

THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION

**THE REPORT OF MEETING OF THE EASTERN AFRICA CHIEFS OF
DEFENCE STAFF (EACDS)**

**HELD IN KIGALI, RWANDA
FROM 7- 8th SEPTEMBER, 2004**

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THE REPORT OF MEETING OF THE EASTERN AFRICA CHIEFS OF DEEFENCE STAFF (EACDS)

7–8th September 2004, Kigali, Rwanda.

BACKGROUND

1. The Meeting was convened on Tuesday 7 September, 2004.
2. The Meeting was convened by the IGAD Secretariat as the interim body empowered to coordinate the Meetings of the EASBRIG. The Meeting was attended by delegates from the following Eastern African countries: the Republic of Djibouti, the Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Uganda, and the Republic of Sudan. The Republic of Tanzania attended as an observer. The Institute of Security Studies (ISS) provided technical support. See Annex 'A' for list of participants.

OPENING SESSION

3. On behalf of **Dr. Attalla H. Bashir**, the Executive Secretary of the IGAD, **Colonel (Rtd) Peter Marwa**, apologised for the absence of the Executive Secretary. He thanked the Government and people of Rwanda for their warm hospitality. He congratulated Rwanda for the tremendous progress it has made in dealing with the conflict in that country, making reference to the country's horrifying experience ten years ago. He pointed to Rwanda as a good example of a successful post-conflict reconciliation and healing process. He encouraged Rwanda to continue to pursue peace for its country, as that will contribute positively to promoting peace and security in the region as a whole.
4. He updated the Meeting on current developments relating to the Southern Sudan Peace process and the Somali National Reconciliation. He acknowledged the role of the AU, the UN and other stakeholders in working to resolve the conflicts in the Great Lakes Sub-region and Darfur. He also mentioned the conflict in Northern Uganda, where to date no regional or international initiatives have been undertaken to resolve that conflict. He reminded the Meeting that the sustainability of on-going peace processes such as Somalia, will require the active involvement of the EASBRIG. He therefore, encouraged members to consider making contributions to any peace support operations that might be needed to sustain these peace processes. He further cautioned members to move away from relying on foreign funding for the security of the region, as this

would expose the region's underbelly.

5. The Meeting was opened by the Minister of Defence of Rwanda, General **Marcel Gatsinzi**, on 7 September 2004, in Kigali, Rwanda. The Minister welcomed all the delegates to Rwanda and to the Meeting. He expressed Rwanda's appreciation for being given the opportunity to host the second Meeting of the Eastern African Chiefs of Defence Staff (EACDS). The Minister thanked the experts group for a job well done and IGAD for its coordinating role. The Minister mentioned the high incidence of political instability in the Sub-region. He however, acknowledged the lack of a strong regional organisation, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in West Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Southern Africa. He expressed appreciation for the current momentum towards the establishment of the EASBRIG. The Minister pledged Rwanda's commitment to support the EASBRIG. He pointed to Rwanda's contribution to the AU observer mission in Darfur as an example of its commitment to the promotion of peace and security in Africa. He also emphasized Rwanda's continued engagement and support for all future missions mandated by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU, by making its forces available.

6. Rwanda's Chief of Defence Staff, **General James Kabarebe**, welcomed delegates to Rwanda and called on them to feel free and explore the country. He emphasized the importance of the Meeting as it gave both military and civilian personnel an opportunity to interact with each other. Furthermore, he reiterated the significance of military contacts and its consequent role in improving inter-state relations in the region. He declared the Meeting open and wished the delegates fruitful deliberations.

