



11TH NORTHERN CORRIDOR INTEGRATION PROJECTS SUMMIT

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

SAFARI PARK HOTEL

NAIROBI, KENYA

17TH OCTOBER, 2015

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The 11th Summit of the Northern Corridor Integration Projects convened in Nairobi, Kenya on 17th October, 2015. H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, and host of the Summit welcomed H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and Mr. Aggrey Tisa Sabuni, Presidential Advisor on Economic Affairs, Republic of South Sudan.

In attendance and participating as Observers were Hon. Amb. Alain Aimé Nyamitwe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Burundi, Hon. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia , Hon. Justin Kalumba Mwana-Ngongo, Minister of Transport and Communications of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Dr. Richard Sezibera, Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC), Mr. Gabriel Negatu, Regional Director, African Development Bank, and Mr. Donat Bagula, Executive Secretary of the Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA). The United Republic of Tanzania was represented by Amb. John Haule, the High Commissioner to Kenya. The Private Sector Representatives from the Partner States and the East African Business Council were also in attendance.

The Heads of State took note of progress made in the implementation of various projects under the Northern Corridor Initiative and reiterated their commitment to the Northern Corridor Integration Agenda. They agreed to continue pulling together to widen and further the integration of the region by fast-tracking implementation of the flagship projects. The Summit underscored the need for results and urged Partner States to work together and exploit the potential through the effective implementation of projects.

Their Excellencies noted the growing interest demonstrated by Private Sector players and reaffirmed their readiness to continue nurturing the collaboration between public and private sector. They observed that the established partnership will greatly enhance the realization of collective vision and goals of transforming the regional economy. To this end, the Summit welcomed the support of the private sector and their engagement in identifying appropriate projects, their models of investment and financing mechanisms.

The Heads of State considered the Report of the 11th Ministerial meeting of NCIP, endorsed the recommendations contained therein and further directed as follows:

- A. On Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) Development, the Summit noted progress made in the finalisation of bankable proposals for some sections and directed the Ministers of Finance, Infrastructure, Attorneys General, coordinated by Ministers of Foreign Affairs, to undertake a joint visit to Exim Bank in China to conclude Financing Agreements. The Summit directed the Ministers to provide details of the cost comparisons for diesel and electric traction. Finally, the

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) announced its decision to join the NCIP Initiative starting with the SGR Cluster.

- B. **On ICT Infrastructure Development**, the Summit directed regulators to ensure that telecoms fully comply with requirements on One Network Area (ONA) for SMS and Data, as well as operationalise Mobile Financial Services.
- C. **On Oil Refinery Development**, Uganda updated the Summit on the progress made on the incorporation of the National Oil Refining Company. Other than Kenya, Partner States to communicate their participation in the project by the next Summit.
- D. **On Political Federation**, the Heads of State agreed to continue the discussion at the EAC level during the November EAC Summit.
- E. **On Power Generation, Transmission and Interconnectivity**, the Summit noted with concern the delay and shift in the timelines for completion of the power transmission infrastructure necessary for trade in power. The Heads of State directed the Ministers to closely monitor the implementation of this project and ensure that no further delays are experienced.
- F. **On Crude Oil Pipeline Development**, the Summit agreed to continue discussing the matter at bilateral level, with guidance from experts on the best available options.
- G. **On Refined Petroleum Products Pipeline Development**, the Summit reiterated the need for Ministers of Finance/Treasury to explore alternative financing options including Public-Private-Partnerships to raise funds for development of this project.
- H. **On Air Space Management**, the Heads of States recalled an earlier directive tasking Ministers to engage the airline industry with a view to enhancing competition and reducing the cost of air travel in the region. Specific attention was to be given to the Juba-Nairobi-Juba and Entebbe-Nairobi-Entebbe routes. The Summit further noted that after the directive a temporary reduction in air ticket costs for one destination was realised but has since been reversed with the fares sky-rocketting. In light of the new developments, the Summit directed the Ministers to revisit the matter to ensure that fairness in pricing of air tickets on all regional routes.
- I. **On Human Resource Capacity Building**, the Summit noted the commencement of the Skills Audit for SGR and other projects and directed the Ministers to fast track the completion of the exercises intended to identify skills gaps and inform policy. Ministers were further directed to expedite the completion of policy frameworks that will facilitate appropriation of funds to the Centres of

Excellence (COEs) and develop modalities for offering scholarships to students enrolled in institutions that have been identified for capacity building.

- J. **On Land for the Infrastructure Corridor**, the Summit welcomed proposals from the Ministers on the need to employ alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in land dispute settlement and acquisition. The Summit noted the urgency to amend existing laws to fast track land acquisition for the infrastructure corridor. Heads of State directed Ministers responsible for Land, Infrastructure and Attorneys General to review/amend where necessary existing laws on land acquisition. In addition, Ministers responsible for implementing infrastructure projects together with Ministers of Finance are to prioritise the use of funds allocated for implementing infrastructure projects including land acquisition.
- K. **On Single Customs Territory (SCT)**, the Summit noted the progress made in improving cargo clearance time as well as the re-introduction of the four high value risk products including sugar, shoes, containerized edible oil, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks into the SCT warehousing regime, and directed that the list of warehoused commodities be expanded. The Summit further directed the Ministers of Finance to join their Revenue Authorities in harmonising the warehousing regime and implementing procurement, installation and integration of the Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS) platform.
- L. **On Tourism**, the Summit noted with appreciation the joint efforts by the Partner States to promote the region as one tourist destination and encouraged tourism bodies of the Partner States to continue organising destination trainings and joint initiatives at regional and major world tourism fora.
- M. **On Defence, Peace and Security Cooperation**, the Summit welcomed the ratification of the Mutual Peace and Security Cooperation Pact and Mutual Defence Cooperation Pact by Kenya and directed the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to exchange the Instruments of Ratification amongst Partner States. The Summit further directed the expeditious deposit of the said Instruments with the African Union and United Nations Secretariats.

The Summit congratulated Ethiopia for the great strides achieved in implementing infrastructure projects, particularly power generation and interconnectivity and the light rail which has been commissioned recently.

The Democratic Republic of Congo announced the decision to join the Northern Corridor Integration Projects as full member during the next Summit.


The Heads of State agreed to hold pre-Summit consultations during the next NCIP Summit in Kigali in order to examine strategic actions to move the implementation


process even faster on some of the initiatives. For the Kigali Summit, Heads of State will meet a day earlier before the Summit.


The Heads of State and their Representatives thanked their host, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Republic of Kenya, for the very warm welcome and courtesies extended to respective delegations during their stay in Nairobi.


The next Summit will be held in Kigali, Rwanda at a date to be communicated through diplomatic channels.

Done in Nairobi, Kenya, on this 17th day of October 2015.

For 
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H.E. UHURU KENYATTA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

for 
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H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

For 
.....
H.E. PAUL KAGAME
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA


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MR. AGGREY TISA SABUNI,
PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN