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COMMUNIQUE OF THE 5TH EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY YOUTH LEADERSHIP (YOULEAD) SUMMIT 2021

HELD 08 - 12 NOVEMBER 2021, ARUSHA TANZANIA

ISSUED THIS 19TH DAY NOVEMBER 2021
ARUSHA TANZANIA

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1. THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY YOUTH LEADERSHIP (YOULEAD) SUMMIT CONVENED BY THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, MS TRAINING CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION THROUGH THEIR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES – EAC YOUTH AMBASSADORS PLATFORM AND YOULEAD AFRICA WAS HELD FROM 8TH TO 12TH NOVEMBER 2021 IN ARUSHA TANZANIA UNDER THE THEME **“THE FUTURE OF AFRICA: CREATING JOBS, FEEDING AND HOUSING THE WORLD’S YOUNGEST CONTINENT.”** THE EAST AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL, JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE FOUNDATION AND OTHER PARTNERS CO-HOSTED THE SUMMIT. THE SUMMIT WAS CO-CONVENED BY H.E JAKAYA KIKWETE, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA WHO ALSO DOUBLES AS PATRON OF YOULEAD, AND HON. DR. PETER MATHUKI THE EAC SECRETARY GENERAL. THE SUMMIT WAS HELD IN A HYBRID FORMAT, WITH PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL DELEGATES FROM ACROSS THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AND BEYOND. THE ANNUAL SUMMIT HAS BEEN ORGANISED ANNUALLY SINCE IN LINE WITH PRIORITY 14 OF THE EAC YOUTH POLICY (2013).
2. THE FIRST DAY OF THE SUMMIT (MONDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2021) FEATURED THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (OFFICIAL OPENING) BY H.E. UHURU KENYATA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA. THE KEY THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS OF THE DAY INCLUDED; **‘YOUTH IN POLITICS’** HOSTED IN FORM OF THE UNDER 40 POLITICAL LEADERS FORUM **‘REINVENTING LEADERSHIP FOR AFRICAN MILLENNIALS’**. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND CHAIRPERSONS OF NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS FROM EAC PARTNER STATES. COMPLIMENTARY TO THE UNDER 40 POLITICAL LEADERS FORUM WAS THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND POLICY MAKERS ROUND TABLE THAT WAS CO-HOSTED WITH THE EUROPEAN DELEGATION, AIMED AT **RE-IMAGINING THE ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND POLICY MAKERS IN CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**. THE ROUNDTABLE WAS BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THE EAC YOUTH GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE STUDY REPORT WHICH EXAMINED THE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES WITHIN THE EAC REGION.
3. MAJOR OUTCOMES OF DAY ONE INCLUDED A CALL BY YOUTH LEADERS FOR EAC PARTNER STATES WORKING WITH THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, TO FAST-TRACK THE FORMATION OF AN EAC YOUTH COUNCIL THAT WOULD CREATE A FORMAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN EAC POLITICAL DECISION MAKING PROCESSES. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA REMAINS WITHOUT A NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL, AND THIS IN REALITY SLOWS DOWN THE FORMATION OF AN EAC YOUTH COUNCIL. IT WAS NOTED THAT WHILE THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING AN EAC YOUTH COUNCIL IS BEING PURSUED, AN ALTERNATIVE INITIATIVE FOR BRINGING TOGETHER EXISTING YOUTH COUNCILS BE INSTITUTED IN FORM OF A PROGRAM, NOT AN INSTITUTION, WITH THE SUPPORT OF

YOULEAD SECRETARIAT TO MAINTAIN INTERACTION, COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN AND AMONG NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS AND THEIR EQUIVALENT IN COUNTRIES WHERE THEY EXIST. SIMILARLY, IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT A PROGRAMMATIC INITIATIVE (NOT AN INSTITUTION) BE INSTITUTED FOR PURPOSES OF BRINGING TOGETHER YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM EAC PARTNER STATES, MAINTAINING THEIR INTERACTION AND FOSTERING THEIR COOPERATION, SOLIDARITY AND REGIONAL ACTIONS. RELATEDLY, ALSO PRESENTED WAS THE PROPOSED **“YOUNG LEADERS PERFORMANCE AND COOPERATION PEER REVIEW MECHANISM”**, AIMED AT ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR A FRAMEWORK OF ENGAGEMENT FOR PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY TO YOUNG PEOPLE BY THEIR REPRESENTATIVES BY WAY OF MEASURING AND REPORTING ON THEIR PERFORMANCE AS COMPARED TO THEIR REPRESENTATION MANDATE WHILE ALSO FOSTERING COOPERATION AND PEER LEARNING AMONG THEM.