7. The Chairperson called the Meeting to order and proposed: the Adoption of the Agenda and Program of Work.

8. After discussions on the agenda and program of work, it was adopted as follows:

a. **Day One:**

- i. Statement by the Executive Secretary of IGAD
- ii. Statement by a Representative of the Commissioner of the PSC of AU
- iii. Opening statement by Guest of Honour General Marcel Gatsinzi, Minister of Defense of Rwanda

- iv. Statement by the Host Chief of Defense Staff General James Kabarebe
- v. Adoption of the Agenda and Program Work
- vi. Presentation of the Report of Experts on the Budget, Policy Framework and MOU Establishing the EASBRIG
- vii. Discussions
- viii. Visit to the Kigali Genocide Site

b. Day Two:

- i. Discussions continue
- ii. Coffee/tea break
- iii. Appointments:
 - (1) Nomination of the EASBRIG Brigade Commander
 - (2) Nomination of the Chief of Staff of PLANELM
- iv. Lunch break
- v. Any Other Business
- vi. Coffee/tea break
- vii. Adoption of the Report of the Chiefs of Defense Staff
- viii. Closing remarks by the Chairman
- ix. Closing Statement by the Host Chief of Defense Staff

PRESENTATION OF THE EXPERTS REPORT

9. On behalf of the experts group, **Colonel Clovis Kalyebara**, presented the experts report on: the Draft Policy Framework, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the Budget, that was discussed at the experts Meeting in Jinja, Uganda, from the 16-20 August, 2004.

10. The IGAD representative informed the Meeting that Eritrea sent a letter of apology for its absence from the Meeting in Jinja, Uganda and Kigali, Rwanda. He also informed the Meeting that Mauritius and Tanzania had formally communicated to IGAD informing it of their decision to opt out of the EASBRIG and join the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The Meeting respected the decision by Mauritius and Tanzania to join SADC, however, they tasked IGAD to engage the two countries on their notice of withdrawal. Furthermore, the Meeting agreed to forward the issue of Mauritius and Tanzania's notice of withdrawal to the Ministers of Defence of the Eastern Africa region,

with recommendations that the same be communicated to the AU for determination.

11. The Meeting also mandated the Executive Secretary of IGAD to liaise with Eritrea regarding their continued absence from EASBRIG meetings. In response to a letter from Seychelles citing financial difficulties for its absence from EASBRIG Meetings, the EACDS also tasked IGAD to engage with Seychelles in order to establish the real reasons for its consistent absence from previous Meetings.

12. The Meeting proceeded to deliberate on the Draft policy Framework for the establishment of the Eastern Africa Standby Brigade (EASBRIG), the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the Budget.

13. The Meeting adopted the Matrix for the contribution of personnel to the various organs of the EASBRIG. It however, noted that the Matrix should be amended after a decision has been made on the notice of withdrawal by Mauritius and Tanzania.

14. The Meeting agreed that the experts group be mandated to draft the Hosting Agreements, in collaboration with host member states. The Meeting agreed that the TOE's shall be done by the PLANELM.

15. Kenya informed the Meeting that the PLANELM will be located in Karen, Nairobi and that the facilities will be ready by 1 October, 2004. However, they stressed the fact that officers seconded to the PLANELM should take care of their accommodation and other living arrangements. Kenya stressed that it will assist officers in their search for accommodation. In addition, it was explained by the host nation that apart from office accommodation, what would be offered would be the standard basic office equipments.

16. Ethiopia also informed the Meeting that the Brigade HQ and the Logistic Base, will be located in Addis Ababa and that the facilities would be ready on or before 1 October, 2004. In addition, it was explained by the host nation that apart from office accommodation, what would be offered would be the standard basic office equipments.

17. The Meeting adopted the Draft Policy Framework with amendments.

18. The Meeting agreed to adopt the AU's formula for assessed contributions.

19. The Meeting discussed the presence of the Tanzanian delegate in the plenary. In the light of Tanzania's letter to IGAD, in which it indicated its decision to withdraw from the EASBRIG, the Meeting sought clarification on the status of the basis of their presence at the Meeting. The Meeting agreed that Tanzania could continue their attendance as an observer, pending determination of their decision by the AU.

20. The experts group explained that the MoU was prepared in line with the Draft Policy Framework document. It was also pointed out that Article 9 of the MoU had been introduced by the experts to cater for the omission in providing for the Brigade HQ. After deliberations, the Meeting adopted the MoU with amendments.

21. The proposed Budget for the three organs of the EASBRIG namely: The Brigade HQ, PLANELM and the Logistic Base was presented by a representative of the experts group. It was explained that the Budget was based on a skeleton Brigade Headquarter, PLANELM and LogBase. Therefore, the staffing levels were also determined on the same principle, keeping in mind the MoU. The Budget contained an inbuilt five to ten percent contingency elements to cater for price fluctuations, inflation and other considerations. The experts informed the Meeting that the Budget did not include offers by the host nations.

22. After deliberations on the Budget, the Meeting agreed to include a separate line item on contingency fund at 15 per cent of the total Budget, to cater for any unforeseen shortfalls. Further the Meeting directed that the omission of a cost provision for communications at the Brigade Headquarter, and the Logistic Base, should be included.

23. The Meeting recommended that the issue of funding should be forwarded to the Ministers of Defence, for further deliberations and action.

24. Ethiopia nominated **Brigadier-General Bayou Wondeferew Haile** to be the Brigade Commander of the Brigade HQ, while Kenya nominated, **Colonel Robert Kibochi** as the Chief of Staff of the PLANELM.

25. Both nominees for the Brigade HQ and PLANELM were endorsed by the Meeting.

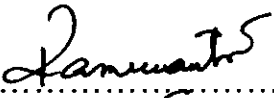
26. The Meeting agreed that the host nations of the organs of the EASBRIG in collaboration with IGAD and the Chairing country, shall


convene in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for purposes of drafting Host Agreements from the 22-27th September, 2004. The experts Meeting should be followed by a Meeting of the EACDS a day before the Summit Meeting proposed for end of September or early October.

27. The Chairperson and head of delegation of Madagascar, **General Raonenantsoamampianina**, thanked all the delegations for their constructive input and patience during the Meeting. He thanked the Government and people of Rwanda, the Chief of Defence Staff of the Rwanda Defence Forces for an excellent organisation and arrangement during the Meeting. He also thanked the IGAD Secretariat and the Institute for Security Studies for their continued support to the process of establishing the EASBRIG. He also thanked the translators for a job well done.


28. In his closing remarks the Chief of Defence of the Rwanda Armed Forces, **General James Kabarebe**, thanked delegates for attending this all important meeting and reiterated his country's appreciation for hosting the Meeting. He reemphasised the importance of improving military to military contact as a way of improving bi-lateral and multi-lateral relations in the region and far beyond. He added that these relations will contribute to the process of regional integration in the region. He further added that, in spite of the poor state of the economies of member states, he is confident that members shall fulfil their pledges. He once again thanked all delegates for their attendance and wished them an enjoyable stay in Rwanda.

Report adopted by the Committee of the Eastern Africa Chiefs of Defence Staff (EACDS)

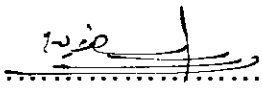
Signed  Date *08/09/04*
Chair and Head of Delegation
of Madagascar

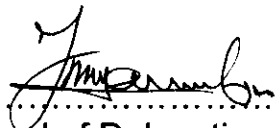
Signed  Date *8/09/04*
Head of Delegation of Djibouti

Signed  Date *08-09-04*
Head of Delegation of Ethiopia

Signed  Date *8 SEP 04*
Head of Delegation Kenya

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Head of Delegation of Rwanda

Signed  Date *8 Sep 2004*
Head of Delegation Sudan

Signed  Date *8 Sept-04*
Head of Delegation of Uganda

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF MEETING
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY BRIGADE (EASBRIG)**

KIGALI, RWANDA, 7-8 SEPTEMBER, 2004

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