

**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF MISSION EASF FIELD  
TRAINING EXERCISE MASHARIKI SALAM II AMB  
ISSIMAIL CHANFI, CLOSING CEREMONY**

**3 DECEMBER 2017**

- **Our Guest of Honor Your Excellency Hon Gen Awad Mohamed Ahmad Minister For Defence of The Republic of The Sudan,**
- **Honorable Ministers of Defense and Security from the Eastern Africa Region,**
- **The Representative of the African Union Commission,**
- **Your Excellency the Governor of the Red Sea State,**
- **Commissioner of Gebeit Locality,**
- **Distinguished Chiefs of Defence Staff and Representatives of Chiefs of Defence Staff of The Eastern Africa Region,**
- **Inspector Generals of Police of the Eastern Africa Region,**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps Present,**
- **Director EASF Secretariat – Dr Abdillahi Omar Bouh,**

- **The Chairperson of the Friends of Easf and Technical Advisors,**
- **Exercise Director,**
- **Distinguished exercise participants,**
- **Invited guests,**
- **Members of the press,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

**All protocols observed, good afternoon!**

It is a great pleasure and honor to address you this afternoon as we officially close the EASF Field Training Exercise (FTX) Mashariki Salam II.

Allow me to take this early opportunity to express our most sincere thanks and gratitude to our Guest of Honor for finding time to be with us this afternoon, and grace this very auspicious occasion.

May I also take this early opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Union of Comoros and EASF for allowing me to serve as the Head of Mission in this simulated peacekeeping mission named the "African Union Mission in Carana".

### **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This Exercise confirms that EASF is moving to higher level of professionalism and indeed has the capability to effectively deploy in a real Peace Operations Mission.

This Exercise has actualized the capacity for EASF to operate in a Multi-dimensional and multi-national set up. We have exercised different aspects of Peace Support Operations (PSO).

The exercise was professionally designed and granted most of us the feeling of a real mission. Indeed, the isolated environment was ideal for maximum concentration.

The level of cooperation and team spirit among the Exercise participants was quite impressive. I am sure this will strengthen the cohesion and solidarity among Member States thereby contributing to peace and security, which is our end objective. It is my humble submission that this spirit be further nurtured and strengthened.

This Exercise gave me an excellent opportunity to practice my personal experience after serving as EASF Director for the past three years.

I humbly join the rest of the EASF personnel and Member States in putting into practice all the training and skills acquired over the years.

### **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As I conclude, allow me, on behalf of all Exercise Players, to express our most sincere thanks and gratitude to the EASF Policy Organs for approving the Exercise and the Exercise Scenario, and for giving us the blessed opportunity to be the Exercise players.

We thank all EASF Member States for availing their troops for the Exercise, and for their multiple support provided in a way to ensure the Exercise is fully successful.

We extend our most sincere thanks and gratitude to the Republic of The Sudan, for hosting this important Exercise. We acknowledge the warm hospitality extended to all of us since our arrival in Khartoum, and during our stay in Port Sudan. We thank them for fully committing to the successful conduct of this FTX Mashariki Salam (2) 2017.

We express our gratitude to the Director EASF Secretariat and all his Staff, in their respective capacities, for the job well done, in the preparation and during the conduct of the Exercise. Thank you for making possible the achievement of this very important milestone.

Our friends and partners have, once again shown their commitment to be with us and support in the progress of the EASF. We thank them for the precious support provided in the conduct of this FTX.

Allow me to have a special mention for all the Exercise players. You have shown, throughout the Exercise, that integration, interoperability, coordination, teamwork and cohesion, are a tangible reality within our combined troops.

I want to thank, each one of you individually, and all of you as a Team, for the job well done, and for giving to EASF, our organization and our Force, enough reasons to feel proud today, of its achievements through the years.

I wish to all of us a very a safe journey back to our respective destinations.

It's been a very pleasant experience, and a rare moment shared, in this memorable region of Gebeit.

As we all know, " **all good things must come to an end**". Thank you for making this Exercise a rich and successful experience.

**I thank you for your attention. May God bless you all!**