4. A CALL BY THE PATRON AND EAC SECRETARY GENERAL TO RENAME THE YOULEAD SUMMIT FROM **“YOULEAD SUMMIT”** TO **“YOULEAD FORUM”** WAS NOTED, AND GENERATED AN EXCITING AND DEBATE, WHICH WAS NOT ADEQUATELY CONCLUSIVE DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS. THE MATTER WAS REVISITED DURING THE POST-SUMMIT AGENDA AND EAST AFRICA TUBONGE SESSIONS AND CONSENSUS FROM DELEGATES AND PARTNERS WAS THAT GIVEN THAT CURRENT ARRANGEMENT OF HAVING A “YOULEAD PROGRAM” AND AN ANNUAL “YOULEAD SUMMIT” SEEMS TO SERVE THE PURPOSE, RENAMING SHOULD BE SUBJECTED TO FURTHER CONSULTATION TO ENSURE COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF REASON AND NECESSITY FOR RENAMING.
5. DAY TWO OF THE SUMMIT (09TH NOVEMBER 2021) FOCUSED ON **‘YOUTH IN BUSINESS, TRADE AND ENTERPRISE’** HOSTED IN THE FORM OF THE UNDER 40 BUSINESS LEADERS FORUM WHICH EXAMINED THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT FOR DOING BUSINESS AS APPLICABLE TO YOUTH-LED BUSINESSES AND HIGHLIGHTED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH WITHIN THE AfCFTA - A CONVERSATION THEMED: HOW CAN AFRICAN YOUNG INNOVATORS MAKE THE AfCFTA MAGIC HAPPEN. H.E PAUL KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER, REPRESENTED BY HON. ROSEMARY MBABAZI, MINISTER OF YOUTH AND CULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA. IN HIS REMARKS, H.E PAUL KAGAME ASSURED THE DELEGATES OF RWANDA GOVERNMENT’S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING YOUTH INITIATIVES IN EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EAC REGION’S AND AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT. OTHER KEY SPEAKERS INCLUDED YOUNG BUSINESS LEADERS FROM ACROSS AFRICA, TRADE EXPERTS, EAST AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL, AND POLICY MAKERS COMPOSED OF MAINLY REPRESENTING FROM THE EAC AND AfCFTA SECRETARIATS.

6. MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY WERE AMONG OTHERS, THE INAUGURAL ARUSHA DEBATES SESSION, THE LANDMARK ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORMATION OF **THE INDEPENDENT CONTINENTAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AfCFTA**, LAUNCH OF THE EAC YOUTH AGENDA, EAC YOUTH GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE STUDY REPORT, AND UNVEILING OF THE EAC YOUTH LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP.
7. FOLLOWING A ONE WEEK CONTINENTAL BOOT CAMP FOR YOUNG BUSINESS LEADERS AND POLICY MAKERS ON AFCFTA WHOSE PARTICIPANTS PROCEEDED TO TAKE PART IN THE YOULEAD SUMMIT, IT WAS REALIZED THAT, TO ENSURE PROPER COORDINATION AND MOBILIZATION OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE AT A CONTINENTAL LEVEL TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN AfCFTA PROCESSES, THERE NEEDS TO BE A YOUTH LED COORDINATION STRUCTURE TO BE KNOWN AS THE INDEPENDENT CONTINENTAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE AFCFTA, ALLOWING EFFECTIVE BOTTOM-UP APPROACHES TO MOBILISATION FOR PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE. THE COUNCIL WILL INFORMALLY AND FORMERLY (WHEN POSSIBLE) ADVOCATE FOR AND FACILITATE THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, MOBILIZING AND BUILDING CAPACITY OF YOUTH ON AFCFTA MATTERS, ADVOCATING FOR ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUTH TO BETTER ENGAGE IN AND BEST BENEFIT FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY AFCFTA.
8. THE LAUNCH OF ARUSHA DEBATES, A NEWLY CREATED PLATFORM AIMED AT DISCUSSING AFRICA'S IN GENERAL AND EAST AFRICA'S ECONOMY IN PARTICULAR AND HOW TO BETTER SHAPE IT - BASED ON **YOULEAD'S CONTINENTAL STUDY ON AfCFTA YOUTH INCLUSION** MARKED THE THE DAY'S CLIMAX . THE DEBATES WERE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED BY H.E. JAKAYA KIKWETE THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA. AMONG OTHERS, PROMINENT SPEAKERS INCLUDED DR. VERA SONGWE, UNITED NATIONS UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA WHO DELIVERED THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON ARUSHA DEBATES FOCUSED ON **"HOW CAN AFRICA'S YOUNG INNOVATORS MAKE THE AfCFTA MAGIC HAPPEN: MAKING AfCFTA PROMISES A REALITY FOR AFRICA'S YOUTH"** . OTHER KEY SPEAKERS WERE MS. AHUNNA EZIAKONWA, UNDP ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR AND DIRECTOR, UNDP'S BUREAU FOR AFRICA, DR. HALIMA NOOR (AfCFTA SECRETARIAT), DR. JOY KATEGEKWA, STRATEGIC ADVISOR TO UNDP AFRICA, MR. MUSTAPHA NJIE, FOUNDER AND CEO, TAF AFRICA GLOBAL, DR. ALEX AWITI, VICE PROVOST OF THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY AND MR. ZEPHANIE NIYONKURU, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, RWANDA DEVELOPMENT BOARD. THE ARUSHA DEBATES WILL NOW BECOME AN ANNUAL STAND-ALONE EVENT ORGANISED BY THE EAC

