EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**16TH MEETING OF THE SECTORAL COUNCIL
ON EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
CULTURE AND SPORTS (SCESTCS)**

**3RD JUNE 2021
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA**

SESSION OF PRINCIPAL/PERMANENT/UNDER SECRETARIES

(REF: EAC/SCESTCS/16/RS/2021)

REPORT OF THE MEETING

**EAC SECRETARIAT
ARUSHA, TANZANIA
JUNE, 2021**

Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Convening the meeting

The 16th meeting of the Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports (SCESTCS) was convened in accordance with the EAC Calendar of Activities for the period January – June 2021. The Meeting was attended by Senior Officials from the Partner States, EAC Institutions and EAC Staff. The meeting was held in a hybrid model (physical and virtual).The list of participants is hereto attached as *Annex I.*

1.2 Constitution of the Bureau

In accordance with the Rules and Procedures for conducting EAC meetings, the meeting was chaired by Mr. Darius Mogaka Ogutu, Director, University Education, State Department for University Education and Research, Ministry of Education, Republic of Kenya while Ms. Eugenie Nsengiyumva, Advisor and Focal Person for EAC Affairs, Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Burundi was the Rapporteur.

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda

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

1.4 Opening Remarks

Remarks by Head of delegation Republic of Burundi
Mr. Frederic BANGIRIMANA, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Burundi, expressed his gratitude to the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm welcome extended to the Burundi delegation since arrival in the country. He also thanked the EAC Secretariat for convening the meeting despite all the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted it has been long since the last the Sectoral Council was convened thus impacting implementation of some administrative decisions. He however congratulated the EAC Secretariat for continuing to implement activities to advance the education sector.

He concluded his remarks by reiterating the commitment of the Republic of Burundi's to EAC integration and the further commitment to implement the any pending decisions and directives. He wished the delegates fruitful deliberations.

Remarks by the Head of Delegation United Republic of Tanzania
Dr. Leonard D. Akwilapo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, United Republic of Tanzania   welcomed the delegates to Dar es salaam and to the 16th Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports. He thanked the EAC Secretariat for organizing the meeting. He informed the meeting that the United Republic of Tanzania is committed to the key undertakings in this sector including the harmonization of the EAC Education Systems, Structures and Frameworks; the Common Higher Education Area and Free movement of labour and persons in the Community pursuant to the EAC Common Market Protocol.
He noted that the development of Kiswahili language in the region is critical for the widening and deepening of the EAC integration agenda. He urged the Partner States to enhance the implementation of the pending decisions under the sector. He noted the importance of promoting education as a key area of integration and for improving development and the livelihoods of the citizens of the EAC Partner States.

He urged the Secretariat to convene regular meetings of the Sectoral Council. He finally wished the delegates fruitful deliberations.

Remarks by Head of delegation Republic of Rwanda
Mr Samuel Mulindwa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Republic of Rwanda thanked all the delegates for their participation in the meeting. He thanked the EAC Secretariat for convening the meeting noting that it had taken long since the meeting was last held. He emphasised the critical role and essence of matters under this Sectoral Council. He encouraged the Secretariat to regularly convene the meetings of the Sectoral Council so that progress can be sustained. He conveyed sincere condolences to the government and the people of and Governments of EAC Partner States which had lost their leaders and senior citizens over the past months. He further reiterated the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Education system of the Republic of Rwanda leading to the closure of schools for several months.

He emphasized on the need for the Sectoral Council to monitor the status of implementation of the outstanding decisions and directives. He emphasized the implementation of the Common Higher Education Area which among others, is critical in facilitation of movement of academic staff, students and workers in the community. He further emphasised the need to conclude the harmonization of fees structure and academic curricula in the EAC region. He appreciated the summit directive of adoption of Kiswahili and French as official languages of the Community in addition to English. He concluded his remarks by wishing the meeting fruitful deliberations.

Remarks by Head of delegation Republic of Kenya
Ms Josephta Mukobe, Principal Secretary State Department of Culture and Heritage, Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage, Republic of Kenya, expressed the appreciation of the Kenyan delegation of the hospitality accorded to them by the United Republic of Tanzania. She commended the EAC secretariat for convening the meeting. She thanked the Senior Officials for the good outcomes of the deliberations of the Session of the Senior Officials which led to good report that has eased the work of the Session of Principal/Permanent/ Undersecretaries. She underscored the critical role of this Sectoral Council and the need for convening regular meetings to fast track on decisions.

She noted that the Sectoral Council coordinates critical areas including culture, science and technology, human development which are essential to realization greater heights of the EAC integration and economic development in particular. She also emphasised the critical role of this sector in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. She applauded the declaration of Kiswahili as one of the official languages of the Community noting that this would lead to much wider usage of Kiswahili and would open up several other opportunities. She noted the essence of language in the preservation and celebration of our different cultures and heritage and also in fostering our identity. He noted the common cultures and heritage of the peoples of the East African region that could contribute further to EACs regional integration efforts.
She wished the meeting successful deliberations.

Remarks by head of delegation Republic of Uganda
 Mr Aggrey Kibenge David, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Development, Republic of Uganda appreciated the convening of the meeting. He noted that it was his first time to attend the Sectoral Council since his appointment as a Permanent Secretary. He had however participated in the Sectoral Council in his other previous capacities. He noted the essence of this Sectoral Council in the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol and other areas of development. He assured the meeting of the continued commitment of the Republic of Uganda to EACs regional integration efforts.

He commended the EAC Secretariat for convening the meeting and called for regular meetings given the strategic nature of the Sectoral Council to the integration process. He expressed condolences to the Partner States that had recently lost key leaders.

He informed the meeting of the recent upsurge of Covid 19 situation in the Republic of Uganda and the impacts it is having on the economy and other sectors including education and businesses. He wished the meeting fruitful deliberations.

Remarks by the Representative of the EAC Secretariat
On behalf of the EAC Secretary General, the EAC Deputy Secretary General (Productive and Social Sectors) Hon. Christophe Bazivamo welcomed the Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries and thanked them attending the meeting of the Sectoral Council. He informed the meeting that due to challenges beyond the control of the Secretariat, it had taken long to convene the Sectoral Council. Some of the challenges that affected timely convening meeting include the COVID 19 Pandemic and the electoral processes in the Partner States. He underscored the importance of the SCESTCS to the EAC especially to the implementation of the Common Market Protocol. He noted that education, research, science and technology are the key drivers of growth and transformations in many societies. He further noted the important role that sports and culture industries play in the regional integration efforts.
He informed the delegates of the change in the Bureau of the Community during the 21st Summit of Heads of States and congratulated the Republic of Kenya for being appointed as new Chair of the Community and the Republic of Burundi as Rapporteur. He further informed the delegates of the appointment of Hon. Peter Mathuki by the 21st Summit of EAC Heads of State as new Secretary General taking over from Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko whose term had come to an end.

He further informed the delegates that the 21st Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of States declared Kiswahili and French Official Languages of the Community and directed the Council to develop modalities for implementation. He noted that this responsibility falls squarely within the mandate of this Sectoral Council.

He wished the delegates fruitful deliberations

Remarks by the Chairperson
The Chairperson Dr. Margaret Mwakima, Principal Secretary, Vocational and Technical Training, Ministry of Education, Kenya welcomed the Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries to meeting of the 16th Sectoral Council on Education Science and Technology Culture and Sports. She also thanked the senior officials for the deliberations at their session, where they identified issues for action and produced a comprehensive and informative report. She underscored the role of the Sectoral Council in promoting the EAC Common Market Protocol and complementing other areas of EAC integration. She also observed that, the Sectoral Council promotes cultural heritage which is crucial for sustainable development and promotion of Kiswahili which is essential for supporting trade in the region.

She emphasized the role that education, skills training, science and technology play in transforming societies. She further noted the role of the education and culture sectors in the EAC integration process. She further commended the adoption of Kiswahili as an official language of the Community and urged that necessary steps be made to fast track implementation. She further urged the Secretariat and Partner States to fast-rack implementation of pending decisions and develop systems of monitoring progress.
She wished the delegates fruitful deliberations

2.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS AND DIRECTIVES OF SCESTCS, COUNCIL AND SUMMIT

The Senior Officials considered the status of implementation of the previous decisions of the Sectoral Council, Council and Summit that were to be implemented by the EAC Secretariat, Inter-University Council of East Africa, East African Kiswahili Commission and East African Science and Technology Commission. The matrix detailing the status of implementation is attached hereto as *Annex III.* A summary of the status of implementation is presented in Table I while that of decisions that have so far not been implemented is presented in Table II.

The status of implementation is also presented in the pie charts below.

Fig 1. Status of implementation of EAKC, EASTECO and IUCEA Decisions and Directives
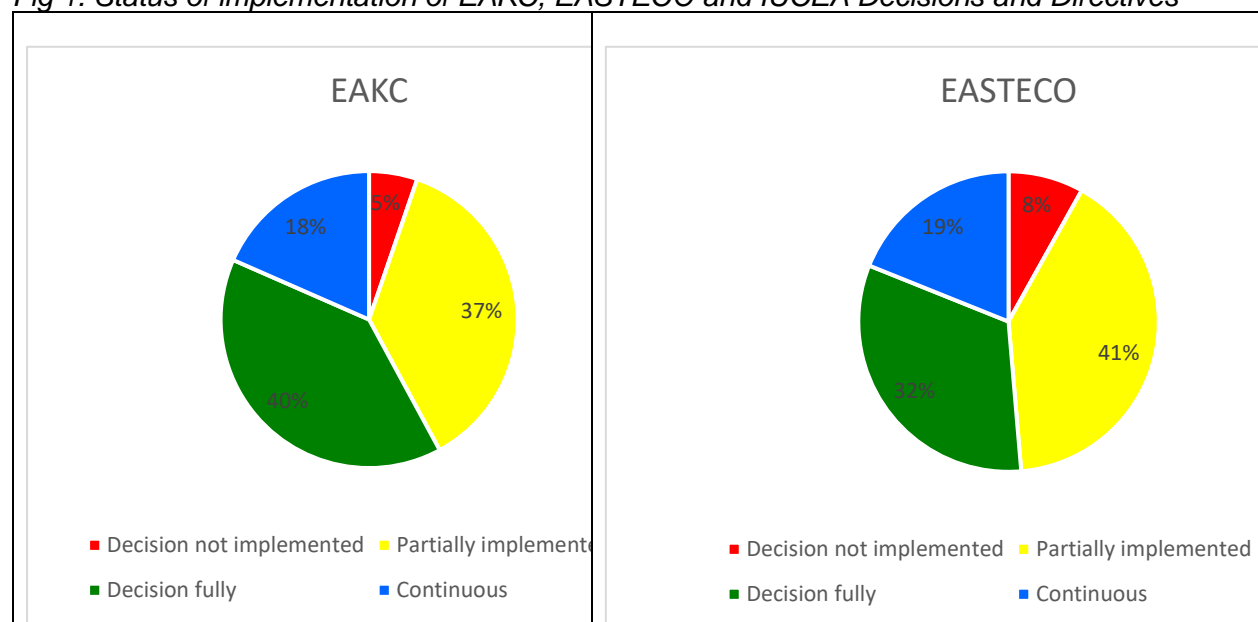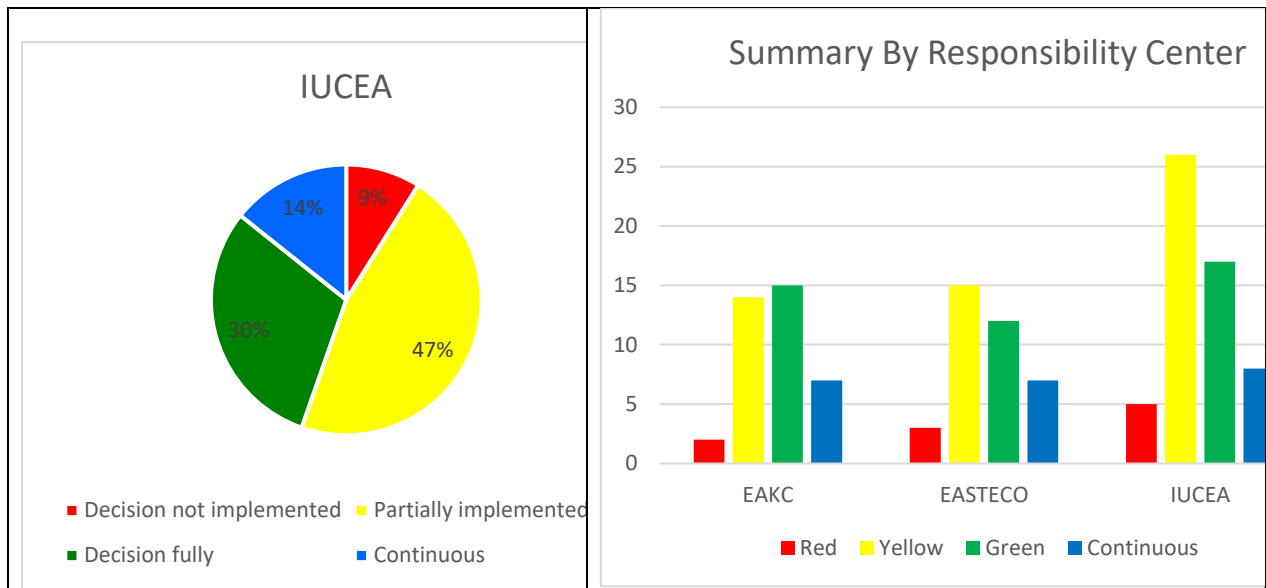
Fig.2: Status of Implementation of Education, Sports and Culture Decisions and Directives
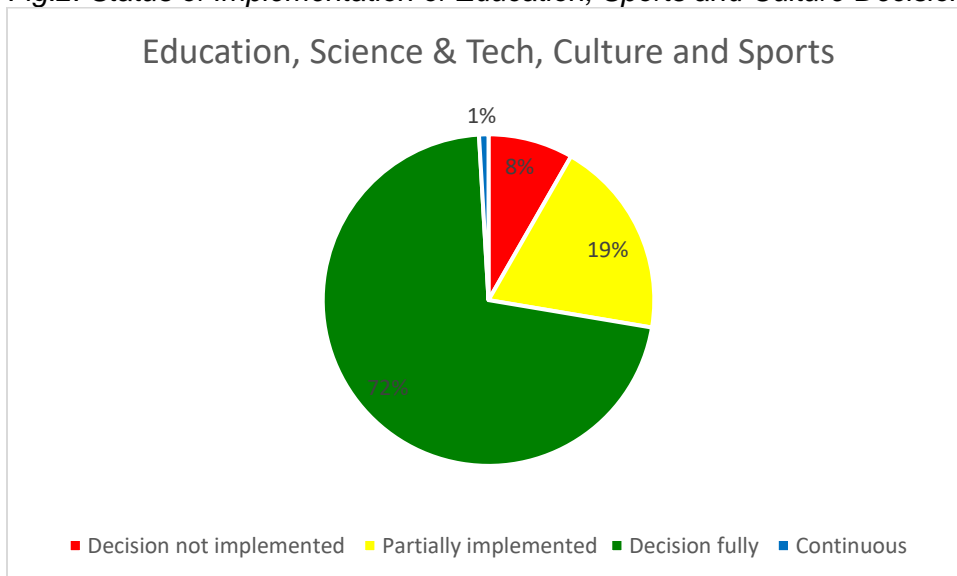
Table II: Decisions and directives that are not implemented

EDUCATION AND TRAINING	
Decision Reference	**Description**
Par 5 of the Communique	The Summit considered the Report on the Status of Implementation of its directive to the Council to Undertake a Study on the Modalities of Including French as a Language of the Community, in addition to English and Kiswahili, and adopted, English, French and Kiswahili as official languages of the Community and directed the Council to expedite the modalities of this directive.
EAC/CM/40/Directive 33	The Council directed Secretariat to convene a Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Sports and Culture to consider the comments from Partner States on the amendment of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Science and Technology Commission, 2007 and report to the 41st Meeting of the Council.
EAC/CM 38/Directive 37	The Council directed the Regional Steering Committee for the EAC Regional Centres of Excellence project in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat to develop a framework for reciprocal support for students who intend to undertake training programmes
EAC/CM37/ Directive 16	The Council directed the Secretariat to award letters recognizing participation to all the 438 entrants and certificates of participation to the best two (2) entrants from each Partner State.
EAC/CM/22/Directive 43	The Council directed the Secretariat to refer all recommendations with financial implications to the Finance and Administration Committee for consideration
EAC/CM18/Decision 30	The Council referred these matters (from the Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports) which have financial implications to the Finance and Administration Committee
INTER UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA	
(EAC/CM9/Decision 48);	The Council directed those East African students attending a university in another Partner State other than his/her own be charged the same fees as locals
EAC/CM/40/Directive 24	The Council directed IUCEA to draw USD2,000,000 from its Arrears Fund for Phase 2 construction of IUCEA-Headquarters for FY2021/2022
EAC/CM 39/Directive 53	The Council directed IUCEA to reinvest its gratuity with a secure commercial bank or financial institution with a competitive interest rate and report to the 40th Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

EAC/CM36/ Directive 87	The Council directed the Secretariat to convene a joint meeting of the Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports, and the Sectoral Council on Health to consider matters on the establishment of the regional African Nutritional Sciences Research Consortium and report to the 37th Meeting of the Council
EAST AFRICAN KISWAHILI COMMISSION	
EAC/CM 35/Decision 109	The Council stayed consideration of the Draft Staff Rules and Regulations for the East Africa Kiswahili Commission pending finalization of the review of the EAC Staff Rules and Regulations, 2006.
EAC/CM35/Decision 55	directed Partner States to formulate national Kiswahili Language Policies and enhance the use of Kiswahili in official domains
EAC/CM35/Directive 37	directed Partner States to initiate the process of institutionalization of Kiswahili as one of the EAC Official Languages through the establishment of National Kiswahili Councils and National Kiswahili Associations
EAC/CM 39/ Directive 81.	The 39th Council of Ministers further directed Partner States that had not submitted their comments on the Draft EAC Treaty in Kiswahili by 30th September, 2019 to do so by 5th December 2019
EAC/CM 34/Directive 15	The Council directed Sectoral Councils and institutions to closely follow up on the implementation of projects and programmes that have taken a long time to be realized and institute corrective measures
EAST AFRICAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION	
EAC/CM 34/Directive 10	The Council directed EAC Organs and Institutions to propose amendments to the instruments establishing governance structures and report to Council for approval
EAC/CM 34/Directive 15	The Council directed Sectoral Councils and institutions to closely follow up on the implementation of projects and programmes that have taken a long time to be realized and institute corrective measures
EAC/CM30/Directive 73	The Council directed the EAC Institutions to ensure that their activities are incorporated in the approved EAC Secretariat Calendar of Activities and report to the 30th Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

The session observed that there had been progress in the implementation decisions and directives. However, some of the decisions had taken long to be implemented, while others had been overtaken by events. It was further noted that budgetary constraints affected the timely implementation of some directives and decisions.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to:-

a) **take note of the progress made in the implementation of previous decisions and directives and;**

b) direct the EAC Secretariat and respective Institutions to fast track the implementation of all outstanding decisions and directives through a Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) and report to the 17th SCESTCS.

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING MATTERS

3.1 Implementation of the EAC Secondary School Students' Essay Writing Competition

The EAC Secondary School Students' Essay Writing competition has been conducted annually since 2004. The competition was conceived as part of a wider EAC outreach program to create awareness among the school-going population about the integration process, activities and programs of the EAC. It aims at giving secondary school students an opportunity to analyze from their own perspective the benefits, opportunities and constraints of regional integration of East Africa. The students are then expected to write the essays of between 1,000-1,500 words either in English, Kiswahili or French on a topic presented to them annually and focused on a contemporary issue in the EAC. In each Partner State, the best essays from the schools undergo national adjudication to determine the winners at the national level, including the winners in the special categories.

The best five essays at the national level are forwarded to the regional level for regional adjudication by a panel of adjudicators drawn from the EAC Partner States.

Below is the status of implementation of the 2019 and 2020 EAC Students Essay Writing Competition and preparations for the 2021 competition.

3.1.1 Implementation of the 2019 EAC Students Essay Writing Competition

The 2019 EAC Secondary School Students Essay Writing Competition was undertaken as was planned. The Topic for the competition was: *How can the cultural diversity of the peoples of the EAC Partner States be used to promote regional integration, economic growth and tourism in the EAC?* The topic was decided on to complement the theme of the 4th Edition of the East African Art and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST). Following the successful completion of the National Adjudications in the respective Partner States, the Regional Adjudication meeting was held from 16th to 17th October 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. This led to identification of the winners of the Competition at the regional level. The Report of the Regional Adjudication for the 2019 Essay Writing Competition is attached as ***Annex IV.***

Out of the 25 essays (the best five from each Partner State) considered during the Regional Adjudication the distribution in regard to language was; English (14), Kiswahili (04), and French (07).
There was a notable increase in essays in French and a reduction of those in English compared with the previous year. The distribution of the essays according to country and language is presented in Table I.

Table I: Distribution of essays by country and language

Language	French	English	Kiswahili	Total
Burundi	2	2	1	5
Kenya	2	2	1	5
Rwanda	1	3	1	5
Uganda	2	2	1	5
United Republic of Tanzania	0	5	0	5

Grand Total	**7**	**14**	**4**	**25**

The distribution of the essays by gender as presented in Table II indicate that majority of the winners (15) were female while the males were 10. This showed an increase in the number female students in the overall winning category compared with the previous year.

Table II: Distribution of essays by gender

Country	Male	Female	Total
Burundi	2	3	5
Kenya	1	4	5
Rwanda	1	4	5
Uganda	3	2	5
United Republic of Tanzania	3	2	5
Grand Total	10	15	25

Following their evaluation, the panel of adjudicators awarded marks to the 25 essays as summarized in Table III.

Table III: Award of marks to students' essays

S/No.	Candidate's Name	Country	School	Class	Language	Gender	Marks %
1.	IKEZWE Marthe Bénitha	Burundi	Lycée Notre Dame de la Paix	Form 8	Kiswahili	Female	61
2.	KARORERO Jean Christy	Burundi	Lycée Saint Joseph	Form 8	French	Male	63
3.	NIJIMBERE Fleury	Burundi	Lycée Communal MURWI	Form 9	English	Male	56
4.	ISHIMWE Marléne Audreille	Burundi	Lycée Communal BUGANDA	Form 9	English	Female	34
5.	BWITONZI Erica Queen	Burundi	Lycée d' Excellence MUSINZIRA	Form 9	French	Female	57
6.	SYLVIA Makonjio	Kenya	Kisumu Girls	Form 4	English	Female	78
7.	MERYLINE Ogembo	Kenya	Kipsigis Girls	F4	French	Female	53
8.	ALFRED Kitili	Kenya	Kaluluini Sec	F3	Kiswahili	Male	40
9.	YVONNE Achieng	Kenya	Rumuruti	F1	English	Female	66
10.	SHALI Xavier Mwandoe	Kenya	Meru School	3P	Kiswahili	Female	35
11.	IRAKOZE Sonia	Rwanda	Fawe Girls' School Gisozi	S2	English	Female	57
12.	ISHIMWE Nicole	Rwanda	College Marie Reine de la Paix	S4 PCB	English	Female	61
13.	MUVUNYI Shem	Rwanda	Rusumo High School	S4 LKK	Kiswahili	Male	57

S/No.	Candidate's Name	Country	School	Class	Language	Gender	Marks %
14.	UWASE Davine	Rwanda	Fawe Girls' School Gisozi	S4 MPC	English	Female	56
15.	GATONI Nithia Hayley Santa	Rwanda	College St. Adre	S2	French	Female	39
16.	OBOK Hanold	Uganda	Dr. Obote College, Boroboro	S3	English	Male	51
17	NSABIYUMVA Don Charlie	Uganda	Trinity College Nabbingo	S4	French	Male	43
18	NAFULA Fortunate Mugeni	Uganda	Iganga S.S	S3	Kiswahili	Female	71
19	KYOMUGISHA Babra	Uganda	Iganga S.S	S2	French	Female	44
20	MAGEZI Paul	Uganda	Nyakasura School	S3	English	Male	51
21	VANESSA Paul Lema	Tanzania	Longido S.S.	Form 4	English	Female	61
22	THOMAS Steven Kalisti	Tanzania	Kibasila S.S	Form 4	English	Male	50
23	MONICA Chacha Nyamhanaga	Tanzania	Heritage S.S	Form 2	English	Female	52
24	DENIS Micah Mmuni	Tanzania	St. Maxmilian S.S.	Form 1	English	Male	51
25	HANCE Evaristi Mwang'onda	Tanzania	Mbagala S.S	Form 4	English	Male	51

Winners of the 2019 EAC Students Essay Writing Competition

Based on the outcome of the Regional Adjudication the adjudicators declared the students listed in Table IV as the winners of the 2019 EAC Secondary School Students' Essay Writing Competition. It should be noted that there was a tie in which three candidates attained 61%. One of the candidates was from the Republic of Burundi which already had a winning student with 63%. The tie therefore was between the two candidates between United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Rwanda. The Adjudicators re-evaluated the scripts of the two tying candidates and graded as presented in the table IV.

Table IV: 2019 EAC Students' Essay Writing Competition Winners

Ranking	Name	Country	School	Class	Language	Gender	Marks
1st.	Sylvia Makonjio	Kenya	Kisumu Girls	F4	English	Female	78%
2nd.	Nafula Fortunate Mugeni	Uganda	Iganga S.S	S3	Kiswahili	Female	71%
3rd.	Karorero Jean Christy	Burundi	Lycee Saint Joseph	Form 8	French	Male	63%
4th.	Ishimwe Nicole	Rwanda	College Marie Reine	S4	English	Female	61%

5th.	Venessa Paul Lema	United Republic of Tanzania	Longido S.S	Form 4	English	Female	60%

Adjudicators' observations

The adjudicators made the following observations:

(i) The theme of the question was relevant but seemed challenging to the students;
(ii) The marking guide was comprehensive and aided in the marking;
(iii) There is delay in awarding winners;
(iv) The tour of the region by the winners has not taken place for some years;
(v) Some Partner States presented essays in English only rather than having French and Kiswahili also;
(vi) One Partner State informed the meeting that they received the topic late when the students had already closed for holidays.

Adjudicators' recommendations

The adjudicators recommend to the Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports (SCESTCS) that:-

i. Partner States should create more awareness to ensure more students from various backgrounds participate;
ii. The essay topic should be circulated on time to Partner States;
iii. Awards should be timely and the tour of winners should be reinstated.

National and Regional Awards

The National Awards for the 2019 Essay Writing Competition have been undertaken in the Partner States except Uganda where the delay has been occasioned by the challenges of COVID 19 on the school calendar. The winners could not be presented for awards during the 21st Ordinary Summit of EAC Heads of States held on 27th February 2021. This was due to the travel restrictions as a result of the COVID 19 Pandemic and the fact that Summit was held virtually. The Regional Awards will thus be held during the next Summit of the EAC Heads of State. The students in addition received awards of certificates during the 4th Edition of the EAC Arts and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST) that took place from 21st-28th September 2019 Dar Es Salaam Tanzania. This was because the topic of the Essay Competition for 2019 was tied to the theme of the 4th Edition of JAMAFEST.

3.1.2 *Implementation of 2020 Students Essay Writing Competition*

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID 19 Pandemic, the EAC Secretariat and the Partner States managed to undertake the 2020 EAC Secondary School Students Essay Writing Competition. It was based on the topic presented in Table V below.

Table V: Topic for 2020 Secondary School Essay Writing Competition

English	How can the development in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) be utilized to speed up the development and integration efforts of the East African Community Partner States?
Kiswahili	Ni kwa namna gani maendeleo ya Teknolojia ya Habari na Mawasiliano (TEHAMA) yanaweza kutumika kufanikisha kwa haraka juhudi za maendeleo na mtangamano wa Nchi Wanachama wa Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki?
French	Comment le développement des technologies de l'information et de la communication peut-il être utilisé pour accélérer les efforts de développement et d'intégration des États partenaires de la Communauté d'Afrique de l'Est?

Following the completion of the National Adjudication by the Partner States, the Regional Adjudication for the 2020 EAC Students' Essay Writing Competition was held from 13th to 15th April 2021 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania. The aim was to determine the winners of the competition at the regional level. The Report of the Regional Adjudication of the 2020 Essay Writing Competition is attached as *Annex V.*

It was noted that participation rates in the Partner States (see Table VI) was rather low, especially in Republic of Uganda where only 50 students participated. While this could have been a result of the difficult COVID 19 situations, it calls for enhanced and multipronged dissemination of the essay competition and more awareness creation. Overall, more female students participated in the competition than their male counterparts.

Table VI: Participation in Essay Competition at National Level

Country	French	English	Kiswahili	Female	Male	Total
Burundi	80	61	22	102	61	163
Kenya	96	547	365	583	425	1008
Rwanda	6	179	3	106	82	188
Uganda	-	50	-	16	34	50
United Republic of Tanzania	2	141	428	368	203	571
Grand Total	**184**	**978**	**818**	**1175**	**805**	**1980**

Regarding language variation, it was notable that all the 50 Essays from the Republic of Uganda were in English i.e. none in French or Kiswahili. Overall, there were low entries in French compared to English and Kiswahili thus requiring enhanced sensitization and encouragement in the Partner States with few essays in French. Based on language, the essays were distributed as presented in Table VII. Out of the 25 scripts, 18 were in English, 4 in Kiswahili and 3 in French. This indicated a heavy dominance of English as the most preferred language by the winning candidates Vis a Vis French and Kiswahili. Unlike in the previous years, all the entries from Uganda were in English. This could require more encouragement to the students to step up writing in French and Kiswahili.

Table VII: Distribution of Essays by country and language

Country	Language			Total
	French	English	Kiswahili	
Burundi	2	2	1	5
Kenya	1	3	1	5
Rwanda	0	4	1	5
Uganda	0	5	0	5
United Republic of Tanzania	0	4	1	5
Grand Total	**3**	**18**	**4**	**25**

Regarding gender, of the 25 essays, 18 were from female students while the remaining 07 were from male students. The female candidates continued to outperform their male counterparts as in the previous year.

Table VIII: Distribution of the Winning Essays by gender of participants

Country	Male	Female	Total
Burundi	0	5	5
Kenya	0	5	5
Rwanda	2	3	5
Uganda	3	2	5
United Republic of Tanzania	2	3	5
Grand Total	**7**	**18**	**25**

Based on their harmonized marking scheme, the adjudicators awarded marks as summarized in Table IX.

Table IX: Award of marks to students' essays

S/No	Candidate's Name	Country	School	Class	Language	Gender	Marks %
1.	Dushime Noemie	Burundi	Lycee' Don Bosco de Ngozi	F9	French	F	69
2.	Dushime Tessy Tulipe	Burundi	Lycee d'Excellence de Ngagara	F9	French	F	54
3.	Igiraneza Christa Bella	Burundi	Lyce'e Notre Dame de La Paix de Bubanza.	F9	Kiswahili	F	75
4.	Manariyo Ella Kercy	Burundi	EcoléCommunautaire La Fontaine	F9	English	F	50
5.	Cimpaye Charlottee	Burundi	Ecolé Fondamentale de Kayongozi	F9	English	F	69
6.	Mars Iyadi Swaka	Kenya	Nakuru Girls	F3	English	F	84
7.	Darvin Agnes Wakarindi	Kenya	Loreto High School	F3	English	F	81
8.	Akombo Benevolence	Kenya	Kenya High	F4	English	F	53
9.	Anne Gakii	Kenya	Munithu Secondary School	F3	Kiswahili	F	69
10.	Neema Moraa	Kenya	Kipsigis Girls	F3	French	F	61
11.	Mbabazi Secreat	Rwanda	G.S. Mukare Catholic	S4	English	F	71
12.	Irimaso Seth	Rwanda	Ruramira Secondary School	S3	English	M	68
13.	Ingabire Urugeni Rene	Rwanda	FAWE Girls	S2	English	F	66
14.	Brighton Elias	Rwanda	G.S Gishanda	S4	Kiswahili	M	66
15.	Uwera Marie Rose	Rwanda	Lycée de Kigali	S4	English	F	69
16.	Kanakulya Abraham Kevin	Uganda	St. Mary's College, Kisubi	S3	English	M	77

S/No	Candidate's Name	Country	School	Class	Language	Gender	Marks %
17	Nabuuma Tracey Stephanie	Uganda	St. Mary's College, Namagunga	S1	English	F	72
18	Aarakit Lisa Eitunganane	Uganda	St. Mary's College, Namagunga	S4	English	F	71
19	Kaimukya Michelle	Uganda	St. Mary's College, Namagunga	S1	English	F	69
20	Mugune Jeremia	Uganda	Kings College, Budo	S3	English	M	56
21	Janeth Estomihi Lendeu	Tanzania	Longido Secondary School	F3	English	F	73
22	Shafii Omary Mkindi	Tanzania	Mangula Secondary School	F3	English	M	71
23	Careen Arbogast Chiwembo	Tanzania	Heritage Secondary School	F3	English	F	78
24	Idrisa Musa Hamadi	Tanzania	Azania Secondary School	F2	Kiswahili	M	79
25	Lissa William Assenga	Tanzania	Feza Girls Secondary School	F4	English	F	70

Table X: Award of marks to students' essays

S/No	Candidate's Name	Country	School	Class	Language	Gender	Marks
1.	Dushime Noemie	Burundi	Lycee' Don Bosco de Ngozi	F9	French	F	69
2.	Dushime Tessy Tulipe	Burundi	Lycee d'Excellence de Ngagara	F9	French	F	54
3.	Igiraneza Christa Bella	Burundi	Lyce'e Notre Dame de La Paix de Bubanza.	F9	Kiswahili	F	75
4.	Manariyo Ella Kercy	Burundi	EcoléCommunautaire La Fontaine	F9	English	F	50
5.	Cimpaye Charlottee	Burundi	Ecolé Fondamentale de Kayongozi	F9	English	F	69
6.	Mars Iyadi Swaka	Kenya	Nakuru Girls	F3	English	F	84
7.	Darvin Agnes Wakarindi	Kenya	Loreto High School	F3	English	F	81
8.	Akombo Benevolence	Kenya	Kenya High	F4	English	F	53
9.	Anne Gakii	Kenya	Munithu Secondary School	F3	Kiswahili	F	69
10.	Neema Moraa	Kenya	Kipsigis Girls	F3	French	F	61
11.	Mbabazi Secreat	Rwanda	G.S. Mukare Catholic	S4	English	F	71

S/No	Candidate's Name	Country	School	Class	Language	Gender	Marks
12.	Irimaso Seth	Rwanda	Ruramira Secondary School	S3	English	M	68
13.	Ingabire Urugeni Rene	Rwanda	FAWE Girls	S2	English	F	66
14.	Brighton Elias	Rwanda	G.S Gishanda	S4	Kiswahili	M	66
15.	Uwera Marie Rose	Rwanda	Lycée de Kigali	S4	English	F	69
16.	Kanakulya Abraham Kevin	Uganda	St. Mary's College, Kisubi	S3	English	M	77
17	Nabuuma Tracey Stephanie	Uganda	St. Mary's College, Namagunga	S1	English	F	72
18	Aarakit Lisa Eitunganane	Uganda	St. Mary's College, Namagunga	S4	English	F	71
19	Kaimukya Michelle	Uganda	St. Mary's College, Namagunga	S1	English	F	69
20	Mugune Jeremia	Uganda	Kings College, Budo	S3	English	M	56
21	Janeth Estomihi Lendeu	Tanzania	Longido Secondary School	F3	English	F	73
22	Shafii Omary Mkindi	Tanzania	Mangula Secondary School	F3	English	M	71
23	Careen Arbogast Chiwembo	Tanzania	Heritage Secondary School	F3	English	F	78
24	Idrisa Musa Hamadi	Tanzania	Azania Secondary School	F2	Kiswahili	M	79
25	Lissa William Assenga	Tanzania	Feza Girls Secondary School	F4	English	F	70

Winners of 2020 Secondary School Essay Writing Competition

Drawing from the distribution of marks in Table IX, the adjudicators determined the winners of the 2020 Essay Writing Competition as presented in Table X.

Table XI: Winners of the 2020 EAC Essay Writing Competition

No.	Name	Country	School	Class	Language	Gender	Marks %
1.	Mars Iyadi Swaka	Kenya	Nakuru Girls	F3	English	F	84
2.	Idrisa Musa Hamadi	Tanzania	Azania Secondary School	F2	Kiswahili	M	79

3.	Kanakulya Abraham Kevin	Uganda	St. Mary's College, Kisubi	S3	English	M	77
4.	Igiraneza Christa Bella	Burundi	Lycee Notre Dame de la Paix de Bubanza.	F9	Kiswahili	F	75
5.	Mbabazi Secreat	Rwanda	G.S. Mukarange Catholic	S4	English	F	71

Adjudicators' observations

Various observations were made from the exercise and these included the following:

i.   Some Partner States presented more than one winner from the same school which limits the opportunities for other schools thus reducing the impact of the essay writing competition;
ii.   Some Partner States had the winning essays based only on one language and did not have any in the other two languages;
iii.   Some students who had been awarded in the previous year (at National Level), were again presented by some Partner States as winners in this year's essay. It was suggested that opportunity should be given to other equally meriting students;
iv.   That there was no gender balance, some countries presented students of one gender only;
v.   That consideration could be made for candidates with disabilities as is done at National level;
vi.   Due to COVID-19 pandemic the whole operations of the 2020 EAC Essay writing competition had a number of constraints;

Adjudicators' recommendations

The adjudicators recommend to the Sectoral Council on Education Science and Technology Culture and Sports (SCESTCS) to urge Partner States to adhere to the rules and regulations governing the Essay Writing Competition to take note of the adjudicators' observations.

National and Regional Awards

The National Awards for the 2020 Essay Writing Competition are planned to be undertaken in June 2021 while the Regional Awards will be undertaken during the 22nd Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State.

3.1.3   Preparations for 2021 Student's Essay Writing Competition

Preparations have already commenced for the 2021 EAC Students Essay Writing Competition.

Theme and Topic for 2021 Essay Writing Competition

The focal persons from Partner States held virtual consultations between 5th - 9th April 2021 to determine the Theme and topic for the 2021 Essay Writing Competition. Considering the effects of the COVID 19 Pandemic on education in the EAC Partner States, it was agreed that this was a contemporary issue and on which the students had a direct experience. The theme for the 2021 Essay Competition was thus focused on this. The identified theme was **T**he Effects of the COVID

19 Pandemic on Education Systems of EAC Partner States. Drawing from this theme, the proposed topic for the 2021 EAC Essay Writing Competition is presented in Table XI.

Table XII: Proposed topic for the 2021 Essay Writing Competition

English	Discuss the challenges that the COVID 19 Pandemic has posed to the education systems of the EAC Partner States. Provide recommendations on how these challenges can be addressed.
Kiswahili	Jadili changamoto ambazo ugonjwa wa virusi vya KORONA (Uviko-19) umesababisha kwa mifumo ya elimu katika Nchi Wanachama wa Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki. Toa mapendekezo ya jinsi ya kukabili changamoto hizo.
French	Discutez des défis qu'a posé la pandémie de COVID-19 aux systèmes éducatifs des Pays Partenaires de la Communauté Est Africaine. Formuler les recommandations sur la manière de les relever.

It should be noted that though this was the Topic agreed on by all the other Partner States, the Republic of Burundi had reservations on the topic citing that it could be complex to their learners.

2021 Essay Schedule

The proposed schedule for the 2021 Essay Writing Competition is as presented below;

(i)   30th June 2021:   Completion of dissemination of Essay Topic to schools;
(ii) 15th October, 2021   Completion of National Adjudication;
(iii) 30th October 2021:   Regional Adjudication;
(iv) November 2021   National Awards; and
(v)   Regional Awards: To be held during 22nd Ordinary Summit.

The above timelines would ensure that the Essay Writing Competition is undertaken within tolerable timelines to allow the students to be awarded while still in school.

3.1.4 Review of Awards to Winning Students

The 15th Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports, directed the Secretariat to convene a meeting ***to review and redesign the prizes to those that could enhance learning of the students.*** Following the directive of the 15th SCESTCS, the Partners States Focal Officers for the Essay Writing Competition held virtual consultations to review the awards to students. The meeting proposed the following adjustments to the awards to the students (to be completed after the meeting). Table XI presents the current awards to the winning students and the proposed awards.

Table XIII   Proposed Awards to Winning Students in Essay Competition

A. Regional Awards			
No.	Category	Current Award	Proposed Awards
1	1st Prize	Lake Victoria Prize, (certificate, US$ 1,500,Lake Victoria Revolving Shield)	Laptop, plaque, certificate & USD 600

2	**2nd Prize**	Great East African Rift Valley Prize(certificate, US$ 1,200, Great East African Rift Valley Revolving Shield)	Laptop, plaque, certificate & USD 500
3	**3rd Prize**	Mt. Kilimanjaro Prize (certificate, US$ 1,000, Mt. Kilimanjaro Revolving Shield)	Laptop, plaque, certificate & USD 400
4	**4th Prize**	Certificate and cash prize of USD 750	Laptop, certificate & USD 300
5	**5th Prize**	certificate and cash prize of USD 650	Laptop, certificate & USD 200
	B. National Awards		
1	1st Prize	USD 300	Note pad/Laptop, certificate & USD 150
2	2nd Prize	USD 250	Assorted Text Books, certificate & USD 150
3	3rd Prize	USD 200	Assorted Text Books, certificate, USD 100
4	4th Prize	USD 150	Assorted Text Books, certificate, USD 100
5	5th Prize	USD 100	Certificate & USD 100
8	Special category (5 students based on gender; rural/urban; disability; language variation; hard to reach areas	USD 50	Maintain the 50 USD

The Senior Officials made the following observations:

a) Awareness creation on the Essay Competition needs to be enhanced to increase participation in the competition;
b) In cases where two students have a tie in marks, they would have the same position and the awards for both positions be divided amongst the two students;
c) Payments to suppliers of essay awards be made in good time;
d) EAC Youth Ambassadors to support awareness creation on the competition
e) That the EAC Secretariat to increase the prize awards to six (6) taking into consideration the Republic of South Sudan joining the competition.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to:-

a) **Take note of the progress made in the implementation of the 2019 and 2020 EAC Secondary School Students' Essay Writing Competition and the preparations being made towards the conduct of the Competition in 2021;**
b) **congratulate the Winners of the 2019 and 2020 EAC Secondary School Students' Essay Writing Competition;**
c) **Consider and approve the proposed theme, topic and the calendar for undertaking the 2021 Essay Writing Competition;**
d) **consider and approve the new system of Awards for the Winning Students in the Essay Writing Competition.**

e) direct the EAC Secretariat to review the criteria for the administration of the Competition and develop a quality assurance criteria for the Essay Writing Competition and report to the 17ᵗʰ SCESTCS.

3.2 Developments in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

The East African Community (EAC) has prioritized Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as crucial for the socio-economic development and regional integration efforts of the EAC. TVET has been a priority area in the 5ᵗʰ EAC Development Strategy 2016/17-2020/21 and has got even more emphasis and prioritization in the 6ᵗʰ EAC Development Strategy 2021/22-2025/26. A need to build and foster a coherent, integrated and coordinated TVET system at both national and regional levels is therefore crucial. This requires, among other things, the harmonization of TVET curricular in the EAC, development of common quality assurance and accreditation standards, a regional qualifications framework, a frameworks for mutual recognition of qualifications and policies and instruments to facilitate the development of required skills, quality enhancement, collaborations and mobility of key actors in the TVET sector including students. The EAC Secretariat has commenced efforts to harmonize the TVET sector to facilitate the attainment of the above affordances of a harmonized, standardized, integrated and coordinated TVET sector. The progress so far made include;

3.2.1   EAC – African Union TVET Dialogue Forum

The East African Community (EAC)-African Union (AU) Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Dialogue Forum was held from 28th- 30ᵗʰ August 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The aim of the meeting was to discuss how the EAC could strengthen and harness its TVET potential for the socio-economic development of Community. It was to also discuss the progress that has been made in harmonizing the EAC TVET sector and the pending actions to be taken by the EAC TVET TECHNICOM in operationalizing the EAC TVET harmonization strategy. It also provided a forum for engagements with the African Union on the continental TVET Strategy. Various development partners also shared their initiatives in TVET. The meeting brought together different stakeholders including: representatives of Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs; representatives of Ministries responsible for Education and TVET; designated EAC TVET Centres of Excellence; National Quality Assurance and Examination Agencies; TVET Experts; representatives of Industry/Private Sector; development partners (i.e. UNESCO, JICA, African Development Bank, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation); Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and representatives of the EAC Secretariat.

The meeting made the following recommendations:

  i.   The EAC Secretariat to facilitate the establishment of a regional body to coordinate TVET in the EAC;
 ii.   The EAC Secretariat to re-constitute and operationalize the TVET technical committee to review the Terms of Reference;
iii.   The EAC Secretariat and Partner States to facilitate the finalization of TVET harmonization strategy;
iv.   The EAC Secretariat to facilitate the integration of ICT into the operationalization/implementation of the TVET harmonization strategy;
 v.   The EAC Secretariat to establish a regional TVET stakeholders forum;
vi.   The EAC Secretariat to coordinate efforts of development partners support to the EAC TVET sector to avoid duplication and enhance complementarity; and
vii.   IUCEA to compliment/support the EAC Secretariat in the harmonization of TVET systems.

The Report of the EAC-African Union TVET Dialogue Forum is attached as *Annex V.*

3.2.2   Progress on Resource Mobilization for finalization of TVET Harmonization

The 15th SCESTCS directed the Secretariat to mobilize resources for the finalization of the TVET harmonization process. The EAC Secretariat developed concept notes and proposals for support to the TVET harmonization process. These were submitted to the African Development Bank, the African Union, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the Government of India. The concept note to the African Union was reviewed positively and resulted into the support for hosting the EAC-African Union TVET Dialogue Forum presented in 3.2.1. The proposal to the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation first got a grant of USD 150,000 which was later reviewed upwards to USD 400,000. The SDC funding is to facilitate the TVET TECHCOM to finalize the TVET harmonization strategy and the operationalization of the strategy. The Financing Agreement between the EAC and SDC is attached as *Annex VI.*

A technical meeting between EAC Secretariat and the SDC on 20th January 2021 affirmed the commitment of SDC to give further support to the EAC TVET sector. The SDC asked the Secretariat to make further request for funding for enhancing the implementation of the TVET projects. The concept note to the Indian Government has been reviewed positively, the further details they required have been submitted. The Secretariat awaits their consideration.

At the same time, the Department of Education at the EAC Secretariat is collaborating with the IUCEA on the cross-cutting issues within the EASTRIP project being implemented by the IUCEA.

3.2.3 Progress Report on TVET Harmonization

The funding received from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (ref. section 3.2.2) has been used to re-start the EAC TVET harmonization process. As a starting point, there was need to update the Draft TVET Harmonization Strategy developed in 2013. National meetings to update the Draft TVET Harmonization Strategy have been held in the Partner States as follows;

Republic of Rwanda   3rd – 5th November 2020 - (*Annex VII*).
Republic of Kenya   18th – 20th November 2020 – *(Annex VIII).*
Republic of Burundi   24th - 26th November 2020 - *(Annex IX).*
Republic of Uganda   15th – 17th March 2021 - *(Annex X).*
United Republic of Tanzania 22nd – 24th March 2021 – *(Annex XI)*.
Republic of South Sudan   4th – 7th May 2021- *(Annex XII)*

The next step will be to hold a regional meeting to validate the draft strategy followed by meetings to consider the priority areas and develop the road map for implementation of the strategy.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to:-

   a) **take note of the progress the EAC Secretariat has made in mobilizing resources for the finalization of the TVET harmonization process and for implementation of TVET programs in the EAC; and**
   b) **direct the EAC Secretariat to organise a Regional Validation Meeting to finalize the TVET Harmonization Strategy by 30th June, 2021.**

3.3 Partnerships and Collaborations

On 11th February 2021 the EAC Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) which provides a framework for cooperation between the two organizations to undertake programs that benefit children and vulnerable populations in the six Partner States of the EAC. This followed a meeting between the UNICEF team led by Dr. Mohammed M. Malick Sall, UNICEF Regional Director (Eastern and Southern Africa) and the EAC Team led by Hon. Christophe Bazivamo (DSG PSS) on 17th August 2020. Several meetings have been held between the technical teams of the two organizations leading to the development of the MOU and priority activities. The MOU is signed within the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. The identified sectors of collaboration include Health, Nutrition, Education, Social Protection, Child Protection, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation. In Education, the identified areas of collaboration include:

(i) Strengthen Monitoring of Education Sector Programs (i.e. SDG4, CESA 2016-2025, EAC Education Goals). The outcome of this include timely and quality reporting, enhanced capacity of Partner States to collect and analyse data on the indicators.
(ii) Strengthening Education Management Information Systems to enhance availability and comparability of data on education amongst the EAC Partner States. This should also enhance policy making.
(iii) Enhance digital learning through development of regional learning hubs to benefit the education systems of the EAC Partner States and contribute to the implementation of the EAC E-Learning Strategy.
(iv) Support EAC Partner States to use digital learning toolkits to improve learning and develop plans and strategies for effective learning.
(v) Improve learning in EAC Partner States by supporting teacher effectiveness, practices and linking them to learning. This should lead to new policy recommendations on how to support learning.

These activities are scheduled to commence in the 2021/2022 financial year. The EAC/UNICEF MOU is attached as *Annex VII.*

The EAC Secretariat entered into another MOU with MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS TCDC) based in Arusha, Tanzania. MS TCDC is a development management training institution established by a bilateral agreement between the governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Royal Government of Denmark with a focus on good governance and transformative leadership, gender equality, youth voice and participation. The MOU that was signed on 30th September 2020 will contribute to the implementation of the EAC Youth Policy, youth participation in EAC integration processes, training and capacity building and skilling of the youth. The Education and Training Department will participate in the implementation of the relevant components of this MOU. The EAC/ MS TCDC MOU is attached as *Annex VIII.*

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to

a) **take note of the developments made in the signing of the two MOUs; and**
b) **direct the EAC Secretariat to develop roadmaps for the implementation of the two MOUs and report status of implementation in the 17th SCESTCS.**

3.4 Regional Forum on Education

The 15th SCESTCS approved the request by the EAC Secretariat to convene a Regional Forum on Education. This is pursuant to Articles 5 (Objective of the Community), 102 (Education and Training) and 103 (Science and Technology), of the Treaty Establishing the East African Community (EAC Treaty), in which the EAC Partner States commit to cooperate in education, training, science and technology. It is also hinged on the role of education is societal transformation and development and the recognition and prioritization of education and training by the EAC Partner States as one of the main avenues for regional development, cooperation, integration and also for facilitating a regional common market. This forum provides a platform for bring together the Ministries and agencies responsible for education in the Partner States and other key stakeholders to take sock, share experiences and develop action points to respond to some of the challenges and opportunities for the education sector in the Community. It will also strive to bring on board development partners operating in the region and internationally, with an interest or focus on education to share with them the education initiatives of the EAC and further explore possibilities of support. It would show case and discuss the contemporary developments, programs, opportunities and challenges in the education systems of the EAC Partner States. The forum is also aimed at bringing together development partners with a focus on education to support some of the identified initiatives. One of the key tracks would be on the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on the education systems of the EAC Partner States which would include sharing experiences and interventions from Partner States and consideration of joint efforts during such disruptions.

During the 15th SCESTCS, the Republic of Rwanda expressed commitment to host the event. It would be important for the Republic of Rwanda to formally submit their intent and commitment to host the event. The Secretariat (Department of Education and Training) has embarked on mobilizing resources to support the event. So far support of USD 20,000 has been received from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and another USD 20,000 from JICA (Kigali Office). Other partners have also been approached to support the event. The Secretariat had targeted mobilizing USD 100,000 for the event. The event had been scheduled for September 2020 in Kigali Rwanda but was affected by the COVID 19 Pandemic.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to

   a) **take note of the progress made towards convening the Regional Forum on Education;**
   b) **take note of the re-confirmation by the Republic of Rwanda to host the event;**
   c) **direct the Secretariat to enhance the mobilization of resources for this event and bring on board other relevant partners; and**
   d) **direct the EAC Secretariat to proceed and convene the event by 30th November 2021 but in adherence to COVID 19 protocols.**

4.0   CONSIDERATION OF CULTURE AND SPORTS MATTERS

4.1 Modalities for adoption of French as an Official Language of the EAC

The 21st Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State took place on 27th February 2021. In the Communique (No.5):

The Summit considered the Report on the Status of Implementation of its directive to the Council to Undertake a Study on the Modalities of including French as a Language of the Community, in addition to English and Kiswahili, and adopted, English, French and Kiswahili as official languages of the Community and directed the Council to expedite the modalities of this directive.

The Communique of the 21st Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State is attached as **Annex IX.** It should be noted that the French Government through their Embassy in Burundi and based on its bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Burundi signed a funding agreement with the EAC of Euro 42,511 on 12th March 2020 to support the study on these modalities. The 40th Meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers directed the Secretariat to expedite the conclusion of the study on modalities of including French as a language of the Community *(EAC/CM/40/Directive 10).* With the adoption of French as an official language of the Community, steps need to be undertaken for the full operationalization of this directive.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to:

a) **take note of the Communique of the 21st Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State adopting French in addition to English and Kiswahili as official languages of the Community;**
b) **direct the EAC Secretariat to develop an implementation framework and report progress in the 17th SCESTCS;**
c) **recommend to the Sectoral Council to request the Council to initiate amendment of the EAC Treaty to provide for the Summit directive in accordance with Article 150 (2) and;**
d) **direct the EAC Secretariat to develop a roadmap for the implementation of the Summit directive.**

4.2 Implementation of EAC Arts and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST)

4.2.1 Report on the Implementation of the 4th Edition of the EAC Arts and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST).

The 20th meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers held in March 2010 directed the EAC Secretariat to hold regular Arts and Culture Festivals. The EAC has been implementing the EAC Arts and Culture Festival since 2013 when the 1st Edition was held in Kigali, Rwanda. Since then JAMAFEST has become a premier art and culture event in the EAC. The 4th Edition of the EAC Arts and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST) was successfully held from 21st-28th September 2019 in Dar es Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania. The theme of the festival was "*Cultural Diversity: A Key Driver to Regional Integration, Economic Growth and Promotion of Tourism".* It brought together the highest number of participants- over 3000- and was thus the most attended since the inception of the festival. Participants were from all the EAC Partners States (except the Republic of South Sudan).

The 4th Edition of JAMAFEST was also attended by high level dignitaries from the United Republic of Tanzania and the other EAC partner States. The festival was officially opened by the then Vice- President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon.Samia Suluhu Hassan. The closing ceremony was presided over by Hon. Amb.Seif Ali, Vice President of Zanzibar. The festival included a wide variety of events and activities which provided for the needs of the different stakeholders and participants. These included the Carnival; visits to historic and cultural sites; dances and other performances; art exhibitions and the market place; fashion show; children's theatre; symposium; film exhibition; food market and exhibition; cultural excursion; climbing of Mt. Kilimanjaro and traditional games. It brought together leading artists, musicians, thespians, scholars, policy makers, thought leaders, traders and business people, children and ordinary citizens to showcase and share the rich cultures of the people of the EAC.

