EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

REPORT OF THE MEETING

THE 1ST EAC EU CORE PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

5TH - 6TH AUGUST 2024

FOUR POINTS HOTEL

DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

EAC SECRETARIAT,
ARUSHA, TANZANIA
AUGUST, 2024

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 1st Regional EAC-EU CORE programme Steering Committee was convened to inaugurate the Steering Committee, evaluate progress and provide strategic direction to the management and implementation of the Programme. The meeting was attended by officials from the EAC Secretariat, Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs, Trade, Customs Authorities and the private Sector. The list of participants is attached hereto as *Annex I.*

1.1. Agenda

The agenda was adopted and is attached hereto as *Annex II.*

1.2. Constitution of the Bureau

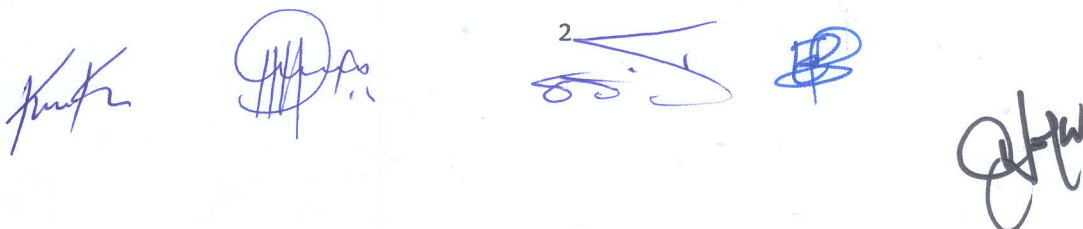The meeting was chaired by Mr Kuot Madhor Kuot, Republic of South Sudan.

1.3. Opening Remarks by the EAC Secretariat

The EAC Deputy Secretary General (Customs, Trade & Monetary Affairs), Ms Annette Mutaawe Ssemuwemba welcomed the delegates to the 1st EU-EAC CORE programme Steering Committee meeting. She informed the meeting that the programme was launched in 2022 under the EDF 11 focusing on three key areas under Customs, Trade in Services, and Institutional capacity strengthening. This programme is essential for advancing the Customs Union and Common Market Protocols in improving ICT-based data exchange, risk management, and valuation functions, promoting service liberalization and boosting project management and adopting international standards to better equip the EAC Secretariat in fulfilling its mandate.

Currently, our customs systems are fragmented, making it difficult for real-time data consolidation and operational coherence. To optimize the efficiency in clearance and movement of goods, it is key that we integrate the systems across the Partner States. This programme comes with Strategic interventions to interconnect ICT systems which will enhance operational efficiency and data accuracy.

To complement customs, the region needs a well-developed and integrated services sector in shaping and driving economic performance and overall development. Not only do services contribute significantly to the gross domestic product (GDP) of approximately 60% but they also contribute significantly to employment, foreign direct investment and exports. Furthermore, services are an enabler and add significant value to both domestic trade and exports of all sectors, but particularly manufactured goods and agriculture.

We therefore require close collaboration particularly with institutions and partners in the private sector that are involved in the execution and monitoring of regional integration policies and programmes. It is expected that the outcome of the Steering Committee will streamline the governance and implementation modalities to achieve the intended outcomes. She concluded by appreciating the EU for the support towards the regional integration process.

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1.4. Remarks by the European Union Delegation

Mr Cedric Merel, Head of Cooperation, European Union Delegation Tanzania expressed pleasure in attending the meeting pointing out that the CORE programme is expected to play in strengthening the regional integration progress in the EAC. The CORE programme is targeting the cornerstone of EAC integration progress since its main objective is to support the deepening of EAC regional economic integration, through advancing implementation of the Customs Union and Common Market Protocols.

He pointed out that despite the difficult start during its first two years of execution, the programme has achieved significant progress. These include the mobilization of a technical assistance team to work on, a Regional Custom Interconnectivity Integration Solution and on the implementation of the free movement of services under the Common Market Protocol. He hailed the successful convening of the inaugural Peer-to-Peer Learning Conference on the distribution sector in the East African Community, which took place in Nairobi last week with the support from the CORE programme.

He informed the meeting that despite these substantial achievements, considerable work remains to be done to improve the programme's execution particularly in the areas of the Regional Customs Interconnectivity Integration System and the design of a robust ICT based data exchange protocols for the clearing of goods.

