

COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN AFRICA CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF OF THE EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY FORCE POLICY ORGANS MEETING

Summary Opening Statement by H.E Omar Al Bashir, The President of the Republic of The Sudan and the Commander in Chief of the Sudanese Armed Force

22nd – 23rd April 2015, Khartoum, Sudan

H.E Omar Al Bashir, The President of the Republic of The Sudan and the Commander in Chief of the Sudanese Armed Force welcomed all Ministers and delegations to the Republic of The Sudan. He expressed his sincere honor to the region in the selection of The Sudan to host the Policy Organs Meeting. He acknowledged that these meetings draw attention to the critical issues of peace and security that has made the impoverished the continent poor and led to the suffering of it people

He noted that the meeting would provide hope to the people of the continent because it will give headway in finding out the roots of conflict and finding solution to the problems in the continent. "The meeting will also help in putting to an end the existence of armed groups working against governments and people and paralyzing the progress of the nations.", he said.

Al Bashir emphasized that the issues that directly affect the peace and security in Africa and have exhausted the continents resources making the continent poorer.

He explained that The Sudan is concerned and is fully engaged in all issues in Africa adding that the country would continue working hard in providing Africa solutions to African problems. He informed the meeting that Sudan has successful experience of surveying and manning the borders, and has helped to put to an end border crimes such as armed groups and drug trafficking.

He informed the meeting that the presidential and parliamentary election had just taken place with participation from over 40 political parties.

He mentioned to the ministers that they had a difficult agenda to drive in the region and that there was need to ensure that issues of peace and security take center stage in the discussions in the meeting.

Sighting an example of the ongoing conflict in the sister state of South Sudan and the need for a solution to that conflict, Al Bashir noted that the country needed help from its neighbours in the form of the EASF region to ensure that its people attain peace.

He further took note of the peace and security situation in Kenya and the recent Al Shabaab attack on its University. He condoled with the people and the Government of Kenya and urged the region to expedite the process to ensure that such an attack never happens again in its Member States.

He noted that the continent should use its military bases and capacity to ensure that African will be free of war so that the continent can focus on development.

Al Bashir finalized by thanking the EASF secretariat for implementing the programs and agenda of the organization in full and ensuring the progress of the EASF. He finalized by declaring the meeting officially open.