The main venue for the event was the National Stadium, Dar es Salaam though other specific activities took place in different/other venues in the city and its environs. It was by all standards the most attended, most enjoyable and best organized JAMAFEST festival so far. The festival also benefited from enormous support, hospitality and high-level organization by the host country. During the festival, the flag for hosting the 5th Edition of EAC Arts and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST) was handed over to the Republic of Burundi. The Report of the 4th Edition of JAMAFEST is attached as *Annex X*

4.2.2 **Implications of COVID 19 on Implementation of 5th Edition of EAC Art and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST)**

During the closing session of the 4th Edition of JAMAFEST, the Republic of Burundi was symbolically handed the flag of the EAC as the host of the 5th Edition of JAMAFEST that was to be held in 2021. However, due to the impacts of the COVID 19 Pandemic on such big public events and restrictions on travel, the Secretariat could not proceed with the event. The Republic of Burundi wrote to the Secretariat requesting the Secretariat to initiate the steps to organize the activity. The letter from the Republic of Burundi is attached as *Annex XI.*

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to:-

a) **take note of the successful implementation of the 4th Edition of the EAC Art and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania;**
b) **congratulate the United Republic of Tanzania for the excellent hosting of the 4th Edition of the EAC Arts and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST);**
c) **commend the National and Regional Organizing Committees for excellent planning and organization of the 4th Edition of JAMAFEST;**
d) **approve the hosting of the 5th Edition of JAMAFEST by the Republic of Burundi; and**
e) **direct the EAC Secretariat to convene the Regional Steering Committee by 15th July 2021 and propose dates for the event in consultation with the relevant authorities in the respective Partner States.**

4.3 Preparations for the 2nd Edition of the East African Community Games (EACoG 2020).

The overall objective of the EAC games is to foster regional integration and solidarity among the People of East Africa. It also promotes inclusive sports, sharing of sporting talents within the East Africans, awareness creation on the EAC, branding and talent development. The 1st Edition of the EAC Games was held from 16th-20th August 2018 in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi under the theme "Fostering EAC Integration and Peace through Sports".

The 15th Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports (SCESTCS) approved the hosting of the 2nd Edition of the EAC Games in Rwanda in 2020. It further directed the EAC Secretariat to initiate preparations towards the implementation of the 2nd Edition of EAC Games 2020 in the Republic of Rwanda. However, due to the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the EAC in March 2020, it was not possible for the Secretariat to proceed with the event.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to:-

a) **take note of the non-implementation of the 2nd Edition of the EAC Games that were scheduled for 2020 in the Republic of Rwanda due to the COVID-19 pandemic;**
b) **direct the EAC Secretariat to convene the Regional Steering Committee meeting by July 2021 and propose a date for the event in consultation with relevant authorities in the Partner States.**

5.0   CONSIDERATION OF EAST AFRICAN KISWAHILI COMMISSION (EAKC) MATTERS

5.1   Modalities for Adoption of Kiswahili as an Official Language of the Community.

The 21st Ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State was held on 21st February 2021. In the Communique (Item.5);

The Summit considered the Report on the Status of Implementation of its directive to the Council to Undertake a Study on the Modalities of Including French as a Language of the Community, in addition to English and Kiswahili, and adopted, English, French and Kiswahili as official languages of the Community and directed the Council to expedite the modalities of this directive.

Whereas this pronouncement by the EAC Heads of State is a big stride towards the use, promotion and development of Kiswahili in EAC Partner States, there is need to inform Partner States on the implications of having Kiswahili as an official language of the Community and develop modalities for adoption of Kiswahili as an official language of the Community as directed by the Summit. The Commission had highlighted the following key aspects that needed attention in preparation for the August 2016, EALA Resolution to urge the Summit of EAC to amend the Treaty for the establishment of the Community to provide for Kiswahili as one of the official Languages of the Community;

i)   Amendment of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC (Article 137) to provide for Kiswahili as one of the official languages of the community.
ii)   Encourage the use of Kiswahili in Official Domains
iii) Development of Kiswahili Policy at National Levels
iv)   Institutionalization of Kiswahili
v)   Investment in the promotion, development and use of Kiswahili
vi)   Public Awareness Campaigns

Consequently, the 13th meeting of the Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports considered the above aspects and recommended to Council to;

i)   consider amendment of Article 137 of the EAC Treaty to include Kiswahili as one of the Official Languages of the Community;
ii)   direct Partner States to formulate national Kiswahili Language Policies and enhance the use of Kiswahili in official domains; and
iii) direct Partner States to initiate the process of institutionalization of Kiswahili as one of the EAC Official Languages through the establishment of National Kiswahili Councils and National Kiswahili Associations.

As result of the above recommendations to Council, the 35th Council of Ministers;

i)   directed Partner States to formulate national Kiswahili Language Policies and enhance the use of Kiswahili in official domains (EAC/CM35/Decision 55); and
ii)   directed Partner States to initiate the process of institutionalization of Kiswahili as one of the EAC Official Languages through the establishment of National Kiswahili Councils and National Kiswahili Associations (EAC/CM35/Directive 37).

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to:-

a) **take note of the Communique of the 21st Ordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State adopting French in addition to English and Kiswahili as official languages of the Community;**
b) **direct the EAC Secretariat to develop an implementation roadmap on the Summit directive on the adoption of Kiswahili as an official language of the Community and report in the 17th SCESTCS; and**
c) **urge Partner States to fast-track the implementation of the decision and directive (EAC/CM35/Decision 55) and (EAC/CM35/Directive 37).**

5.2   Partnerships and Collaborations

The Commission held a consultative meeting with the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) an African Union's specialized agency for the promotion and development of African languages. The meeting was held from 26th to 28th June, 2019 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and brought together delegates from across Africa with an interest in the recognition and promotion of the development and use of Kiswahili as a Language of Wider Communication in Africa. The meeting explored ways of strengthening collaborations between the two institutions to promote the development and use of Kiswahili in regional and continental integration and development efforts. The meeting appreciated the progress that the EAKC had made in the development of Kiswahili as a regional and a Pan-African language of identity and development and called for concerted efforts for the realization of the commitments made. The meeting further recognized the role of Kiswahili in the realization of African Union Agenda 2063.

EAKC and ACALAN committed to mobilize strong national, regional, Pan-African and international political commitment to develop Pan-African, Regional and National Plans for the development and recognition of Kiswahili as language of wider communication on the continent and as an AU Official and Working Language. The Meeting adopted *The Dar es Salaam Framework for Action* as commitment towards recognition and promotion of Kiswahili as a Language of Wider Communication for Integration and Sustainable Development of Africa. The Framework is hereto attached hereto as ***Annex XII.***

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to;-

a) **take note of the engagements between EAKC and ACALAN on Recognition and Promotion of Kiswahili as a Language of Wider Communication for Integration and Sustainable Development in Africa; and**
b) **direct the EAKC to report on the progress and implementation of this collaboration in the 17th SCESTCS.**

5.3   Progress on Translation of EAC Treaty into Kiswahili

Pursuant to the Directive of the 15th Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports (SCETSCS), on 30th June, 2019 the Commission submitted the Draft EAC Treaty in Kiswahili to Partner States for comments. The Partner States were to submit their comments by 30th September, 2019. The 39th Council of Ministers further directed Partner States that had not submitted their comments on the Draft EAC Treaty in Kiswahili by 30th September, 2019 to do so by 5th December 2019 *[EAC/CM 39/ Directive 81]*. So far, the Commission has received comments from the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Rwanda and Republic of Uganda. The Commission has since sent reminders to Partner States that have not submitted their

comments to do so by 30th March 2021 to enable further arrangements for the validation workshop.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to:-

   a) **urge the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania to submit their comments on the Draft EAC Treaty in Kiswahili by 31st July, 2021; and**
   b) **direct the EAKC to convene a regional validation meeting to validate the Draft EAC Treaty in Kiswahili by 31st August, 2021.**

5.4   Development of EAKC Kiswahili Training Programs and Manuals for Partner States

The development of Kiswahili Training Programs and Manuals for Partner States is pursuant to Council Directive (**EAC/CM 35/Directive 95**), EAKC Strategic Plan (2017-2022) and EAKC mandate to coordinate and promote the development and use of Kiswahili in Partner States. The capacity assessment on the use and development of Kiswahili in Partner States identified gaps that were considered crucial in addressing the prevailing Kiswahili development challenges in each Partner State. The Commission convened meetings of national experts to develop Kiswahili Training Programmes based on approved training priorities by Partner States as is presented Table XIV.

Table XIV: National Meetings of Experts to Develop Kiswahili Training Programs

Partner State	Training Program	Venue	Date
Republic of Burundi	*Kiswahili Training for Basic Education Teachers (Primary and Secondary)*	Bujumbura	**30th-31st January, 2020**
Republic of Kenya	*Kiswahili Training Program for Parliament*	Nairobi	**20th-21st January, 2020**
Republic of Rwanda	*Kiswahili Training for Trade and Business (SMEs).*	Kigali	**27th-28th January, 2020**
Republic of South Sudan	*Training of Teachers of Kiswahili at Secondary School Level.*	Juba	**23rd-24th January, 2020**
United Republic of Tanzania	*Training experts to teach Kiswahili to users of other languages.*	Dar es Salaam	**8th-9th December, 2019**
Republic of Uganda	*Kiswahili Training Program for Parliament.*	Entebbe	**12th-12th December, 2019**

The above meetings resulted into the development of Draft Kiswahili Training Programmes for the Partner States. The reports of the respective meetings and the draft Kiswahili training Programmes developed for each Partner State are attached as ***Annex XIII*** (A, B, C, D, E,F) and ***Annex XIV*** (A, B, C, D, E,F) respectively.

The development of Kiswahili Programmes is an important basis for the development of Manuals to assist trainers to deliver Training Programmes. The training manuals will be in line with the learners' key focus areas identified in the Programme and will as much as possible give specific, correct and relevant information. The Commission commenced national experts meetings to develop Kiswahili Training Manuals in each Partner States as per the table XIII.

Table XV: National Meetings to Develop Kiswahili Manuals

Partner State	Manual	Venue	Date
United Republic of Tanzania	*Kiswahili Training Manual for experts to teach Kiswahili to users of other languages.*	Dar es Salaam	28th June – 1st July, 2021
Republic of Uganda	*Kiswahili Training Manual Program for Parliament.*	Entebbe	29th March -1st April, 2021
Republic of Kenya	*Kiswahili Training Manual for Parliament*	Nairobi	6th -9th April, 2021
Republic of South Sudan	*Kiswahili Training Manual Teachers of Kiswahili at Secondary School Level.*	Juba	4th -7th May, 2021
Republic of Burundi	*Kiswahili Training Manual for Basic Education Teachers (Primary and Secondary)*	Bujumbura	25th - 28th May, 2021
Republic of Rwanda	*Kiswahili Training Manual for Trade and Business (SMEs).*	Kigali	22nd – 25th May, 2021

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to:-

a) **take note of the progress made in the development of EAKC Kiswahili Training Programmes and Manuals for Partner States;**
b) **direct EAKC to mobilize resources to support Partner States in implementing the programs; and**
c) **direct the Partner States to mobilize necessary resources for implementation of the Programmes.**

5.5 Development of an EAC Kiswahili Language Policy and Plan

The Commission initiated the drafting of the EAC Kiswahili Language Policy to provide for acceptable and appropriate measures to be taken at both National and Regional levels to foster Kiswahili development in all communication domains. The Policy will provide guidelines to be used in the development of the language at all levels and help Partner States implement the directive of the 35th Council of Ministers **(EAC/CM 35/Directive 36)** which required the formulation of National Kiswahili Language Policies and enhance the use of Kiswahili in official domains

The development of Kiswahili both at National and Regional level is a key ingredient in promotion of free movement of goods, persons, workers, cross-border investment among other benefits critical in realization of the four pillars of EAC integration. The EAC Kiswahili Language Policy will therefore provide for measures and initiatives to be implemented at National and Regional levels to develop and popularize Kiswahili both in formal and informal settings. The Policy sets out standards, principles and guidelines upon which the EAKC will coordinate and support Kiswahili development efforts within the EAC and beyond.

The initial regional consultative meeting held from 18th to 19th November, 2019 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania developed the framework within which the Policy should be developed. The Commission planned for the finalization of the Policy during the 2021/2022 financial year but could not do so due to budget cuts. The Commission was then asked to undertake the activity virtually which is very challenging considering activities and engagements involved during early drafting stages of the Policy.

The Commission seeks guidance from the Sectoral Council on how best to have this important activity done considering the fact that there is no budget for its development yet very key for Partner States to formulate National Kiswahili Language Policies and initiation of other Kiswahili development Programmes.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to:-

a) **take note of the progress made in the development of EAC Kiswahili Language Policy and budgetary challenges being faced by the Commission in implementing this activity;**
b) **direct the EAKC to mobilize additional resources to fast track the development of the EAC Kiswahili Language Policy; and**
c) **urge the Council to allocate resources to implement this activity.**

5.6 EAKC Publications

The Commission made three major publications in accordance with Article 15 (1) I of the Protocol for the establishment of the East African Kiswahili Commission that prioritizes publication and dissemination of Kiswahili material in all contemporary media. The Commission published and printed 2019 (Two thousand nineteen) copies and distributed them to Kiswahili stakeholders in EAC as follows;

i) *700 copies of Mitaala ya Kiswahili katika Vyuo Vikuu vya Afrika Mashariki (2019. ISBN. 978-9976-1650-0);*
ii) *618 copies of Kiswahili, Utangamano na Maendeleo Endelevu Afrika Mashariki (2019. ISBN: 978-9976-5-1653-1);*
iii) *701 copies of Capacity Assessment of the Development and Use of Kiswahili in the EAC (2019: ISBN: 978-9976-5-1656-2);*

Printing and dissemination of project activities to the broader Kiswahili community is key in creating awareness about the importance of Kiswahili as a language of wider communication for regional integration and sustainable development. Policy recommendations on the development and use of Kiswahili have been pronounced in all the publications, which are expected to cause more action on how Kiswahili development matters are handled both at regional and national levels.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the publications of the EAKC and urge Partner States to assist in further dissemination of the publications.

5.7 Operationalization of EAKC Resource Centre

The Commission established a resource centre in line with Sectoral Council on EAC Affairs and Planning directive to EAC organs and institutions to establish information resource centres **(EAC/SCMEACP26/Directive 19)**. The EAKC resource centre will contribute to learning of Kiswahili by reinforcing and extending learning of concepts, skills or topics required to perfect Kiswahili by those interested. It will be accessible to the all East Africans physically or virtually once it is fully stocked and fully online. The resource centre will further facilitate Kiswahili researchers by providing unlimited access to Kiswahili materials through open access and hard copies. This will not only help East Africans pursue their careers in Kiswahili but also help the Commission on delivering on its mandate as per Article 15 of the Protocol for the establishment of the East African Kiswahili Commission.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made on the operationalization of the EAKC resource center.

5.8 Proposed Amendments to the EAKC Protocol

This Sectoral Council may recall that in its 2nd Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Education Science and technology Culture and Sports held on 7th April, 2016 in Entebbe, Uganda, the EAKC presented the proposed amendments to the Protocol for the establishment of the EAKC. The Sectoral Council considered and agreed to the proposed amendments to the Protocol and recommended to the Council of Ministers for consideration. Consequently, the 34th meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 5th September, 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania took note of the proposed amendments to the EAKC Protocol **(EAC/CM34/Decision 108)** and directed the secretariat to expedite the proposed amendments of the EAKC Protocol and circulate the proposal to Partner States for consultation in accordance with Article 27 of the Protocol and Article 150 of the Treaty **(EAC/CM34/Decision 109)**. The Counsel to the Community (CTC) circulated the proposed amendments to Partner States and only the Republic of Rwanda submitted its comments.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to direct the EAC Secretariat to confirm the status of the comments from the Partner States and convene a Regional Validation meeting by 30th September, 2021.

6.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE INTER- UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF EAST AFRICA (IUCEA) MATTERS

6.1 50 Years Celebration of IUCEA

On the 24th November 2020, the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) marked a key milestone of its existence by celebrating the Golden Jubilee, marking 50 years since its establishment. The event marked its evolution journey from the then Inter-University Committee (IUC) which mainly focused on academic cooperation between universities that were descendants of the colleges of the University of East Africa to the current Inter-University Council for East Africa, a strategic institution of the East African Community (EAC) responsible for strategic development of higher education for human resource development and research.

The celebrations were organised to accolade the achievements that have been accrued through the journey of strategic development of higher education which also reaffirmed the IUCEA mandate of "coordinating and facilitating stakeholders to promote the strategic, sustainable and competitive development of the higher education sector in East Africa." One of the key achievements of IUCEA celebrated was the transformation of the East African Community into a Common Higher Education Area. The Golden Jubilee provided the opportunity for higher education stakeholders to strategize on the future direction of IUCEA. Held in Entebbe, Republic of Uganda, the 50 years celebrations which attracted Permanent Secretaries from Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Permanent Secretaries responsible for higher education, Members of the IUCEA Executive Committee, Vice Chancellors, Development Partners and other higher education stakeholders in the region. The chief guest at the ceremony was Hon. Kahinda Otafire, Minister of EAC Affairs- the Republic of Uganda. Because of Covid-19 travel restrictions, most the activities of the anniversary were restricted to online webinar series to which three series were successfully held each with to about 150 participants.

The webinar themes were:

1st Webinar: 28th August 2020
Theme: "Higher Education and Community Engagement: Policy and Practice in the EAC"

2nd Webinar: 23rd September 2020
Theme: "Reshaping Higher Education in East Africa: Global trends and reflections from EAC's Agenda 2050"

3rd Webinar: 24th November 2020
Theme: "Transforming Higher Education and Fostering EAC Integration".

Thus the following were some of the outputs/resolutions that were made by stakeholders as a way forward in charting the future of IUCEA:-

(i)   to undertake activities including capacity building to continuously improve administrative, governance, planning and stewardships system to enable universities to offer high quality training and research and innovation envisioned in the EAC Vision 2050;

(ii)   to develop policy and instruments for both establishment and management of higher education centers of excellence for specialized training and research in selected priority areas in humanities, science, technology and innovation; and

(iii)   to develop community engagement framework and undertake capacity building activities for effective community engagement in line with EAC Vision 2050.

(iv)   IUCEA to create a think tank of scholars who would undertake research on issues and challenges affecting regional integration with the view of informing the region on better options for effective implementation of the protocol establishing EAC;

(v)   Partner States to develop and adopt financing arrangement that will keep the community from depending on funds from development partners. This way, the noted, the agenda for regional integration will be steered by the community than otherwise; and

(vi)   IUCEA to undertake deliberate efforts and activities geared towards EAC integration.

(vii)   reach out to the government and develop modalities for ensuring the mobility of skills, goods and services with the view of promoting EAC to become an economic block in Africa.

(viii) continue with the effort to work with the private sector, governments and other players with the view of ensuring that transformation of higher education is done and owned by all players; and

(ix)   make sure that all ideas and recommendations made during the 50 years anniversary are included in the strategic plans of IUCEA for the next 5 years and beyond.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the undertaking of the event to mark the IUCEA's golden jubilee.

6.2   Progress Report on the Implementation of the MOU between Kyungdong University (South Korea) and IUCEA

On 17th September 2018, IUCEA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kyungdong University (KDU) based in the Republic of South Korea, on a wide range of areas of cooperation that include undergraduate students from the EAC Partner States joining the university in Korea with tuition fees and accommodation catered for by KDU, while IUCEA caters for air tickets and medical insurance. Upkeep expenses is a responsibility that falls on the students. Other arrangements include development of KDU academic collaboration centres in EAC Partner States. The scholarships fall in the areas of Smart Computing, Hotel Management and Business Administration. The scholarship programme provides for 30 students each year for a period of five years.

