



AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2024 EACSO NEWSLETTER EDITION:

www.eacsof.net

Dear Members and Partners,

We are pleased to share with you the latest edition of the EACSO Newsletter for **August - September 2024**. In this issue, we bring you important updates on our recent participation in key events related to civil society engagement in the East African Community (EAC) integration process, as well as information on the upcoming national consultations scheduled for this October.

Message from the Chairperson of EACSO for National Consultation Meetings



Mr. Edmund Yakan
Executive Director CEPO South Sudan

Dear colleagues,

As we gather for these important national consultations, I want to emphasize that the responsibility for our collective success lies with each of us at the national level. It is not solely the duty of the EAC Secretariat or the regional body; it is a national responsibility that we must all take seriously.

We must engage effectively for the benefit of our countries and our citizens. I urge you to approach this engagement with dedication and foresight. Please ensure that our civil society is meaningfully involved in this crucial process. Furthermore, we must work together to hold our governments accountable while avoiding internal competition that can hinder our progress. Collaboration is essential to ensuring our efforts are impactful and sustainable.

Let us take this opportunity to strengthen our collective voice and work towards a united vision for a prosperous East African Community.

Thank you.

EACSOFF is excited to announce a series of National Consultation meetings, which will be held in October 2024, ahead of the upcoming EAC Secretary General's Forum in November 2024. These consultations will focus on discussing the participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and citizens in the East African region.

The consultations will take place physically, with representatives from the EACSOFF Secretariat, EAC Secretariat, and MEACA (where applicable) in each EAC partner state. These meetings will be conducted with the full support of GIZ East Africa. Given the tight schedule for these consultations, we kindly request that participants adjust their plans to attend these critical one-day meetings.

The proposed dates for the country-specific consultations are as follows:

- Thursday 10th October 2024 - Republic of Somalia
- Tuesday 15th October 2024- South Sudan Chapter
- Thursday 17th October 2024 - Uganda Chapter
- Saturday 19th October 2023 - Democratic Republic of Congo
- Tuesday 22nd October 2024- Republic of Kenya

- Tuesday 29th October 2024 - Burundi Chapter
- Thursday 31st October 2024- Rwanda Chapter

We encourage all stakeholders to actively participate and contribute to these important discussions. Stay tuned for further updates, as we move forward with our efforts to engage civil society across the region.

Highlights from Our Recent Participation in Key Events.

CSO Week 2024: EACSOF's Participation in CSO Engagement for EAC Integration – Challenges and Opportunities

CSO Week 2024 offered a platform for meaningful dialogue on the evolving role of CSOs in the East African Community's (EAC) integration process. During the session, Ms. Lilian Alex CEO of EACSOF highlighted the pressing challenges facing CSOs today, including reduced engagement at national and regional levels. She advocated for renewed efforts in strengthening civil society's role by fostering new partnerships and encouraging collective action within the EAC framework.



Adding to the conversation, Karina Dzialowska, Head of Economics and Governance at the EU Delegation to Tanzania, highlighted the opportunities for greater inclusivity in the integration process. She placed a special focus on underrepresented groups such

as the youth, stressing the importance of mentorship and capacity-building initiatives. Drawing from the EU's experience, she encouraged CSOs to integrate youth into decision-making structures to enhance representation and inclusivity.

The session concluded with a set of strategic recommendations. CSOs were urged to take an active role in shaping policies, building partnerships, and ensuring that the integration process within the EAC is equitable and benefits all communities, particularly those that have been traditionally marginalized.

EACSOF Participates in Key Convening on "Enhancing Human Rights in Africa"

EACSOF was honored to take part in a major convening hosted by the Data for Governance Alliance, focusing on "Enhancing Human Rights in Africa." During this event, our representative, Ms. Lilian, emphasized the critical opportunities available for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to engage within the East African Community (EAC). She stressed the need for CSOs to work together more effectively across the continent, calling for unity in advocacy efforts. Ms. Lilian urged that through collaboration, African CSOs can better address shared human rights challenges and champion the protection of these rights for all citizens.



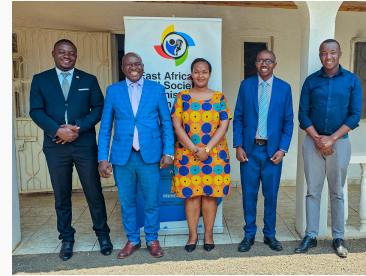
Strengthening Regional Collaboration: EACSOF Leadership and Partner Engagements



We were honored to host EACSOB Board member and Secretary General, Mr. Mwananawe Aimable, for discussions on our progress and enhancing regional impact.



EACSOB was pleased to welcome Chris Nkwatsibwe, Team Leader for Policy, Governance & Civic Engagement at the Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF).



EACSOB welcomed Board member Isaac Bakanibona from the Burundi Chapter, along with partners, to discuss progress, enhance cooperation, and plan regional initiatives.

Opportunity



**East African Civil Society
Organization' Forum**

*Strengthening Civil Society in
the Integration Process*

**WE ARE
HIRING**

Program Consultant

Key Responsibilities:

- Lead regional programs
- Organize major events
- Develop funding strategies
- Manage communications & partnerships


Requirements:

- Experience: 5+ years in program management
- Skills: Leadership, communication (English/Swahili)

Send CV & Portfolio to this email:

hr@eacsof.net

**Application Deadline:
October 7, 2024**

For More Information
www.eacsof.net 



The East African Civil Society Organizations Forum (EACSOFF) is looking for a Program Consultant to join our team in Arusha, Tanzania! If you're passionate about fostering good governance, human rights, and sustainable development in East Africa, this opportunity is for you!

For the full job description and details on how to apply, please visit: eacsof.net/vacancies/

Join EACSOFF today and become a member to collaborate in advancing civil society efforts across East Africa! [Become a Member](#)

[Membership Form](#)



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