



**FINAL COMMUNIQUE**

**OF**

**THE COMESA-EAC-SADC TRIPARTITE  
SUMMIT OF  
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

***Vision: TOWARDS A SINGLE MARKET***

***Theme: Deepening COMESA-EAC-SADC Integration***

***22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008  
Kampala, Uganda***

1. In pursuit of the broader objectives of the African Union to accelerate economic integration of the continent, with the aim to achieve economic growth, reduce poverty and attain sustainable economic development, the **Tripartite Summit** of the Heads of State and Government of the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) met in Kampala, Uganda on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008.
2. The **Tripartite Summit** was attended by the following Heads of State and Government:

His Excellency, Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda

His Excellency, Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya

His Excellency, Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe, President of the Republic of South Africa

His Excellency, Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania

His Excellency, Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda

His Excellency, Mr. Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe

Right Honourable, Pakalitha Mosisili, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho

His Excellency, Gabriel Ntisezerana, Second Vice President of the Republic of Burundi

3. The following Plenipotentiaries represented the Heads of State and Government of the following countries:

Honourable Olivier Kamitatu Etshou, Minister of Planning, Democratic Republic of Congo

Honourable Rifki Abdoukader Bamakhrama, Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Djibouti

Honourable Dr. Osman Mohamed, Minister of Economic Development, Arab Republic of Egypt

Honourable Dr. Ali Abd Alazziz Alsawi, Secretary General of Economy, Trade and Investment, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Honourable Mrs. Joyce Banda, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Malawi

Honourable Dr. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Republic of Mauritius

Honourable Antonio Fernando, Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Mozambique

Honourable Bradford Machila, Minister of Lands and Special Representative of His Honour the Vice President and Acting President of the Republic of Zambia

Honourable Joaquim Duarte da Costa David, Minister of Industry Republic of Angola

Honourable Neo D. Moroka, Minister of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Botswana

Honourable Patrick Pillay, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles

His Excellency Hassan Ibrahim Gadkarim, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Republic of Uganda, Republic of Rwanda and Republic of Burundi

His Excellency Wilfried I. Emvula, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to the African Union and the Economic Commission of Africa, Republic of Namibia

His Excellency Salih Omar Abdu, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Republic of Kenya, Republic of Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania

His Excellency Dr. Denis Andriamandroso, Ambassador of the Republic of Madagascar to the Republic of South Africa

His Excellency Ambassador Clifford Sibusiso Mamba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Kingdom of Swaziland

4. The following represented their Organisations at the Tripartite Summit:  
H.E. Erastus J.O. Mwencha, MBS Vice Chairperson, African Union Commission; Mrs. Lalla Ben Barka, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECA; Mr. Philbert Afrika, Director, NEPAD, Regional Integration and Trade, African Development Bank; Dr. Kasaija Apuuli, IGAD and Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Executive Secretary, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.
5. His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, in his official opening remarks, welcomed all the Heads of States and Government, all dignitaries and delegates to the Tripartite Summit.
6. The Executive Secretary of SADC, on behalf of the COMESA, EAC and SADC Secretariats in his opening remarks provided the background to the technical work and cooperation amongst the three RECs that led to Tripartite Summit.
7. Their Excellencies, President of the Republic of Kenya, President of the Republic of Rwanda and President of the Republic of South Africa, the Chairpersons of COMESA, EAC and SADC respectively, addressed the

Tripartite Summit outlining the commitment of the three Regional Economic Communities to the tripartite cooperation process.

8. Their Excellencies, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairman of the African Union and Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission also made opening remarks appreciating and giving support to the COMESA, EAC and SADC tripartite cooperation within the framework of establishing the African Economic Community.
9. The **Tripartite Summit** was chaired by the Chairperson of the East African Community assisted by the Chairpersons of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern Africa Development Community and the Tripartite Task Force of the three Secretariats was the Rapporteur.
10. The **Tripartite Summit** agreed on a programme of harmonisation of trading arrangements amongst the three RECs, free movement of business persons, joint implementation of inter-regional infrastructure programmes as well as institutional arrangements on the basis of which the three RECs would foster cooperation.
11. The **Tripartite Summit** underscored the fact that the tripartite arrangement is a crucial building bloc towards achieving the African Economic Community as outlined by the Treaty of Abuja.
12. The **Tripartite Summit** reviewed the progress on the implementation of joint programmes in trade, customs and economic liberalisation amongst the three RECs.
13. The **Tripartite Summit RESOLVED** that the three RECs should immediately start working towards a merger into a single REC with the objective of fast tracking the attainment of the African Economic Community. The **Tripartite Summit** directed the Tripartite Task Force of the three Secretariats to develop a roadmap for the implementation of this merger for consideration at its next meeting.
14. In the area of trade, customs and economic integration, the **Tripartite Summit:**
  - i) approved the expeditious establishment of a Free Trade Area (FTA) encompassing the member/partner States of the 3 RECs with the ultimate goal of establishing a single Customs Union;
  - ii) directed the three RECs to undertake a study incorporating, among other things, the following elements:
    - a) development of the roadmap, within 6 months, for the establishment of the FTA which would take into account the principle of variable geometry;
    - b) the legal and institutional framework to underpin the FTA;

- c) measures to facilitate the movement of business persons across the RECs;
  - iii) directed that the study report from (ii) above be presented to a specially convened Tripartite Council of Ministers for consideration within 12 months to among other things determine the time frame for the establishment of a single FTA encompassing the three RECs;
  - iv) directed the Chairpersons of the Councils of Ministers of the three RECs to ensure that the three RECs speed up the development of joint programmes that enhance co-operation and deepening of co-ordination in industrial and competition policies, financial and payments systems, development of capital markets and Commodity Exchanges; and
  - v) directed the Chairpersons of the Councils of Ministers of the three RECs to ensure that the Secretariats participate, co-ordinate and harmonise positions on the EPA negotiations and other multilateral negotiations including the WTO Doha Development Round Negotiations.
15. The **Tripartite Summit** reviewed the progress on the implementation of joint infrastructure programmes by the three RECs.
16. In the area of infrastructure development, the **Tripartite Summit**:
- (i) launched the Joint Competition Authority (JCA) on Air Transport Liberalisation which will oversee the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on Air Transport in the three RECs commencing January 2009. The JCA comprises seven members, two members each from EAC, COMESA and SADC plus a chairperson on a rotational basis;
  - (ii) directed the three RECs to put in place, within one year:
    - (a) a joint programme for the implementation of a single seamless upper airspace;
    - (b) a joint programme for the implementation of an accelerated, seamless inter-regional ICT Broadband Infrastructure network;
    - (c) a joint programme for implementation of a harmonised policy and regulatory framework that will govern ICT and infrastructural development in the three RECs,
  - (iii) directed the three RECs to effectively coordinate and harmonise within one year:
    - (a) the Regional Transport Master Plans of the three RECs; and

- (b) the Regional Energy Priority Investment Plans and the Energy Master Plans of the three RECS.
  - (iv) directed the three RECs to develop joint financing and implementation mechanisms for infrastructure development within one year.
17. With regard to the Legal and Institutional Framework, the **Tripartite Summit**:
- (i) directed the Council of Ministers of each of the three RECs to, within six months, consider and approve the Memorandum of Understanding on inter regional cooperation and integration which should also provide for the powers of each decision making level;
  - (ii) directed that the approved Memorandum of Understanding be signed by the Chairpersons of the three RECs, within one month of its approval;
  - (iii) established a Tripartite Summit of Heads of State and/or Government which shall sit once every two years;
  - (iv) in the interim, pending the signing of the MOU:
    - (a) established a Tripartite Council of Ministers which will meet at least once every two years;
    - (b) established a Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Trade, Finance, Customs, Economic Matters and Home/Internal Affairs; a Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Infrastructure; a Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Legal Affairs and any other Ministerial committees, as established by the Tripartite Council of Ministers, which shall meet at least once a year;
    - (c) approved extra ordinary meetings of the Tripartite Summit and Tripartite Council of Ministers to be held as and when necessary;
    - (d) established a Tripartite Committee of Senior Officials and of Experts which shall meet at least once a year; and
    - (e) established a Tripartite Task Force of the Secretariats of the three RECs to meet at least twice a year.
18. The **Tripartite Summit** noted with great concern the current global financial crisis undermining the economic stability of the world and posing a serious threat to the growth of African economies particularly in terms of demand for African exports of goods and services including tourism, foreign direct investment, remittances of the African diaspora,

employment, development cooperation, achievement of the Millenium Development Goals and the willingness of the donor community to meet aid commitments.

19. The **Tripartite Summit** called for collective action to help African and other developing and least developed countries to address the adverse impact of the financial crisis and the global economic meltdown and urged international financial institutions to adopt effective remedial measures to mitigate the risks.
20. The **Tripartite Summit** further noted the continued world food crisis and agreed to make strategic interventions to exploit the potential of African economies in the production of food and enhance accessibility to markets.
21. The Tripartite Summit congratulated His Excellency, Yoweri Museveni, Government and People of Uganda for Uganda's admission as a non Permanent Member of the UN Security Council.
22. The Tripartite Summit congratulated His Excellency Kgalema Motlanthe, President of the Republic of South Africa for his accession to the high office of the Republic of South Africa and wished him well.
23. The Tripartite Summit congratulated His Excellency Festus Mogae former President of the Republic of Botswana on being awarded the Mo Ibrahim Award on good governance.
24. The **Tripartite Summit** expressed its appreciation to the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Task Force of the Secretariats for the preparatory work undertaken leading to the Tripartite Summit.
25. The **Tripartite Summit** expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Uganda for the warm and fraternal hospitality extended to all the delegates.
26. His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda in his closing statement congratulated all his colleagues for the landmark Tripartite Summit which was ushering in a new era in the integration of Africa. He thanked them for their attendance and looked forward to the continuation of the rationalisation and integration process in Africa.
27. The First **Tripartite Summit ADOPTED** its Final Communiqué as read by Ambassador Juma V. Mwapachu, Secretary General of the East African Community.

**DONE** at Kampala in the Republic of Uganda on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 in English, French and Portuguese languages, all texts being equally authentic.