Cohort I

Because of diverse challenges, 6 selected students could not make it to South Korea, and only 24 students managed to travel in September 2019. Despite the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the University remained operational with studies being offered through online mode of delivery.

Cohort II

A call for applications for cohort II was issued on the 10th February 2020, and a total of 132 applications were received**.** Recalling that only 24 students out of the required 30 students had been admitted the previous year, KDU allowed IUCEA to carry forward the 6 slots. After an evaluation process, in addition to the six carried forward slots, only **35** students were selected for an award of the full scholarship being drawn from Partner States as follows: The Republic of Burundi **(6),** Republic of Kenya **(6),** Republic of South Sudan **(5),** the Republic of Rwanda **(6),** the Republic of Uganda **(5)** and the United Republic of Tanzania **(7).**

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made in the implementation of the MoU between Kyungdong University and IUCEA leading to the award of 35 partially paid undergraduate scholarships for the academic year 2020/2021.

6.3   Progress Report on the East and Southern Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence Project (ACE II Project)

Established in 2016/2017, the East and Southern Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence Project (ACE II) is a five-year World Bank project designed to support the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia in strengthening 24 Centers of Excellences to deliver quality post-graduate education and build collaborative research capacity in the regional priority areas. Priority areas covered by the project include agriculture, health, industry, education, and applied statistics.

This competitive scholarship programme was awarded in 2018 and 2019 to 60 females to attain a master's degree in any of the ACEs, with the aim to cultivate future leaders, encourage student mobility and promote regional integration. Since the establishment of the competitive master's fellowship program in 2018, a total of 40 female scientists from EAC Partner States have benefited from the program as presented in Table XIV.

Table XVI: Summary of successful candidates for ACEII Scholarships

NAME OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRY	BENEFICIARIES		TOTAL
	2018/2019	2019/2020	
Republic of Burundi	3	3	6
Republic of Kenya	5	4	9
Republic of Rwanda	6	3	9
United Republic of Tanzania	3	5	8
Republic of Uganda	3	5	8
GRAND TOTAL	**20**	**20**	**40**

The first cohort graduated in November 2020 and the remaining cohort will graduate in November 2021.

To foster the delivery of quality postgraduate training and enhancement of innovation and business innovation, IUCEA initiated a procurement process in May 2019 for the establishment of four Regional Incubation Centres. Through a competitive process, the following Incubation Centres have been selected and are operational with a seed capital of **USD 250,000** each;

     i.   Incubation Centre for Data Driven Innovation for Food and Nutritional Security at the Nelson Mandela Africa Institutions of Science and Technology, Arusha, in the United Republic of Tanzania;

    ii.   Incubation Centre for Manufacturing and Business at Moi University, in the Republic of Kenya;

    iii.   Incubation Centre of Energy and Sustainable Development at the University of Rwanda, in the Republic of Rwanda; and

    iv.   Incubation Centre for Traditional Medicines and Biopharmaceuticals, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, in the Republic of Uganda.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to -

a) **take note of the progress made in the implementation of the ACE II Project leading to the award of 40 fully paid scholarships to female scientists to undertake MSc. studies in ACE II priority areas, namely agriculture, health, industry, applied statistics and education;**

b) **take note of the establishment of 4 Regional Incubation Centres: Incubation Centre for Data Driven Innovation for Food and Nutritional Security at the Nelson Mandela Africa Institution of Science and Technology, Arusha, in the United Republic of Tanzania; Incubation Centre for Manufacturing and Business at Moi University, in the Republic of Kenya; Incubation Centre of Energy and Sustainable Development at the University of Rwanda, in the Republic of Rwanda, and; Incubation Centre for Traditional Medicines and Biopharmaceuticals at Mbarara University of Science and Technology, in the Republic of Uganda; and**

c) **direct Partner States to put in place financing mechanisms to enhance the sustainability of East and Southern Africa Higher Education centres of Excellence project (ACE II) established incubation centres beyond the life span of the ACE II project.**

d) **Urge the IUCEA to make considerations to include all EAC Partner States in the next phase of the project.**

6.4   Update on the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) Initiative

The East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) involves three East African countries including Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania. IUCEA was selected through a competitive process to be the Regional Facilitation Unit of the World Bank facilitated East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), International Development Association (IDA) credit facility. The project's development objective is to increase the access and improve the quality of Technical Vocational Education Training programs in selected Regional Flagship TVET Institutes (RFTIs) and to support regional integration. The project supports the development of highly specialized Technical Vocational Education Training programs at diploma and degree levels for training of technicians and TVET faculty, as well as industry recognized short-term training, targeting regional priority sectors in transport, energy, manufacturing, and ICT. The objective will be achieved through complementary interventions at three different levels—center, national, and regional.

Total financing of the project from the World Bank for the initial phase of five years is about **USD 250 Million** including national and regional IDA credit as well a regional IDA grant.

Under the project, a total of 16 TVET institutions will be facilitated to become Regional Flagship TEVT Institutes (RFTIs) whereby the distribution in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania is 7, 5 and 4 respectively. As of to date, the project is fully effective and all the 16 RFTIs are effective and operational in attaining the specific institutional objectives and global project development goals.

Table XVII: The 16 Regional Flagship TVET Institutes Selected from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania

Sector	Focus	Regional Flagship TVET Institute	Country
Transport/ infrastructure	Railway	Meles Zenawi Memorial TVET Polytechnic College	Ethiopia
	Railway	Ethiopia Railway Academy	Ethiopia
	Marine	Kenya Coast National Polytechnic	Kenya
	Air	National Institute of Transport	Tanzania
	Road	Kombolcha TVET Polytechnic College	Ethiopia
	Building infrastructure	Meru National Polytechnic	Kenya
	Highway infrastructure	Kenya Institute of Highway and Building Technology	Kenya
Power/energy	Power/energy	General Wingate Polytechnic College	Ethiopia
	Geothermal	KenGen Geothermal Training Center	Kenya
	Hydro	Arusha Technical College	Tanzania
Manufacturing	Tool making/leather	TVET Institute	Ethiopia
	Textile/garment	Hawassa TVET Polytechnic College	Ethiopia
	Textile	Kisumu National Polytechnic	Kenya
	Leather	DIT Mwanza Campus	Tanzania
	Agro-processing	Holeta TVET Polytechnic College	Ethiopia
ICT	ICT	DIT Dar es Salaam Campus	Tanzania

Note: DIT = Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to:-

   a) **take note of the progress made in the implementation of the EASTRIP initiative.**
   b) **Urge the IUCEA to make considerations to include all EAC Partner States in the next phase of the project.**

6.5   Update on Tripartite Agreement between Ministry of Education Peoples Republic of China (MOE), the World Bank and IUCEA on the TVET Scholarship Program

Pursuant to the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) framework, Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) in partnership with the World Bank and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed a tripartite partnership agreement in November 2019, aimed to improve academic and technical skills of TVET Institutes in the participating countries and to facilitate regional integration.

The programme will offer over 100 scholarships to qualified young lecturers who are currently teaching in the Regional TVET Institutes (RFTIs) supported by EASTRIP Project for the next five years. Scholarship winners will pursue Post Graduate Studies (Masters and PhDs) at top Universities and Technical Colleges in China. The programme is intended to compliment the World Bank EASTRIP support but with focus on improving the much needed academic, technical, and

pedagogical capacity of the faculty in the growing sectors of the economy including but not limited to Manufacturing, ICT, Energy, ICT, Agriculture, and Transport and to promote regional integration.

In the first cohort 2020/2021 academic year, a total of 20 scholarships were awarded to lecturers from 16 RFTIs. The awardees were selected from 37 candidates who went through a rigorous multilevel selection process involving the college management, IUCEA, the China Scholarship Council, and Chinese universities. Among the year's awardees, **9** were from Ethiopia, **5** were from Kenya, and **6** were from Tanzania, all going to top Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) universities in China.

Table XVIII: Summary of Selected candidates for the EASTRIP China TVET Scholarship, Academic Year 2020/21

Number of Selected Candidates	Bachelors	Masters	PhDs	Number Selected
Ethiopia		**3**	**6**	**9**
Kenya	**1**	**3**	**2**	**6**
Tanzania		**3**	**2**	**5**
Females	**1**	**3**	**1**	**5**
Males		**6**	**9**	**15**
Total	**1**	**9**	**10**	**20**

- The students' major field include manufacturing, ICT, Energy, ICT, Agriculture, and Transport which are EASTRIP Key priority area.
- They are currently studying at some of the top Universities in China including Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Harbin Engineering University, Beihang University, Jiangsu University, Donghua University, Dalian Polytechnic University, Liaoning Technical University, Dalian Maritime University, Changchun University of Science and Technology, Beijing University of Technology, Central South University, Tianjin University, and Chang'an University, among others
- The students' major field include manufacturing, ICT, Energy, ICT, Agriculture, and Transport which are EASTRIP Key priority area.
- They are currently studying at some of the top Universities in China including Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Harbin Engineering University, Beihang University, Jiangsu University, Donghua University, Dalian Polytechnic University, Liaoning Technical University, Dalian Maritime University, Changchun University of Science and Technology, Beijing University of Technology, Central South University, Tianjin University, and Chang'an University, among others

The selection process for the second cohort 2021/2022 academic year is in the final stages. 20 selected candidates from the total number of 37 applicants were drawn from different Participating Countries as presented in Table XVII.

Table XIXI: Summary of Selected Candidates for the EASTRIP China TVET Scholarship, Academic Year 2021/22

Number of Selected Candidates	Master	PhDs	Number
Ethiopia	**5**	**4**	**9**
Kenya	**5**		**5**
Tanzania	**5**	**1**	**6**
Females	**5**	**1**	**6**
Males	**10**	**4**	**14**
Total	**15**	**5**	**20**

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made in the implementation of the tripartite agreement between the Ministry of Education of the Peoples' Republic of China, the World Bank and IUCEA aimed at accessing over 100 post graduate scholarships to lecturers of TVET Institutes in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Kenya, and the Federal Republic of Ethiopia.

6.6 Progress Report on the Validation of the EAC Fees Structure Model

The fees structure model is a mathematical and cost accounting model that link the activity and fixed based costs that universities incur and the services provided to the students. The linkage entails proportioning of each cost item to the 3 university functions of teaching, research and community engagement depending on how each of the services contribute to the service to students. In addition, the model computes the costs of each of services in terms of a proportion that a student has to pay for. The costs payable by students are computed at minimum, average and maximum to cater for different institutional set-ups in terms of private, public and others. The total cost for each of the student is referred to a unit cost. The concept behind this model is that costs incurred by students should be effectively assessed in this manner for effective planning. On the other hand, in the case of EAC students being charged similarly irrespective of their nationality, the model shall be a tool to base on. This will be effective when all partner states adapt this model in a policy set-up.

As directed by the 15th Sectoral Council to expedite the validation process, approval and dissemination of the EAC Fees Structure Model, IUCEA in consultation with the Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs, carried out dissemination workshops on the Fees Structure Model in the East African Community Partner States of Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Kenya. The dissemination workshop in Uganda is scheduled for quarter 4, and plans are underway to confirm with the Republic of South Sudan.

Overall, the dissemination workshops so far conducted went well, with higher education institutions expressing interest in mastering the computational method for enhanced planning and management of institutional resources, as well as effective compliance of potential regional policy directives such as the equal treatment for international students from the EAC Partner States.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made towards finalisation of the validation workshops on the EAC Fees Structure Model and report to the 17th SCESTCS.

6.7 Report on the assessment of the Staff Mobility Program and proposal for 2020/2021 Call for Staff Mobility

In pursuit of its statutory obligation to encourage the exchange of students and staff between member universities within the EAC, IUCEA Board approved the Staff and Students Mobility Policy and Operationalisation Guidelines in 2015. Since operationalisation of the Guidelines, 3 cohorts of staff mobility programmes have been facilitated.

IUCEA has carried out assessment of the programme to enhance effectiveness and impact using records of trends and activities in sourcing of participants and feedback from participants to the programme through the reports that are mandatory for each participant, prior to completion of the programme.

In this presentation, trends in participation in staff mobility in the period of 2017 to 2020 is presented, backed by the understanding that the staff mobility programme provides opportunity for visiting staff to provide their expertise and fill any gaps in delivery of the 4 functions under the staff

mobility programme: teaching, research and community engagement as well as external examination and accordingly, learning from the host institutions on the same.

Results of Assessment

The results for this presentation are based on desk top information at the IUCEA Secretariat: applications, selection and facilitation.
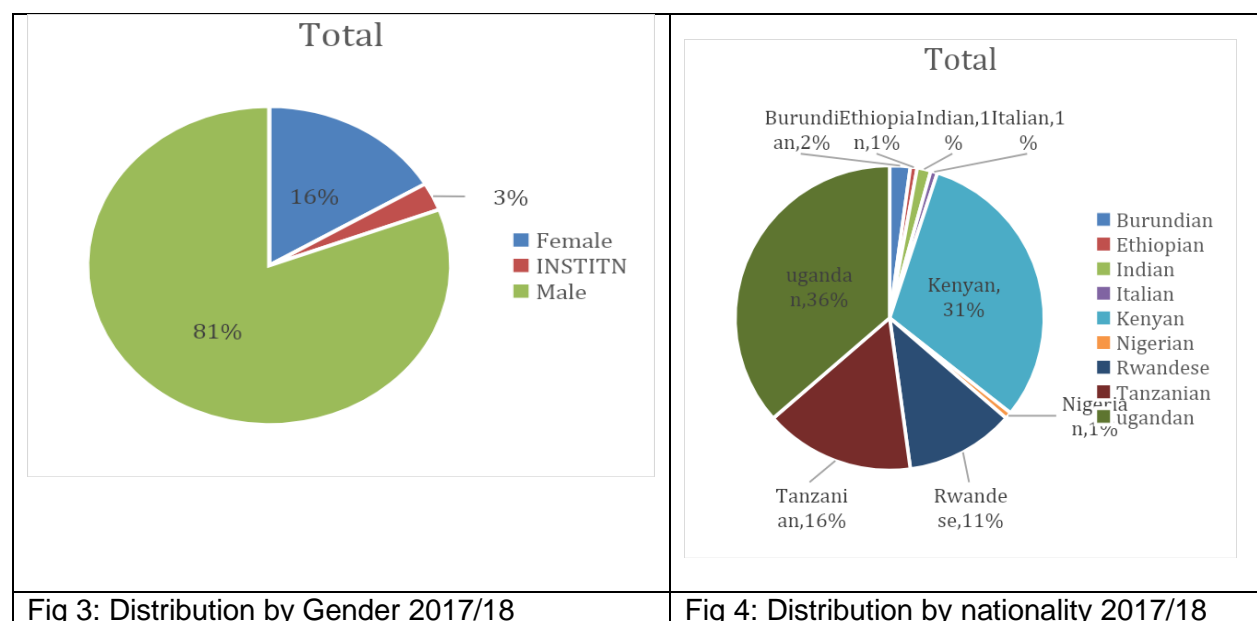
i)   Response levels

(a)   Applications per country of origin and gender distribution

For the 2017/18 Call, the largest proportion of applicants were from Ugandan universities at 36%, followed by Kenyan universities at 31%. Tanzanian, Rwandan and Burundian universities' applications were at 16%, 11% and 2% respectively.

The distribution of Male to Female participants for the 2017/2018 for all applicants was 84% to 16%.

For the 2018/ 2019 cohort, Kenya applicants were at 47%, followed by Uganda at 26%, while Tanzania was at 15%. Rwanda and Burundi were at 8% and 3% respectively. Regarding gender distribution, the Male: Female ratio was 88% to 12%, representing fewer female applicants than in the 2017/2018 cohort.

In the 2019/2020 cohort, out of 91 total applications, the number of applications from Kenya were the highest at 38%; followed by Uganda at 20% and Tanzania at 18%. Applications from Rwanda and Burundi were respectively at 5% and 9%. With the total number of applications from eligible countries at 89 and non-eligible 2. The decrease in applications by 35%, is due to COVID-19. In terms of general gender distribution among applicants, males to females' ratio was 83% to 17%.

| Fig 3: Distribution by Gender 2017/18 | Fig 4: Distribution by nationality 2017/18 |

The Secretariat is working into identifying factors behind the response levels in general and disparity on applications among universities and Partner States, as the programme is expected to be more attractive than portrayed by these trends.

In relation to the gender distribution among applicants which for the 3 years ranges between 80% to 88% for male staff and 20% to 12% for female staff, other factors apart from inherent lower proportion of females as teaching staff in the universities in the region require further investigation for addressing.

ii)   Distribution of applications per thematic areas of study

In the 2017/2018 cohort, applicants from STEM disciplines led in numbers at 35%, followed by humanities at 26.4%. Applicants for business studies, education and medicine were respectively at 14.3%, 5% and 1.4%.

