HEADS OF STATE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

COMMUNIQUÉ


TAKEN TO CONTAIN THE DISEASE AND PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD IN THE EAC REGION.

4. THE HEADS OF STATE DECIDED THAT PARTNER STATES ADOPT A HARMONISED SYSTEM FOR CERTIFICATION AND SHARING OF COVID-19 TEST RESULTS.

5. THE HEADS OF STATE TOOK NOTE OF THE EAC REGIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN AND ITS KEY TARGETED INTERVENTIONS AND DIRECTED THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH, TRADE, TRANSPORT AND EAC AFFAIRS TO ENSURE THAT IT COMPLEMENTS THE PARTNER STATES’ NATIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANS.

6. THE HEADS OF STATE NOTED THAT INFORMATION SHARING IS KEY DURING CRISIS SUCH AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND DIRECTED THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH, TRADE, TRANSPORT AND EAC AFFAIRS TO FINALISE AND ADOPT AN EAC DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE AND TRACKING SYSTEM FOR DRIVERS AND CREW ON COVID-19 FOR IMMEDIATE USE BY PARTNER STATES.

7. THE HEADS OF STATE TOOK NOTE OF EFFORTS BY PARTNER STATES IN UNDERTAKING BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS TO ADDRESS CROSS-BORDER CHALLENGES AND THE EAC SECRETARIAT MISSION THAT ASSESSED THE SITUATION ON CLEARANCE PROCESSES AT THE BORDERS DURING THE PANDEMIC.

8. THE HEADS OF STATE NOTED THAT THE REGION’S KEY ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE EXPERIENCING A SLOWDOWN AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, TRADE, MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRY, TOURISM, HOSPITALITY AND ENTERTAINMENT AND DIRECTED PARTNER STATES TO PRIORITIZE REGIONAL VALUE/SUPPLY CHAINS TO SUPPORT LOCAL PRODUCTION OF ESSENTIAL MEDICAL PRODUCTS AND SUPPLIES INCLUDING MINTS, SANITIZERS, SOAPS, COVERALLS, FACE SHIELDS, PROCESSED FOOD, VENTILATORS AS PART OF EFFORTS TO COMBAT COVID-19 IN THE REGION.
9. The Heads of State further directed Partner States to facilitate farmers to continue farming activities during this pandemic and post COVID-19 period, support agro-processing and value chains as an import substitution measure and establish special purpose financing schemes for small and medium enterprises, to cushion them from the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. The Heads of State designated the Ministers responsible for health, transport and East African Community Affairs to be the focal persons for the regional COVID-19 response under the leadership of the Ministers of Health.

11. The Heads of State directed the focal persons to immediately work on a regional mechanism for testing and certification of truck drivers prior to their departure at the point of origin and every two weeks, and report to the Heads of State.

12. The Heads of State expressed their appreciation to development partners for their continued support, particularly during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

13. The Heads of State agreed to meet regularly to address the response efforts and expressed the need for flexibility in the application of the EAC Rules and Procedures when faced with a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

14. Their Excellencies President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya, President Salvar Maryardit Kiir of the Republic of South Sudan and President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the Republic of Uganda thanked the Chair of Summit, His Excellency President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda for convening a well organized meeting in a cordial atmosphere and requested that such meetings be held regularly.
15. DONE BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND DATED THIS 12th DAY OF MAY 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.E. PAUL KAGAME</td>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.E. UHURU MUIGAI</td>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KENYATTA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.E. SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT</td>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA</td>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MUSEVENI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA  REPUBLIC OF KENYA  REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN  REPUBLIC OF UGANDA