He assured the meeting that future EU interventions in regional economic integration will encompass competition and digital transformation. On the latter, the EU is committed to fostering a human-centric digital transformation in East Africa with a view to utilizing digital technologies and innovations for regional integration.

He wished the participants fruitful deliberations.
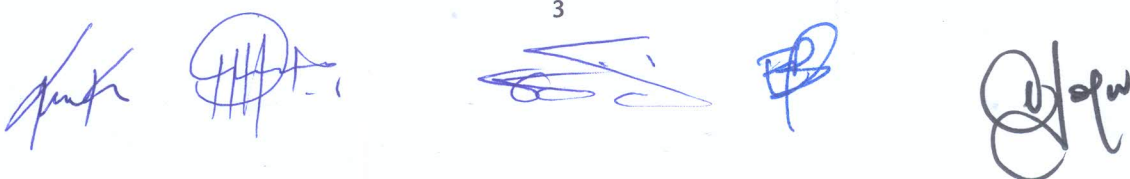
1.5. Remarks by the Chairperson

The Chairman welcomed the delegates to the EU-EAC Core programme Regional Steering Committee Meeting. He thanked the EAC Secretariat for convening the meeting and the Deputy Secretary General for providing guidance and technical support during our meetings.

He thanked the EU for the support they are providing towards regional integration particularly in the areas of ICT and digital trade and private sector development in the region.He expressed appreciation to the United Republic of Tanzania for the hospitality accorded to all delegates and hosting of the meeting.

He wished the delegates fruitful deliberations.

2. THE EU- EAC CORE PROGRAMME REPORT – PROGRAMME ESTIMATES

2.1. Overview of the project

The European Union (EU) - East African Community (EAC) Common Objectives in Regional Economic Integration)– EU-EAC CORE programme, is financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) whose overall objective is to support the deepening of the EAC regional economic integration, through advancing implementation of the Customs Union and the Common Market Protocols. The programme covers three (3) areas namely, Customs, Trade in Services and EAC Secretariat Institutional capacity strengthening. The total amount for the programme is **16M** Euros.

i.   **The Customs Specific Objective (SO) 1** focuses on moving towards a fully-fledged Customs Union, by supporting more robust ICT based data exchange protocols for the clearing of goods as well as related regional customs functions (like risk management and valuation), appropriate processes for the involvement of other agencies i.e., standards, health etc. as well as a stronger coordination and monitoring role of the EAC Secretariat. The following are the key results: An integrated regional Customs ICT Platform is rolled-out and regional risk management and valuation functions are strengthened.

ii. **The Trade in Services Specific Objective (SO) 2** focuses on the Common Market, with the aim of providing new impetus to promoting free movement of services, a crucial building block for the creation of a well-functioning common market. Specifically, SO2 aims to achieve improved implementation of agreed EAC commitments on liberalization of services and Supporting monitoring mechanisms for the removal of restrictions in prioritized sectors.

iii. **The Institutional Specific Objective (SO3)** focuses on reinforcing the capacity of the EAC Secretariat to deliver its overall mandate by improving project management and reinforcing the use of internationally accepted standards as per EU Pillars for entrusting third parties with budget implementation tasks.

The CORE Programme is implemented in Indirect Management with the EAC Secretariat, through procurement of services and supplies via an International Restricted Tender (IRT) procedure for Services and by this Programme Estimate (PE). The Programme Estimate (PE) will be complementary to the Services contract, for instance by supporting some related consultation and validation activities, by supporting a few programme staff positions as well as programme management processes and costs. The Programme Estimate is EUR 4,323,450. Two disbursements have been made since 2022 amounting to EUR 1,385,905.26.

2.2. The activities that have been undertaken since inception include:-

a) Procured consultancy services for Custom Interconnectivity System (Lot 1) covering procurement of Custom software development services and Software package and information systems.
b) Procurement of Supervision Services(Lot 2): East African Community Regional Custom Interconnectivity Integration System covering Project-supervision services other than for construction work.
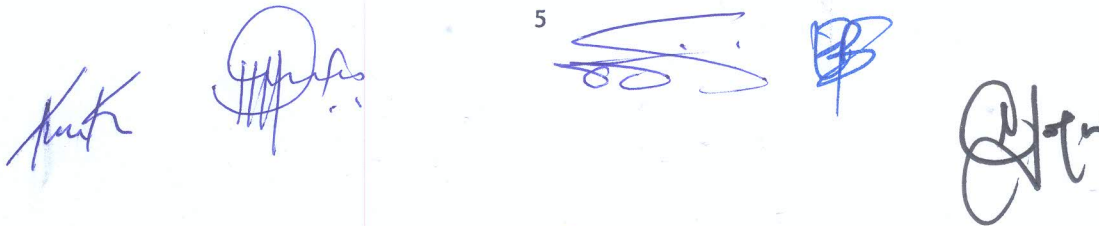c) Lot 1 and 2 Consultants commenced work in February 2024.

