



2024

EACON

Strengthening Regional Cooperation in East African Community



Conference Report

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Introduction

Conference Background

The East African Community Conference (EACON) 2024, held from June 24-25, 2024, at the Afisiyooni Tent in Mogadishu, Somalia, was a landmark event signifying Somalia's recent accession to the East African Community (EAC). This conference marked the first time Somalia hosted EACON, reflecting its growing role and commitment within the regional bloc. Organized by SIMAD University and Somali National University, in collaboration with various regional and international partners, and under the patronage of the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education of the Federal Republic of Somalia, the conference aimed to foster dialogue, collaboration, and integration among EAC member states, focusing on economic growth, trade, education, and environmental sustainability.

The EACON 2024 conference was conceived in the context of Somalia's evolving role within the EAC. Following years of significant political and economic reforms, Somalia formally joined the EAC in January 2023, marking a new chapter in its regional engagement. This

event symbolized the culmination of a decade-long journey that began in 2012 when Somalia first expressed its interest in joining the EAC. The successful integration of Somalia into the EAC underscores the country's resilience and its commitment to regional cooperation, economic development, and collective security.

EACON 2024 aimed to build on these foundations by providing a platform for stakeholders across the region to discuss and develop strategies for deeper integration and collaboration. The conference brought together government officials, business leaders, academics, policymakers, and representatives from various organizations to share insights, discuss challenges, and explore opportunities for regional development. The theme, "Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the East African Community," was chosen to reflect the collective ambition of EAC member states to foster unity, enhance collaboration, and drive sustainable development across the region.



Objectives and Goals

The primary objectives of EACON 2024 were to:



Facilitate Regional Integration: Strengthen Somalia's integration into the EAC by promoting economic cooperation, trade, and investment opportunities. The conference sought to create a conducive environment for discussing policies and frameworks that would enhance regional integration, reduce trade barriers, and promote the free movement of goods, services, and people within the EAC.



Promote Education and Research: Encourage academic collaboration and research initiatives to enhance the quality of education and foster innovation within the EAC. The conference provided a platform for universities and research institutions to showcase their work, share best practices, and explore opportunities for collaboration. By promoting education and research, EACON 2024 aimed to build a knowledge-based economy that supports sustainable development and innovation.



Enhance Economic Growth: Discuss strategies to harness the economic potential of the region, focusing on trade facilitation, investment policies, and private sector engagement. EACON 2024 aimed to highlight the economic opportunities available within the EAC, encouraging investments in key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and technology. The conference also aimed to identify and address the challenges faced by businesses in the region, promoting a more competitive and resilient economic environment.



Address Environmental Challenges: Develop collaborative approaches to address climate change and environmental sustainability, ensuring a resilient and sustainable future for the region. The conference aimed to foster dialogue on critical environmental issues, such as deforestation, water scarcity, and climate resilience. By promoting collaborative initiatives and sharing best practices, EACON 2024 aimed to enhance the region's capacity to tackle environmental challenges and promote sustainable development.



Strengthen Diplomatic Ties: Enhance diplomatic relations among member states,

fostering peace, stability, and mutual understanding. EACON 2024 provided a platform for high-level diplomatic engagement, facilitating dialogue on issues of mutual interest and promoting regional security and stability. The conference aimed to build trust and cooperation among EAC member states, reinforcing the region's commitment to collective security and prosperity.



Conference Theme and Sub-Themes

The theme of EACON 2024 was "Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the East African Community," emphasizing the importance of unity, collaboration, and shared growth among EAC member states. The conference explored several sub-themes to provide a comprehensive understanding of regional development:



Economic Development and Trade for Investment Promotion: Focusing on enhancing economic integration and investment opportunities within the EAC. This sub-theme aimed to explore the benefits of regional economic integration, such as increased market access, improved trade facilitation, and enhanced investment flows. Discussions centered on identifying key sectors for investment, promoting public-private partnerships, and developing strategies to attract and retain investments in the region.



Food Security and Agriculture: Exploring sustainable agricultural practices to ensure food security and boost agricultural productivity. This sub-theme aimed to address the challenges and opportunities in the agricultural sector, promoting sustainable farming practices, improving access to markets, and enhancing food security. Discussions centered on developing strategies to increase agricultural productivity, support smallholder farmers, and promote value addition in the agricultural value chain.



Promoting Intercultural Understanding and Social Cohesion: Addressing the significance of cultural diversity and fostering social cohesion among member states. This sub-theme highlighted the importance of cultural exchange and dialogue in promoting mutual understanding and social harmony. Discussions focused on leveraging cultural diversity as a source of strength and unity, promoting inclusive policies, and fostering a sense of belonging among the diverse communities within the EAC.



Environmental Conservation and Climate Resilience: Discussing strategies to combat climate change and promote environmental sustainability. This sub-theme focused on identifying collaborative approaches to address environmental challenges, such as deforestation, water scarcity, and climate change. Discussions aimed to promote sustainable development practices, enhance regional cooperation on environmental issues, and develop strategies to build climate resilience in the region.



Exploring Migrations among East African Communities: Analyzing migration patterns and their impact on regional development. This sub-theme aimed to explore the socio-economic and political dimensions of migration within the EAC, addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with migration. Discussions focused on developing policies to manage migration flows, promote social integration, and harness the potential of migrants as drivers of economic growth and development.



Strengthening Cooperation Among East African Communities: Highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts to achieve

regional integration and development. This sub-theme emphasized the need for coordinated action and collective efforts to address regional challenges and promote sustainable development. Discussions focused on identifying areas for cooperation, developing joint initiatives, and fostering a culture of collaboration and mutual support among EAC member states.



Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, and Security: Examining the role of regional cooperation in promoting peace, resolving conflicts, and ensuring security. This sub-theme aimed to address the security challenges facing the region, promoting peacebuilding and conflict resolution initiatives. Discussions focused on developing strategies to enhance regional security, promote social cohesion, and build resilient communities that can withstand security threats and challenges.



Overview of the Organizing Institutions and Sponsors



SIMAD University: As a primary organizer, SIMAD University played a pivotal role in bringing together key stakeholders, including government officials, business leaders, academics, and representatives from various organizations. The university's commitment to fostering regional integration and development was evident in its extensive efforts to ensure the conference's success. SIMAD University provided the necessary logistical support, facilitated communication among participants, and coordinated the various sessions and activities throughout the conference.



Somali National University: As a co-organizer, Somali National University significantly contributed to the conference by leveraging its academic expertise and institutional resources. The university's involvement underscored its dedication to enhancing higher education and fostering academic collaboration within the EAC. Somali National University played a critical role in organizing academic sessions, facilitating research presentations, and promoting knowledge exchange among participants.



Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education of the Federal Republic of Somalia: The Ministry's patronage was instrumental in aligning the conference's objectives with national educational and cultural policies. The Ministry provided strategic guidance, facilitated high-level engagements, and ensured that the conference addressed key issues relevant to Somalia's educational and cultural development. Their support underscored the government's commitment to regional integration and the promotion of education and cultural exchange within the EAC.

Collaborating Partners:



East Africa Business Council (EABC):

Represented by its Executive Director, John Bosco Kalisa, EABC provided insights into the private sector's role in regional integration and economic growth. EABC's participation underscored the importance of private sector engagement in driving regional development and promoting economic cooperation.



GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit):

Represented by Bjorn Richter, GIZ emphasized the importance of higher education and trade roles in the region. GIZ's involvement underscored the significance of international cooperation and development assistance in supporting regional integration and sustainable development.



Hormuud Telecom: A leading telecommunications company in Somalia, Hormuud Telecom highlighted its contributions to national development and regional integration. Hormuud Telecom's participation demonstrated the critical role of the telecommunications sector in fostering connectivity, supporting economic growth, and promoting social inclusion within the EAC.



East African Health Platform (EAHP):

Represented by Ms. Jonniah William, EAHP brought attention to health and social issues within the EAC. EAHP's participation highlighted the critical role of health and social policies in promoting human development and enhancing the quality of life within the region.



University of Dar es Salaam and University of Bayreuth:

These academic institutions showcased collaborative efforts in research and innovation. Their participation demonstrated the importance of academic partnerships and knowledge exchange in driving regional development and fostering innovation.



Sponsors and Supporters:



Government of Somalia: Provided crucial support and coordination, reflecting the national commitment to regional integration. The government's involvement underscored Somalia's dedication to the EAC's goals and its commitment to fostering regional cooperation and development.



International Organizations: Various international bodies and NGOs supported the conference, underscoring the global interest in the region's development. Their participation highlighted the importance of international cooperation and support in promoting sustainable development and regional integration within the EAC. Their involvement brought additional resources, expertise, and perspectives to the conference, enriching the discussions and enhancing the overall impact of EACON 2024.



EACON 2024 was a testament to the collective efforts of these organizing institutions, sponsors, and supporters, showcasing the power of collaboration and the shared commitment to achieving regional integration and sustainable development. The conference provided a platform for meaningful dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaborative action, paving the way for a more integrated, prosperous, and sustainable East Africa.





Opening Ceremony

Welcome Address by Dr. Abdikarim Mohaidin, EACON Chairperson

Dr. Abdikarim Mohaidin, the Conference Chairperson, officially opened EACON 2024 with a heartfelt welcome to all attendees. In his opening remarks, Dr. Mohaidin emphasized the significance of Somalia hosting the conference for the first time since joining the East African Community. He highlighted the conference theme, "Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the East African Community," as a timely and crucial focus for the collective growth and development of the member states.

Dr. Mohaidin underscored the importance of regional cooperation and integration in addressing common challenges and seizing opportunities within the EAC. He expressed gratitude to the organizers, sponsors, and participants for their dedication and support in making the conference possible. He called on all attendees to actively participate in the discussions, share their insights, and collaborate on developing actionable strategies to foster a more integrated, prosperous, and sustainable East Africa.



Sponsor Remarks by Bjorn Richter, GIZ

Bjorn Richter, representing GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), delivered remarks focusing on the importance of higher education and trade in the East African region. He highlighted GIZ's commitment to supporting regional integration and sustainable development through various initiatives and partnerships.

Richter emphasized the critical role of education in driving innovation and economic growth, encouraging collaborative efforts to enhance the quality of education and research within the EAC. He discussed the

potential of trade to boost economic development and improve living standards across the region, calling for policies that facilitate trade, reduce barriers, and promote investment. Richter stressed that such measures are essential for achieving the goals of regional integration and economic prosperity.

In closing, Richter expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to EACON 2024 and reaffirmed GIZ's commitment to supporting the East African Community in its journey towards a more integrated and sustainable future.



Sponsor Remarks by Ahmed Mohamud Yuusuf, CEO Hormuud Telecom

Ahmed Mohamud Yuusuf, representing Hormuud Telecom, delivered remarks highlighting the company's contributions to national development and regional integration. He emphasized Hormuud Telecom's commitment to fostering connectivity, supporting economic growth, and promoting social inclusion within the EAC.

Yuusuf discussed the transformative impact of telecommunications on the region's development, noting how improved connectivity can drive innovation, enhance access to education and healthcare, and

support economic activities. He called for continued investment in telecommunications infrastructure and collaborative efforts to leverage technology for regional development.

In closing, Yuusuf expressed Hormuud Telecom's pride in sponsoring EACON 2024 and reiterated the company's commitment to supporting the East African Community's goals. He encouraged all participants to engage actively in the discussions and work together to build a more connected and prosperous East Africa.



Dr. Dahir Hassan, Former Rector, SIMAD University

Speaking in Somali, Dr. Dahir Hassan welcomed attendees and highlighted the long-term advantages Somalia will gain from joining the EAC. He emphasized that access to a market of over 300 million people will unlock new opportunities for Somali businesses and enable students to access premier universities in the region. Dr. Dahir also discussed the importance of skilled workers from EAC

countries, who can help address skill shortages in Somalia's labor market. He urged Somalia to take full advantage of EAC membership, including the benefits of open borders and improved people-to-people connections. Dr. Dahir closed his remarks by expressing hope that Somalia's membership would soon yield visible, positive outcomes.



Dr. Hassan Osman, Rector, Somali National University

Dr. Hassan Osman began by addressing the importance of EAC integration for Somalia, especially as a nation that has overcome conflict and adversity. He highlighted Somalia's natural resources and strategic location along the largest coastline in Africa as assets that can enhance trade within the EAC. Dr. Osman also emphasized Somalia's youthful population, which he described as a

promising workforce ready to contribute to East Africa's development. He shared his hopes that the "one border" policy within the EAC would foster deeper collaboration and easier movement for all citizens. Concluding, Dr. Osman encouraged Somali businesses and educational institutions to leverage the new opportunities that come with regional integration.



Prof. Dr. Thoko Kaime, Chair of African Legal Studies, University of Bayreuth

Prof. Dr. Kaime congratulated Somalia on joining the EAC, describing this milestone as a testament to Somalia's commitment to peace and regional stability. He underscored the significance of academic collaboration within the EAC, citing the partnership between SIMAD University and the University of Dar es Salaam as a successful model. He expressed

optimism that Somalia's inclusion would foster greater cooperation in fields like innovation, law, and research. He closed by emphasizing the resilience and aspirations that drive the EAC and expressed confidence that Somalia's membership would further enhance the region's shared progress.