SECRETARIAT, TRAINING CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, EAST AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AND OTHER OTHER PARTNERS, WITH EAC SECRETARY GENERAL AS CONVENER.

9. EARLIER IN THE DAY, THE “SKILLSMATCH”, AN ONLINE MATCHMAKING PLATFORM THAT PROVIDES BUSINESSES AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WITH RELEVANT MATCHES TO THEIR NEEDS, SUPPORTED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WAS LAUNCHED. THE SKILLSMATCH LINKS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WITH BUSINESSES FOR JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND APPLIED MASTER THESES AND AIMS TO BRIDGE THE SKILLS GAP, ESPECIALLY REGARDING DIGITAL SKILLS FOR THE APPLICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THAT ARE NEEDED IN THE REGION’S INDUSTRY. THE SKILLS MATCH IS AN EAC PROJECT IMPLEMENTED WITH THE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE GIZ-EAC CLUSTER.
10. DAY THREE (10TH NOVEMBER 2021) FEATURED THE ARUSHA PEACE FORUM AND GENDER EQUALITY FORUM. THE ARUSHA PEACE FORUM WAS CONVENED BY YOULEAD’S EAST AFRICA YOUTH PEACE NETWORK OF PARTNERS AND HIGHLIGHTED THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN PREVENTING CONFLICTS AND MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY. THE FORUM WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED BY H.E. EVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI. THE GENDER EQUALITY FORUM DISCUSSED THE ROLE OF YOUNG WOMEN IN TAKING FORWARD THE ACTION COALITION’S COMMITMENTS OF THE THE UNITED NATIONS GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM FROM. THE CHIEF GUEST WAS H.E. JEANNETTE KAGAME, FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA WHO OFFERED THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS. IN HER REMARKS, FIRST LADY JEANETTE KAGAME EMPHASISED THAT **“TO BUILD A POST GENOCIDE RWANDA, THE NURTURING NATURE OF WOMEN, THE SENSITIVITY THAT NOURISHES THEIR UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR THEIR CHILDREN NEEDED TO BE CAPITALISED UPON TO ENGAGE AN ENTIRE NATION IN TESTING THE TASK OF COMMUNAL HEALING”**. THE DAY WAS CLIMAXED BY REMARKS FROM THE RIGHT HON. KASSIM MAJALIWA, THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, REPRESENTING THE PRESENTING H.E. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA .
11. DAY FOUR (11TH NOVEMBER 2021) WAS DEDICATED TO DEVELOPING THE POST-SUMMIT AGENDA OF ACTION “THE ARUSHA PLAN OF ACTION 2021”. DELEGATES, POLICY MAKERS, PARTNERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS SPENT THE DAY DEVELOPING COUNTRY FOCUSED AND REGIONAL OUTLOOK OF WORK PRIORITIES FOR 2022, BASED ON DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF DAYS 1, 2 AND 3. MAJOR OUTCOMES INCLUDED A CO-CREATION SESSION OF THE PROPOSED **“EAC YOUTH LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP”** BEING SPEARHEADED BY THE JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE FOUNDATION, EAC SECRETARIAT

AND MS TRAINING CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH AIM OF NURTURING EMERGING LEADERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE AND BUSINESS, TRADE AND ENTERPRISE TRACKS. ALSO CO-CREATED WAS THE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA YOUNG WOMENS' FELLOWSHIP BEING SPEARHEADED BY PLAN INTERNATIONAL AND YOULEAD SECRETARIAT.

