



**East African Civil Society
Organization' Forum**

*Strengthening Civil Society in
the Integration Process*

MID YEAR REPORT

20 25



Executive Summary


The East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSOF) plays a crucial role in advocating for civil society participation within the East African Community (EAC). This semi-annual report provides a comprehensive overview of EACSOF's activities from January to June 2025, with a focus on promoting regional governance, protecting human rights, and strengthening social and economic integration within the EAC region.

Introduction

During this reporting period, EACSOF implemented a broad range of initiatives and strategic engagements aligned with its core mission and thematic focus areas. These thematic areas in EACSOF's intervention are:

1. Democracy and Good Governance
2. Technology and Digital Policies in East Africa
- 3 . Social and Economic Justice
- 4 . Trade and Investment
- 5 . Peace and Security

Through these themes, EACSOF has actively engaged in collaborative meetings, policy dialogues, advocacy campaigns, and capacity-strengthening efforts. These platforms have fostered cross-sectoral collaboration, improved policy influence, and ensured alignment between departmental initiatives and EACSOF's broader regional mission.





Thematic Highlights

Thematic Area 1: Democracy and Good Governance

Strengthening Civic Space and Regional Accountability through Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

EACSOF co-organized and actively participated in the Media Engagement Workshop and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue during the SADC Civil Society Week held in Dar es Salaam in late February 2025. Through its leadership, EACSOF mobilized civil society actors and facilitated dialogue among government representatives, journalists, and regional stakeholders to strengthen the voice and visibility of non-state actors in SADC governance structures. The organization played a central role in highlighting the disconnect between inclusive policy frameworks and their weak implementation in practice, particularly the underrepresentation of civil society in SADC National Committees. EACSOF also emphasized the urgency of protecting civic space in Southern Africa and building effective mechanisms for civil society participation and media collaboration. Its contribution reinforced its regional role as an advocate for democratic governance, inclusive policymaking, and accountability.

Recommendations and Way Forward:

- Institutionalize Civil Society Participation in SADC National Committees:
- Member states should reform and operationalize SADC National Committees to include CSOs as permanent, equal stakeholders in regional policy development and implementation.
- Strengthen Media–Civil Society Collaboration:
- Build long-term partnerships between CSOs and media institutions to improve public understanding of regional integration and elevate marginalized voices in governance discourse.
- Enhance the Capacity of Civil Society Organizations:

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- Implement regional training programs and peer learning platforms to empower CSOs in policy analysis, advocacy, and engagement in regional processes.
 - Develop a Regional Civil Society Engagement Strategy:
 - EACSOF and partners to lead the formulation of a structured engagement framework to guide civil society participation across SADC structures, with clear roles, timelines, and feedback mechanisms.
 - Document and Share Best Practices:
 - Compile lessons from successful civil society engagements and media collaborations across member states to inform regional strategies and inspire replication.
 - Plan Follow-Up Actions and Monitoring:
 - Establish a follow-up mechanism, including quarterly check-ins and national consultations, to assess progress on commitments made during the workshop and inform future dialogue.



Strengthening Legal Recognition and Governance Structures of NGO Networks in Tanzania: Dialogue between TANGO and the Office of the Registrar

EACSOF actively took part in a strategic meeting organized by the Tanzania Association of NGOs (TANGO) and the Office of the Registrar of NGOs. The meeting centered on tackling legal and structural issues affecting NGO networks in Tanzania, including the absence of formal recognition under the current NGOs Act and restrictions within the NGO Information System (NIS – Jamii). EACSOF contributed to the discussion by raising the concerns of its member networks and advocating for more inclusive and flexible legal frameworks that support coalitions, thematic networks, and international NGOs. The forum also allowed EACSOF to reaffirm its dedication to promoting civic space, legal reform, and institutional accountability within the civil society ecosystem.

Recommendations and Way Forward:

- **Legal Review and Advocacy:**

TANGO to initiate dialogue with relevant legal bodies and the Ministry responsible for reviewing and amending the NGOs Act and its regulations to formally recognize NGO networks and coalitions.

- **Reform of the NGO Constitution Format:**

Recommend to the Registrar's Office the development of a flexible constitutional format that accommodates the operational realities of networks, coalitions, and international NGOs.

- **Upgrade of the NGO Information System (NIS - Jamii):**

Work with the Registrar's technical team to incorporate disaggregated data fields that recognize networks, thematic sectors (e.g., health, education, human rights), and membership-based organizations.

- **Development of Inclusive Reporting Templates:**

Revise reporting formats to capture unique operations and activities of networks, ensuring their members' contributions and structural roles are documented and reported accurately.

- **Follow-Up Meeting Plan:**

TANGO and the Office of the Registrar to reconvene in the next quarter to review progress on agreed reforms and identify any remaining legal or institutional gaps requiring further action.



EACSOF's Strategic Engagement in Strengthening Civic Space and Regional Solidarity.

In April 2025, a Regional Ideation & Learning Retreat on Safeguarding Civic Space was convened in Nairobi, bringing together 20 civil society leaders from across Africa to deliberate on the escalating political challenges threatening civic space. Organized by the Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), the forum centered on critical issues including the tightening restrictions on civic freedoms and the widespread negative portrayal of NGOs as foreign agents. EACSOF actively engaged in this vital forum, contributing to collaborative dialogues aimed at bolstering regional solidarity among civil society organizations. The forum was instrumental in co-creating a flexible and adaptive framework designed to anticipate and effectively mitigate emerging threats to civic space in real time. Through its participation, EACSOF reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to safeguarding civic freedoms and promoting meaningful citizen engagement within development and governance processes throughout the region.

Recommendations and Way Forward

- **Strengthen Regional Solidarity Among Civil Society:**

Promote regular continental and regional platforms for civil society actors to share experiences, coordinate advocacy, and support each other against repression.

- **Develop Adaptive Risk-Response Frameworks:**

Finalize and operationalize the flexible frameworks for anticipating and mitigating risks to civic space in real time at both national and regional levels.

- **Capacity Building for Civil Society:**

Invest in training for civil society leaders on risk management, digital security, advocacy strategies, and legal literacy to withstand restrictive environments.

- **Engage with Governments for Enabling Legal Frameworks:**

Pursue constructive dialogue with policymakers to review and reform regulations that unduly restrict NGOs and civic participation.

- **Promote Public Awareness and Counter Negative Narratives:**

Implement campaigns to educate the public on the vital role of civil society in development and democracy, countering misinformation and populist rhetoric.



EACSOF's Engagement in Policy Dialogue on CSO Participation in EAC Integration – CSO Week 2025

During CSO Week in May 2025, EACSOF participated in a high-level session on “National and Regional Policy and Legislative Frameworks for CSO Engagement in the East African Community (EAC) Integration Process.” The session explored the role of civil society organizations in shaping and implementing policies within the EAC. Panelists noted that although frameworks like the EAC Treaty and the Consultative Dialogue Framework support citizen and CSO participation, challenges remain. These include low public awareness of EAC opportunities, limited CSO representation in National Dialogue Committees, and weak inclusion of grassroots organizations. EACSOF and stakeholders highlighted the need to improve communication, increase awareness of EAC processes, and ensure meaningful CSO involvement at all policy stages, including before policies reach Sectoral Councils or the Council of Ministers. The East African Court of Justice was also acknowledged as a key mechanism for citizens and CSOs to seek legal redress over treaty violations. Overall, the discussions emphasized the need for inclusive, transparent, and sustained participation by governments, EAC bodies, and civil society in the region's integration efforts.

Recommendations and Way Forward

Enhance Public Awareness:

Intensify efforts to educate citizens and civil society organizations about the East African Community, its structures, and opportunities for engagement, especially at grassroots levels.

Strengthen CSO Representation:

Ensure meaningful and inclusive participation of civil society organizations, including grassroots groups, in National Dialogue Committees and other consultative platforms.

Improve Communication Channels:

Develop and maintain effective communication systems between the EAC, member states, and CSOs to facilitate timely information sharing on policy development and implementation.

Facilitate Early CSO Involvement:

Institutionalize mechanisms that allow CSOs to contribute inputs during the early stages of policy formulation before decisions reach Sectoral Councils or the Council of Ministers.

Thematic Area 2: Technology and Digital Policies in East Africa

Advancing Digital Urban Governance in East Africa

EACSOF participated in the Digital Transformation in Urban Governance workshop held in Arusha, Tanzania, as part of its commitment to advancing inclusive governance and digital policy engagement across East Africa. The two-day event brought together stakeholders from Tanzania and Ethiopia—including government officials, civil society actors, private sector representatives, and digital governance experts—to explore the role of technology in improving urban service delivery, transparency, and citizen participation. Through its contributions, EACSOF emphasized the importance of citizen-centered digital governance systems that increase accountability and promote social justice, especially for youth, women, and marginalized urban populations who are often left behind in digital transitions. The forum actively engaged in knowledge sharing and strategic dialogue, advocating for cross-border collaboration, equitable access to digital tools, and harmonized regulatory frameworks responsive to both local and regional development needs. Additionally, EACSOF highlighted the necessity of involving civil society in digital policymaking processes and supported the proposal to create a joint roadmap for expanding digital transformation efforts across East Africa. Its participation in the workshop strengthened its role as a facilitator of civil society voices and a leader in promoting inclusive, technology-driven governance models that serve all citizens fairly.

Recommendations and Way Forward:

- **Institutionalize Inclusive Digital Policy Platforms:**

Governments in East Africa, beginning with Tanzania and Ethiopia, should establish multi-stakeholder forums that include civil society, the private sector, and digital experts to co-create urban digital governance strategies.

- **Enhance Digital Literacy and Access:**

Stakeholders agreed on the need to implement community-based digital literacy programs that prioritize youth, women, and marginalized urban populations, ensuring equitable access to digital tools and services.

- **Develop a Joint Regional Roadmap:**

A taskforce will be formed to co-develop a regional roadmap outlining strategic priorities, implementation timelines, and accountability structures for scaling digital governance solutions across East African cities.

Thematic Area 3: Social and Economic Justice

Global Policy Forum for Development 2025:

The Global Policy Forum held in Brussels in June 2025 brought together stakeholders from around the world to reassess international development efforts. EACSOF contributed to the discussions by highlighting regional priorities in East Africa, particularly the need for inclusive partnerships that center the voices of civil society in fragile and underserved contexts. Representing East African civil society voices, EACSOF engaged in high-level dialogues focused on reimagining global partnerships amidst growing inequality, climate challenges, and shrinking civic space.

EACSOF's contributions emphasized the importance of locally led development, equitable financing models, and people-centered policies that realign global development initiatives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The forum also provided a strategic platform for EACSOF to advocate increased investment in human development, enhanced regional representation, and the safeguarding of civic space. This engagement reaffirmed EACSOF's commitment to ensuring that East African civil society is actively involved in shaping global cooperation frameworks grounded in human rights, social justice, and participatory governance.

Recommendations and Way Forward

- **Promote Locally Led Development in Global Agendas:**

Strengthen support for community-based initiatives and grassroots organizations to drive sustainable development tailored to local needs.

- **Push for Inclusive Financing Models:**

Advocate for funding mechanisms that are accessible to regional and local civil society actors, especially in underserved or fragile regions.

- **Safeguard Civic Space in Global Partnerships:**

Ensure that human rights and civil society protection are integral to EU external action and Global Gateway strategies.

- **Engage More CSOs in Policy Dialogue:**

Encourage structured, regular consultations between EU institutions and African CSOs to co-design policies and development priorities.

- **Monitor Implementation of the 2030 Agenda Locally:**

Invest in regional platforms and coalitions like EACSOF to track progress on SDGs, particularly those related to equity, participation, and justice.



Thematic Area 4: Trade and Investment

Training on Rights in Commercial Investment Schemes – April 2025

In response to rising concerns about human rights violations in large-scale investment schemes, SEATINI Uganda convened a regional training on April 16–18, 2025. The session brought together civil society actors from across East Africa to build capacity in monitoring, advocacy, and legal literacy related to land-based and infrastructure investments.

EACSOF actively engaged in the workshop by sharing regional experiences, contributing to strategy development, and strengthening collaborative networks for accountability. Discussions emphasized the importance of community land rights, environmental safeguards, and participatory investment planning.

Key Recommendations and Way Forward:

- Advocate for stronger legal and policy frameworks protecting land rights and ensuring environmental integrity.
- Promote Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) in all investment activities.
- Conduct public awareness campaigns on rights and entitlements.
- Strengthen inter-CSO collaboration for monitoring and documentation.
- Engage governments and EAC institutions for policy change.
- Integrate outcomes into EACSOF's Social and Economic Justice programs.



EACSOF Participated in International Customs Day Commemoration

EACSOF took part in the commemoration of International Customs Day on 26 January 2025 at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha. During the event, the EAC Secretary General, Hon. Veronica M. Nduva, urged Partner States' Customs authorities to adopt technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) to streamline customs processes, enhance trade efficiency, and combat illicit trade.

The SG emphasized the importance of simplifying customs procedures for the public, raising awareness, and involving grassroots communities in regional integration efforts. She also highlighted progress made through initiatives like the Single Customs Territory, the Simplified Trade Regime (STR), and electronic cargo tracking, which have significantly boosted intra-EAC trade and regional investment.

The event brought together representatives from the private sector, development partners, and international institutions, who echoed calls for innovation, mindset shifts, and continued collaboration to address trade challenges and improve customs systems across the region.

Key Recommendations and Way Forward

- **Adoption of Emerging Technologies**

EAC Partner States were urged to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other digital tools to modernize customs procedures, enhance transparency, reduce delays, and curb illicit trade.

- **Simplification and Public Awareness**

Customs authorities should demystify customs processes by using simplified language and increasing outreach to traders, especially at the grassroots level, through targeted public awareness campaigns.

- **Strengthening the Simplified Trade Regime (STR)**

Continued support and expansion of the STR will ease trade for small-scale cross-border traders, particularly women and youth, by reducing bureaucratic bottlenecks and enhancing access to market opportunities.

- **Enhancing Public-Private Dialogue**

Regular engagement between customs authorities and private sector actors, including freight forwarders and small traders, should be institutionalized to improve systems through feedback and joint problem-solving.

- **Mindset Shift and Capacity Building**

Stakeholders emphasized the need for a mindset change in embracing innovation. Continuous training and capacity building for customs officials and border staff are essential for the smooth implementation of new technologies.



Regional Engagements

The EAC Secretariat convened the first Regional Dialogue committee and invited CSO representatives from all EAC partner States.

In alignment with its regional mandate, EACSOF convened the Regional Committee Dialogue held at the EAC Secretariat, demonstrating its leadership in advancing meaningful civil society engagement in East African Community (EAC) processes.


As part of this effort:

- EACSOF brought together CSO representatives from all eight EAC Partner States, ensuring inclusive and diverse participation of civil society voices from across the region.
- Facilitated the handover of the Chairmanship of the Regional CSO Steering Committee to the East Africa Law Society (EALS), reinforcing principles of institutional rotation and collective leadership among regional CSOs.
- Submitted consolidated recommendations from the Secretary General's forum held in December 2024, ensuring that civil society's concerns, priorities, and aspirations were presented and considered in policy discussions and outcomes.

This engagement marked a significant milestone in EACSOF's work of bridging the gap between Civil Society and regional institutions, while promoting transparency, accountability, and participatory governance within the EAC integration agenda.

Strategic Engagement Meeting on Enhancing Civil Society Role in Regional Integration and Governance

The East African Civil Society Organizations Forum (EACSOF), in collaboration with the East African Community (EAC), GIZ-CSO REC projects, and umbrella CSO bodies from various Regional Economic Communities (RECs), convened a high-level strategic engagement meeting. The meeting aimed to strengthen the role of civil society in regional integration and governance processes by fostering closer collaboration among stakeholders.



Participants from civil society, regional institutions, and development partners engaged in in-depth discussions focused on enhancing institutional partnerships, promoting civic space, and integrating civil society voices into policymaking at both regional and national levels. The dialogue highlighted the critical importance of inclusive governance, accountability, and citizen participation as cornerstones for advancing the integration agenda.

Key Resolutions:

- Establishment of a structured coordination mechanism between CSOs and REC institutions to streamline advocacy and engagement efforts.
- Development of a joint CSO action plan to support regional development priorities aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Commitment to build the capacity of CSOs for evidence-based advocacy, policy monitoring, and community mobilization.
- Agreement to enhance information sharing, joint programming, and cross-regional learning among CSOs within the RECs.

Way Forward:

Participants agreed to form a regional task force responsible for overseeing the implementation of the action plan and monitoring progress on the agreed resolutions. EACSOE, together with GIZ-CSO REC projects and the regional CSO umbrella bodies, will facilitate regular consultative forums to ensure civil society activities are aligned with the priorities of the EAC and RECs. There was a shared commitment to mobilize resources and political support to maintain civil society as a strong, coordinated, and influential actor in the regional integration process.



East African Civil Society Summit 2025.

The East African Civil Society Summit is a regional platform convened by EACSOF to amplify the voices of civil society in the East African Community (EAC) integration process. The summit brings together civil society leaders, policymakers, regional institutions, development partners, and other stakeholders to deliberate on key regional challenges and opportunities, and to influence policy through a unified civil society voice.

In anticipation of this important event, EACSOF organized two key pre-summit activities in March 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya:

- **Donor Roundtable:** Brought together development partners, CSOs, and key stakeholders to mobilize support, foster strategic partnerships, and present the Summit's vision and thematic pillars.
- **Media Launch:** Aimed to increase public awareness, generate momentum, and promote inclusive regional participation across all EAC Partner States.

Although the Summit was initially scheduled for May 27–29, 2025, it was rescheduled to September 2025 to accommodate the need for broader stakeholder inclusion and allow more time for resource mobilization and strategic coordination.

EACSOF's Role:

As the lead convener, EACSOF plays a central role in conceptualizing, coordinating, and mobilizing regional actors towards the successful delivery of the Summit. The organization continues to engage with national chapters, institutional partners, and development agencies to ensure the Summit reflects the diverse voices and priorities of civil society across the region.

Way Forward:

To ensure a successful and inclusive Summit, EACSOF is undertaking the following actions:

- Secure additional support and partnerships with regional and international stakeholders.
- Continue to mobilize the participation of CSOs from across the region to participate and share knowledge during the summit by holding Thematic discussions.
- Strengthening communication and advocacy strategies leading up to the Summit to ensure widespread visibility that will foster meaningful participation.
- Continue resource mobilization and broaden outreach to ensure equitable representation and implementation of recommendations after the Summit
- Enhance coordination with national chapters to align national priorities with regional integration objectives.



Institutional Updates

Overview of EACSOF's Strategic Vision (2021–2025)—Strategic Plan

- As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening regional integration and participatory governance, EACSOF has undertaken an institutional update aimed at enhancing its operational effectiveness, organizational sustainability, and strategic relevance.
- This update reflects EACSOF's continued evolution in response to emerging regional dynamics, stakeholder needs, and governance challenges. It includes structural reforms, strategic realignments, and capacity enhancement measures to ensure that EACSOF remains a credible, representative, and influential platform for civil society engagement in EAC affairs. The institutional update also aligns with EACSOF's strategic vision of fostering a people-centered, democratic, and inclusive East African Community. Some of the activities have folded up in the past six months.

Visits and Engagements

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and institutional relationships, EACSOF conducted several high-level visits and engagement meetings with key stakeholders. These interactions enhanced collaboration, increased EACSOF's visibility, and reaffirmed its role as a key convener of civil society voices within the East African Community framework. The visits also provided opportunities to identify new areas for partnership and deepen the spirit of regional solidarity.

Stakeholder Engagement Highlights

Visit by SONSA Somalia Chapter

A delegation from the Somalia National Chapter (SONSA) visited the EACSOF Secretariat for the first time since joining the Forum. Discussions focused on enhancing cross-border civil society collaboration and strengthening regional solidarity, particularly considering Somalia's recent admission into the EAC. The visit symbolized SONSA's commitment to active participation in regional advocacy.

Visit by Uganda Governing Council Member – Mr. Henry Muguzi

Mr. Henry Muguzi, EACSOF Board Member, visited the Secretariat and shared strategic reflections aimed at improving institutional governance and engagement across the region. His visit reinforced the importance of board-level guidance in advancing EACSOF's mission.

Engagement with E-SUN Institution

Representatives from the E-SUN Institution visited EACSOF to share experiences and explore potential areas of institutional collaboration. Discussions revolved around best practices, mutual learning, and possibilities for joint programming.



Institutional Development and Strengthening

In early 2025, EACSOF undertook key internal development measures aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, deepening stakeholder engagement, and ensuring long-term sustainability. These improvements included the strengthening of internal systems, expansion of membership across the region, and the securing of multi-year funding to support strategic initiatives.

Conducted Quarterly Governing Council (GC) Meetings

- EACSOF successfully held its Quarterly Governing Council meetings, which are essential for guiding the organization's strategic direction. These meetings provided a platform for reviewing organizational performance, discussing governance issues, and planning future actions. The council, composed of national chapter representatives and board members, ensured that the voices of civil society across the region were reflected in EACSOF's decision-making processes.

Key Regional Findings:

- Low awareness of the EAC Treaty and integration agenda among CSOs remains a barrier to engagement.
- CSOs emphasized the need to be included in the ongoing EAC Treaty amendment process.
- Local ownership of the integration process is crucial; civil society voices must be heard.
- Peacebuilding efforts need stronger links between local and regional levels.
- CSOs seek greater awareness on digital transformation, including digital currencies in the EAC.

Calls for improved visibility, coordination, and membership engagement within national EACSOF chapters.

Common Challenges:

- Limited CSO participation in EAC processes
- Political developments affecting peace and civic space
- Fragmentation within national civil society networks

Agreed Regional Actions:

- Raise awareness on the EAC Treaty and amendment process
- Share recommendations with national stakeholders
- Support CSO participation in the upcoming EACSOF Summit
- Facilitate direct engagement with EAC institutions



Institutional Development and Strengthening

Appointment of Programs Manager – Mr. Suleiman Mujuni

As part of its commitment to effective program implementation, EACSOF appointed Mr. Suleiman Mujuni as Programs Manager to oversee activities under the GIZ-funded “Strengthening National–Regional Linkages” project. His appointment reflects EACSOF’s strategic move to boost institutional capacity and streamline coordination across its regional programming.

Key responsibilities of the program manager include:

- Coordinating GIZ-supported programs across the East African region.
- Ensuring program alignment with both EACSOF’s Strategic Plan and GIZ program objectives.
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement and timely project reporting.
- Supporting cross-border collaboration to strengthen national–regional linkages.


In this role, Mr. Mujuni enhances the Secretariat’s technical capacity and strengthens EACSOF’s position in implementing impactful, results-oriented programs aligned with its mission.

Upcoming Regional Engagements and Strategic Convenings

As we move into the second half of 2025, EACSOF will be engaging in a series of strategic activities aimed at advancing civic engagement, regional integration, and policy advocacy across the East African Community. These initiatives will include capacity-building workshops, stakeholder consultations, regional forums, and targeted campaigns aligned with our mission to strengthen civil society's voice in EAC processes.

1. Second Country consultations across the East can Community

As part of its ongoing strategic planning process, EACSOF—working in partnership with GIZ and the EAC Secretariat—is conducting a second round of country consultations aimed at shaping its next five-year Strategic Plan. These consultations, both virtual and physical, are designed to gather input from key stakeholders including CSOs, government agencies, development partners, and thematic networks.



The consultations provide a platform for participants to assess EACSOF's priorities, share the best regional practices, and propose actionable ideas to strengthen civil society engagement in EAC integration. The process also seeks to revitalize EACSOF country chapters and ensure that the Strategic Plan reflects a people-centered, inclusive approach grounded in democratic governance, social justice, peace, and sustainable development.

This second consultation focuses on deepening feedback gathered from the initial engagement, ensuring broad-based input that aligns with EACSOF's core thematic areas and integration agenda.

2. Upcoming Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Summit – Nairobi, Kenya | September 2025

This year's CSO Summit is scheduled to take place in September 2025. The East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSOF) will host the 3rd East African CSO Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, in partnership with key regional and international CSOs, Partners and stakeholders. This flagship event will unite civil society leaders, activists, development partners, policymakers, and EAC officials to strengthen the civic movement and elevate the role of CSOs in regional integration.

The summit aims to:

- Tackle pressing challenges including shrinking civic space, democratic backsliding, economic inequality, and youth and gender inclusion.
- Foster cross-border solidarity and build joint advocacy strategies aligned with the EAC agenda.
- Strengthening CSO networks across the region and positioning civil society as a critical driver of people-centered integration.

The summit agenda will feature:


- Panel discussions with experts and policymakers
- Thematic workshops and strategy sessions
- Exhibitions showcasing CSO work and innovations
- Joint declarations and advocacy planning



3. 2025 Secretary General's Forum.

The EAC Secretary General's Forum 2025 is a premier platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue, bringing together a wide range of actors, including CSOs, private sector players, academia, youth and women groups, development partners, and EAC institutions. Scheduled for late 2025, this high-level forum is organized by the East African Community (EAC) in line with Article 127 of the EAC Treaty, which mandates stakeholder involvement in regional affairs.

EACSOF will leverage the Forum to:

- Present consolidated civil society recommendations
 - Follow up on previous commitments from past forums
 - Advocate for a more inclusive and transparent integration process
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EACSOF has made substantial progress in strengthening civic participation, promoting good governance, and deepening regional integration across East Africa during the first half of 2025. We continue to invite CSO from across the region to become members of EACSOF and contribute to strengthening the voice of Civil Society in the EAC region. Furthermore, we continue to invite partners, development partners and stakeholders who hold at-heart CSO engagement in the EAC region, to partner and work with EACSOF to achieve this significant goal by the end of the year. We further request and encourage development partners from across the globe to continue supporting the work of EACSOF and CSO generally to ensure that the good work of civil society is recognized by both the National Governments and the society at large at the local grassroot. Together we build the EAC region.