Setting The Scene for EACON 2024

Remarks by H.E. Ahmed Moalim Fiqi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

H.E. Ahmed Moalim Fiqi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, provided an insightful address on the importance of diplomatic engagement and regional cooperation. He highlighted Somalia's journey towards EAC membership, emphasizing the diplomatic efforts and reforms undertaken to achieve this milestone. The Minister stressed the potential for socioeconomic transformation and growth through regional integration, stating that Somalia is committed to contributing actively to the EAC's objectives.

Minister Fiqi discussed the importance of fostering economic cooperation, enhancing trade relations, and attracting investment to boost the region's economic development. He also addressed the challenges posed by climate change and the need for collaborative approaches to build resilience and ensure environmental sustainability. In closing, the Minister called for continued efforts to strengthen peace, security, and stability in the region, underscoring the role of regional cooperation in achieving these goals.



Remarks by H.E. Farah Sheikh Abdulkadir, Minister of Education, Culture, and Higher Education

H.E. Farah Sheikh Abdulkadir, the Minister of Education, Culture, and Higher Education of the Federal Republic of Somalia, delivered a powerful address emphasizing the significance of Somalia's recent accession to the East African Community. He highlighted the government's commitment to regional integration and its readiness to contribute to the EAC's goals. The Minister noted that the conference theme, "Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the East African Community," resonated deeply with Somalia's national priorities, particularly in promoting education, cultural exchange, and economic development.

Minister Abdulkadir underscored the importance of knowledge exchange and collaboration in achieving sustainable development and fostering regional cohesion. He emphasized the role of education in driving innovation and economic growth, and he called for enhanced academic partnerships and research initiatives within the EAC. In closing, the Minister expressed his hope that the conference would lead to actionable strategies and stronger ties among EAC member states.



Presidential Remarks by H.E. Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of Somalia

H.E. Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the President of Somalia, delivered the keynote presidential address, marking a historic moment for the country as it hosted its inaugural EACON. In his speech, President Mohamud reflected on Somalia's journey towards EAC membership, highlighting the significant reforms and efforts undertaken to achieve this milestone. He emphasized the potential for socioeconomic transformation and growth through regional integration, stating that Somalia is committed to contributing actively to the EAC's objectives.

President Mohamud discussed the importance of fostering economic cooperation, enhancing trade relations, and attracting investment to boost the region's

economic development. He also addressed the challenges posed by climate change and the need for collaborative approaches to build resilience and ensure environmental sustainability. The President called for continued efforts to strengthen peace, security, and stability in the region, underscoring the role of regional cooperation in achieving these goals.

In closing, President Mohamud expressed his gratitude to the conference organizers, sponsors, and participants for their support and dedication. He encouraged all attendees to engage actively in the discussions and contribute to shaping the future of the East African Community.



Keynote Address by John Bosco Kalisa, Executive Director of the East Africa Business Council (EABC)

John Bosco Kalisa, the Executive Director of the East Africa Business Council (EABC), delivered an insightful keynote address, focusing on the critical role of the private sector in fostering regional integration and economic growth within the East African Community (EAC). Kalisa began by acknowledging the significant progress the EAC has made in recent years, highlighting the increased collaboration between member states and the positive impact on trade and investment flows.

He emphasized that the private sector is the engine of economic growth and development, driving innovation, creating jobs, and generating wealth. Kalisa called for a more conducive business environment that fosters entrepreneurship and innovation. He pointed out that to achieve this, there needs to be a concerted effort to harmonize policies and regulations across member states, reduce trade barriers, and streamline processes to facilitate cross-border trade and investment.

Kalisa also addressed the importance of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in achieving sustainable development goals. He provided examples of successful PPPs in the region that have led to significant infrastructure developments, such as roads, ports, and energy projects, which are crucial for supporting economic activities. He urged governments to create an enabling environment for such partnerships by

providing the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks.

One of the key themes of Kalisa's address was the need for greater investment in technology and digital infrastructure. He highlighted the transformative potential of digital technologies in enhancing productivity, improving service delivery, and expanding market access for businesses. Kalisa called for strategic investments in digital infrastructure, such as broadband connectivity and e-commerce platforms, to support the growth of the digital economy in the EAC.

In addition, Kalisa discussed the importance of capacity building and skills development. He emphasized the need for member states to invest in education and training programs that equip the workforce with the skills needed for the modern economy. He highlighted initiatives by the EABC to support skills development and entrepreneurship training, particularly for young people and women, who are crucial for the future of the region's economy.

Kalisa concluded his address by reaffirming the EABC's commitment to working closely with EAC governments and other stakeholders to promote regional integration and economic development. He expressed optimism about the future of the EAC, noting that with the right policies and partnerships in place, the region can achieve its vision of becoming a prosperous and globally competitive economic bloc.



Keynote Address by Ahmed Mohamud Yuusuf, CEO of Hormuud Telecom

Ahmed Mohamud Yuusuf, the CEO of Hormuud Telecom, delivered a keynote address focusing on the transformative role of telecommunications in driving economic growth and social development in the East African Community (EAC). Yuusuf began by highlighting the rapid growth of the telecommunications sector in the region and its impact on various aspects of society, including education, healthcare, and commerce.

Yuusuf emphasized that improved connectivity is a catalyst for development, enabling access to information, services, and markets. He discussed Hormuud Telecom's efforts to expand network coverage and provide affordable telecommunications services across Somalia and the broader EAC region. He noted that these efforts have significantly contributed to economic activities, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

Yuusuf also addressed the role of telecommunications in supporting the digital economy. He highlighted the increasing adoption of mobile money and digital payment systems, which have revolutionized financial services and inclusion in the region. Yuusuf shared insights into Hormuud Telecom's mobile money platform, emphasizing its role in facilitating transactions, enhancing financial inclusion, and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

In addition, Yuusuf discussed the importance of leveraging technology for education and healthcare. He highlighted initiatives by Hormuud Telecom to support e-learning and telemedicine, providing examples of how these technologies have improved access to education and healthcare services, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. He called for greater investment in digital infrastructure and innovative solutions to

address the region's social and economic challenges.

Yuusuf also touched on the challenges facing the telecommunications sector, including regulatory hurdles, cybersecurity threats, and the need for continued investment in infrastructure. He urged governments and regulators to adopt policies that support the growth of the sector, protect consumers, and

ensure the security and resilience of digital networks.

In closing, Yuusuf reiterated Hormuud Telecom's commitment to contributing to the EAC's development goals through innovation and investment in telecommunications. He called on stakeholders to collaborate and leverage the power of technology to drive inclusive and sustainable growth in the region.



Keynote Address by Ms. Jonniah William, East African Health Platform (EAHP)

Ms. Jonniah William, representing the East African Health Platform (EAHP), delivered a keynote address focusing on health and social issues within the East African Community (EAC). William began by highlighting the critical role of health in achieving sustainable development and the importance of a holistic approach that integrates health, social, and economic policies.

William emphasized the need for regional cooperation to address common health challenges, such as infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and non-communicable diseases. She discussed the impact of health on economic productivity and social well-being, noting that investing in health systems is essential for the region's overall development.

William also highlighted the importance of strengthening health systems to ensure they are resilient and capable of responding to public health emergencies. She provided examples of successful regional initiatives to improve health outcomes, such as vaccination campaigns, disease surveillance, and health education programs. William called for continued collaboration and resource sharing among EAC member states to enhance the region's capacity to address health challenges.

In addition, William addressed the social determinants of health, such as education, housing, and access to clean water and sanitation. She emphasized that addressing these determinants requires a coordinated

effort across different sectors and policies that promote equity and social inclusion. William highlighted initiatives by the EAHP to support integrated approaches to health and social development, particularly for vulnerable populations.

William concluded her address by calling for greater investment in health and social services and stronger partnerships between governments, civil society, and the private sector. She reaffirmed the EAHP's commitment to working with EAC member states to promote health and social well-being, and she expressed optimism about the region's ability to achieve its development goals through collaborative efforts.



Keynote Address by H.E. Abdirahman Aynte, Founder and CEO of Laasfort Consulting Group

H.E. Abdirahman Aynte, Founder and CEO of Laasfort Consulting Group, delivered a keynote address focusing on the importance of strategic planning and policy development for regional integration and development within the East African Community (EAC). Aynte began by emphasizing the need for a clear vision and effective policies to guide the region's development efforts.

Aynte highlighted the importance of evidence-based policymaking, noting that policies should be informed by robust data and analysis to ensure they are effective and sustainable. He discussed the role of Laasfort Consulting Group in supporting governments and organizations in developing and implementing strategic plans that drive economic growth and social development.

Aynte also addressed the challenges and opportunities facing the EAC, including the need for infrastructure development, enhancing trade and investment, and

promoting innovation and technology. He emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and collective action to address these challenges and seize opportunities for growth and development.

In addition, Aynte discussed the importance of inclusive development, highlighting the need to ensure that all segments of society benefit from the region's growth. He called for policies that promote social equity, gender equality, and youth empowerment, noting that these are essential for achieving sustainable development.

Aynte concluded his address by urging EAC member states to adopt a long-term perspective and prioritize strategic planning and policy development. He reaffirmed Laasfort Consulting Group's commitment to supporting the region's development goals and expressed optimism about the future of the EAC.



Keynote Address by Dr. Petro Protas, University of Dar es Salaam

Dr. Petro Protas, representing the University of Dar es Salaam, delivered a keynote address focusing on the role of higher education and research in driving regional integration and development within the East African Community (EAC). Dr. Protas began by highlighting the significant contributions of universities and research institutions to the region's knowledge economy and innovation ecosystem.

Dr. Protas emphasized the importance of academic collaboration and partnerships in enhancing the quality of education and research. He discussed the role of the University of Dar es Salaam in fostering regional cooperation through joint research projects, academic exchange programs, and collaborative initiatives with other universities and research institutions within the EAC.

Dr. Protas also addressed the challenges facing higher education in the region, including funding constraints, limited infrastructure, and the need for capacity

building. He called for greater investment in higher education and research, noting that these are critical for developing a skilled workforce, driving innovation, and supporting economic growth.

In addition, Dr. Protas discussed the importance of aligning higher education with the region's development priorities. He highlighted the need for curricula that are relevant to the needs of the labor market and research that addresses the region's most pressing challenges. Dr. Protas provided examples of how the University of Dar es Salaam is working to achieve this alignment through its programs and initiatives.

Dr. Protas concluded his address by reaffirming the University of Dar es Salaam's commitment to supporting the EAC's development goals through education and research. He called on stakeholders to collaborate and invest in higher education and research to build a prosperous and sustainable future for the region.



Keynote Address by Prof. Dr. Thoko Kaime, University of Bayreuth

Prof. Dr. Thoko Kaime, representing the University of Bayreuth, delivered a keynote address focusing on environmental sustainability and climate resilience within the East African Community (EAC). Prof. Dr. Kaime began by highlighting the urgent need to address environmental challenges and build resilience to climate change in the region.

Prof. Dr. Kaime emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and collective action in addressing environmental issues, such as deforestation, water scarcity, and climate change. He discussed the role of the University of Bayreuth in supporting environmental research and policy development, providing examples of collaborative initiatives with other universities and research institutions within the EAC.

Prof. Dr. Kaime also addressed the need for integrated approaches to environmental management, noting that environmental sustainability is interconnected with economic and social development. He called for policies that promote sustainable

development practices, protect natural resources, and enhance the resilience of communities to climate change impacts.

In addition, Prof. Dr. Kaime discussed the importance of education and awareness in promoting environmental sustainability. He highlighted the role of universities and research institutions in providing education and training programs that equip individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to address environmental challenges. Prof. Dr. Kaime provided examples of how the University of Bayreuth is contributing to this effort through its programs and initiatives.

Prof. Dr. Kaime concluded his address by calling for greater investment in environmental research and education, and stronger partnerships between governments, academia, and civil society. He reaffirmed the University of Bayreuth's commitment to supporting the EAC's environmental goals and expressed optimism about the region's ability to achieve sustainable development through collective action and collaboration.



Prof. Dr. Idris Ahmada Rai, Deputy Executive Secretary, IUCEA

Prof. Rai discussed the Common Higher Education Area (CHEA) initiative, which aims to harmonize educational standards across the EAC. He emphasized that CHEA will facilitate student mobility, mutual recognition

of degrees, and regional collaboration in research. Prof. Rai positioned IUCEA as a key player in maintaining education quality and accreditation throughout the EAC.



Mr. Tabaro examined the legal and socio-economic requirements for Somalia's EAC membership, drawing from historical treaties and emphasizing Somalia's alignment with EAC governance principles. He concluded by

stressing the importance of harmonizing Somalia's policies with those of the EAC to ensure a smooth transition and mutual growth.





Panel Discussions

Panel 1: Cross-Border Trade and Investment Opportunities in East Africa with Somalia's Inclusion

The first panel discussion at EACON 2024 focused on the strategies for maximizing the benefits of Somalia's inclusion in the East African Community (EAC). Key topics

discussed included enhancing trade facilitation, harmonizing investment policies, and fostering a conducive business environment.