12. ON DAY FIVE (12TH NOVEMBER 2021), THE SUMMIT CLIMAXED WITH THE INAUGURAL EAST AFRICA TUBONGE SESSION THAT FOCUSED ON FOSTERING DIALOGUE BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARY YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND THE DELEGATES TO DISCUSS THE OUTCOMES OF THE SUMMIT AND AGREE ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICY LEVEL COMMITMENTS FROM LEGISLATORS. THE OPENING REMARKS FOR THIS SESSION WERE DELIVERED BY HON. JOSEPHINE LEMOYAN REPRESENTING HON. MARTIN NGOGA THE SPEAKER OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. WHILE PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN WERE PHYSICALLY PRESENT, PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM REPUBLIC OF RWANDA PARTICIPATED VIRTUALLY. NOT REPRESENTED WERE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI.
13. KEY OUTCOMES OF THE EAST AFRICA TUBONGE SESSION INCLUDED THE COMMITMENT BY PARLIAMENTARIANS TO SUPPORTING AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE SUMMIT BOTH AT COUNTRY AND REGIONAL LEVELS. TO FACILITATE THIS COMMITMENT, DELEGATES AND PARLIAMENTARIANS ONCE AGAIN NOTED AS EARLIER DISCUSSED ON DAY ONE, THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO INSTITUTE A STRUCTURAL COORDINATION ARRANGEMENT IN FORM OF A PROGRAM INITIATIVE (NOT AN INSTITUTION) TO FACILITATE CONTINUED MOBILISATION, INTERACTION AND COLLECTIVE PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT OF EAC YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS IN EAC YOUTH GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES. AS SUCH, IT WAS AGREED THAT AN **“EAC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON YOUTH AFFAIRS”** BE FORMED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT FOR THIS PURPOSE. YOULEAD SECRETARIAT WAS REQUESTED TO THINK THROUGH AND SUPPORT PARLIAMENTARIANS IN DEVELOPING SUCH AN INITIATIVE AND MOBILIZING PARTNERSHIPS REQUIRED FOR ITS SUCCESS. THE FIRST SITTING OF THE **“EAC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON YOUTH AFFAIRS”** WAS AGREED TO TAKE PLACE IN KAMPALA UGANDA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOSTED BY UGANDAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AT A DATE TO BE AGREED UPON FOLLOWING ADEQUATE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARIANS PRESENT AND AN INVITATION EXTENDED TO PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM EAC PARTNER STATES THAT WERE ABSENT. IT FURTHER AGREED THAT INITIAL CONSULTATION MEETINGS WILL BE FIRST HELD ONLINE VIA CONFERENCE PLATFORMS SUCH AS ZOOM UNTIL A DATE FOR THE FIRST PHYSICAL MEETING IS AGREED AND RESOURCES REALISED.

14. THROUGH A MOTION MOVED BY HON. NYAYANG LOK, HEAD OF REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN PARLIAMENTARIANS DELEGATION TO YOULEAD SUMMIT 2021, PARLIAMENTARIANS RENEWED THE CALL FOR THE YOULEAD SUMMIT TO ANNUALLY ROTATE AMONG AND BETWEEN EAC SECRETARIAT AND EAC PARTNER STATES, SINCE IT HAS BEEN SO FAR HOSTED IN TANZANIA FOR 5 CONSECUTIVE YEARS SINCE 2017. THE CALL WAS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTED BY DELEGATES AND PARTNERS WHO NOTED THAT ROTATION OF THE SUMMIT WOULD INCREASE OWNERSHIP AND ENSURE EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF EAC PARTNER STATES, AS WELL AS FOSTER ACCELERATION OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION DUE TO THE INCREASE OF NUMBERS OF YOUNG LEADERS PARTICIPATING IN THE SUMMIT FROM THE HOSTING PARTNER STATE. THROUGH A DELEGATION OF THE RWANDA CONVENTION BUREAU, IT WAS NOTED THAT THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA IS READY AND WILLING TO HOST THE NEXT YOULEAD SUMMIT (2022) IN KIGALI. IT WAS LEFT TO THE YOULEAD SECRETARIAT TO EVALUATE THIS CALL AND WORK OUT THE MODALITY AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTING THE HOSTING PARTNER STATE FOR THE NEXT YOULEAD SUMMIT EDITIONS.
15. THE CALL BY THE PATRON AND EAC SECRETARY GENERAL TO RENAME THE YOULEAD SUMMIT FROM **“YOULEAD SUMMIT”** TO **“YOULEAD FORUM”** WAS REVISITED. UPON FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION MAINLY BY DELEGATES AND OTHER PARTNERS, MAJORITY HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THIS MATTER BE SUBJECTED TO FURTHER CONSULTATIONS PENDING IMPLEMENTATION, AS THERE SEEMED TO BE A LACK OF LEVELED CLARITY AND UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE YOULEAD CURRENTLY OPERATES AS A PROGRAM, AND THAT SINCE THE NEXUS BETWEEN THE PROGRAM AND THE SUMMIT ARE ALREADY ESTABLISHED, THERE MAY NOT BE NECESSITY FOR CHANGING OR RENAMING.
16. YOULEAD SUMMIT 2021 WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE SUPPORT OF KEY PARTNERS WHO RENDERED TECHNICAL AND FINANCING ASSISTANCE: THE EUROPEAN DELEGATION TO TANZANIA AND EAC, THE SWISS EMBASSY IN TANZANIA, THE EMBASSY OF CHINA TO TANZANIA AND EAC, TWaweza EAST AFRICA, OXFAM INTERNATIONAL, UNDP TANZANIA.

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