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d) Procurement of consultancy services (Lot 3): Implementation of East African Community commitments on Trade in Services. Procurement of Project management consultancy services to cover Economic research services, Trade economics, Trade law and the taxation law.

e) Virtual Project Orientation Seminar for Partner States Technical Teams was held in April 2024 to appraise them on the project objectives and work plan was introduced to the Partner States.

f) Review of requirements and integration of regional Electronic Cargo Tracking (ECTS) on the Northern and Central Corridors.

g) Drafted regulations to support operations of the Single Customs Territory (SCT).

h) Developed proposals for review of the EAC Customs Management Regulations(CMR) 2010 to align it with the current EAC Customs Management Act amendment Bill 2022.

i) Convening of National Trade in Services (TiS) Committee Meetings in Juba, South Sudan, Kampala, Uganda, Bujumbura, Burundi, Kigali, Rwanda, Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania to sensitize NCTiS on the EAC Mechanism on the Removal of Restrictions on Trade in Services.

j) Validate the data from the Regulatory Audits captured in the Excel Template of the EAC Mechanism for Removal of Restrictions on Trade in Services;

k) Validation of draft EAC Trade in Services Strategy.

l) Convened 2 Regional Trade in Services Committee (RTSC) meetings to validate the revised draft EAC Strategy for Trade in Services; and consider template for the EAC Mechanism on the Removal of Restrictions on Trade in Services.

m) Held annual regional peer to peer review Sectoral / Multi-stakeholder forums in August 2024

n) Engage with ITC/UNCTAD on the development of the to develop EAC Manual for TiS Statistical Reporting including draft Guidelines for the Compilation of Balance of Payments and International Investment Position which utilizes the same methodology under the internationally recognized Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services.

o) Recruitment of project Staff has been completed for the project positions which were approved by the Council of Ministers. The report has been forwarded to the EU for no objection. Customs Project Officer, Project Accountant, Trade in Services Project Officer for CORE Sectors and Trade in Services Project Officer

p) Holding an annual Steering Committee and Technical Committees.

2.3. Planned activities include:-

I. Implementation of customs interconnectivity project starting with interaction with technical teams in Partner states followed by final review and consolidation of requirements for the proposed Integration of regional cargo tracking system, Smart Gates and other One Stop Border Post Technologies, Integration of the Regional Electronic Single Window, Customs Bond, Regional Authorized Economic Operator subject to a prior needs assessment.

II. Training and Capacity building on the usage of the risk management and valuation system.

III. Integration of the valuation and risk system with Customs Information systems.
IV. Finalization and validation of the drafted SCT regulations and East African Community Customs Management Act(EACCMA) amendments.
V. Capacity building of the EAC Staff on Interconnectivity System- Training and Certification on Managing Integration Architecture to ensure effective and smooth maintenance of the System.
VI. Review of Single Customs Territory (SCT) procedures and regulations to incorporate regulatory agencies.
VII. Operationalization of the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) Performance tool.
VIII. EAC Secretariat staff to engage WTO, ITC, UNCTAD, World Bank and other TiS Reporting mechanism development
IX. Undertaking periodic reviews to update the database on EAC Mechanism for Removal of Restrictions on Trade in Services.
X. Undertaking diagnostic studies and regulatory audits.
XI. Undertaking national sensitization campaigns to create awareness on various service-related issues.
XII. Undertaking specific targeted capacity building to Partner States and stakeholders as may be required
XIII. Developing and publishing a Business Guide on the Regulations.
XIV. Holding an annual Steering Committee and Technical Committees

2.4. Implementation challenges

a. Delay implementation of activities under this Specific Objective 1 is still awaiting commencement of Interconnectivity consultancy.
b. Long recruitment cycle has delayed constitution of the project implementation team
c. Limited capacity of staff in implementing EU funded partner projects.

2.5. Observations
The meeting observed that the project should support Partner States which have joined the community to fast-track automation and adoption of regional integration instruments.

3. ADOPTION OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MODUS OPERANDI

The Eastern African Community (EAC) Secretariat (EACS) is responsible for the CORE programme, which includes the Programme Estimate. The programme's day-to-day management includes the Principal Trade Officer, Principal Customs Officer, and CORE Coordinator. The EACS focal staff will be supported by positions hired by EACS under Programme Estimates and CORE Program Long-Term Consultants.

The governance structure of CORE consists of a Technical Committee (TC) and a Regional Steering Committee (RSC). The TC provides technical guidance, expertise, and oversight to ensure the programme's technical aspects align with established standards, industry best practices, and regional integration objectives. The TC will work collaboratively with the RSC to provide regular updates, technical insights, and

recommendations.

The TC will consist of representatives from the EAC Secretariat, the European Union Delegation in Tanzania, and the Technical Assistance Team under Lots 1, 2, and 3. Meetings will be held once every quarter, at least one month before the RSC meeting. The meetings will be held in virtual format.

The RSC will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the SO1 component and providing recommendations on technical matters, potential improvements, and innovative solutions that align with the programme's objectives.

3.1. Observations

a. *The meeting proposed that there is a need to inform members of the Regional Steering Committee on the key deliberations from the constituted Technical Committee.*
b. *The meeting noted that there is a need to provide visibility of the initiatives that have been undertaken through dissemination of what has been done to the public.*
c. *The meeting agreed that the Physical Steering Committee meetings will be rotational among Partner States.*

4. PRESENTATION ON THE OVERALL WORK PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CUSTOMS INTERCONNECTIVITY INTEGRATION SYSTEM (LOT 1)

On behalf of G Fischer Consulting (Pty) Ltd, Mr Herman Heikens made a presentation on the methodology, implementation technologies and high-level work plan for development services for the Regional Customs Interconnectivity Integration System.

The presentation highlighted the following 4 Phases and 8 Stages:
  i.   Phase 1: Inception
  ii. Phase 2: Implementation
  iii. Phase 3: Pilot on selected Corridor
  iv. Phase 4: Support & Closure

4.1. Phase 1: Inception

This is Stage 1 of the project which includes preparing an inception report, establishing a project governance structure, and a work program for the project.

4.2. Phase 2 implementation

Phase 2 implementation will be handled parallel with Phase 3 to ensure work streams for system/software and hosting infrastructure are linked.

- Stage 2 – System and Infrastructure Requirements Analysis to document the system/software functionality and Infrastructure Requirement needs for hosting infrastructure, networks, and high availability configurations of respective data

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centers. The contractor will work with the users in Partner States, Key Stakeholders, and Subject Matter Experts to define user requirements and create a Product Backlog. Virtual workshops will be held to prioritize user stories and create a Product Backlog.

- Stage 3 - System and Infrastructure Design. This stage will involve creating detailed system designs and integration requirements with architecture reviews and design workshops. The contractor will work with the users or Product Owners to create designs that align with user requirements and project goals. Internal architecture reviews and virtual design workshops will be held to ensure scalability, maintainability, and efficiency.
- Stage 4 - System Development, Customization, and Testing, This stage involves developing, testing, and commissioning RCIIS, system modules, and infrastructure within hosting facilities that comply with high availability configuration and security requirements. The contractor will develop interfaces for the RCIIS, while Service Providers provide interfaces for the RCIIS to communicate with these systems.
- Stage 5: System Acceptance Testing -The User Acceptance Testing (UAT) or System Acceptance Testing (SAT) is the final stage of software testing before it is released for operational use in the Production Environment. Prerequisites for UAT/SAT include test cases, software development, Unit-, Integration-, System-, and Regression testing, resolution of reported defects, and signing off and communicating all prerequisite testing.
- Stage 6 will involve user functional and technical training, which includes an analysis of the RCIIS solution, gap analysis of skills, and specific training for different roles. The training plan and schedule will be prepared, and a training report created.
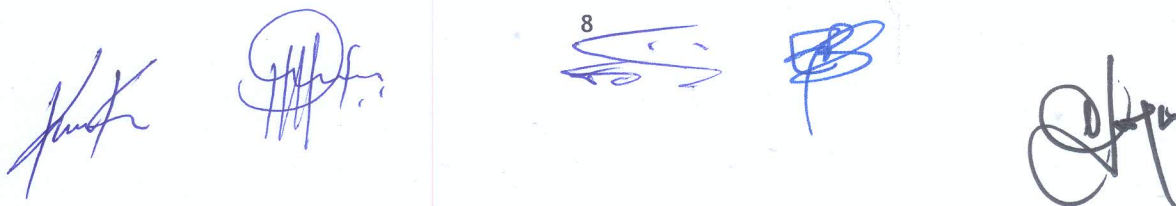
4.3. Phase 3 – Piloting

The RCIIS pilot aims to optimize trade, transport, and transit by learning from practical lessons and improving system functionality. Interim alternative arrangements should be explored to fast track the readiness of Partner States to commence with the pilot.

- Stage 7a focuses on selecting a selected corridor for piloting the RCIIS, establishing a validated Legal Instrument and Pilot Programme/Schedule for each partner state, and a National Implementation Action Plan (NIAP) to implement and operationalize the RCIIS.
- Stage 7b involves commissioning and operationalizing the RCIIS and system software in two releases: Release 1 (RECTS, OSBP, BOND) and Release 2 (AEO, ESW, RISKVAL). System monitoring tools will be commissioned, and user feedback will be requested for improvements. The final release of the system will be supported for one year, followed by the development of the remaining modules.

4.4. Phase 4 – Support and closure

Phase 4 of the project involves the final release of the RCIIS application software to the Production Environment for operational use by the user communities of Partner States and the EAC Secretariat. The objective is to maintain and implement improvements for a

d) No Provision for handheld devices for OSBPs.
e) Users testing the system before training.
f) Testing and accepting the modules in the QA environment owned by the Contractor.
g) Design, developed and rollout workshops are set to be conducted virtually instead of physical.
h) Electronic Single Window is one of the modules which is not developed at the regional level. Use Enterprise Service Bus(ESB) as the Regional ESW.
i) Adoption of TRIPS and CTMS from COMESA and SADC to be used as platforms for RCIIS.

Observation by the European Union Delegation

The EUD raised concerns about the lack of clarity regarding the state of play of the module development and the current status of the integrated system. Furthermore, the EUD noted concerns about hosting of the RCIIS in Partner States using an existing Infrastructure. The EU is of the understanding that the hosting of the system in Partner States requires additional purchase of software and hardware for operational and security reasons which was not foreseen in the initial Lot 1 contract. Failure to address this will have implications on the successful roll-out of the system.

5.3. Mitigation measures

The following mitigation measures for the identified risks were proposed by the implementing partners LOT 2 for consideration:-

a. Thorough assessment for all developed modules is necessary to determine the remaining workload for Lot 1.
b. EAC, EUD in consultation with Partner States to discuss and resolve the identified financial gaps for additional hardware and software.
c. Users shall be trained before conducting a user acceptance test (UAT).
d. The UAT and System Acceptance Test (SAT) shall be done from respective data centers in partner states. In the worse scenario, use an EAC datacenter.
e. There shall be clear guidelines for adopting the existing valuation and risk management system.
f. TRIPS and CTMS shall be assessed by EAC before adopting them.

5.4. Recommendations by the Steering Committee

i. *Undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the existing systems to be interconnected by the Lot 1 and Lot 2 consultants in conjunction with the EAC Secretariat to document the work that has been done since conceptualizing of the initiative, identification of gaps in the deliverables to determine workload and cost implications.*

ii. *The assessment should cover the infrastructure requirements taking into consideration the workload to be covered will commence at the end of August 2024. A report to be presented in the next Technical and Steering committee meetings.*

iii. *Development of a sustainability mechanism at the expiry of the development partner support.*

iv. *To address the issues related to data privacy and security of the information that is going to be exchanged.*

6. PRESENTATION OF THE OVERALL WORK PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION; EXISTING CHALLENGES; PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCESS LOT 3

Ms Staicy Napio Wagala , on behalf of GOPA Worldwide , the firm implementing Lot 3 Supervision services which support the EAC Secretariat in overseeing implementation of Lot 3.

