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Press Release

East African Community Secretariat to Host the 2nd Peer to Peer Conference on Financial Services



Theme: “Digital Innovation in Financial Services to Boost Cross-Border Trade and Productivity: Empowering East Africa's FinTech Ecosystem”

Dates: 10th to 11th June 2025

Venue: Four Points by Sheraton in Kampala - Uganda

The East African Community (EAC) is set to host a highly anticipated **Peer-to-Peer Conference on Financial Services on June 10th and 11th, 2025, in Kampala, Uganda.** With the financial sector as a cornerstone of East Africa's economic progress pillar, the landmark conference is centered around the theme *“Digital Innovation in Financial Services to Boost Cross-Border Trade and Productivity: Empowering East Africa's FinTech Ecosystem.”*

The Peer-to-Peer Conference 2025 will serve as a critical platform to explore, unlock and revolutionise sustainable financing solutions to boost intra-regional trade and secure the region's economic activities. This shall be achieved by bringing together East Africa's sector business leaders, sector regulators, and representatives from the sector ministries, FinTech innovators, financiers, Business Membership Organisations, and representatives from the business community providing services and goods in the financial Services Sector.

This year's conference will provide a platform for all EAC Partner States to reflect on the region's journey in financial services, specifically the transformation of the banking and insurance services sector. Specifically, discussing the East African Community's financial sector achievements and challenges, exploring ongoing innovations, and setting a forward-looking agenda that connects finance to trade, productivity, and inclusive growth.

Over the years, the EAC has made significant strides in harmonising financial systems, enhancing regulatory coordination, and fostering innovation. From real-time gross settlement systems to cross-border digital payments, the region has begun to lay the groundwork for an integrated and inclusive financial ecosystem. The focus is shifting toward harnessing digital technologies to accelerate cross-border trade, support small and medium-sized enterprises, and boost the region's productivity.

Each EAC Partner State has advanced its path toward financial transformation. As the conference host, the Republic of Uganda has emerged as a FinTech innovation hub, with regulatory frameworks encouraging experimentation and growth. The Republic of Kenya continues to lead globally in mobile money innovation, transforming how citizens transact and save. The Republic of Rwanda has made significant progress with digital identity systems and e-governance, which are foundational to financial inclusion. The United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republics of Burundi, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo are strengthening digital infrastructure and expanding access to mobile payments and cross-border financial services. These national efforts contribute to a collective regional vision for financial integration and inclusion.

The European Union has decades of experience harmonising financial regulations across its diverse member states, building a robust framework for cross-border financial integration while maintaining high transparency, security, and accountability standards. In partnership with the East African Community Secretariat, the European Union Delegation is committed to supporting the development of a dynamic and resilient financial sector that enables regional integration and inclusive growth.

The European Union Delegation supports the EU-EAC Common Objectives In Regional Economic Integration (CORE) Programme, which is grounded in the shared objective of deepening regional economic integration, and is playing a pivotal role in facilitating free movement of services in the East African region.

Its cooperation with the EAC has contributed to developing a digital mechanism for removing trade in services barriers, building regulatory capacity and undertaking regulatory reforms for inclusive financial sector innovation and growth. The upcoming conference will highlight these collaborations and identify new opportunities for EU-EAC engagement in shaping the region's digital financial future through the EU-EAC CORE Programme.

The conference will explore practical ways to bridge financial innovation and trade facilitation. Topics will include cross-border digital payments, digital credit for MSMEs, regulatory sandboxes, open finance frameworks, and consumer protection. Stakeholders will also look ahead to the role of artificial intelligence, blockchain, and digital identity in building resilient, secure, and accessible financial ecosystems. Additionally, topics like Sustainable & Green Finance: Cybersecurity & Data Protection, Financial Inclusion Initiatives, Regulatory and Compliance Shifts and Digital Banking & Fintech Growth, ensuring a conducive environment for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and ordinary citizens to experience the benefits of a safe, efficient, and inclusive economy.

This gathering will also mark a moment to reflect on the region's progress, acknowledging the early efforts in monetary harmonisation and financial sector reforms, celebrating the rapid growth of mobile and digital finance, and outlining a future vision of a fully integrated, digital-first financial space.

At a time when EAC Partner States are increasingly committed to self-sufficient financing mechanisms, the EAC Secretariat calls on all Partner States, the public sector, and all key private sector players to support and champion this transformation. This is more than a financial reform; it is a foundational shift that can reshape how East Africans trade, invest, and grow together.

The EAC invites all stakeholders to participate in the Kampala conference and contribute to building the region's financial future. This future envisions East Africa becoming a model of financial innovation and trade-led development on the continent.



Get Involved

The EAC calls on Partner States, private sector players, development partners, and the public to participate in shaping East Africa's financial future. Let us champion the shift toward a resilient, digital-first regional economy.

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