



## **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

### **NYERERE CENTRE FOR PEACE RESEARCH (EAC-NCPR) 6<sup>TH</sup> EAC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' DEBATE ON EAC INTEGRATION OCTOBER 2018, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA**

#### **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

##### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The East African Community (EAC) is the regional intergovernmental organization of the Republics of Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Southern Sudan with its Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The Vision of the EAC is “A prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa”. The Mission is to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments.

The EAC integration is to be realized in an incremental progression through the stages of a Customs Union; Common Market; Monetary Union; and ultimately a Political Federation of the East African States. The Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community was signed on 30th November 1999 and became operational on 7th July 2000. Since the commencement of the EAC, the Partner States have established: 1) the Customs Union in 2005, which has led to easier movement of goods within the EAC region; 2) the Common Market in 2010, which has resulted in easier movement of workers, people, services and capital within the EAC region, and 3) the Monetary Union in 2013, (envisaged to take effect in 20124) will result in, among others a single/common currency thereby facilitating easier movement of goods, workers, people, capital, services and trade. The ultimate and the last stage of EAC integration is the Political Federation - institutional and capacity development to lay in preparation for which and the drafting of a Constitution for EAC Political Confederation are ongoing.

The EAC Common Market Protocol Article 5 provides for acceleration of social economic growth and development of Partner States by facilitating free movement of persons and labour

through the adoption of common policies. However, with increased liberalisation and opening up of borders, there is also need to harmonise and strengthen immigration systems, controls, border protection and public security against cross-border crimes especially trafficking of persons and migrant smuggling. Most times, young people have fallen victims of migrant smuggling in a bid to look for better lives across the borders. It is worth noting that weak systems and corruption hinders national and international efforts to prevent and control transnational and cross border crimes given the high revenue accrued by the traffickers and the appeal among the young people who have expectations of job opportunities and a better life abroad.

### **1.1 Youth Participation in the East African Community Integration**

The East African Community recognizes that youth are a crucial asset, an important key resource and partners in social economic and political development of the community. The EAC has been undertaking various initiatives to promote continuous dialogue among the youth and continuously promote their participation in moving the EAC regional integration.

The involvement of the youth in EAC affairs is provided for under Article 120 (c) of the EAC Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. The Treaty provides for adoption of a common approach for involvement of the youth in the integration process through education, training and mainstreaming youth issues into EAC policies, programmes and projects as one of the strategic interventions towards the realization of a fully integrated Community.

In July 2013 the EAC passed the EAC Youth Policy in order to guide planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Community programmes to address youth issues in the region while assuring sustainable social, economic and political development.

The EAC Secretariat through its Nyerere Centre for Peace Research has consequently and on a continuous basis, engaged the youth through training, exchange programs and providing them with a platform to participate. To date, a number of students from East African Universities have benefited from the exchange training programs on Peace and Conflict Resolution, good governance and Human Rights. These programs have created an enabling environment for students to play an active role in the integration process as well as offered the students space that enables them to learn more about the benefits, challenges and opportunities from the EAC integration.

### **1.2 The EAC Youth Ambassadors Concept**

In 2008, the EAC Summit of Heads of States decided on the deepening sensitization and awareness creation for greater political will as a means for realization of the EAC Political Federation. Consequently, University Students Debate and sensitization was adopted as one strategy. The EAC Secretariat has conducted a number of activities to engage and empower

young people and enhance their contribution to the EAC integration agenda. These include among others, The Annual EAC Youth Summit and the Nyerere Centre for Peace Research (NCPR) programme.

The 1<sup>st</sup> EAC University Students Debate on regional integration, organised by the Secretariat in August 2012 triggered a snowball effect among EAC Youth and sparked broad enthusiasm for their participation in EAC integration processes. The aim of the debate was to provide a regional platform to promote dialogue among university students and interest them in advocating for regional integration initiatives. The event attracted over 100 students from public and private institutions of higher learning. In addition, the debate also brought together representation from private sector, civil society, media, technocrats and academia. Six participants were drawn from each of the five Partner States making a total of 30 debaters. As an outcome of the Debate, 5 EAC Youth Ambassadors were appointed as focal points in their respective Universities, to collaborate with the EAC Secretariat in sensitizing their peers on the EAC integration processes, benefits and challenges. As an outcome of the Event, a recommendation was made to the EAC policy-making organs to declare the EAC University Students Debate as an annual event.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> University Students Debate held in September 2013 enhanced the ‘EAC phoria’ among University Students further and gave a push to new initiatives to youth engagement with the EAC. Since August 2012, the EAC Youth Ambassadors have engaged and empowered young people to enhance their contribution to the EAC integration agenda through effective peer training and engagements. Guided by the realities facing young people in the EAC region and anchored in the belief that young people are a catalyst for peace, democracy, equality, and good governance and an essential resource for sustainable development and poverty eradication; The first batch of the EAC Youth Ambassadors has been the voice of the youth on the EAC integration agenda.

Since then there have been four EAC University Students’ Debate organized – first in 2012 in Arusha, second in 2013 in Dar es Salaam, 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2014 in Kampala and the fourth in 2015 in Kigali. The debate was not organized in 2016 and 2017 due to resource constraints.

### **1.3 The EAC Youth Ambassadors’ Platform**

The successful 2<sup>nd</sup> EAC University Students’ Debate on regional integration and the subsequent appointment of the new EAC Youth Ambassadors lead to the realization for the need for continuous engagement and dialogue platform for the youth. The EAC Youth Ambassadors’ Platform, (EAC-YAP), was subsequently launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013. The platform brings all the youth together with the purpose of bridging the information gap about the EAC integration and fosters their participation in accelerating the integration through

knowledge and experience sharing. The Platform also coordinates the establishment of EAC Youth clubs at Universities and higher learning Institutions in East Africa. It is led by Youth Ambassadors of each Partner State, with alumni Ambassadors, past participants and all other youth passionate about the EAC integration. The main purpose of the EAC clubs is to bring together students from different universities across the country under the EAC YAP, to engage them in debate and community work that would be of a paramount importance in promoting a sustainable East African Union as per the aspirations of the mission and goal of the EAC.

The 1<sup>st</sup> EAC Youth Convention held in November 2013 in Kampala is so far the highest structure of the Youth Ambassadors Platform. Upon the invitation of African Union EAC-Youth Ambassadors' Platform coordinated national youth consultations in contributing to the high-level dialogue on democracy and governance. The Convention granted the East African youth an opportunity to participate in the regional consultation process and developed an EAC position paper on "Constitutionalism and Rule of Law" that was submitted to the African Union. The convention also provided awareness raising on EAC Integration processes is planned to take place annually.

## **2.0 THE EAC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' DEBATE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

### **2.1 Background**

The EAC University Students Debate on Regional Integration was initiated in 2012. The aim of the debate is to provide a regional platform to promote dialogue among the youth and interest them in advocating for regional integration initiatives. The specific objectives of the EAC University Students' Debate are to: -

- a. Promote continued participation of the youth on issues of the EAC integration;
- b. Encourage networking among university students/youth to enhance regional integration;
- c. Prepare the youth for future leadership roles at regional and international levels as they hold the mantle as Ambassadors of EAC integration in the region;

The Debate is an annual rotational event that attracts an audience of over 200 youth from the East Africa, lecturers from public, private and other higher institutions of learning. In addition, the debate also brings together representation from youth councils, private sector, civil society, media, technocrats and academia. Six participants are drawn from each Partner State making a total of 36 debaters.

During the debate one winner from each Partner State is appointed as an EAC Youth Ambassador and the 1<sup>st</sup> runner up appointed as Deputy EAC Youth Ambassador and both act as focal points for targeted sensitization activities in their respective Universities/Partner

States for a period of one year. After the completion of the one-year tenure, the Youth Ambassadors remain engaged as part of the EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform (EACYAP). The EAC Secretariat established the EAC Youth Ambassadors' Platform to popularize EAC integration through continuous and structured engagement with the youth in higher institutions of learning and beyond. The EAC Youth Ambassadors in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat have sensitized their peers on the EAC integration processes, benefits and challenges. This has enhanced increased awareness on regional integration and networking among institutions of higher learning in the region.

Moreover, the fact that the EAC integration is people centered, the Youth have the potential to foster creativity, innovation, leadership and sharing of information and nurture a bond of "*Eastafrikaness*" with a distinct East African identity that is very much desired. The EAC University Students' Debate has seen the formation of over 150 EAC Youth Clubs in different universities in Partner States, this has resulted in appreciation and constructive youth dialogues on the integration process thus increased enthusiasm among the youth and support for the EAC integration

## **2.2 Youth in East Africa as Key Stakeholders in Combating Migrant Smuggling**

The youth of East Africa are important stakeholder in the EAC processes and form substantial part of the population. Article 120 (c) of the EAC Treaty provides for adoption of a common approach for involvement of the youth in the integration process through education, training and mainstreaming youth issues into EAC policies, programmes and projects as one of the strategic interventions towards the realization of a fully integrated corrupt free Community.

It has been observed that as the EAC Integration deepens, there is an overwhelming movement of young people who move the factors of production among the borders. However, this free movement of persons comes with challenges of trafficking, smuggling of especially migrant workers and corruption. This has seen many youth and parents being extorted of money to facilitate them with forged travel documents, fraudulent adoptions, marriages and employment schemes all linked to smuggling and trafficking of persons across and beyond EAC borders.

Article 3 of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the Migrant Smuggling Protocol) defines migrant smuggling as:

"the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a state party of which the person is not a national".

Though migrant smuggling is sometimes distinguished from human trafficking depending on the consent of the migrant/victim, the possibility and nature of exploitation and the

trans-nationality of the movement of persons, sometimes the two cases overlap. For example, some migrants usually start their journey by agreeing to be smuggled into a country, but end up being deceived, coerced or forced into an exploitative situation later in the process (for instance, being forced to work for extraordinary low wages or sexually harassed in order to pay for their transportation).

In most cases, migrant smuggling continues to thrive in shadow of the authorities because of the huge amounts of money involved and in the silence of victims because of the desperate hope for a better future. However, many a time, the future of young people have been frustrated, their dreams shattered, and potentials caged especially when reality hits and they find out that they cannot access the opportunities that they anticipated in the destination countries or when the whole experience turns exploitative. This phenomenon is increasingly becoming rife in East Africa with millions of young men and women especially lured by a hope for opportunities in Asia and the Middle East. Worse still is that there is no clear data on the numbers of young people on the move within and out of the region or the strategies in place to protect young people against this vice.

This therefore calls for strategic approaches to prevent enticement of young people to these illegal movements, curb corruption through systematic assessment of vulnerability to corruption in various agencies involved in border protection, immigration, criminal investigations and prosecution to save the youth in East African from falling prey. Most of all the youth themselves, have to be at the centre of such approaches for easier enforcement and impactful operation.

Furthermore, the African Union launched 2018 as the “African Anti-Corruption Year” and called upon key players including Regional Blocks to curb corruption as it sets back social economic development. The EAC has a young labour forces and one of the greatest resources of social economic transformation which therefore calls for comprehensive and strategic inventions such as public awareness programs to save African young workforce from being extorted.

Furthermore, youth are a critical demographic group and their views and aspirations will shape the future of East Africa. The promotion of integrity and accountability is key to an integrated East Africa especially as the implementation of the aspirations in the EAC Common Market Protocol deepen. The values, ethics and leadership skills of youth in East Africa are vital in advancing the regional integration because they influence the choices that youth make.

### **3.0 SIXTH EAC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEBATE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The 2018 EAC University Students Debate engages youth and stakeholders of the Border Management as an aspect towards realization of the objectives of the Common Market – the

second Pillar of EAC integration. The Common Market is the second Regional Integration milestone of the East African Community which has been in force since 2010. The Common Market guarantees accelerated economic growth and development through maintaining a liberal stance towards the four Freedoms of movement for all the factors of production and two Rights between themselves. These Freedoms and Rights include; Free Movement of Goods, Free Movement of Persons, Free Movement of Labour / Workers, Right of Establishment, Right of Residence, Free Movement of Services and Free Movement of Capital. As part of the assessment of benefits, challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of the Common Market, the 2018 University Students Debate is intended to engage the youth to dialogue and refresh their knowledge and experiences with the border management – the point of exit and entry, in facilitating free movement.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual EAC University students' debate is scheduled to take place on 18th – 20th Oct 2018 in Dar es salaam, Tanzania. The debate is expected to bring together representation from university students, lecturers, academia, policy makers, media, youth leaders and one high school to participate in the event.

### **3.2 Theme of the Debate**

Under the theme: ***“Border management to address migrant smuggling and corruption at borders for stability and social economic development in the East African Community: Role and Implications for the youth”***

The debate will delve into issues relating to;

- a. Border management for secure, safe and easy movement of people and goods
- b. Border management to minimize the risk of interstate conflicts and tensions between neighboring Partner States,
- c. Young people as movers of the factors of production and the free movement of persons across EAC borders
- d. Migrant smuggling and human trafficking as threat to young people and EAC integration
- e. The issues of bribery and corruption at the border points as a threat to the security of the community
- f. Other barriers to free movements across the borders

### **3.3 Objectives of the Debate**

The overall objective of the EAC University Debate is to enhance youth participation in the EAC integration agenda and processes. The debates and subsequent sensitization activities create an enabling environment for students and youth to play an active role in the integration

process as well as offer the students space that enables them to learn more about the benefits, challenges and opportunities from the EAC integration.

The 2018 EAC University Debate on the implementation of the Common Market, aims at assessing the status, progress, challenges and opportunities of the Common Market.

- a. By the end of the debate, the participating students will have increased knowledge and appreciation of the progress and status of the implementation of the EAC Common Market
- b. By the end of the debate, key issues relating to border management, immigrant smuggling and youth challenges will have been distilled for further dialogue among students and other integration stakeholders in Partner States and the region.
- c. By end of the debate, conversation and recommendations on the role of youth in East Africa in combating cross border migrant smuggling is initiated.
- d. By the end of the debate, twelve (12) Youth Ambassadors will have been selected – two (2) per Partner State.

### **3.4 Participation in the Debate**

The East African Community Secretariat will cover transport expenses, accommodation and meals for the participants during the two days event.

Six participants will be selected from each of the EAC Partner State, drawn from national universities, public, private and other institutions of higher learning. The participants will be either on the affirmative or alternative strategy team but the Secretariat reserves the prerogative to ensure that both sides have equitable membership. More information will be submitted to successful candidates in good time to allow for sufficient preparations.

Participation in this debate is limited to students who are in their second year at the university pursuing a degree. Students who participated in the last three debates need not to apply to give an opportunity to others to take part. Interested applicants with good analytical, communication skills; and a good command of English are encouraged to apply. Please note that the Debate will be conducted in English.

### **3.5 Expected Outcomes**

The debate will also bring together representatives from academia, private sector, civil society, media and technocrats from the East African region, development Partners and the African Union who will listen to the debate and make their comments on the strength of the deliberations and make recommendations on the way forward for the debate. The debate will be streamed live on the EAC website and other social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook will also be used to enable a wide participation of youth across the EAC region.

The best debaters will be appointed as EAC Youth Ambassadors 2018/2019 with an obligation to spear head peer-to-peer learning, sensitization and out-reach programs in their respective universities, boarder communities in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat, Development Partners, the East African Legislative Assembly and EAC Ministries in Partner States. There will be a Gala Dinner where a cash prize will be given to the Best debaters and the winning team.

In the spirit of promoting a sense of “*Eastafrikaness*”, it is expected that by the end of the debate, a bond will have been created among the students thereby shaping and nurturing the East African identity among the youth, in the long run. Participants would have been empowered to continue engaging in dialogue on matters of EAC integration, immigration management and curbing corruption to promote stability and social economic development. The EAC University Debate on regional integration provides a pedestal to the youth to participate, dialogue and contribute to policy formulation on issues that constitute the EAC Youth agenda

### **3.6 Methodology**

#### **3.6.1 Participation at the Debate**

The participation at the 6<sup>th</sup> EAC University Students Debate will be as follows;

- a) The main debate will involve 36 University Students (debaters), 6 from each Partner State;
- b) Three (3) Judges obtained from the Civil Society, Academia, EAC Secretariat and EAC institutions;
- c) Six (6) Panelists from the Ministries of EAC Affairs representing the Partner States;
- d) 6 Local Universities will be represented by 9 students and 1 Lecturer from each University. These students and lecturers will form part of the audience for the debate;
- e) One hundred (100) students from the host University;
- f) A host country local High School will present poem/song on the theme;
- g) A Moderator will facilitate the Debate;
- h) EAC Youth Ambassadors platform members will participate and
- i) Staff from the EAC Secretariat.

#### **3.6.2 Date and Venue**

The Debate will take place from 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the University of Dar es Salaam in Dar es Salaam- Tanzania

### 3.6.3 HOW TO APPLY

Students from University or higher Institution of Learning in East African Countries who are interested to participate should apply by submitting the following documents:

1. A one-Page motivation letter explaining why you are interested to participate and indicating which University or institution you come from and the Year of Study and
2. A two-page essay on ***“Migrant smuggling, corruption and effectiveness of boarder management for youth empowerment in EAC”***
3. A scanned copy of University Identity Card and a bio data page of your Passport.

The documents should have a font size of 12, Arial with single line spacing and should be sent as one attachment.

To: East African Community Nyerere Centre for Peace Research, on email: [debate\\_applications@eachq.org](mailto:debate_applications@eachq.org) The applications should be recieved not later than 28<sup>th</sup> September August, 2018 at 5:00pm East African time. Please note that only successful candidates will be contacted.

**East African Community Secretariat  
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Arusha – Tanzania**