds varieties and traditional knowledge. However, the TRIPs Agreement had offered some flexibilities to developing countries that could help them protect important development priorities. These flexibilities are now being increasingly challenged. Moreover, the TRIPS waiver for LDCs is continuously under negotiation and is used as a lever to extract other concessions. Now developed countries are opposing amendments to TRIPS Rules to prevent ‘biopiracy’ from Africa, India and several other developing countries. Further, the developed countries are creating parallel and aggressive mechanisms through secret negotiations of plurilateral agreements such as Trade in Services Agreement (TISA), Information Technology Agreement-2 (ITA-2), Agreement in Environmental Goods and Services, and bilateral trade and investment agreements all of which thwart the multilateral nature of the WTO.

The joint statement tabled the following specific recommendations that civil society in India and across African countries want to put forward to their leaders as:

- Ensure a strong development outcome at the Nairobi MC10 of WTO with significant gains for developing and least developed countries. The “success” of the Ministerial should not be valued in terms of reaching the low hanging fruits, which favours developed countries but one that actually equips developing countries to address key economic, social and environmental needs;

- The Doha Development Round should not be concluded in Nairobi or later without a meaningful development package and no other round should be launched without addressing the core development issues that the DDR was mandated to address. In particular, the Singapore Issues including government procurement, competition policy, investment and any “new issues” would severely restrict space for implementing development oriented policies and hence should not be touched;
Specific deliverables of a development package should include but not be limited to; a permanent solution on the food security proposal that allows essential subsidies to producers for supporting public food stockholding; discussions on domestic subsidies by the advanced countries like the USA and the EU, an agreement on elimination of export subsidies, special and differential treatment (S&DT) for developing countries in all aspects of agricultural and NAMA negotiations including on tariff cuts and safeguard mechanisms, ‘Biodiversity Amendment’ to the TRIPS Agreement to prevent ‘biopiracy’, and a strong LDC package. On the other hand, further advances in and weakening of the flexibilities of the TRIPs Agreement, the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and further talks on plurilaterals and mega regional FTAs should be blocked; and,

Conduct the negotiations in a transparent, inclusive and fair manner that truly reflects the multilateral nature of the WTO and not participate in small ‘green room’ discussions and dealings that leave a large number of Member States out of discussions that would critically impact their people and the planet.

Working together, India and Africa must ensure our people have access to diversified opportunities for livelihoods, jobs and incomes, healthy food to eat and the ability to produce it locally, have access to adequate services, such as drinking water, health and sanitation, natural resources, and live in a safe and sustainable environment. No trade rules should come in the way of attaining these objectives. The WTO in particular must be allowed only to forward and not to hinder these objectives.

Annex IV: Open Letter to the Nairobi Ministerial of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

EACSOF membership and other civil society organizations including trade unions, environmentalists, farmers, development advocates, and public interest groups from over 150 countries wrote an open letter to the Nairobi Ministerial of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

The letter expressed extreme alarm about the current situation of the negotiations in the WTO, urging for change on existing WTO rules to make the global trading system more compatible with people-centered development. The letter stated that governments from around the world recently endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) negotiated through the United Nations. These include key goals such as reducing poverty and inequality; eradicating hunger; and ensuring universal access to essential services such as health care, education, water, and energy. In order to achieve these goals, countries must have the policy space to invest in domestic agricultural production to achieve food security and food
sovereignty; to regulate the financial sector to ensure financial stability; to scale up public provision of essential services to guarantee education, health, water, and energy access; to harness the power of government procurement to promote small and medium enterprises (SMEs); to utilize tax revenues, including tariffs, strategically to foment sustainable development and the creation of jobs with decent work; and to ensure that foreign investment serves the interests of the national development plan. However, this policy space is currently constrained by existing WTO rules which the vast majority of WTO members, which are developing countries, have been demanding must be changed, and are further threatened by an effort by a tiny number of developed countries to replace the development mandates with “new issues” designed to further increase transnational corporate profit margins.

The later stated that civil society organizations, have witnessed firsthand in their communities the negative impacts of 20 years of some existing WTO policies which have largely favored the interests of the developed world over the development interests of the developing world. This has particularly led to rising inequalities both within and among countries; the contributions of increased trade to climate change; the financial deregulation that led to the 2008 global economic crisis and the ongoing crises of food insecurity and joblessness. CSOs have called repeatedly for the WTO to be replaced with an institution that regulates corporate trade for the benefit of workers, farmers, communities, and the environment, rather than disciplining states for the narrow goal of increasing trade. At the same time, we must ensure that the WTO’s model of restricting national policy space in favor of corporate trading rights must not be expanded, but rather pruned back. To ensure that the Nairobi Ministerial deliver on removing WTO obstacles to development by fulfilling the development mandate in terms of strengthening and making effective the Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) for all developing countries, and affirming developing countries’ rights to food security, while forestalling the corporate agenda of abandoning development in favor of a corporate wish list of “new issues.”