6.1. Scope of work

Specific Work for this assignment and our approach is as detailed hereunder:-

There are two interdependent results which represent two clear components of our implementation approach, which we describe in more detail. The project ToR breaks down each result into several output areas. For each output area, various activities and sub-activities are given with a high degree of detail based on discussion with key stakeholders at the inception phase.

Component 1 will focus on promoting free movement of services within the EAC for selected service sectors in the EAC and organizing a broad range of activities and events over the four years of project implementation. It responds to the gaps identified as preventing the EAC Partner States from capitalizing on the opportunities offered by their commitments under the Common Market Protocol (CMP) and its Annex V. The TA will be delivered at two levels:

- Regional level: setting up the mechanisms and tools that allow the liberalization of TiS in pre-defined sectors.
- National level: addressing regulatory hurdles and piloting adaptation efforts per the commitments made by the EAC Partner States.

year, then hand over the final system with source code and a Final Report after a Validation Workshop.

5. PRESENTATION ON THE OVERALL WORK PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPERVISION SERVICES FOR THE CUSTOMS INTERCONNECTIVITY INTEGRATION SYSTEM (LOT 2)

Mr Ebenezer Laizer, on behalf of Expertise and Advisors, the firm implementing Lot 2 Supervision services which support the EAC Secretariat in overseeing implementation of Lot 1.

5.1. Scope of work

Specific Work for this assignment and our approach is as detailed hereunder:-

i. Supervision mechanism to ensure timely and effective completion of Lot 1 assignment. The mechanism shall include project tracking in accordance with Lot 1 contract and provide guidance to the EAC Secretariat on the signing-off of Lot 1 stage completion.

ii. Monitor Lot 1 project performance, ensuring compliance with Lot 1 contract (in particular ToR and agreed Lot 1 Work plan). The consultant will maintain a log of issues and risks identified and anticipated during implementation and ensure adequate follow-up by Lot 1 contractor.

iii. Perform site and remote visits, examining in particular: a) implementation progress, in order to identify potential weaknesses resulting in slow progress or inadequate quality; b) consistency with agreed design and quality of Lot 1 Systems' design, set-up and roll-out; c) quality and timely provision of capacity building services as per Lot 1 contract; d) adequacy of Lot 1 project management and reporting procedures.

iv. Hold joint meetings with Lot 1 contractor and EAC Secretariat, and take part in Lot 1 Systems' testing by assisting the users in developing test scripts and ensuring system conformity with user requirements.

v. Take part in CORE programme Technical Meetings (every two months, through Videoconference) and Steering Committees (bi-annually, mid-year via Videoconference and end-of-year physical).

5.2. Challenges or issues pointed out

The consultant presented issues that need to be addressed. These include:-

a) According to preliminary assessment of modules to be developed by Lot 1 majority of them have been developed by EAC. This is expected to have an impact on the following areas: Budget, Hardware and Software.

b) There is no provision for hardware to host the modules which will be developed by Lot 1.

c) No provision for development of Application Programming Interfaces(APIs) on the side of Regional modules

Both levels are inherently linked: regional commitments cannot be fulfilled without regulatory reform at the national level; harmonization between the Partner States has to be driven, monitored and evaluated at the regional level. Without the mobilization of national actors for the regional reform agenda, the expected results cannot be achieved; we consider awareness raising and even advocacy at the national level to be crucial in that regard. This will enable the project to attain the result areas under ;

Component 1: Monitoring mechanisms for the removal of restrictions in prioritized sectors are supported; regulatory reforms for removal of restrictions in trade in services are supported and promotion of awareness and coordination among key identified stakeholders .

Component 2: Supporting the EAC Secretariat to carry out its Programme Management functions of the EU-EAC CORE programme; Supporting the EAC Secretariat in effectively carry out its C&V functions with regard to the EU-EAC CORE programme; and providing EAC staff involved with the EU-EAC Core programme, and particularly the Programme Coordinator and the focal staff for Customs and TiS component, with capacity building and tools related to the above-mentioned functions.
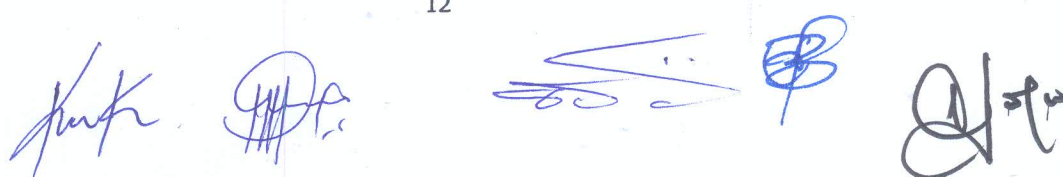
6.2. Challenges or issues pointed out

The consultant presented issues that need to be addressed. These include:-

- Misalignment of the activities proposed in the TORs and the consideration of current realities to undertake the project activities successfully and sustainably.
- There is a need to further engage and sensitize Business membership Organisations and Small, and Medium Business to boost their involvement in trade in services policy formulation and implementation.

6.3. Activities recommended for further consideration from the project ToRs

1. Develop a regulatory coherent and harmonized framework for insurance regulators, professionals, and products.
2. Undertaking the activities under services statistics capacity development of Partner States it should assess the possibility of working on all service sectors in line with the Partner States priorities.
3. Work closely with the Counsel to the Community(CTC) in undertaking regulatory reforms
4. Support OPC in building capacity in various areas to meet IFAC' requirements in accordance with the proposed action plan shared by OPC.

  - *Strengthen its education capacities by training trainers in Accountancy, Finance, and management.*
  - *strengthening its capacities to oversee examinations and strengthen examination systems.*
  - *Developing capacities to undertake quality assurance of Firms.*

6.4. Observations

The meeting observed that the project should take note of the following as they undertake the various activities indicated under LOT 3 ;

- *services sector classification and the linkages within the various services sectors for competitiveness;*
- *the anticompetitive practices among businesses in the various services sectors ;*
- *the need to negotiate additional MRAs for other Business Services (Professional Services) like Lawyers, Doctors and Teachers ;*
- *Consider ongoing work within the community, especially in financial, transport, and ICT services, where regional legal frameworks have been adopted;*
- *prioritization in addressing regulatory and administrative challenges on immigration that hinder the movement of services suppliers;*
- *there is need to adopt the Draft Annex VII to the EAC Common Market Protocol focuses on the Mutual Recognition of Academic and Professional Qualifications by the Sectoral Council Legal and Judicial Affairs to actualize Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) aimed at recognizing academic and professional qualifications, along with associated experiences, licenses, and certifications obtained in other Partner States;*
- *fostering the competitiveness of businesses/Firms in the priority sectors.*

7. Communication and Visibility EU-EAC CORE Programme

Ms Staicy Napio Wagala, on behalf of GOPA Worldwide Consultants, the firm implementing Lot 3 Supervision services which support the EAC Secretariat in overseeing implementation of Lot 3 further elaborated on the Planned Communication and Visibility Activities of the EU -EAC CORE Programme.

Lot 3, is in charge of communication and visibility of the EU-EAC CORE Programme. She shared the Communication and Visibility (C&V) strategy, Social Media Strategy, and the EU-EAC Core proposed logo. The selected logo of the EU-EAC CORE Programme embodies the spirit of partnership and cooperation between the European Union (EU) and the East African Community (EAC), symbolizing their collective commitment to development. Its design features a sleek, circular motif, representing inclusivity and unity. Inspired by the distinct colors of the EU and EAC. The circular shape ensures adaptability across branding mediums. The dotted symbol signifies the collaborative efforts of the EU and EAC in global trade, enhancing the logo's message of harmony and growth in East Africa.

The C&V strategy aims to raise awareness of the EU-EAC Programme and its objectives, engage stakeholders at regional, national and sector levels, promote programme events, achievements and updates, enhance visibility and support EAC regional integration initiatives.

The stipulated activities will target different audience groups, among them regional and national levels, EU citizens, development partners, sector associations, and media personnel and teams. The social media strategy was focused on X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn. However, this will be expanded to other platforms like facebook based on lessons from initial engagements. The detailed strategy gave a breakdown of what methods will be employed to engage different target audiences. Once implemented, the strategy will be monitored continuously. Furthermore, periodic assessments will be conducted to pick on any lessons and introduce modifications where necessary. It was noted that although the EU-EAC CORE programmes will create their content, all this, plus the web hosting, will happen under the auspices of and close collaboration with the EAC Communications department.

8. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Staicy Napio Wagala, on behalf of GOPA Worldwide Consultants, the firm implementing Lot 3 Supervision services, which support the EAC Secretariat in overseeing the implementation of Lot 3, further elaborated on the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the EU -EAC CORE Programme.