In the 2018/2019 cohort, the applicants from the STEM themes led at 42% while humanities were second at 29%, education 13% and business studies at 10%. Applications from medicine were at 6%. The distribution was slightly similar with the 1st cohort except for education which slightly surpassed those for business studies. The applications for the medicine theme increased significantly to 6%.
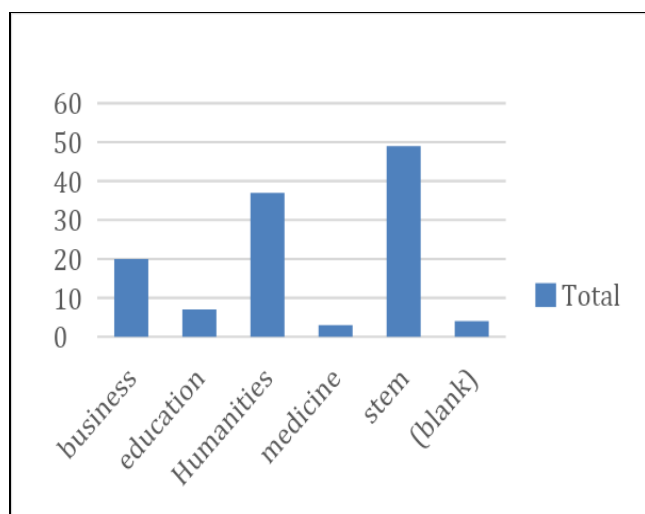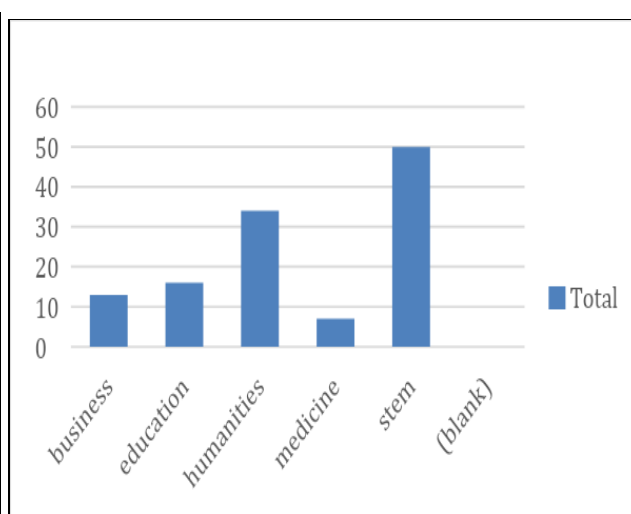
Fig. 5: Distribution by Thematic of study 2017/18

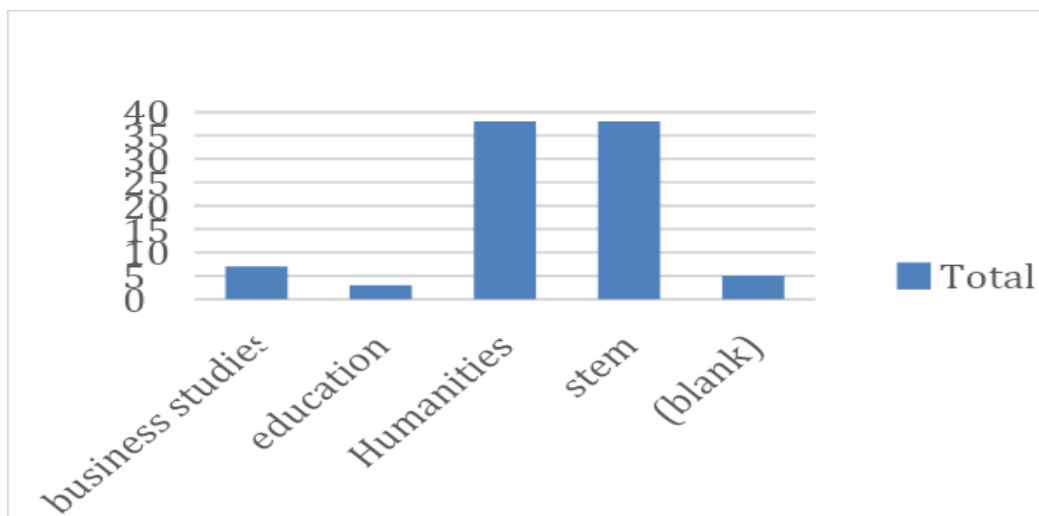*Fig. 6 Distribution by Thematic Areas of Areas study2018/19*

Fig.7 Distribution by Thematic Area of study 2019/20

In the 2019/2020 cohort, STEM was at 40%, humanities 39%, education 2%, while business studies was at 7%, while no applications from medicine were received. It is notable that applicants from STEM and humanities were similar in numbers, representing relative growth for applications in humanities as elaborated in Fig. 3, Fig.4 and Fig. 5.

The 3 years trend indicate enhanced awareness across all areas of studies. Further advocacy strategies for the programme will be employed to enhance wider theme response levels.

iii)   Level of support in relation to applications

In this section, the trend in the 3 cohorts, on the number of applications, applicants meeting requirements for the support and visiting staff who were facilitated is presented. It is notable that for the 3 cohorts, the applicants varied from 140 in 2 consecutive cohorts to 94 in the 3rd cohort. The low level of applications for cohort 3 is attributed to closure of universities due to the COVID 19 pandemic while applicants meeting eligibility and programme requirement have varied from 37%; 39% and 53% in the 1st to the 3rd cohort, respectively.

This trend show improvement in the quality of submissions in terms of meeting the programme's requirements, especially on securing the host institutions. The applications in the 3rd cohort do also imply that there was a great potential for more applicants compared to previous cohorts, considering that the applications were received up to March 2020, instead of the set June 2020, due to the closure of universities because of the effects of COVID 19.
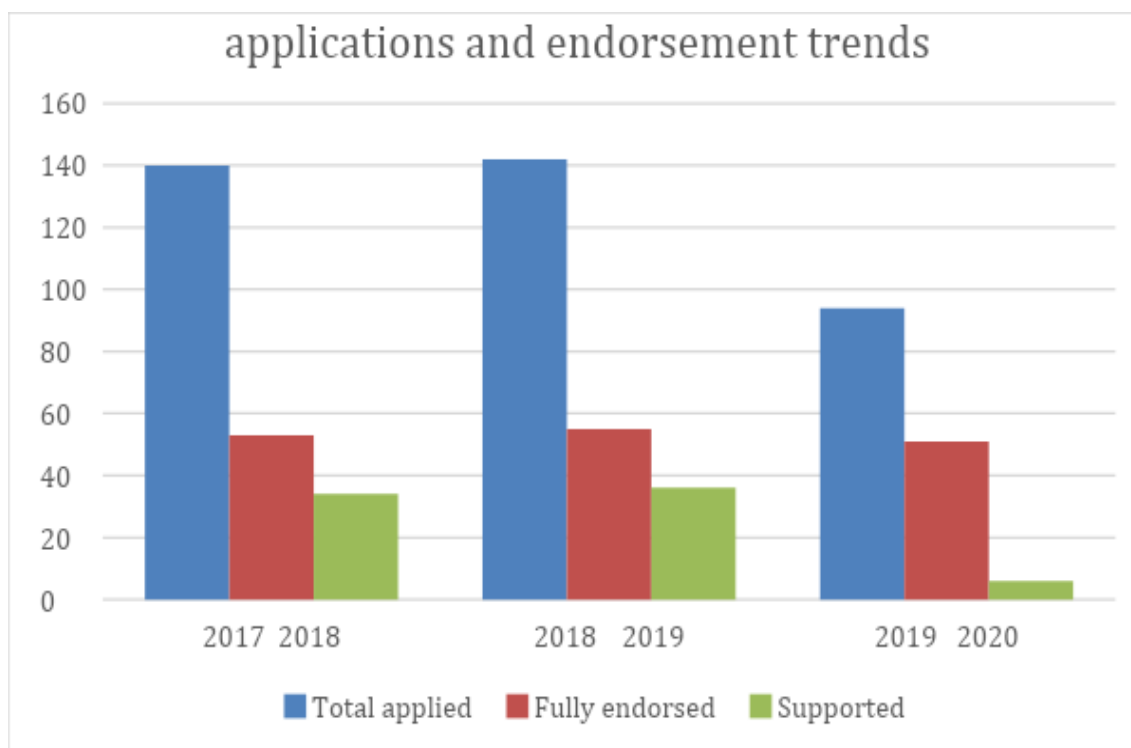
Fig.8 Applications, endorsements and support trends

iv.   Distribution of home universities and host universities for supported participants

Fig.7 and Fig.8 shows the distribution of number of university staff facilitated to participate in the programme as guests to other universities and that of universities that hosted scholars from other universities. On the other hand, the figures present the distribution of staff per Partner States sending staff to other universities as well as Partner States' hosting staff from other Partner States.

It is notable that the disparity in the numbers visiting other universities and hosting scholars from other universities as well as the disparity between universities and Partner States on the same, was high in the 2017/18 cohort. The disparity was reduced in the 2018/19 cohort because of IUCEA secretariat setting a rule to the effect that a university cannot send or host more than 3 scholars in one cohort.

IUCEA is working out strategies to ensure that the number of scholars hosted and sent to other institutions are comparable, across universities and across Partner States.
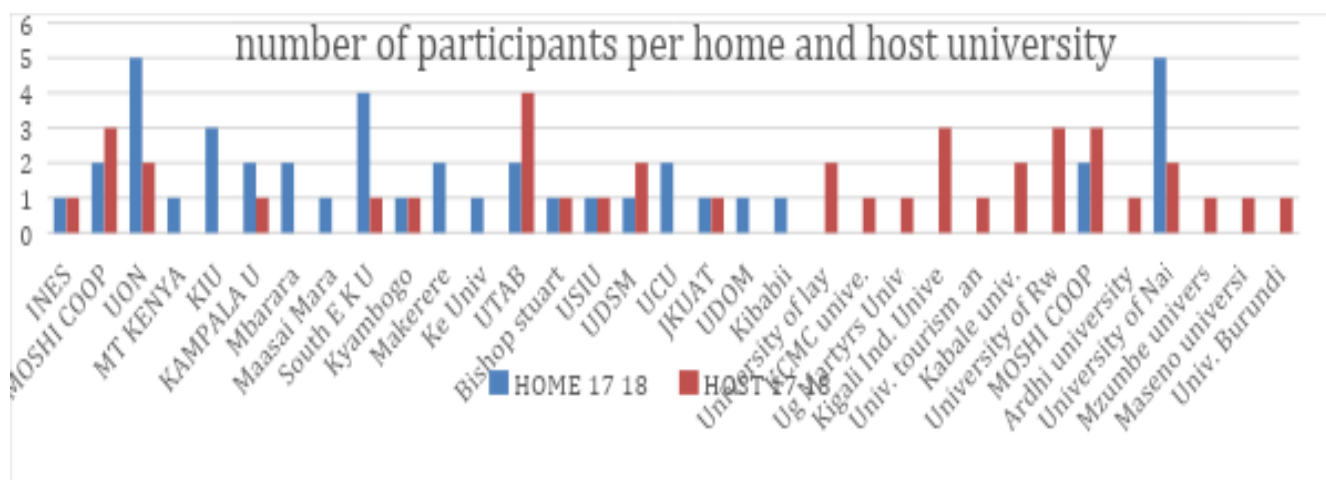
Fig.9 Distribution of universities in hosting and sending staff for mobility programme 2017/2018
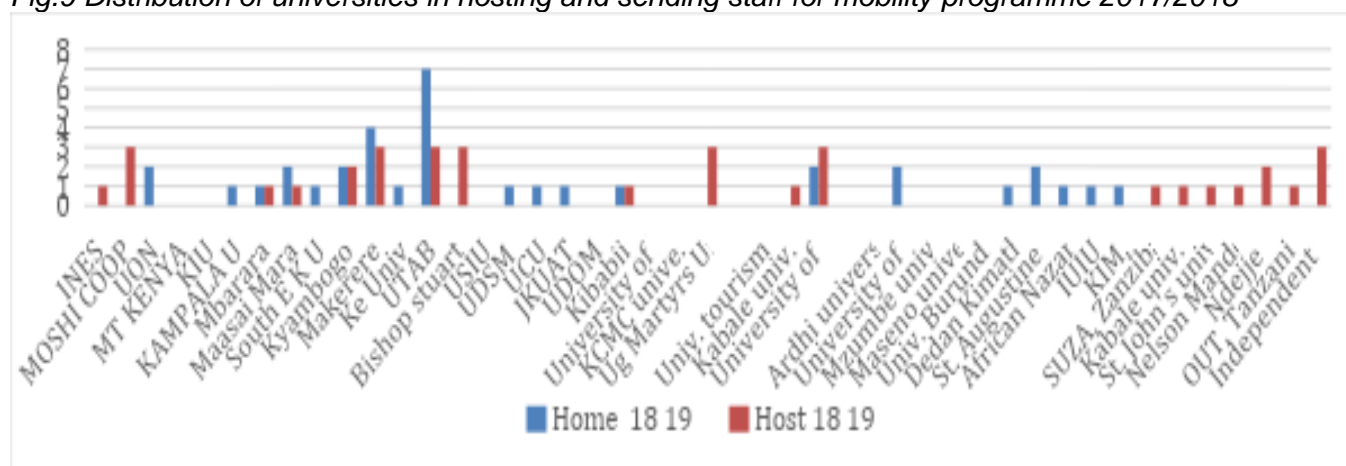

Fig.10 Distribution of universities hosting and sending staff for mobility programme 2018/19

v. Call for staff Mobility 2020/21

IUCEA Secretariat is in the process of making a Call for Staff Mobility for the 2020/2021. In consideration of challenges related to Covid-19 pandemic and potential for exploiting advances in ICT in online learning and teaching, the Secretariat has considered that the 2020/21 Call takes into consideration these developments. The programme will therefore involve Physical Visits to the host universities as has been in other cohorts and Virtual Visits.

On the other hand, the Secretariat has extended the maximum duration for the programme from 3 months to 4 months as approved by the IUCEA's Board. The call for 2020/21 therefore provides for the following changes.

(i)   Introduction of virtual/online delivery & supervision
(ii)   Assessment criteria involving availability of ICT facilities in Host University and experience using ICT facilities by the staff in online/virtual teaching/supervision.
(iii) Honoraria for Virtual/on-line delivery/supervision set at a lower rate of honoraria for physical Visit to university with face to face or intramural delivery/supervision.

It is expected that the introduced Virtual Staff Mobility category will address the mobility challenges because of COVID 19 as well as challenges on response levels for participants who cannot travel physically to institutions in other Partner States for various reasons.

vi General Observations

- Response levels' disparity per country can generally be attributed to ineffective information and communication processes that have improved with time, especially in the 2020 call.
- Gender disparity in applications received can partly be attributed to the inherent lower proportion of female faculty in the region and family responsibility for female parents in most of EAC countries' culture, limiting travels outside the countries.
- Lower level of applications for the scholars in Medical Studies can be attributed to the sensitivity of the profession and high demand for and commitments of highly specialised medical personnel in their home countries limiting their availability outside the borders.
- Lower level of applications by Host University as an entity compared to individual staff may partly be due to operational challenges by senior members of schools regarding following up on the calls on one hand and budgetary challenges on the other as some universities' budget systems may not have provision for this item.
- There is high improvement of applications meeting submission requirements, implying that communication system for the programme is more effective
- Disparity in response levels between universities, countries and areas of studies is getting reduced, implying improved communication facilities for the programme and knowledge of EAC universities' faculty about IUCEA programmes.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the report on assessment of the Staff Mobility Programme for the period 2017-2020 and the proposal for the call for Staff Mobility 2020/21.

6.8 Establishment of an EAC Academic Network and Centre(s) of Excellence on Regional Integration

The idea of establishing regional networks or centers of excellence on regional integration has been discussed at various fora in Africa, including at the EAC Secretariat and the African Union. Within the EAC region, there are currently a number of universities offering full-fledged programs on regional integration studies at either undergraduate or postgraduate level. Besides full-fledged programs, there are modules on regional integration being offered as part of existing academic programs such as Legal Studies, International Relations, Peace and Conflict Studies, and Development Studies. In light of this, the idea of creating an EAC Academic Network and Centre(s) of Excellence on Regional Integration has been proposed to harmonize initiatives to have regional integration courses in place.

In this regard, IUCEA, in close co-operation with the EAC Secretariat, organized a consultative meeting in Kampala, Uganda on October 14-15, 2019 in order to explore these possibilities further. The meeting was attended by participants from universities in each Partner State, the Jean Monnet Network and the Ministry of East African Community Affairs in Uganda (representing other MEACAs). The objective of the meeting was to consider and make recommendations on the following possibilities:

i) Creating an EAC academic network of universities/institutions nationally and regionally, offering short courses, bachelors, masters and PhD programs and related courses on regional integration;

ii) Establishing a regional center (s) of excellence on regional integration for East Africa;
iii) Networking with relevant universities across regions such as SADC, IGAD and ECOWAS, as well as on a global scale;
iv) Networking with partners with particular experience in regional integration issues, such as the European Commission's Jean Monnet Program, and its EU-EAC Jean Monnet Network which has been instrumental in developing this concept; and
v) Supporting the development of similar centers of excellence in other African RECs.

The proposal on the establishment of an EAC Academic Network on Regional Integration was presented to the 30th meeting of the IUCEA Executive Committee in Kampala on 9th December 2019. The Executive Committee welcomed the idea, and directed the IUCEA Secretariat to develop a full proposal on the establishment of the EAC Academic Network on Regional Integration. The Secretariat was further directed to mobilize resources for the establishment of a center or centers of excellence on regional integration.

To implement the above directives of the Executive Committee, IUCEA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with former Ambassador Tim Clark on resource mobilization for the establishment of the Academic Network on Regional integration. IUCEA has also outsourced an expert on integration matters from the Ministry of EAC Affairs, Uganda to support the Secretariat come up with a concept note on the establishment of the Academic Network on Regional Integration.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made on the establishment of the EAC Academic Network on Regional Integration.

6.9   Progress Report on the Development of Benchmarks for Mathematics, Sports Education and Health Informatics Programmes

In an effort to enhance the quality of academic programmes and also to provide a framework for harmonisation of higher education, IUCEA has undertaken development of benchmarks for undergraduate, Masters and PhD for mathematics programmes, benchmarks for undergraduate sports education programmes and the benchmarks for Master of Science in health informatics programmes.

The benchmarks form part of the building block of the regional quality assurance system, which contributes to the bigger picture of the East African Common Higher Education Area. The process to develop benchmarks brought together experts drawn from Universities, Commissions/Councils for Higher Education, employers and labour market related to the subject matter from the EAC Partner States. The main output of the process was the benchmark frameworks for the subject areas: Mathematics (pure mathematics, applied mathematics, statistical mathematics), Sports education and Health Informatics programmes, respectively, which contains mainly, agreed upon competencies, expected learning outcomes, contents (core courses and electives) and assessment methods of the programmes

Benchmarks for undergraduate, Masters and PhD for mathematics programmes have been completed awaiting printing, while benchmarks for Master of Science in Health Informatics have been completed pending the approval process by the IUCEA Executive Committee.

The process of development of benchmarks for sports education programmes has commenced and is expected to be finalised in the 2021/2022 financial year.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made in the development of benchmarks for Mathematics, Sports Education and Health Informatics programmes.

6.10 Progress Report on the Development of Quality Based Accreditation of Programmes and Institutions at Regional Level

Accreditation in East Africa is currently done by National Commissions/Councils for higher education. These commissions/ Councils are mandated to carry out accreditation both at programme and institution levels only in their respective countries which means that there is no regional accreditation. Despite the absence of regional accreditation system, higher learning institutions in East Africa have started looking for international accreditation. They seek accreditation from agencies in more developed countries that have well-established and recognised quality assurance systems to increase their institution's international reputation, or as one of the requirements by some governments and international funding agencies (to have one before they can support regional scholarship schemes or other academic programme-based projects). However, institutions/programmes that are being internationally accredited face challenges such as high costs (some programmes can go for as much as USD 100,000), the cumbersome nature of the requirements and the immense size of data required by accreditors.

Due to the above, IUCEA Secretariat felt that there is need as a region to devise mechanisms for regional accreditation that will serve other purposes in line with Mutual Recognition Agreements. The process to develop a quality-based accreditation of programmes brought together experts from the National Commissions/ Councils for Higher Education and from universities in all EAC Partner States. The proposed regional accreditation would provide mechanisms that will facilitate mutual recognition of institutions and/or programmes that are recognised or accredited by the National Commissions and Councils for Higher Education in the EAC Partner States. This proposed regional accreditation would not be prescriptive, supra national nor supra-institutional but rather would promote institutional and national diversities and innovation, while ensuring harmony in quality assurance practices in the region. The proposed framework will also increase regional and international recognition and visibility of programmes and institutions that have been subjected to the regional framework. This may also increase trust and marketability of such programmes and institutions to stakeholders, especially aspiring students.

The process of developing a regional quality-based accreditation of programmes is expected to be completed by June 2021.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made towards the development of a quality-based accreditation of programmes and institutions at regional level.

6.11 Establishment of the Centre of Excellence for ICT in East Africa (https://cenit-ea.org/)

The EAC and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) agreed to establish a Regional Centre of Excellence (CENIT@EA) in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in one of the EAC Partner States. The implementation set-up involves GIZ as a lead implementing agency, IUCEA as the implementing and coordinating partner on the EAC side, while the German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD) is supporting the implementation of the academic strand of the project on the funder's side.
After review of applications on hosting the Centre, Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Arusha, in the United Republic of Tanzania was selected as the best institution to host the Regional Centre of Excellence in ICT (CENIT@EA).

The Centre will address three fields of intervention:

a) Establishment of a need-driven postgraduate Master's program "Embedded and Mobile Systems in East Africa", which is offered as part of the East African-German university partnership (East African Centre of Excellence for ICT);
b) Gearing the courses and services of the universities towards the needs of the private and public sector in East Africa; and
c) Regional networking.

Teaching – Embedded and Mobile Systems (MSc EMoS)

The project has so far awarded 88 scholarships of which 25 are in year 2019/2020, 33 in year 2020/2021, and 30 in Year 2021/2022.

Table XX: Table of scholars who have benefited scholarships per Country of Origin and gender:

Partner State	Cohort 1		Cohort 2		Cohort 3		Grand Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Burundi	1	0	8	0	2	3	14
Kenya	3	1	2	0	2	3	11
Rwanda	2	2	1	4	3	2	14
South Sudan	0	0	4	0	3	2	9
Tanzania	7	3	4	9	3	2	28
Uganda	6	0	1	0	3	2	12
Grand Total	19	6	20	13	16	14	88

Employability and Trainings

- More than 70% of placement places for industry placement are secured in 4 countries of the EAC. So far 1 student has been employed 6 months before completion of his Master's Programme;
- 150 unemployed graduates have been trained in total, 25 per Partner States of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania. Training in South Sudan is still ongoing;
- 70 lecturers from universities in the EAC have been trained by the BMZ financed Integrated Expert at IUCEA, Prof. Gerhard Bax, in "Media Supported Didactics"; and
- An online training material is being developed by Neymon ICT for an unfacilitated e-learning training on cybersecurity based on the curriculum of NM-AIST. This training will be made available on the LMS at IUCEA.

Progress in collaborations, innovation and Research.

- The Centre has signed 2 partnerships for collaboration with: IBM Africa, and Kiira Motors Ltd in September 2019 and June 2020 respectively
- The Centre scholars have innovated a Drowsiness Detector for Road Safety that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) which won 1st prize among 100 ideas submitted GLOBALLY in the 2020 @giz_gmbh companywide #GIZInnovation Fund; and
- Two students sponsored by the Centre were declared first runner-up of Climate Launch Pad @Greentech idea competitions by @Anza for their Artificial Intelligence based solution on waste management.

The Governance of the project is by a Regional Steering Committee Chaired by IUCEA.

Challenges experienced during the implementation of the project

i. Limited number of female applicants for the scholarship, in general and especially from South Sudan;
ii. Limited number of South Sudanese applicants shortlisted by Universities/ Institutions, which caused difficulty in balancing the country quota.
iii. Non-inclusion of medical insurance for students. This needs to be addressed
iv. Universities insisting on charging international fees
v. Application fees which are in USD is limiting fact to the EAC applicant from outside URT; and
vi. Visa requirements for South Sudanese students*.*

Phase II of Cooperation

In December 2019, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) committed 4.2 Million. EUR to the East African Community Secretariat for the follow-on measures of Centre with the title "Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry" (dSkills@EA).

Subsequently, IUCEA in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat, DDAD and Universities in the academic consortium such as Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology and stakeholders from industry, academia and public sector developed a framework for enhancing the success of "Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry" (dSkills@EA).

Objective:

i. To improve the quality of the Master programme and study-related services at the Centre of Excellence for ICT in East Africa;
ii. To design short-term training courses for digital skills according to the needs of the industry;
iii. To provide entrepreneurship opportunities for piloting digital/innovative solutions in the EAC Partner States.

Indicators

i. 75 % of 50 companies evaluate the digital skills of the Centre of Excellence for ICT in East Africa's master's students/graduates as very good or good in terms of their company's needs after completing an internship or taking up employment;
ii. 40 young people in the 6 EAC Partner States supported by the project, 12 of whom are women have developed a market-oriented digital business idea with a project note and business plan; and
iii. 66% of 297 participants, 40% of whom are women, evaluate 6 months after participating in a short-term training course the digital skills they have acquired as helpful or very helpful in their professional work.

24 more students will be funded in the 4th cohort and will begin their studies in January 2022.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made in the implementation of the CENIT@EA scholarship programme which has resulted in the award of 88 full paid post-graduate scholarships.

6.12   Progress Report on the EAC-KFW Scholarship Programme (Leadership to Foster Regional Integration)

In April 2018, the East African Community (EAC), the Inter-University Council for East Africa and the German Development Bank (KFW) signed a tripartite financing agreement of up to **5 Million Euros** meant exclusively to further education of poor and disadvantaged but academically excellent students during their graduate studies in the East African Community (so-called Change Agents) to foster regional integration ("Project"). This goal will be partly achieved through the establishment of academic collaboration and an exchange program between universities within the EAC region, by encouraging students to study in countries other than their own.

In conjunction with KFW, IUCEA contracted Adroit Consult International to co-manage the scholarship project. A criterion for selecting universities to host the programme as well as for selection of students was developed and approved by IUCEA's Board to kick-start the project.

The first cohort comprising of (56) students commenced their studies in September/ October 2019.

Recruitment of the second cohort was initiated in September 2020. The main advert for the scholarship opportunity was widely circulated and published in regular media, namely:

i)   local dailies in the EAC Partner States: "Le Renouveau" of Burundi; Daily Nation of Kenya; New Times of Rwanda; Juba Mirror Media Services Co. Ltd of South Sudan; Daily News of Tanzania & New Vision of Uganda;
ii)   the East African which circulates regionally; and
iii)   IUCEA website and Social media platforms (Facebook & Twitter).

The advert was also shared with the Ministries in charge of East African Community Affairs in the EAC Partner States for dissemination in their respective countries. The call for applications and the advert were as well shared with the Embassy of South Sudan to Uganda in a bid to enhance the reach in South Sudan, which during cohort 1 enrolment had poor responsiveness. The advert was also circulated on Adroit Consult International social media platforms (Facebook, twitter) and on WhatsApp platforms around East Africa.

The summary of the final 60 students selected and recommended for approval to benefit from the KFW funded-EAC Scholarship Programme are in Table…...

Table XXI: Distribution by Partner States and Gender in Cohort 2

Nationality	Gender		Total
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Burundians	9	1	10
Kenyans	4	6	10
Rwandans	4	6	10
South Sudanese	6	4	10
Tanzanians	6	4	10
Ugandans	7	3	10
Total	36	24	60
Percentage	60%	40%	100%

So far 11 students have commenced their studies (Uganda based universities). The recent lockdown in Kenya hugely affected students bound for universities in the Republic of Kenya, while students bound for universities in the Republic of Tanzania shall commence in October/November 2021.

Challenges experienced during the implementation of the project

i.   Universities insisting on charging international fees; and
ii. Visa fee requirements for South Sudanese students undertaking studies in the Republic of Uganda and Kenya.

The meeting observed that the following Council decisions are yet to be implemented:

a) East African students attending a university in another Partner State other than his/her own be charged the same fees as locals (EAC/CM9/Decision 48); and
b) The Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Kenya to grant visa free entry to citizens of the Republic of South Sudan (EAC/CM/36/95)

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to;-

a) **take note of the progress made in the implementation of the second cohort EAC-KFW scholarship programme leading to the award of 60 full paid post graduate scholarships;**
b) **recommend to the Council of Ministers to request the Republic of Kenya and Republic of Uganda to grant visa free entry to students from the Republic of South Sudan in line with the directive (EAC/CM/36/95)**
c) **direct IUCEA to report compliance with the directive (b) above at the 17th SCESTCS.**

7.0   CONSIDERATION OF EAST AFRICAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION (EASTECO) MATTERS

7.1 EASTECO Progress Report

The activities of the financial year 2019/20 which are in line with the 5th EAC Development Strategy were as follows:

7.1.1   Constituting the Second Governing Board of EASTECO.

The oath of allegiance and affirmation to the East African Community is taken in accordance with Section 3 (1) of the East African Community Oaths Act, 2019 which provides that '*a person appointed to an office for the Community Organs and Institutions shall take oath of allegiance and the oath of secrecy to the Community*'. The Republics of Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania nominated their respective members of the EASTECO Governing Board on time. The EASTECO Secretariat facilitated the nominees to the EASTECO Governing Board from the five EAC Partner States to constitute the Governing Board as one of the Organs of the Commission provided for under Article 7(a) of the Protocol on the establishment of the East African Science and Technology Commission. All the members of the EASTECO Governing Board were sworn in accordance with Section 6(2) of the EAC Oaths Act, 2019 on 16th Oct 2020.

The board members from the Republic of South Sudan were not sworn in because South Sudan had not submitted the nominees. It was agreed that board members from the Republic of South Sudan shall be sworn in separately when they are fully nominated.

In accordance with Rule 5(1) of the Rules of Procedure for the Governing Board, Dr. Christine Niyizamwiyitira from the Republic of Rwanda was elected as the Chairperson for the Governing Board for a period of one year effective from the date of election. The leadership of the Governing Board is held on rotational basis among EAC Partner States in accordance with the Summit Chairmanship. In that respect, the Governing Board also elected Prof. Geoffrey M. Muluvi from the Republic of Kenya as the Rapporteur. The Governing Board elected different members to constitute Technical Committees of the Governing Board. The Report of the 5th Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Board in which the 2nd EASTECO Board was constituted is attached as *Annex XV.*

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the constitution of the Second Governing Board of EASTECO.

7.1.2 Development of the Regional Strategy for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

EAC Vision 2050 aspires to enhance global competitiveness, sustainable growth and transformation of EAC into an industrialized region by the year 2050. To realize this objective, EASTECO Strategic Plan, 2017/18-2021/22 prioritized the strengthening of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and training. Development of a regional strategy for STEM is important in harmonizing priorities and efforts, and in coordinating STEM projects, programs and initiatives. EASTECO engaged a consultant to develop the regional STEM strategy in August 2020. The progress achieved in the development of the Strategy include collation of responses from key STEM stakeholders in the region through administration of online questionnaires; development of country status reports on STEM through National Consultation Workshops with Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda; and the development of the Draft Regional STEM Strategy, which has been circulated to Partner States for regional validation in preparation for regional validation. The validated Regional STEM Strategy will be submitted for approval by the EASTECO Governing Board and the Council before dissemination and use by Partner States. Draft Regional Strategy is attached *Annex XVI.*

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made towards the development the Regional Strategy for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

7.1.3 Mid Term Review of the first EASTECO Strategic Plan 2016/17 -2021/22

EASTECO conducted Midterm review of its First Strategic Plan for 2017- 2022. The goal of the review was to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of the Strategic Plan, based on experiences gained during the first half of the implementation cycle. The objectives were to determine the level of achievement of the set targets by midterm; and to streamline and updating the targets to ensure increased efficiency and effectiveness in the second half of the implementation period. The review was performed on the basis of log frame and Balanced Scorecard matrices. Preliminary results indicate that the overall performance index for strategic priority 1 on Support for Evidence-Based Policies was rated 40.25%; performance index for the Strategic Priority 2 on Promotion of STI Knowledge and Innovation was rated 54.45 %; the performance index for the Strategic Priority 3 on Application of STI For Socio-Economic Development was rated 50%; and the performance index for the Strategic Priority 4 on EASTECO Foundational Commitments was rated 69.45%. The distribution of Mean Term Targets within the balanced Scorecard (BSC) was heavily biased in favour of Stakeholder Perspective (83.3%); while Financing and Internal Processes Perspectives had 8.3% each, with the Learning and Growth Perspective having 0% representation. EASTECO's performance during the period was 68% of

targeted interventions achieved/ completed. The achievements for the period under the midterm review include:

(i)   Enhanced capacity building of EASTECO through increased utilization of ICT technologies in implementation of programmes, interventions, virtual communication, and coordination
(ii)   Development of EAC Science Technology and Innovation Policy;
(iii)   Development of EA Intellectual Property Policy
(iv)   Development of the Draft Regional Bio-economy Strategy.
(v)   Development of the East African Regional Research Agenda and Management framework;
(vi)   Implemented of the East African Journal of Science, Innovation and Technology (EAJSTI);
(vii)   Implementation of a capacity building program in scientific writing and grant proposal development;
(viii) Implementation of training program in entrepreneurship for faculty and post graduate students through face to face and online based Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs);
(ix)   Promotion of regional STI networking, collaboration dissemination through EAC Regional STI Conference;
(x)   Hosting of Regional e-Health and Telemedicine and Ministerial Conference

 The Challenges experienced include:

(i)   The challenges experienced during this period include:
(ii)   Lack of fully developed regulatory framework, systems, and processes;
(iii)   Slow approval and adoption of STI policies at regional and national levels;
(iv)   Inadequate staffing based on its established organogram;
(v)   Budgetary constraints resulting from inadequate funding from Partner States due to zero budget increment policy among others;
(vi)   Lack of a reliable and sustainable fund to support core functions of STI.

The report of the Mid Term Review of the first EASTECO Strategic Plan 2016/17 -2021/22 is attached as ***Annex XVII***

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress of the M**id-Term Review of the first EASTECO Strategic Plan 2016/17 - 2021/22**

7.1.4 The East African Journal of Science, Technology and Innovation (EAJSTI) was published.

EASTECO publishes a regional journal to support and enhance dissemination of findings of scientific research, technology and innovation in the region. The East African Journal of Science, Technology and Innovation (EAJSTI) is a multidisciplinary journal, which publishes original research of relevance to the East African Community (EAC), covering science, technology and innovation and their applications for development. The goal of the Journal is to enhance, advance and disseminate scientific, technological and innovative knowledge that supports regional development. The online journal system aids the process of manuscript preparation and publication. A number of manuscripts published in two Volumes. Volume one has 4 Issues. The first Issue was published in October 2019. The publication contains six scientific articles derived from original research on topics of interest to the furtherance of the East Africa community socioeconomic development and integration agenda. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Issues, each of which contain five scientific articles were published in March, June and September 2020 respectively.

Volume 2 has had one issue, which was published in December 2020, and the second issue is due in March 2021. The journal has applied for indexation in three major global referencing databases and is geared to join the prestigious listings of impact peer review scientific journals within 2021. The Journal issues can be accessed at: https://www.eajsti.org/index.php/EAJSTI

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress on the East African Journal of Science, Technology and Innovation (EAJSTI)

7.1.5 The Regional Research and Development Agenda and Management Framework developed and validated.

In order to streamline and harmonies research and development priorities within the EAC region for effective and efficient resource allocation to most deserving and pressing needs that support the regional socio-economic development and integration, EASTECO is developing a Regional Research Agenda and Management framework through a national and regional consultative process. The Draft Agenda and the Framework were finalized in December 2019 in readiness for regional stakeholder validation. The Regional Research Agenda will ensure a harmonized and well-coordinated research and development that synergistically addresses regional challenges through generating evidence-based solutions to enhance socio-economic development. The framework for the coordination of the regional research is designed to respond to regional research system and realities within the research coordination landscape in Partners States. A high-level regional validation workshop was held in March 2020 in Arusha and the validated Agenda and framework were subsequently presented to the GB committee on Research and Innovation who also adopted it. The Regional Research and Development Agenda and Framework were approved by the 6th EASTECO Governing Board.
.
The Draft Regional Research and Development Agenda and Management Framework is hereto attached as *Annex XVIII* and *Annex XIX* respectively;

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to consider and approve the Draft Regional Research and Development Agenda and Management Framework.

7.1.6 Development of the EAC Regional Collaborative Research Grant Program

In order to strengthen regional Collaborative Research Programme within the East African community, EASTECO embarked on development of regional collaborative research framework and infrastructure including the systems, processes and tools. The objective of the collaborative research programme is to stimulate generation of knowledge, technologies and innovation through research focusing on key partner State priorities for increased regional integration and socio-economic development. The program initiated the establishment of regional research agenda, drafting of regional research management framework and piloting of collaborating multidisciplinary research and piloted the first competitive research grant call under the Regional Cooperative Research Grant Initiative (CGI) in collaboration with the National Commissions/Councils of Science and Technology (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) and the Science Granting Councils Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI). The pilot research project provided an opportunity for EASTECO to test and fine-tune regional research management framework tools including guidelines, procedures, and processes in support to regional collaborative research.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made towards the development of the EAC Regional Collaborative Research Grant Program

7.1.7 Development of Regional Research Technological Organisations Database

In alignment with the EASTECO Strategic Plan 2017-2022, the Commission initiated a process of establishment of a Regional Network for Research and Technology development Organisations (RTOs) to promote technology adoption, transfer and diffusion to support manufacturing and industrial development. EASTECO organized and supported a technical working group of Industrial Research and Technology Organizations and National Councils/Commissions of Science, Technology and Innovation to finalize and sign the final MOU on Proposed Establishment of the EAC Network of Industrial Technologies and Research Organization (EANITRO). During the meeting, the MoU was signed, database on the available technologies, Innovations, Projects and Programmes validated and the concept note for the regional programmes for enhancing the access, adaptation, transfer and diffusion of manufacturing & industrial technologies in EAC region was adopted. Furthermore key areas were identified for technology development and transfer by National Industrial Research and Technology Development Organisations (RTOs), including:

i)   Determination of Soybean Milk Quality from Seven Varieties by Different Extraction Methods its Improvement and By Products Valorization by CNTA (Burundi);
ii)   Upgraded Commercial Gasifier stoves by KIRDI (Kenya);
iii)   Development of Phytomedicine and Pharmaceutical Products against Liver Diseases especially Hepatitis C Using Medicinal Plants by NIRDA (Rwanda);
iv)   Carbonized Coal Briquettes to Substitute Charcoal and Firewood as Cooking Fuel by TIRDO (United Republic of Tanzania);
v)   Food Fortification and Laboratory Proficiency Testing (FFLPT) by UIRI (Uganda).

In the first quarter of FY20/21, a regional interactive on-line platform for the available technologies and innovations in the EAC region has been developed. Data on available technologies, innovations, facilities, industrial experts, projects and programmes has been collected from the 5 RTOs in EAC Region and online regional Research Technological Organisations database developed for Enhancing access, adaptation, transfer and diffusion of manufacturing & industrial technologies in EAC region. The database can be accessed through: https://eacinnovations.easteco.org/

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made towards the development of Research Technological Organisations database for Enhancing access, adaptation, transfer and diffusion of manufacturing & industrial technologies in EAC region

7.1.8   Development and implementation of massive open online course (MOOC) for knowledge and skills enhancement in scientific writing for manuscripts and competitive grant proposals.

EASTECO, in collaboration with the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) conducted a 6-weeks massive open online course (MOOC) on scientific writing training in September -November 2020. The aim of the course was to develop capacity among scientists in universities and research institutions in writing manuscripts for publication in quality peer reviewed journals, presentation at conferences, and to effectively communicate to various professional audiences. The program guided participants on speedy and effective ways of developing quality scientific manuscripts; extraction of a manuscript from a thesis or project report; effective review and utilization of literature; techniques of reviewing manuscripts; research and

publishing ethics; impact factor; and journal assessment indices. A total of 212 participants enrolled in the course and 182 made a start, out of which 105 completed the essential modules, giving a completion rate of 58%. About 51% completed at least 1 of the 2 additional modules, and 42% took part in at least 1 of the 2 forums in the 'research impact' modules. The implication of this output is that MOOC platform can be effectively employed to develop capacity in scientific writing skills for enhanced quality and quantity of scientific production in the East African region.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the progress made towards the development and implementation of massive open online course (MOOC) for knowledge and skills enhancement in scientific writing for manuscripts and competitive grant proposals

7.1.9   The Assessment of the East African Community E-Health Readiness and Regional Digital Health Interoperability.

The 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Summit of the EAC Heads of States held in Kampala, Uganda on 23rd February 2018 approved nine health sector investment priorities for the period 2018 to 2028 and that one of the priority areas is Investment in e-Health technology for better research for health, health services delivery and health outcomes. In addition, most of the other eight priorities heavily incorporate investments in e-Health. It is in line with the Ministerial conference resolution (ii) as above that EASTECO in collaboration with EAC Secretariat is planning to carry out the EAC regional e-Health readiness assessment and report back to the Sectoral Council of Ministers. Relevant EAC institutions, including EACHRC will be involved.

EASTECO approached the regional health program of USAID Kenya and East Africa Mission USAID for technical assistance and financial support on the e-Health readiness assessment and they agreed to assist EASTECO deliver on this directive as part of its mandate. The regional health program of USAID Kenya and East Africa Mission, in coordination with USAID Global Health Bureau, US Global Development Lab and USAID Bureau for Africa, engaged MEASURE Evaluation to provide Technical Assistance support to EASTECO to conduct an EAC regional e-health readiness assessment incorporating aspects of systems interoperability and costs of investing in e-Health in the EAC region, where this information is available.

The goal is to enhance national and cross border healthcare delivery and services through integrated health information and e-Health systems. The objectives are to: carry out a survey and analyze the existing health information systems and their standards with a view of interoperability readiness and also any available costing information for developing and deploying these digital health solutions; identify gaps and propose solutions on how they will be overcome in order to have systems that will be able to seamlessly communicate to each other; conduct workshops to share the outcome of the e-Health readiness assessment with Partner States and e-Health Partners of the EAC.

The consultant team met one-on-one with key stakeholders and eHealth system owners in the EAC region. A participatory HIS Interoperability Maturity Assessment workshop was held and attended by key HIS/eHealth stakeholders to identify key digital health priorities. The consultant has developed recommendations for moving HIS and interoperability forward in EAC Partner States. Final draft of the assessment report was validated by Partner States and report has been published by USAID. The published Report of Assessment of the East African Community E-Health Readiness and Regional Digital Health Interoperability is attached as *Annex: XX.*

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the assessment of the East African Community E-Health Readiness and Regional Digital Health Interoperability.

7.1.10 Convening of 1st Eastern African Bio-economy Ministerial online Conference.

The East Africa Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), together with its partners organized an online 1st Eastern African regional bio-economy Ministerial conference, under the auspices of the BioInnovate Africa Programme from 21 – 22 October 2020. The theme of the conference was **"Bio-economy growth prospects for Eastern Africa)"**. The conference discussed bio-economy development in the Eastern African region that include the existing bio-economy initiatives in Eastern Africa (enabling environment, promising Bio-Innovate Africa projects); sharing experiences from other regions; Eastern Africa Bio-economy potential; advanced Bio-economy Research and Development and sharing existing research. The conference also discussed the implementation frameworks for implementing a regional bio-economy strategy and national bio-economy strategies and how the countries will nationalise the Regional strategy; and provided on a platform for collaboration regional bioeconomy issues focusing on; BioInnovate Africa programme; Bioeconomy Observatory Knowledge Portal; BioInnovate Africa women network of Bio-entrepreneurs; and establishing a bioeconomy Forum in the region.

The conference had three sessions; plenary, parallel and Virtual exhibition. The conference was attended by 524 participants virtually and 23 companies exhibited virtually using e-booth.

Hon Christophe Bazivamo, Deputy Secretary General (Productive and Social Sectors), East African Community (EAC) launched the EAC Regional Bioeconomy Observatory Knowledge sharing portal during the conference. The objective of bioeconomy observatory portal is to provide regular data for policy makers to monitor the development of the bioeconomy and assess its impact, allow regional open access repository for sustainable bioeconomy data and information, and support the implementation of the Regional Bioeconomy Strategy for Eastern Africa. The bioeconomy observatory portal can be accessed through: https://bioeconomy.easteco.org/

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the convening of 1st Eastern African Bio-economy Ministerial online Conference.

7.1.11 Signed MoU between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and EASTECO on cooperation in the field of information and communications technology.

The Government of the Republic of Estonia and the East African Science & Technology Commission (EASTECO) considering that the development of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is a major factor in the promotion of economic and social development of each country and region in the 21st century and emphasising the importance of developments in the various areas of ICT, especially in electronic governance to the benefit of both Participants guided by the mutual benefit and interest of both Participants in encouraging and supporting partnerships, commercial ventures, research and development, and hoping to promote know-how and technology transfer as well as implementation of innovative projects in the field of common interests and the expansion of markets in the ICT sector signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 31/08/2020.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the East African Science & Technology Commission (EASTECO) is aimed at implementation of digital ID to provide training and exchanges of experiences and technical solutions in the area of Estonia's digital ID-system; promoting cooperation of ICT companies for implementing various state of the art IT solutions developed by Estonian ICT companies' smart borders and other information systems where appropriate; awareness building on cyber security and protection of critical infrastructure to provide training and exchange experience in areas of data protection,

cybercrime and protection of critical infrastructure; support the EASTECO in developing the digital agenda policy and strategy on e-Governance and Digital Transformation for Africa and working together for the establishment of the East African Community e-Governance training programs and regional competence hubs for the EAC Partner States. The implementation of the MoU started with Online training on Digital Identity Systems for EAC Partner States Institutions that was held on 21st Jan 2021. The signed MoU between EASTECO and the Government of Estonia is attached as *Annex XXI.*

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the signed MoU between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and EASTECO on cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology.

7.1.12 Online training on Digital Identity Systems for EAC Partner States Institutions.

EASTECO in partnership with **Government of the Republic of Estonia** conducted an online training on 21st January 2021. The training gave overview of the main principles of implementing a Digital Identity system in a country, what kind of legislation and institutional setup is needed and what kind of privacy protection measures need to be taken throughout the process; status of the Digital ID system processes in the EASTECO Partner States and find potential follow-up cooperation opportunities with Estonia.

51 participants from EAC Partner States Institutions participated in the online training. These include Ministries of ICT, National agencies in charge of ICT, National Councils of Science & technology (NCST), Private sector Federations, National ICT Chambers/ Associations, Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs, Internal/Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Directorates of Immigration, National Registration Agency, and Central Banks.

The training modules include the state of play and the future of the Digital ID system in EAC Partner States, principles for strategic, legal and institutional framework for Digital ID, the structure of a unique identifier and privacy and protection. The participants also discussed the potential cooperation points and the way forward.

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to take note of the online training on Digital Identity Systems for EAC Partner States' Institutions.

7.2 The Draft East African Regional Policy for Science, Technology and Innovation

In order to ensure the achievement of the EAC Vision objectives, EASTECO developed a draft Regional policy for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) which provides for key long-term objectives and targets in relation to EAC long term development and integration pillars. The policy also considers the Partner States' common areas of interest in STI. In this regard, a consultant was hired in FY 2017-18 to develop the policy. The overall objective of the policy is to create an enabling environment for increased investment in Science, Technology and Innovation, as well as their application to support sustainable regional development and socioeconomic transformation. The Sector council for Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports (SCESTCS) on its 15th Meeting that took place on 7th June 2019, Arusha-URT directed URT to undertake the internal consultations as requested and submit their inputs to EASTECO by Sept 2019. The development process of the policy started off with national stakeholder consultations to review Partner States' national STI policies with a focus of addressing gaps in these national policies in regard to the development objectives. The stakeholder consultation workshops were held in the six EAC Partner States where 295 stakeholders from governments, private sector and academia were engaged in discussions on what the EAC STI Policy ought to address and how. Furthermore,

several other stakeholders were engaged virtually on an online portal created specifically to collect stakeholder views on the EAC STI Policy. The Review process also covered a legal framework governing STI at national, regional, continental and global level.

The draft report was validated by a regional meeting which gathered 60 participants in Nairobi, Kenya, on 24th September 2018, including delegates from EAC Partner States' Government, academia, research institutions, private sector, civil society, and development partners. With support from UNESCO, EASTECO convened an open regional consultation meeting (14th -15th Oct 2019 in Arusha URT) of key STI experts to validate a final draft to ensure the policy covers all the aspects and is of quality before approval at EAC Ministerial level. United Republic of Tanzania has not forwarded their STI Policy internal review report to EASTECO. The STI Policy open regional consultation meeting Report signed by all Partners States is hereto attached as **_Annex XXII_**. All the comments and recommendation from the stakeholders STI experts were incorporated in the Final draft EAC Regional Policy for STI and is hereto attached as **_Annex XXIII._**

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to;-

 a) **take note on the progress of the development of the Draft East African Regional Policy for Science, Technology and Innovation;**
 b) **request the United Republic of Tanzania to submit comments on the draft STI policy by 30th September, 2021.**

7.3 The Draft East African Regional Policy for Intellectual Property

The EAC Partner States as members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are obliged to comply with the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Agreement). This requires that member states provide for the protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in all fields of technology. Further the EAC partner states have recognized the importance of using science, technology and innovation to achieve sustainable growth through the EAC Vision 2050.

The development process started off with national stakeholder consultations to review Partner States' national IP related policies with a focus of addressing gaps in these national policies in regard to the development objectives. The stakeholder consultation workshops were held in the six EAC Partner States where stakeholders from governments, private sector and academia were engaged in discussions on what the EAC IP Policy ought to address and how. Furthermore, several other stakeholders were engaged virtually on an online portal created specifically to collect stakeholder views on the EAC IP Policy. The Review process also covered a legal framework governing IP at national, regional, continental and global level. Throughout the development process, various reports (interim report and draft report) were prepared and presented to a cross section of stakeholders from the EAC Partner States at validation workshops where views previously collected and documented in the development process were further analyzed and refined. The draft report was validated by a regional meeting which gathered 60 participants in Nairobi, Kenya, on 25th September 2018, including delegates from EAC Partner States' Government, academia, research institutions, private sector, civil society, and development partners.

The Regional IP Policy strategic objectives include the following: To enhance infrastructure capacity for the generation, protection and exploitation of IP assets and enforcement of IP rights in the EAC, to enhance human resource capacity for the generation, protection, exploitation and enforcement of IP in the EAC, to foster a conducive environment for utilization of the IP system in the EAC and promote IP-driven Local technology development and exploitation in the EAC.

The Sector Council for Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports (SCESTCS) on its 15th Meeting that took place on 7th June 2019, Arusha-URT directed United Republic of Tanzania to undertake the internal consultations as requested and submit their inputs to EASTECO by Sept 2019. United Republic of Tanzania has not forwarded their IP Policy internal review report to EASTECO. The Final draft EAC Regional Policy for IP is hereto attached as *Annex XXIV.*

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to;-

   a) **take note on the progress of the development of the East African Regional Intellectual Property Policy; and**
   b) **request the United Republic of Tanzania to submit comments on the draft IPR policy by 30th September, 2021.**

7.4 The Development of East African Bio-economy Strategy

The development of a modern bio-economy in Eastern Africa has significant potential to support several critical development goals and targets for the region. The Regional Bio-economy Strategy provides a compelling framework for putting in place agreed goals and interventions which countries in Eastern Africa can use to achieve the continental aspiration of integrating its Agenda 2063 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into inter-sectoral regional development as contained in EAC Vision 2050.

The Strategy focuses on the creation of new bio-based products that add value at local level and/or use resources in novel, innovative and sustainable ways. Specifically, the scope of the Strategy covers optimization and innovative use of biomass and biological resources produced from agriculture, aquaculture, bioprospecting, and forestry and includes alternative sources of food and feed, health and bioenergy products. The countries covered are Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The core objectives of the strategy are to support:

   i. Food and nutrition security through improving farm profitability/productivity and ability to produce nutritious food products.
   ii. Health, through development of bio-based drugs and vaccines to address key health problems in the region.
   iii. The Environment, through reducing GHG emissions, mitigation of climate change, reducing bio-waste and protection of vital ecosystem services.
   iv. Rural and urban livelihoods and creation of new jobs through the development of new bio-based value chains and bioprocessing of primary produce and bio-waste.

The strategy has four priority Strategic Thematic Areas (STAs). These include:
   i. Strategic Thematic Area 1: Food security and sustainable agriculture
   ii. Strategic Thematic Area 2: Health and Wellbeing
   iii. Strategic Thematic Area 3: Bio-based Industrial Development
   iv. Strategic Thematic Area 4: Sustainable Energy

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to direct the EASTECO to convene a Validation Workshop to finalise the development of the Bioeconomy Strategy.

7.5 Final report on the Assessment of Knowledge and Technology Transfer Institutions in the EAC Partner States, to identify potential Centres of Excellence

The 14th meeting of the Sectoral Council of Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports considered final report from EASTECO on the Assessment of Knowledge and Technology Transfer Institutions (KTTIs) in EAC partner States. The overall goal of the assessment is to improve national and regional systems of innovation through enhanced management and exploitation of the research results, efficient technology transfer institutions, in order to support the industrial development and economic growth. The specific objectives of the study were to:

   i.   Assess existing partner States' knowledge and technological transfer institution in order to identify potential regional Centers of Excellence in knowledge and Technology Transfer;

   ii. Develop Regional guidelines for improving knowledge and technology transfer that will facilitate the process of exploiting research results at national as well as regional levels.

The 15th Sectoral Council directed EASTECO to change the report in conformity with the EAC reporting format and resubmit the report to the sectoral council for consideration and approval. The report on assessment of knowledge and technology transfer institutions in the Partner States and draft regional guidelines for improvement of knowledge and technology transfer an Intellectual property rights to partner states has been revised in accordance with the council directive.

The revised final report on the Assessment of Knowledge and Technology Transfer Institutions in the EAC Partner States is hereto attached as **Annex XXV**

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to direct EASTECO to use existing EAC guidelines for assessment of the prospective Centres of Excellence for Knowledge and Technology Transfer.

7.6 Amendment of the Protocol Establishing the East African Science and Technology Commission

The 34th Meeting of the Council of Ministers noted the need to amend the Protocol establishing the East African Science and Technology Commission due to the following issues, among others-

   a) the revision of provisions regarding the vision, mission, objectives, functions and composition of the Governing Board(s)/Commission; and
   b) the correction of errors that are observed in the respective texts.

Clear functions of the Board/Commission are not stated and the membership is too large to function efficiently, specifically in terms of cost to service the Board/Commission meetings. There is therefore, need to clearly state the functions of the board and reduce the members to a number that the Commission can be able to manage in terms of the cost.

The 34th Meeting of the Council therefore *directed the Secretariat to expedite the proposed amendment of the EASTECO Protocol and direct the Secretariat to circulate the proposals to Partner States for consultation in accordance with Article 24 of the Protocol and Article 150 of the Treaty (EAC/CM 34/Directive 71).*

Article 150(4) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community provides that proposals on the amendment of Protocols should be submitted within ninety days (90) from the date of the dispatch of the proposal to the amendment of the Protocol by the Secretary General.

The Secretary General, in a letter dated 7th November 2016 *(Ref" SGN/415)* wrote to the Partner States requesting for comments on the proposed amendments, and received only comments from

the Republic of Rwanda. The comments from the Republic of Rwanda are attached hereto as *Annex XXVI.*

This matter was once again tabled in the 40th Council of Ministers and the Council directed Secretariat to convene a Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Sports and Culture to consider the comments from Partner States on the amendment of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Science and Technology Commission, 2007 and report to the 41st Meeting of the Council *(EAC/CM/40/Directive 33).*

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to direct the Partner States to submit comments on the amendment of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Science and Technology Commission by 30th September, 2021.

7.7 East African Research and Technological Development Fund (EARTF)

The 39th Council of Ministers directed the EASTECO to expedite the development of the EAC Regional Collaborative Research Programme including the development of the EAC Regional Research Agenda, the Research Management Framework and the EAC Regional Research and Innovation Fund to be operationalized in FY 2020/21 *[EACICM 391 Directive 80}.*

In endeavour to implement the above Council Directive, EASTECO in consultation with the Partner States has developed the following components of the directive:

  i.   The Regional Research Agenda
  ii. Regional Research Management Framework

The two components of the directives stated above, were approved by the Governing Board of EASTECO and have been successfully piloted in the Partner States with financial support from the Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI) in sub-Saharan Africa.

The third component of the Council directive is to develop the Research and Innovation Fund (RIF). The Development of the fund is also in line with Article 42 (4) of the Common Market Protocol (CMP) obligated the community to establish the East African Research and Technological Development Fund (EARTDF). Further, Article 42 (5) of the Protocol provides that the Council of Ministers shall establish and make regulations for the implementation of Research and Technological Development Fund.

The Fund is expected to support and promote sustainable socio-economic development through generation, dissemination and application of novel evidence-based knowledge, technologies and innovations in the Community. In addition the fund will support research and innovation projects and programs with grants for sustainable scientific production and innovation in regional development priorities.

In view of the above, EASTECO has developed a draft Concept Paper and the Terms of Reference for the consultant to develop a legal instrument for the Fund are hereto attached as *Annex XXVII* and *Annex XXVIII.*

The Principal/Permanent/Under Secretaries recommend to the Sectoral Council to consider and approve the Draft Concept Paper for establishing the East African Research and Technological Development Fund.

8.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 19h00.

....	....	....	....	....	....
Josephta O. Mukobe (Ms), CBS	**Dr. Frederic Bangirinama**	**Mr. Aggrey David Kibenge**	**Mr. Samuel Mulindwa**		**Dr. Leonard D. Akwilapo**
Principal Secretary State Department for Culture and Heritage Ministry of Sports, Culture & Heritage	Permanent Secretary Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Development	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education		Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF KENYA	**REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**	**REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**	**REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**	**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**	**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**