COMMUNIQUE OF THE 17TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY OF THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION.

KIGALI, RWANDA, 22ND 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 17th 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 26th 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 10th to 17th 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 22nd Day of August 2014 at Kigali, Rwanda

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