The letter recommended that Fulfilling the Development Mandate by Strengthening SDT for All Developing Countries, Removing WTO Obstacles to Food Security, and Operationalizing Benefits for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

This year, a group of 90 (G90) developing countries made concrete proposals for changes to existing WTO rules that would remove some WTO constraints on
national pro-development policies. Many of these proposals parallel the civil society demands encompassed in the Turnaround Statement endorsed by hundreds of civil society groups from around the world. Reports from Geneva indicate that a tiny number of high-income WTO members are attempting to decide for themselves which developing countries should be able to utilize these flexibilities, dividing developing countries according to non-existent, subjective criteria and attempting to treat so-called “emerging markets” as if they were already developed. This approach has no basis in WTO law, in development policy, nor in economic reality. In fact, 70 percent of the world’s poor live in so-called “middle income” countries; narrowing the scope of the G90’s special and differential treatment proposals would condemn a billion people to living under WTO rules inappropriate for their level of development, without the flexibilities and policy space requisite for their countries to achieve the multilateral SDGs. For those reasons, SDT should be strengthened and made operational for all developing countries, while providing additional flexibilities to LDCs that attend to their specific development, financial and economic needs.

In one of the most hypocritical positions in the history of global trade negotiations, some developed countries are not only opposing the right of poor countries to feed themselves, but also refusing to reduce domestic supports on exported agricultural production that damages other countries’ domestic markets. In fact, the promise to reform global agricultural trade was the primary reason that developing countries even agreed to launch the Doha Round. Fourteen years later, some developed countries continue to subsidize agricultural exporting corporations in ways that damage farmers in developing countries, whose governments are not allowed (or cannot afford) such subsidies. We support the concept of food sovereignty, in which countries should be allowed to undertake domestic supports of agricultural production, but no country should be allowed to export subsidized food in a way that damages other countries’ markets.

At the same time, the havoc wreaked on developing country agricultural markets due to dumping of subsidized products calls out for an immediate solution. The G33’s proposal to create a Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) that would allow developing countries to protect their food security, farmers’ livelihoods, and rural development, would be another important step towards restoring countries’ food sovereignty that has been so eroded by the current imbalances in the WTO rules.

Even in the area that all WTO members should be able to agree on – ensuring benefits for the LDCs – consensus has not yet been reached. Although it was a priority mandate for the post-Bali period, the small LDC package agreed in Bali has yet to be operationalized, including ensuring 100 Duty Free, Quota Free (DFQF)
market access for LDCs exports; providing actual binding commitments for the LDC services waiver, and full simplification of the Rules of Origin (RoO). In addition, cotton farmers in Africa have been damaged for years due to the subsidies that rich countries have agreed to discipline in an “expedited” manner

The letter recommended that introduction of a Corporate Wish List of “New Issues” Must be Off the Table at Nairobi

We can all agree that global trade has evolved significantly since the Doha Round was launched in 2001. Unfortunately, many workers and farmers are still laboring under the rules negotiated in the mid-1990s – to which many developing countries and civil society around the world objected at the founding of the WTO. It is vastly inappropriate to mandate negotiations on new issues to the benefit of the financial, technology, and logistics corporations a few WTO members without first addressing the inequities and imbalances in the current WTO rules.

Many of these issues have been explicitly rejected by the WTO membership in the recent past, particularly the so-called “Singapore issues,” including investment, competition policy, and transparency in government procurement. Civil society has long opposed the international investment agreements (IIAs) which privilege foreign investors over citizens, communities, the environment, and the public interest generally, whether they appear in bilateral, plurilateral, or multilateral forums. Multiple governments have taken heed of the explosion of cases brought by investors against sovereign governments, and are re-shaping national investment rules to ensure that they benefit the national interest. During this time of shifting public debate on the negative impacts of such agreements, it is outrageous to think of allowing this ejected topic back into the WTO. Similarly with the topics of competition policy and opening up government procurement to foreign corporations, which are advantageous predominantly to corporate interests. Government procurement is an important engine for local development and for addressing inequities within countries, and these goals should take precedence over opening markets for transnational bidders. These are not primarily trade issues and they must not be allowed on the agenda – and there is not even any legal basis in the WTO to bring them in until after the development demands of developing countries have been comprehensively addressed.

Likewise there appears to be an effort by some developed countries to bring issues that many developing countries, and civil society around the world, have rejected in bilateral or plurilateral so-called free trade agreements (FTAs) into the WTO. This appears to include the idea of giving new “rights” to advanced technology
corporations to unlimited cross-border data transfers through e-commerce talks. A few members also appear interested in imposing on the WTO membership include disciplines on state-owned enterprises (which can be a key engine of domestic economic growth in many countries); and other so-called “new issues” which have yet to be defined by members seeking the mandate nonetheless to discuss them.

Civil society has long witnessed and condemned the unfair negotiations process in the WTO, in which the positions of powerful members are given predominance over the positions and needs of the vast majority of members who are developing countries, while the interests of workers, farmers, and the environment are shunted to the background in favor of corporate profit objectives. It is most unfortunate that under the current leadership, this phenomenon appears to have become even worse, even though the Director General hails from a developing nation.

Nairobi will be a crucial arbiter of the future of the global trade system. Will the WTO continue business as usual, in which the corporate interests of the powerful countries dominate, and the development mandate is abandoned in favor of talks on liberalization of new issues? Or will the WTO members heed the needs of the LDCs; of the poor in all our countries; of farmers struggling to make a living; of workers seeking decent work; and of the environment for our common stewardship?

For the Ministerial to “work” for food, jobs, and sustainable development, the necessary outcome is clear: the transformation of the gross inequities in the global agricultural system must begin, including: removing WTO obstacles to public stockholding for food security; a concrete and workable SSM; and disciplining domestic supports and export competition. Across the WTO, development demands must be met, including the full scope of the G90 proposals for all developing countries, and the operationalizing of the LDC package. The corporate and rich country government agenda of permanently abandoning the development mandate must be forestalled, along with the imposition of a set of already-rejected or ill-defined non-trade “new issues.”