

EACSO NEWSLETTER

YEAR IN REVIEW (2023)



East African Civil Society
Organization' Forum

*Strengthening Civil Society in
the Integration Process*

20th / DEC / 2023

Remarks From President of EACSO & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)



Mr. Edmund Yakani
Chairperson EACSO

Dear Members and Partners,

I am delighted to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the unwavering dedication and collaborative spirit demonstrated by each of you in our shared journey towards realizing the goals of our organization. Your commitment and tireless efforts have played an instrumental role in the numerous achievements and milestones we have reached together. I look forward to continuing our partnership and achieving even greater heights together.



Ms Lilian Alex
CEO. EACSO

Dear EACSO Community,

In 2023, EACSO upheld its commitment to collaboration, peace, democracy, good governance, and technology in East Africa. Our engagements, from strategic retreats to diplomatic dialogues, aimed at advancing the interests of East African citizens. As we reflect on the year's activities, I appreciate the dedication of the EACSO community. Let's build on this momentum in the coming year. We thank our partners for their invaluable collaboration, dedication to excellence, and shared vision, driving our success.

Preview of the Year 2023



EACSOFSUMMIT 2023

In May 2023, the East African Civil Societies Summit convened over 300 representatives, including civil society, EAC institutions, Partner States, Academia, and development partners. Themed "Harnessing citizens' prosperity in EAC and AfCFTA integration processes," the summit aimed to renew the social contract between the EAC and its citizens. Discussions centered on strategic plans for 2023-2028, reflecting the commitment to adapt and amplify impact. This transformative event infused fresh energy into collective efforts for a prosperous and integrated East Africa.

The summit provided a dynamic platform where CSOs from diverse areas converged, connecting and collaborating. Health experts, governance advocates, climate change warriors, and gender and youth activists shared knowledge, fostering a collective commitment to address challenges and promote a thriving East Africa.



• DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

EACSOF Milestone in Engaging with PAPS Commissioner: Institutionalization and Strategic Retreat:



In this regard, EACSOF together with other CSOs in Africa met for the first time with the PAPS Commissioner's team in February 2022 in Nairobi. This conversation led to a proposal for the institutionalization of a CSOs-PAPS convening once a year and the appointment of a CSO focal point within the PAPS department. These two requests were subsequently granted by the PAPS Commissioner during a virtual meeting with CSOs on 25 November 2022. As a result, a second annual strategic retreat between the PAPS Commissioner and Civil Society take place this week on the 5th April 2023, as one of several avenues the PAPS department has opened up in the past year for engaging with Civil Society on a regular basis. Already, a platform has been created for African Think-Tanks and other knowledge centers to engage with AU PAPS in a structured manner under the auspices of NeTT4Peace. The ongoing effort is to fill the gap for bringing on board other CSOs in the operational sector of governance peace and security, to formalize the civil society engagement with the AU-PAPS.



EACSOF Joins Celebration of 10th Anniversary of Policy Forum on Development:

EACSOF proudly takes part in commemorating the 10th year of the Policy Forum on Development in Brussels, Belgium. The event's theme, "Multistakeholder Partnerships for Building a Better Future: The Quest for Equality and Enlargement of Civic Space," resonates with our commitment to equality and the expansion of civic space. This participation underscores EACSOF dedication to collaborative efforts for a more inclusive and equitable future.

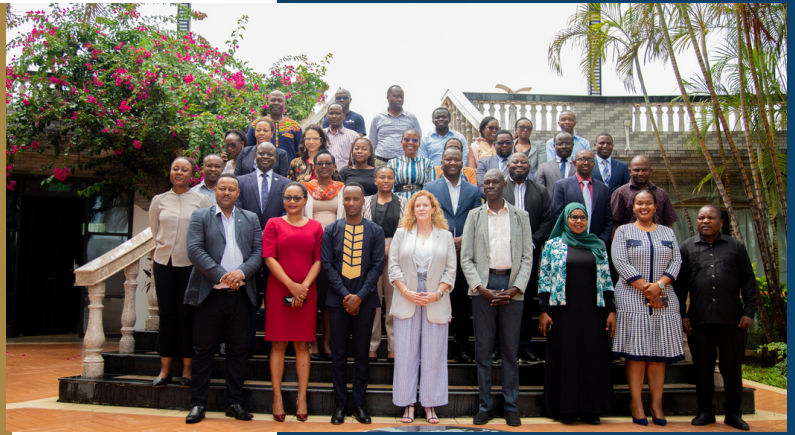
EACSOF Engages with Tanzanian Members of Parliament on Foreign Affairs:

EACSOF proudly participated alongside other Civil Society Organizations in an engaging meeting with the Tanzanian Members of Parliament, Committee of Foreign Affairs, held at the Parliament grounds. This collaborative opportunity signifies EACSOF's commitment to fostering dialogue and cooperation with key stakeholders in pursuit of common goals.



EACSOFF Hosts Strategic Partner Meeting in Tanzania:

EACSOFF, with the generous sponsorship from Canada, spearheaded a strategic partner meeting. The gathering brought together civil society actors, development partners, government representatives, and regional partners to explore key developments in the realms of civic space, agriculture, climate change, and Civic technology in Tanzania. EACSOFF was proud to facilitate this collaborative space for meaningful discussions and shared insights.



EACSOFF Contributes to #NGOsforum2023 in Dodoma, Tanzania:

EACSOFF proudly joined the ranks of organizations participating in the #NGOsforum2023 in Dodoma, Tanzania. During a panel discussion on opportunities for Tanzanian CSOs to engage in the EAC region, EACSOFF CEO, Ms. Lillian Alex, emphasized the forum's significance as an avenue for CSOs to extend their reach beyond Tanzania to the regional and continental levels.



EACSOF Side Sessions:

EACSOF hosted side events during the TanzaniaCSO week and the EALS Annual Conference, discussing civic space, digital technology, and the role of the rule of law in protecting civicspace.

• PEACE & SECURITY

EACSOF ACTIVE ROLE IN CT PHARE'S HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



In June 2023, EACSOF participated in the launch of the EU-funded Counter-terrorism Platform for Human Rights Engagement (CT PHARE) by IIJ in Malta. Insights from the Expert Group Meeting informed CT PHARE's capacity building activity aiming to enhance oversight and accountability mechanisms in Anglophone African countries. EACSOF is actively involved in identifying gaps, promoting human rights, and fostering collaboration among key stakeholders.



Eastern Africa Regional Consultation on Independent Civil Society - UN Counterterrorism Engagement in Nairobi, Kenya:

EACSOF contributed to a scoping study assessing the viability of Independent Civil Society – UN Counterterrorism Engagement, reinforcing sustainable dialogue between civil society and UN actors.

• TRADE & INVESTMENT



EACSOF Contribution to SEATINI UGANDA Meeting on Domestic Resource Mobilization

Ms. Lilian Alex, CEO of EACSOF, presented our groundbreaking work in Civil Society at a meeting hosted by @SEATINIUGANDA. The focus of the discussion was on leveraging equitable domestic resource mobilization for progress towards EAC Regional integration. EACSOF remains dedicated to advancing collaborative efforts for the development and integration of the East African Community.



EACSOF Shapes Responses to Global Economic Transformation, Participates in TATIC-Organized Meeting

In response to global economic shifts, EACSOF actively engages in discussions on challenges and opportunities. Key focus areas include the Energy Charter Treaty, Bilateral Investment Treaties, and the African Continental Free Trade Area, shaping economies in Africa. EACSOF remains committed to providing insights amid this dynamic landscape.

- **GENDER
MAINSTREAM**



**EACSOE Celebrates International Women's Day 2023,
Advocates for Digital Inclusion:**

On International Women's Day (IWD) 2023, EACSOE actively participated in recognizing and celebrating the achievements of women in transformative technology and digital education. Ms. Lilian Alex, Regional Coordinator at EACSOE, highlighted the crucial role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in promoting digital literacy in rural areas. She also advocated for the implementation of a unified telecommunication network in the EAC, showcasing EACSOE commitment to digital inclusion and gender equality.

PARTNERSHIPS



HISTORY IN THE MAKING: EACSOE, SADC-CNGO, AND WACSOE UNITE TO RECOGNIZE AND ENHANCE POPULAR PARTICIPATION ACROSS THREE AFRICAN REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES.

EACSOE ENGAGEMENT WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS BASED IN TANZANIA:

EACSOE President and CEO engaged with the embassies of Canada, the European Union, Sweden, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, presenting collaboration opportunities during a donor round-table discussion at the European Union premises.

Upcoming
events 2024
CSO Summit



The East African Civil Society Summit

Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda