

EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY BRIGADE COORDINATION MECHANISM



REPORT OF THE EXPERTS WORKING GROUP MEETING OF EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY BRIGADE REVISED DRAFT HARMONIZED POLICY FRAMEWORK

**BERJAYA, MAHE BEACH RESORT
VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES**

26TH SEPTEMBER 2007

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS WORKING GROUP OF THE EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY BRIGADE ON REVISED DRAFT HARMONIZED POLICY FRAMEWORK HELD AT BERJAYA, MAHE BEACH RESORT, SEYCHELLES ON THE 26TH SEPTEMBER 2007.

1. The meeting of the Experts Working Group of the Eastern Africa Region was held at Berjaya Mahe Beach Resort, Seychelles on 26th September, 2007. The Experts Meeting was preceded by a Workshop held between 24th and 26th September, 2007, organized to discuss the Concept of Peace and Security Cooperation as well as the Draft Harmonised Policy Framework Document. The report of the workshop is attached hereto as **Annex A**. The Experts Meeting was convened pursuant to the Directive of the 5th Council of Ministers to discuss, enrich and conclude the Concept of Cooperation in Peace and Security in Eastern Africa and the Draft Harmonized Policy Framework.

2. The meeting was attended by Experts from Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. Burundi attended as an observer. The full list of participants is as attached at **Annex B**.

Constitution of the bureau

3. The Bureau was constituted as follows:
- a. Chair – Uganda
 - b. Rapporteur - Kenya

Adoption of the Agenda

4. The meeting adopted the Agenda attached as **Annex C**

Consideration of the Draft Harmonized Policy Framework

5. Inter alia, the meeting noted the following inconsistencies and duplication in functions of the structures of EASBRIG:

- a. The absence of a common focal point for all aspects that relate to EASBRIG.
 - b. The fact that the Planning Element (PLANELM) and Standing Brigade Headquarter element both report to the Eastern Africa Chiefs of Defence and Security (EACDS) and that there is no functional relationship between the two. They also do not report to the Eastern Africa Brigade Coordination Mechanism (EASBRICOM).
 - c. Both the PLANELM and the Brigade Headquarters element are tasked with force preparation duties and both may deploy and prepare forces.
 - d. Both EASBRICOM and the Brigade Headquarters element have secretarial functions.
 - e. The EASBRIG structures do not provide for the non-military components of the brigade such as the Civilian and Police Elements as required by the African Union Commission and reinforced through recent Council decisions.
 - f. Some of the current functions of the Director of EASBRICOM including the ability to undertake resource management and monitoring, are not supported by the established structure.
 - g. Peace building, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction responsibilities are not elaborated within the structure.
6. To address these inconsistencies and duplications, the meeting recommended as follows:
- a. Expand the Council of Ministers in terms of participating authorities.
 - b. Expand the Committee of Eastern African Chiefs of Defence Staff (EACDS) to include other key stakeholders in the EASF.
 - c. Some members proposed renaming and reconfiguring EASBRICOM as the Eastern Africa Peace and Security Secretariat (EAPSS) as the coordination structure and secretariat of the Mechanism.
 - d. Elevate the integrated planning function, currently under the military PLANELM, to strategic level and subsume it into the EAPSS. The PLANELM and the COS of the standing Brigade

Headquarters element and the Logbase to report to the Director General of the EAPSS through the Director of the Peace and Security Division or the Director Integrated Planning, as the case may be.

- e. Some members recommended the establishment of an Eastern Africa Peace and Security Mechanism (EAPSM) in accordance with Article 16 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, reporting through the Council to the Eastern Africa Assembly of Heads of State and Government as the supreme authority responsible for peace and security matters.
7. Other recommendations include:
 - a. Possibility of establishment of a Council of Elders for mediation purposes consisting of eminent persons along similar lines as that set out in Article 11 of the PSC Protocol.
 - b. Establishment of an early warning mechanism as well as a CIMIC function.
 8. The proposed reviewed security arrangement to be anchored in a more appropriate legal framework such as a pact.
 9. One Member State, while agreeing with the proposed harmonized policy framework, proposed that consideration be given to the time and resources required for effective implementation.
 10. The meeting decided that EASBRICOM refines the Revised Draft Harmonised Policy Framework document in line with the observations, inputs and recommendations by the Experts Working Group before subsequently submitting it to the Committee of Eastern Africa Chiefs of Defence Staff.

Reservations

11. Ethiopia expressed its reservations to the draft Harmonized Policy Framework for the establishment of the Eastern Africa Peace and Security Mechanism, because it believed that the study conducted by

the consultants does not comply with the mandate given to EASBRICOM. It indicated that the study does not show any inconsistencies or duplications in the existing structures of EASBRIG. Ethiopia further stated that the study lacks the necessary depth to justify reforming EASBRIG in its infancy. The reservation is attached in **Annex D**.

12. Djibouti was of the view that the revised framework for the establishment of a Peace and security arrangement in Eastern Africa, as proposed by EASBRICOM is ill timed and will only bring about additional complications. Consequently, Djibouti has some reservations on the acceptance of this proposal and suggests that EASBRICOM carries on with the discharge of its mandate in line with the assignment entrusted with it during the meeting of the Council of Ministers in charge of Defence and Security of EASBRIG Member States of 30th March 2007.

A.O.B

Chairing of future Experts Meetings.

13. The meeting recommended that future Experts Working Group meeting be chaired by the Director EASBRICOM. Ethiopia expressed its reservation on this point.

Signed this Day of 2007 at
Berjaya, Mahe Beach Resort, Seychelles

Signed
COL JAMES MUGIRA
Chairperson and Head of Delegation of the Republic of Uganda

Signed
LT COL SALIMOU AMIRI
Head of Delegation of the Union of Comoros

Signed

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COL ABDOURAHMAN DEMBIL
Head of Delegation of the Republic of Djibouti

Signed

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COL GEZU SHIFERAW
Head of Delegation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Signed

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BRIG PETER IBEERE
Head of Delegation the Republic of Kenya

Signed

.....
COL MICHEAL NKURUNZIZA
Head of Delegation of the Republic of Rwanda

Signed

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LT COL JOE MAURICE RAGAIN
Head of Delegation of the Republic of Seychelles

Signed

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BRIG GEN OSMAN SHEIKH ALI
Head of Delegation of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia

Signed

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BRIG GAMAL OMER IBRAHIM
Head of Delegation of the Republic of the Sudan