Panel Members:

1. **Mohamed Muse Hassan:** Panel Moderator; Founding Director of SIMAD iLab
2. **Claudia Voss:** Director and Head of Countries and Markets at Afrika-Verein (AV)
3. **John Bosco Kalisa:** Executive Director of the East Africa Business Council (EABC)
4. **Ms. Jacinta Kiruthi:** CEO of In Trade Africa, a Tax and Customs Boutique
5. **Mrs. Silvia Befghof:** Managing Director of COREX Vertriebs GmbH



Cross-Border Trade and Investment Opportunities in East Africa with Somalia's



Mohamed Muse Hassan,
Founding Director of
SIMAD iLab
(Moderator)



Claudia Voss,
Director and Head of
Countries and
Markets at
Afrika-Verein (AV)
(Panellist)



Ms. Jacinta Kiruthi,
CEO of In Trade Africa
a Tax and Customs
Boutique
(Panellist)



Mrs. Silvia Berghof,
Managing Director of
COREX Vertriebs
GmbH
(Panellist)



John Bosco Kalisa,
Executive Director of
the East African
Business Council
(Panellist)



Key Topics Discussed:

- 1. Role of the Private Sector:** John Bosco Kalisa emphasized the importance of understanding the People-Centered and Market-Driven Integration Principles. He explained the four stages of EAC integration: Custom Union, Common Market, Monetary Union, and Political Federation. Kalisa highlighted the need for harmonization and predictable policies to support integration, and he shared insights on how the private sector can drive economic growth and job creation by leveraging these integration stages.
- 2. Support for Small Businesses:** Claudia Voss highlighted the strength of African businesses in Germany and urged the Somali community to integrate with other businesses in East Africa. She noted that Somalia's inclusion in the EAC is a significant step forward with substantial future opportunities. Voss emphasized the importance of networking and building relationships with businesses across the region to create a more robust and resilient economy.
- 3. Impact of Climate Change:** Ms. Jacinta Kiruthi discussed the EAC's role in addressing climate change through collective action and shared responsibility. She emphasized the importance of policy alignment and regional cooperation in combating climate change, noting that environmental sustainability is crucial for long-term economic stability and growth. Kiruthi also highlighted initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting green technologies.
- 4. Market Penetration Strategies:** Mrs. Silvia Befghof emphasized the importance of having the right product, involving the community in business projects, and partnering with like-minded institutions to penetrate bigger markets. She shared successful case studies of companies that have effectively entered new markets through strategic partnerships and community engagement.

Outcomes and Recommendations:

- **Policy Harmonization:** The panel recommended the harmonization of trade policies and regulations across EAC member states to facilitate seamless trade and investment. This includes standardizing customs procedures and reducing non-tariff barriers.
- **Infrastructure Investment:** Increased investment in infrastructure, particularly in transport and logistics, was identified as a priority to support cross-border trade. The panel emphasized the need for modern ports, roads, and railways to enhance connectivity and reduce trade costs.
- **Capacity Building:** The panel stressed the need for capacity-building programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of traders, policymakers, and investors. This includes training on international trade standards, market research, and business management.
- **Leveraging Technology:** Embracing digital technologies and innovative solutions was highlighted as crucial for improving trade efficiency and expanding market access. The panel encouraged the adoption of e-commerce platforms, digital payment systems, and trade information portals.

Panel 2: Building Bridges through Knowledge: Enhancing Academic Collaboration in the East African Community

The second panel discussion emphasized the role of academic collaboration in fostering regional integration and development within the EAC. The discussion highlighted how

shared resources, collaborative research projects, student and faculty exchanges, and internships will strengthen ties and foster innovation across member countries.

Panel Members:

1. **Dr. Abukar M Omar:** Panel Moderator; Dean, Faculty of Education, SIMAD University
2. **Prof. Dr. Abdishakur Sh Hassan:** Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Education
3. **Abdullahi Ibrahim:** Senior Advisor on EAC for the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Higher Education, and Representative for IUCEA in Somalia
4. **Dr. Petro Protas:** TGCL Project Coordinator, Department of Private Law, University of Dar es Salaam



Building Bridges through Knowledge: Enhancing Academic Collaboration in the East African Community



Dr. Abukar Mukhtar Omar,
Dean, Faculty of Education,
SIMAD University
(Moderator)



Abdullahi Ibrahim - Mzungu,
Senior Advisor on EAC for
Ministry of education,
culture and Higher
Education and rep. IUCEA
in Somalia (Panellist)



Prof Dr Abdishakur Sh Hassan Faqih,
Senior advisor at the
Ministry of Education
(Panellist)



Dr. Petro Protas,
Department of
Private Law,
University of
Dar es Salaam
(Panellist)



Key Topics Discussed:

1. **Student Exchange Programs:** Prof. Dr. Abdishakur Sh Hassan discussed the benefits of student exchange programs in fostering educational integration, cultural experiences, and research collaboration. He highlighted that Somali students can participate in cross-institutional academic competitions due to their proficiency in English and Kiswahili. Exchange programs also promote mutual understanding and build networks among future leaders in the region.
2. **Policy Considerations for Integration:** Abdullahi Ibrahim stressed the importance of establishing rules and frameworks internally in Somalia to align its higher education system with the EAC. He emphasized the need to address political aspects and

collaborate with EAC member states. Ibrahim discussed the potential of integrating regional education policies to create a more cohesive academic environment that supports mobility and recognition of qualifications.

3. **Future Opportunities for Academic Collaboration:** Panelists highlighted the potential for research collaboration, addressing the scarcity of public schools and higher education institutions in Somalia, and the importance of enhancing the education system to foster collaboration with EAC countries. They discussed initiatives such as joint research projects, academic conferences, and collaborative online learning platforms.

Outcomes and Recommendations:

- **Cross-Border Internships:** The panel discussed the importance of facilitating cross-border internships for students to enhance employability and institutional coordination for seamless integration. Internships provide practical experience and exposure to different working environments, which are valuable for students' professional development.
- **Awareness Initiatives:** Emphasized the need for awareness initiatives to promote cross-border opportunities and exchange programs within the

EAC. This includes information campaigns, seminars, and workshops to inform students and faculty about available programs and opportunities.

- **Scholarships:** Encouraged providing scholarships for students to study abroad, enhancing their educational experiences and regional integration. Scholarships can support talented students who may not have the financial means to pursue higher education opportunities outside their home country.

Panel 3: Leveraging the EAC for Stronger Environmental Policies: Building Regional Resilience

The third panel discussion focused on environmental sustainability and climate resilience within the East African Community (EAC). The panel highlighted the shared

climate and environmental challenges and discussed strategies for resource mobilization, green investments, and knowledge sharing.

Panel Members:

1. **Mr. Mohamed Okash:** Panel Moderator; Director of The Institute of Climate Change and Environment (ICE)
2. **Ahmed Yusuf:** Director General at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Somalia
3. **Abdilatif Hussein Omar:** Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Somali National University
4. **Abbass Kassim:** Climate Practice Lead, Laasfort Consulting Group



Key Topics Discussed:

1. **Adaptation to Climate Change:**
Ahmed Yusuf discussed the importance of harmonizing existing regulations and laws, sharing best practices, and coordinating responses

during climate emergencies. He emphasized the need for joint training programs and the creation of a reliable EAC database. Yusuf highlighted the role of regional cooperation in

enhancing the capacity of member states to adapt to climate change impacts.

2. **Policy Harmonization:** Abdilatif Hussein Omar highlighted the need for coordinated information-sharing platforms, harmonized adaptation strategies, and community involvement in policy design. He stressed the importance of developing climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable farming solutions. Omar discussed the benefits of aligning national policies with regional and international standards to create a cohesive approach to environmental management.

3. **Role of Civil Society and Academia:** Panelists discussed the role of civil society organizations and academia in addressing climate change challenges through public awareness campaigns,

evidence-based research, and collaboration with policymakers. They highlighted successful examples of community-led initiatives and academic research that have informed policy decisions and promoted sustainable practices.

4. **Sustainable Community Solutions:** Abbass Kassim emphasized the importance of community-driven policy solutions, alternative energy generation, and incorporating environmental studies into the school curriculum. He highlighted the need for protected grazing areas and mutual support among neighboring member states during climate emergencies. Kassim discussed innovative approaches to engaging communities in environmental conservation efforts, such as participatory planning and capacity-building programs.

Outcomes and Recommendations:

- **Environmental Policy Harmonization:** Called for the harmonization of national and regional environmental policies to align with global standards and guidelines. This includes developing a regional framework for environmental governance and monitoring.
- **Community Involvement:** Stressed the importance of involving communities in policy design and implementation to ensure ownership and sustainability. Community engagement can enhance the effectiveness of environmental policies and promote sustainable practices at the grassroots level.
- **Investment in Green Technologies:** Encouraged investment in green technologies and infrastructure to enhance climate resilience and sustainability. This includes renewable energy projects, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Education and Awareness:** Highlighted the need for integrating environmental education into the school curriculum and conducting public awareness campaigns on environmental sustainability. Education and awareness initiatives can foster a culture of environmental stewardship and empower individuals to take action on climate change.

Panel 4: Beyond Membership: Somalia's Legal Transformation for EAC Integration

This discussion explored the legal adjustments required for Somalia to align with EAC frameworks. The panel, moderated by Mr. Said Omar Bashir, opened with an overview of the EAC's history, structure, and its four foundational pillars essential for

integration: Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union, and Political Confederation. These pillars, he emphasized, are the foundation of EAC's growth and regional cohesion

Panel Members:

1. **Mr. Said Omar Bashir:** Panel Moderator; Somalia National University
2. **Prof. Dr. Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg:** Professor of Political Science, University of Bayreuth
3. **Avv. Abdulkadir Mohamed Tahlil:** Corporate Lawyer
4. **Dr. Idd Ramadhani Mandi:** Commissioner, Law Reform Commission of Tanzania
5. **Prof. Abdulkadir Yusuf:** Professor, Somali National University; Senior Legal Advisor, Somali Parliament



Beyond Membership: Somalia's Legal Transformation for EAC Integration



Said Osman Bashir,
Senior Lecturer,
Faculty of Law,
Somali National
University
(Moderator)



**Prof. Dr. Alexander
Stroh-Steckelberg,**
Professor of Political
Science, African Politics
& Development Policy,
University of Bayreuth
(Panellist)



**Avv. Abdulkadir
Mohamed Tahlil,**
Corporate Lawyer
(Panellist)



**Dr. Idd Ramadhani
Mandi,**
Commissioner of the
Law Reform
Commission of
Tanzania (LRCT)
(Panellist)



Prof Abdulkadir Yusuf,
Professor at SNU,
Senior Legal Adviser to
the Somali Parliament,
and the Independent
Constitutional Review
Commission
(Panellist)



Key Topics Discussed:

- 1. Political Confederation:** Dr. Idd Ramadhani Mandi explained that a political confederation is a union of sovereign states with the right to withdraw and a decision-making process based on consensus. He outlined the progress toward EAC's federation, including the adoption of several key protocols.
- 2. Integration Strategy:** Prof. Dr. Alexander Stroh-Steckelberg highlighted the adaptability of the EAC legal framework to accommodate Somalia, suggesting provisions for Somali judges in the EAC court and emphasizing the need for political goodwill.
- 3. Legal Reforms for Business:** Awv. Abdulkadir Mohamed Tahlil recommended legal reforms, such as creating a competition act and aligning business laws with EAC standards, to attract investors and support Somalia's business environment within the EAC.
- 4. Institutional Capacity:** Prof. Abdulkadir Yusuf proposed that Somalia's parliament establish nine committees to facilitate EAC engagement, encouraging youth participation for meaningful contributions in the integration process.

Outcomes and Recommendations:

- The panel concluded with a call for Somalia to actively engage with EAC stakeholders, especially within the business community, and for Somali youth to seize opportunities within the EAC framework.

Presentation by Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Nor, Senior Fellow, ICE Institute

Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Nor, a renowned academic and researcher, presented his paper on the role of innovation and technology in driving sustainable development within the

EAC. His research focused on the critical role that technology plays in enhancing productivity, fostering innovation, and promoting environmental sustainability.

**Key Points from the Presentation:**

- 1. Technological Innovation:** Dr. Nor highlighted the potential of technological innovation to transform key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services. He provided case studies of successful technological interventions in other EAC member states and discussed their applicability to Somalia.
- 2. Digital Economy:** The presentation explored the growth of the digital economy within the EAC, emphasizing the importance of digital infrastructure, e-commerce, and mobile money platforms. Dr. Nor discussed how digital technologies can enhance access to markets, improve financial inclusion, and support economic activities.
- 3. Sustainable Development:** Dr. Nor focused on the role of technology in promoting environmental sustainability. He discussed innovations in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste management, providing examples of how these technologies can mitigate the impacts of climate change and support sustainable development goals.

4. **Collaboration and Partnerships:** The paper emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and partnerships in fostering innovation. Dr. Nor called for greater cooperation

between governments, the private sector, and academia to create an enabling environment for technological innovation.

Recommendations:

- **Investment in Digital Infrastructure:** Prioritize investments in digital infrastructure to support the growth of the digital economy and enhance connectivity.
- **Support for Innovation:** Implement policies that encourage innovation and provide support for startups and tech entrepreneurs.
- **Sustainable Technologies:** Promote the adoption of sustainable technologies that address environmental challenges and support green growth.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Foster regional collaboration and partnerships to leverage resources, share knowledge, and drive innovation across the EAC.

Presentation by Juweria Mohamed Ibrahim, Visiting Researcher, ICE Institute

Juweria Mohamed Ibrahim, an influential researcher and advocate, presented a paper on the economic impacts of regional integration within the East African

Community (EAC). Her research focused on the transformative potential of Somalia's recent accession to the EAC and the expected economic benefits and challenges.



Key Points from the Presentation:

1. **Economic Growth Potential:** Ibrahim highlighted that regional integration is expected to significantly boost Somalia's GDP by facilitating access to a larger market and enhancing trade opportunities. She provided data-driven projections on how reduced trade barriers and increased foreign direct investment could stimulate economic growth.
2. **Sectoral Opportunities:** The presentation identified key sectors that stand to benefit from regional integration, including agriculture, manufacturing, and services. Ibrahim emphasized the need for targeted policies to support these sectors and leverage regional value chains.
3. **Challenges and Mitigation Strategies:** Ibrahim discussed potential challenges such as competition from more developed economies within the EAC, infrastructural deficits, and regulatory alignment. She proposed strategies to mitigate these challenges, including capacity building, infrastructural investments, and gradual policy harmonization.
4. **Social and Economic Inclusion:** The paper underscored the importance of inclusive growth, ensuring that the benefits of regional integration are equitably distributed among all segments of society. Ibrahim advocated for policies that support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), women, and youth.

Recommendations:

- **Policy Alignment:** Emphasize the need for harmonizing trade and investment policies to create a predictable and stable business environment.
- **Capacity Building:** Invest in training programs to enhance the skills of the workforce and improve competitiveness.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Prioritize infrastructural projects that facilitate trade, such as roads, ports, and telecommunications networks.
- **Inclusive Growth Policies:** Implement policies that support SMEs, promote gender equality, and create opportunities for youth.



06

Diplomatic and Special Remarks

Remarks by H.E. Amb. Hon. Kubai Iringo, High Commissioner of Kenya to Somalia

H.E. Amb. Hon. Kubai Iringo, the High Commissioner of Kenya to Somalia, delivered a detailed and inspiring speech focusing on the crucial role of diplomatic engagement

and regional cooperation in achieving sustainable development within the East African Community (EAC).



Key Points from the Remarks:

- **Regional Stability and Security:** Ambassador Iringo emphasized the importance of peace and stability as foundational elements for economic growth and regional integration. He highlighted Kenya's commitment to working with Somalia and other EAC member states to address security challenges such as terrorism, piracy, and cross-border conflicts. The ambassador underscored the need for a collective security approach, involving intelligence sharing, coordinated military efforts, and community engagement to ensure a stable and secure region.
- **Economic Integration and Trade Facilitation:** The High Commissioner discussed the potential for increased trade and investment within the EAC, particularly in light of Somalia's recent inclusion. He stressed the importance of harmonizing policies and regulations to facilitate cross-border trade, reduce non-tariff barriers, and streamline customs procedures. Ambassador Iringo also highlighted successful trade agreements and partnerships that have bolstered

economic cooperation among member states.

- **Infrastructure Development:** Ambassador Iringo pointed out the critical need for infrastructure development to support trade and economic activities. He called for joint investments in transport networks, including roads, railways, and ports, to enhance connectivity across the region. The High Commissioner mentioned ongoing infrastructure projects in Kenya, such as the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor, and encouraged similar initiatives to boost regional integration.
- **People-to-People Connections:** The ambassador underscored the significance of fostering people-to-people connections through cultural exchange, education, and tourism. He

highlighted initiatives aimed at enhancing social cohesion and mutual understanding among the diverse communities within the EAC. Ambassador Iringo encouraged educational institutions to develop exchange programs and partnerships that promote cross-cultural learning and collaboration.

- **Environmental Cooperation:** Addressing environmental challenges, Ambassador Iringo called for regional cooperation in tackling issues such as deforestation, water scarcity, and climate change. He emphasized the need for sustainable development practices and shared responsibility in managing natural resources. The High Commissioner highlighted Kenya's efforts in promoting renewable energy and conservation projects and encouraged similar initiatives across the EAC.

Remarks by Pier Mario Daccò Coppi, Italian Ambassador to Somalia

Pier Mario Daccò Coppi, the Italian Ambassador to Somalia, delivered a thought-provoking address focusing on the role of

international cooperation and support in promoting regional integration and development within the EAC.



Key Points from the Remarks:

- **International Support and Cooperation:** Ambassador Coppi emphasized the importance of international support and collaboration in achieving the EAC's development objectives. He highlighted Italy's commitment to fostering strong ties with the EAC member states through various development initiatives, technical assistance, and financial support. The ambassador pointed out that international partnerships can bring valuable resources, expertise, and innovative solutions to address the region's challenges.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The Italian Ambassador linked the EAC's integration efforts to the broader framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He stressed the importance of aligning regional policies and initiatives with the SDGs to ensure comprehensive and sustainable development. Ambassador Coppi highlighted Italy's contributions to several SDG-related projects in the region, including health, education, and environmental sustainability.
- **Economic Collaboration:** Ambassador Coppi discussed the potential for

enhanced economic collaboration between Italy and the EAC. He highlighted key sectors where Italy has significant expertise and can contribute to the region's development, such as agriculture, renewable energy, and infrastructure. The ambassador encouraged Italian businesses to explore investment opportunities in the EAC and called for policies that facilitate foreign direct investment.

- **Cultural and Educational Exchange:** The ambassador underscored the value of cultural and educational exchange programs in fostering mutual understanding and cooperation. He highlighted several ongoing initiatives aimed at promoting cultural diplomacy and academic collaboration between

Italian institutions and their counterparts in the EAC. Ambassador Coppi emphasized the role of education in driving innovation and social development and called for increased investment in educational partnerships.

- **Environmental Sustainability:** Addressing environmental sustainability, Ambassador Coppi emphasized the need for joint efforts to tackle climate change and promote sustainable resource management. He highlighted Italy's experience in renewable energy and environmental conservation and offered to share best practices and technologies with the EAC member states. The ambassador called for regional strategies to address environmental challenges and enhance climate resilience.

Remarks by H.E. Amb. Larry E. André Jr., Former US Ambassador to Somalia

H.E. Amb. Larry E. André Jr., the Former US Ambassador to Somalia, provided a powerful and insightful address focusing on the importance of strong international

partnerships and the role of the United States in supporting the East African Community's (EAC) goals.



Key Points from the Remarks:

- **US Support for Regional Integration:** Ambassador André emphasized the United States' commitment to supporting regional integration efforts within the EAC. He highlighted the various programs and initiatives that the US government has implemented to promote economic growth, good governance, and social development in East Africa. The ambassador pointed out the strategic importance of a stable and prosperous East African region for global security and economic interests.
- **Economic and Security Cooperation:** The Former US Ambassador discussed the importance of economic and security cooperation between the United States and EAC member states. He highlighted the role of US assistance in enhancing security capabilities, combating terrorism, and promoting peace and stability in the region. Ambassador André emphasized the need for continued collaboration to address security threats and create a conducive environment for economic development.

- **Development Assistance and Capacity Building:** Ambassador André underscored the significance of US development assistance and capacity-building programs in supporting the EAC's development goals. He highlighted initiatives aimed at improving healthcare, education, and infrastructure in the region. The ambassador mentioned specific projects funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that have positively impacted communities across East Africa.
- **Promoting Democracy and Good Governance:** The ambassador emphasized the importance of promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance as fundamental principles for sustainable development. He discussed the role of

US diplomatic efforts in supporting democratic institutions and processes within the EAC member states. Ambassador André highlighted successful examples of democratic transitions and governance reforms in the region.

- **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action:** Addressing environmental challenges, Ambassador André highlighted the need for collective action to combat climate change and promote environmental sustainability. He discussed US initiatives aimed at supporting climate resilience and sustainable resource management in East Africa. The ambassador emphasized the importance of integrating climate action into regional development strategies.

Remarks by H.E. Amb. Claude Morel, High Commissioner of Seychelles to Kenya

H.E. Amb. Claude Morel, the High Commissioner of Seychelles to Kenya, delivered remarks focusing on the unique challenges and opportunities faced by island nations within the EAC framework. He highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in addressing these challenges and leveraging opportunities for sustainable development.



Key Points from the Remarks:

- **Island Nations' Challenges and Opportunities:** Ambassador Morel highlighted the specific challenges faced by island nations, such as vulnerability to climate change, limited natural resources, and geographic isolation. He emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in addressing these challenges and leveraging the unique opportunities presented by the island nations' strategic locations and rich marine resources.
- **Sustainable Tourism and Blue Economy:** The High Commissioner discussed the potential for sustainable tourism and the blue economy to drive economic growth and development in the region. He highlighted successful initiatives in Seychelles that can serve as models for other EAC member states, including sustainable fishing practices, marine conservation efforts, and eco-tourism projects.
- **Regional Cooperation for Environmental Protection:** Ambassador Morel emphasized the need for regional cooperation in protecting the marine environment and promoting sustainable use of marine resources. He called for joint efforts to combat marine pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction, and highlighted the importance of regional agreements and frameworks to achieve these goals.
- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** The High Commissioner stressed the importance of capacity building and knowledge sharing among EAC member states. He highlighted initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of professionals in the tourism and marine sectors, and called for increased collaboration in research, training, and technology transfer.



Closing Remarks

Remarks by Dr. Abdikarim Mohaidin, on Behalf of All Organizers, SIMAD University

Dr. Abdikarim Mohaidin, representing SIMAD University and speaking on behalf of all organizers, delivered the closing remarks for EACON 2024. He expressed gratitude to all

participants for their active engagement and contributions, and highlighted the key takeaways from the discussions and presentations.



Key Points from the Closing Remarks:

- **Gratitude and Acknowledgments:** Dr. Mohaidin thanked all participants for their active engagement and contributions to the conference. He acknowledged the efforts of the organizing institutions, sponsors, and supporting staff in making the event a success.
- **Key Takeaways:** Dr. Mohaidin summarized the key takeaways from the conference, emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation, the role of technology and innovation in driving development, and the need for sustainable practices and policies.
- **Future Directions:** Dr. Mohaidin emphasized the need for continued collaboration and action to implement the recommendations and strategies discussed during the conference. He called for sustained efforts to strengthen regional integration and achieve the EAC's development goals.
- **Commitment to Regional Integration:** Dr. Mohaidin reaffirmed the collective commitment of the EAC member states to regional integration. He encouraged all member states to work together towards a more integrated, resilient, and sustainable East Africa.



Outcomes and Resolutions

The conference concluded with a set of outcomes and resolutions aimed at fostering regional integration and development within the EAC. These outcomes and resolutions

reflect the collective commitment of the participants to address common challenges and leverage opportunities for growth and development.

Key Outcomes:

- **Policy Harmonization:** Agreement on the need for harmonized policies and regulations across EAC member states to facilitate seamless trade, investment, and cooperation.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Commitment to increased investment in infrastructure projects that enhance connectivity and support economic activities across the region.
- **Capacity Building:** Emphasis on the importance of capacity-building programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of individuals in key sectors such as trade, education, and technology.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Recognition of the need for joint efforts to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development practices.

Key Resolutions:

- **Conference Declaration:** The Conference Declaration was presented to various stakeholders and will be translated into multiple languages to ensure broad accessibility and understanding.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IntraUniversity Council (IUC):** Somali Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) signed an MoU with the IntraUniversity Council (IUC) to enhance academic collaboration, research, and capacity building.
- **MoU with Chamber of Commerce:** The Chamber of Commerce signed an MoU agreement to foster economic cooperation, trade facilitation, and business development within the region.
- **Capacity Building and Scholarships:** Announced a significant capacity-building initiative, including 1,000 scholarships aimed at enhancing educational opportunities and professional development for individuals in the region.
- **Enhancing Trade and Investment:** Member states resolved to work together to reduce trade barriers, streamline customs procedures, and create a conducive environment for investment.
- **Promoting Education and Research:** Agreement to enhance academic collaboration through student and faculty exchanges, joint research projects, and shared resources.

- **Supporting Technology and Innovation:** Commitment to invest in digital infrastructure, support innovation, and leverage technology to drive development and improve service delivery.
- **Fostering Peace and Security:** Resolution to strengthen cooperation on security matters, including intelligence sharing and coordinated efforts to address common security threats.

- **Advancing Sustainable Development:** Agreement to promote sustainable practices, invest in renewable energy, and work together to build climate resilience in the region.

These outcomes and resolutions reflect the shared vision and determination of the EAC member states to achieve greater integration, cooperation, and sustainable development. The successful implementation of these resolutions will be crucial in building a more prosperous and unified East Africa.





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