



**DIRECTOR'S REMARKS FOR THE SIGNING
CEREMONY OF THE DANISH PROJECT
ENGAGEMENT DOCUMENT**

9TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

EASF SECRETARIAT, KAREN

- 1. Your Excellency Amb. Mette Knudsen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark in the Republic of Kenya,**
- 2. Colonel Soren Knudsen, Chairperson of the Friends of EASF,**
- 3. EASF Heads of Department and Component**
- 4. EASF Staff here present,**
- 5. Technical Advisors**
- 6. All Protocols Observed**
- 7. Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Morning!

I am honoured to welcome you all to this signing Ceremony of the Danish Project Engagement Document. I know that all of you distinguished guests have made a huge effort to be with us today to be part of this important ceremony. We are deeply humbled and appreciative of your presence.

Your Excellency,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This ceremony shows the commitment of the Friends of EASF, towards continued support to the growth and development of this Organisation.

Allow me to say that the Kingdom of Denmark is one of our most valued partner country. They have been with us throughout this

journey and have supported the progress and development of EASF through the years. They have availed the much needed technical, financial and logistical support to our Organisation, making possible the positive advancement of EASF to its current strategic status.

Only last year, the EASF had the pleasure to receive from the Hands of Your Excellency, a Forward Force Headquarter Startup kit, worth **USD 450,000**, jointly donated to EASF by your Government, and the Government of the United Kingdom of Denmark and the EASF.

Today, we are privileged to be here again, to sign a Project Engagement Document between the Kingdom of Denmark and the Eastern Africa Standby force.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The document that we are about to sign outlines the scope of cooperation with the Danish Government, in terms of Financial and Technical support for the years 2015 – 2017, in the area of capacity building. The pledged financial commitment of **19 Million Danish Kroners**, which is an equivalent of **2.8 Million US Dollars**, will go a long way in supporting the vision of EASF, in accordance with the African Peace and Security Architecture.

We truly appreciate this immense support, and we express our heartfelt gratitude to your Excellency, and to your Government for the commitment to support EASF.

We, as EASF remain convinced that with our joint efforts, we will definitely contribute to sustainable peace, security and stability in the region, the continent and the world at large. Together, we will surely make a difference.

Thank you again, for this wonderful support and God bless the Kingdom of Denmark.