The programme shall develop a Results-Based Management (RBM) system for the EU-EAC Core programme and support the EAC Secretariat to ensure efficient project planning, monitoring, and reporting. The monitoring and evaluation plan will serve as a guide for implementation and management so that management staff, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders understand the progress made toward achieving objectives and results and are aware of variances between targets and actual achievement during implementation. The system shall include indicators and targets, as well as monitoring and learning tools, including the source and frequency of data collection for overall monitoring of progress on objectives, where necessary. Under this result area, the TAT Lot 3 shall:

- Develop a monitoring and evaluation system, including an expanded logical framework to capture all indicators, indicator definition sheets, and data collection tools where necessary.
- Organise training workshops with representatives from the EAC Secretariat PMU, relevant departments, and beneficiaries to gather diverse perspectives on the programme's theory of change and envisaged outcomes and impacts.
- Facilitate brainstorming sessions to collaboratively review the programme's logical framework collaboratively, ensuring buy-in from all lots and key stakeholders. This session will identify key performance indicators (KPIs), data collection methods, and reporting mechanisms.
- Develop the CORE Programme M&E Plan.
- Support the development of ICT-based Tools and information systems for project management and a result-based monitoring framework for the Core programme.
- Identify all the stakeholders and regional focal points of projects to report on ongoing activities and feed into the developed ICT-based tools and information

systems for the project management and result-based monitoring framework for the Core programme.

9. COMPLIMENTARY PROGRAMMES - HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EU – EAC LEVERAGING INTEGRATION FRAMEWORKS FOR TRADE IN SERVICES AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (LIFTED)

Ms Estella Aryada, on behalf of GIZ, presented the highlights of the EU – GIZ Leveraging Integration Frameworks For Trade In Services and Civil Society Organizations in the East African Community (LIFTED). This is a Team Europe Initiative   EU + BMZ financing implemented by GIZ with specific Objectives to Increase services liberalization and exports for selected services sectors at EAC, continental level, and, if applicable, EU and to increase engagement of civil society, women and youth organizations in regional economic integration at the EAC and continental level. The allocated budget is 6.4 million euros, and the Project implementation commenced May 2024 - November 2026.

The programme will be executed under 2 Components Under Component 1, TIS Component with the following Outputs: Trade barriers in TiS are analyzed; policies are adequately defined and commitments made; awareness of export opportunities are enhanced for the private sector, especially women and youth; Commitments in the tourism sector are implemented, and sector growth is improved, and MRAs are implemented, particularly for engineering sector and other professional services

Under Component 2: CSO Component, additional outputs, an enhanced Legislative and policy framework to widen the space for CSOs in the EAC region and Partner States, and enhanced participation of women and youth in decision-making and policymaking in the EAC region will be implemented.

In conclusion, she highlighted some key areas stipulated under Component 1 and their respective complementarity to the EU-EAC CORE Programme.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 18:30 hours.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Steering Committee recommended that the Secretariat and the consultant undertake an assessment in Partner States on the existing systems/ modules, infrastructure requirements, cost implications and report to the Steering Committee.

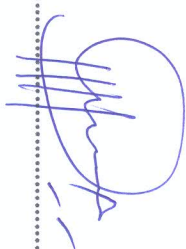Signed by the respective heads of delegations, this 6th day of August 2024:

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Kuot Madhor Kuot
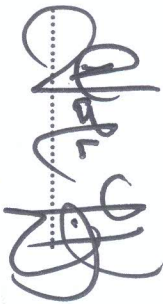Director, Planning
Ministry of Trade and
Industry

Republic of South
Sudan

Edward Owango
Director,
Economic Affairs
Ministry of East African
Community, The
ASALS and Regional
Development

Republic of Kenya

Epiphanie Buzizi
Second Counsellor
Rwanda High Commission
in Dar es Salaam
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International
Cooperation

Republic of Rwanda

Khamis Ahmada Shauri
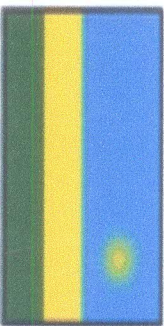Director of Trade &
Marketing
Ministry of Trade &
Industrial Development

United Republic of Tanzania

Leo Kizito Ojara Ocaya
Commissioner
Economic Affairs
Ministry of EAC
Affairs

Republic of Uganda