

# EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY FORCE SECRETARIAT (EASF)



## COMMUNIQUE OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY OF THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION.

**KIGALI, RWANDA, 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2014.**

The Council of Ministers of Defence and Security of the Eastern Africa Standby Force Member States held its 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in Kigali, Rwanda on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014.

The meeting was chaired by **Hon Gen James Kabarebe**, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Rwanda and attended by **Maj Gen Pontien Gaciyubwenge**, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Burundi, **Hon Hamada Madi**, Director of Cabinet in charge of Defence of the Union of Comoros, **Gen Hassan Ali Kamil**, Representing the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Djibouti, **Gen Samora Yonus**, Representing the Minister of Defence of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, **Ambassador Raychelle Omamo**, Cabinet Secretary of Defence of the Republic of Kenya, **Ambassador Joseph Nourrice**, Representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles, **Hon Mohamed Ali Haga**, Minister of State for Defence of the Federal Government of the Somali Republic, **Lt Gen Imad Eldin Mustafa Adawi**, Representing the Minister of Defence of the Republic of The Sudan, **Hon Odongo Jeje**, Minister of State for Defence of the Republic of Uganda and **Ambassador Issimail Chanfi**, Director of the EASF Secretariat.

**General Patrick Nyamvumba**, the Chief of Rwanda Defence Forces, and the Chairperson of the Committee of the Eastern Africa of Chiefs of Defence and Security (EACDS), presented the Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the EACDS, which included Pledging of Forces by the EASF Member States. The Council also received a briefing on the progress of the Eastern Africa Standby Force since the last meeting held in April 2014.

### **The Council:**

**Recalling** the preceding decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government which took place on June 26<sup>th</sup> 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea where the Agreement on establishment of the Eastern Africa Standby Force was signed in order to fast track Full Operational Capability;

**Noting** the short time remaining before EASF declares Full Operational Capability planned for December 2014;

**Further noting** the urgent need to implement the revised EASF structure in consideration of the impending Full Operational Capability;

1. **Reaffirmed** commitment for declaration of Full Operational Capability by December 2014.
2. **Reiterated** its commitment to expedite the ratification process of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) in the respective Member States.
3. **Approved** the Force Pledges by EASF Member States in readiness for deployment in future Peace Support Missions and **signed** a Memorandum of Understanding on Forces Pledged by Member States.
4. **Approved** the budget for EASF Command Post Exercise (CPX) to be conducted in Adama, Ethiopia from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 as the last key milestone before declaration of Full Operational Capability.
5. **Further approved** the code name of the upcoming CPX as "*EASF CPX Mashariki Salam 2014*".
6. **Appreciated** the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for accepting to host the Command Post Exercise.
7. **Endorsed** the proposal for a Donor Conference for EASF in view of the development of the recently established EASF Peace Fund and directed the EASF Secretariat develop the relevant documents for its conduct.
8. **Agreed** to reconvene in an Extra-Ordinary Policy Organs Meeting in October 2014 in Victoria, Seychelles to finalise preparations for the impending Full Operational Capability.
9. **Expressed appreciation** for the continued support by the Friends of EASF.
10. **Thanked** the Government and the people of the Republic of Rwanda for hosting these Policy Organs Meetings.

**Signed this 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of August 2014 at Kigali, Rwanda**

