



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**1ST REGIONAL WORKSHOP
FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN EAST AFRICA**

**AICC, Arusha, Tanzania
28th to 29th July 2005**

**WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS
(REF. EAC/01/CSO/2005)**

**EAC SECRETARIAT
Arusha, Tanzania
July 2005**

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WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

We, the participants of the First Regional Workshop for Civil Society Organisations in East Africa held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), Arusha, Tanzania, 28th - 29th July, 2005:

1. Recognizing that the East African Community Treaty specifically provides for the involvement and participation of Civil Society in the East African Community in Articles 127 - 129 so as to achieve sustainable socio-economic and political development;
2. Recognizing that the Partner States have agreed to provide an enabling environment for the participation of civil society in the development activities of the East African Community and promote a continuous dialogue with civil society at both the national and the Community level;
3. Acknowledging that this workshop is therefore a fulfillment of a long overdue plan for the Community to fulfill its mandate of providing a forum for consultations between the private sector, civil society organizations and other interest groups as provided in article 127(4) of the East African Treaty;
4. Aware that there is an urgent need to review civil society status in East Africa and to build synergies and networks that provide for an appropriate consultation and involvement mechanism for Civil Society within the East African Community;
5. Cognizant that one of the most important guiding principles of the East African Community is to have a people centered co-operation;
6. Noting that the Treaty goes further to emphasize that the integration process shall be carried out in a participatory manner, involving broad participation of key stakeholders including women, youth, private sector and civil society;
7. Noting that this notion of consultation with civil society is internationally increasingly recognized as an integral part of good governance;

8. Aware of the necessity of popularizing the East African Community and creating awareness of the EAC processes to the people so that they can own it as their own;
9. Desirous of taking a “watch-dog” role and creating the necessary enabling environment for the East African people in attaining a Political Federation;
10. Recognizing the need to review, monitor and evaluate the established EAC benchmarks;

NOW make the following recommendations:

- a) An EAC NGO/CSO Steering Committee be established at National and Regional level by December 2005, and be composed of the following:
 - (i) At the National level to comprise nine (9) representatives from the National NGOs/CSOs; and three (3) representatives from the relevant Government Ministries
 - (ii) At the Regional level to comprise three (3) NGO/CSO representatives from each Partner State, two (2) NGO/CSO representatives from Zanzibar, one (1) representative from the East African Community Secretariat and three (3) representatives of Regional CSOs.
- b) An Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) be established within the structures of the EAC to provide for a consultative and involvement mechanism for the participation of Civil Society;
- c) A Forum which will be known as the EAC NGO/CSO Forum be established as an autonomous body to serve as an umbrella body of all NGOs and CSOs in the region;
- d) Such forum be mandated to facilitate for a better avenue for active engagement between Civil Society and the organs of the EAC;
- e) Such forum be formally recognized by the Partner States and the EAC;
- f) A Secretariat be established in Arusha to co-ordinate the activities of the EAC NGO/CSO Forum;
- g) A Peoples’ Forum be convened at National level comprising all civil society groups and non-state actors to participate in the consultation process towards the formation of the East African Political Federation as stipulated in paragraph 9 of the Joint Communiqué issued by the Summit held in Dar-es-Salaam on 29th - 30th May, 2005;

- h) An annual meeting of the Civil Society Organisations be institutionalised in the EAC Calendar of Activities;
- i) That the EAC considers broadening participation by introducing a “**Consultative Status**” for NGOs and Civil Society Organisations which do not have to be subjected to the requirements as outlined in the observers status criteria.

Signed at Arusha on this 29th day of July 2005 by the heads of delegations:

Mary J. Mwingira
Tanzania NGOs Council/ANGOZA
United Republic of Tanzania

Bishop Robert Mutemi
NGO Council
Republic of Kenya

Rosemary N. Wamimbi
NGO Board
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