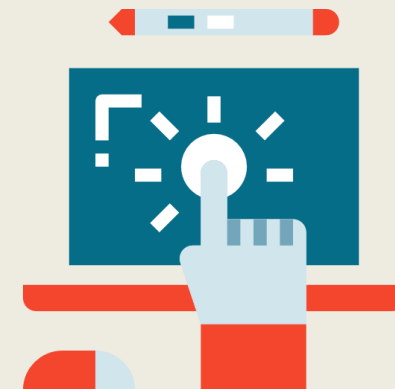




The Voice of the Private Sector in
East Africa

EAST AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

ACHIEVEMENTS 2021



@EABCjumuiya



www.eabc-online.com



Esteemed Members & Partners,

On behalf of the Chairman, Board of Directors and Management of the East African Business Council, I extend our appreciation for your continued partnership and resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has enabled EABC to play a key role in reinforcing the voice of the private sector in the EAC regional integration agenda and steer higher our advocacy initiatives on mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on businesses in the region. I am honoured to share with you our *Achievements* for the period July – November 2021.

The East African Business Council (EABC) has continued to undertake several advocacy drives to improve the business environment in the region and the recovery and resilience of the EAC economies amid COVID-19. The member of the Executive Committee have played a significant role in providing strategic guidance on the operations of the EABC Secretariat and advancing the advocacy role of the EABC.

In a very special way, allow me to appreciate Coca-Cola Central, East and West Africa Ltd and Msingi East Africa Ltd for continued partnership as EABC Elite- Golden Circle and Bronze Members.

I appreciate our development partners for the continued partnership with the EABC.

- Afreximbank
- TradeMark East Africa (TMEA)
- The German Development Cooperation led by GIZ, the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and Creating Perspectives Programme.
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- IFC member of World Bank Group
- African Economic Consortium (AERC) and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

We cherish your continued partnership with the East African Business Council.

Happy Reading and keep safe!

John Bosco Kalisa, Executive Director/ CEO, EABC



EABC Achievements 2021

POLICY ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

1) The following Non - Tariff Barriers were resolved following EABC Secretariat intervention

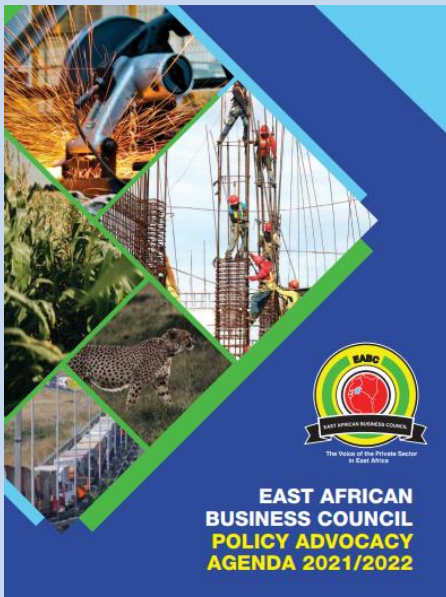
- Denial of preferential market access to Tanzania via Mutukula for Movit Product Uganda Limited.
- Denial of importation of Network Chips/Plugs manufactured by Simplifi Network Limited by the Kenya Bureau of Standards
- Stoppage of 1000 tons of galvanized 32 gauge iron sheets manufactured by Roofings Limited by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)
- Denial of Import Permit Renewal for HMH – Rainbow Limited by Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Kenya

2) EABC took part in the Regional Monitoring Committee (RMC) meeting on the elimination of NTBs in Dar es salaam from the 12th – 15th October 2021

- Out of the 18 NTBs in the Time Bound Program, two were resolved namely:
- Exporters of mattresses are suddenly required to pay USD 1250 USD per mattress originating from Uganda
- Uganda charges Kenya manufactured excise books VAT at 18%. The VAT is not levied on Uganda's locally manufactured books . The discriminative VAT violates Article III of GATT 1994, Article 75(6) of the Treaty establishing the EAC and Article 15 of the EAC Customs Union Protocol as it subjects Kenyan manufactured products to VAT charges not charged on the same domestic product in Uganda.
- 8NTBs were registered as new.
- EABC urged the EAC partner States to expedite the conclusion and elimination of all outstanding NTBs.



EABC Achievements 2021



3) EABC Policy Advocacy Agenda 2021/22

EABC secretariat developed the fifth EABC Policy Advocacy Agenda 2021/22 and presented it to the EAC Secretary-General and Council of Minister. The Agenda outlines key policy priorities our region must subscribe in order to enhance the recovery of our businesses and economies from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and bolster intra-EAC trade and investment. [Download](#)

4) EABC Position Paper on Open Skies in the EAC

EABC position paper on open skies recommended EAC Partner States to fast-track the finalization and implementation of EAC Regulations on Liberalization of Air Transport Services, waive landing fees, excise duty on aviation fuel, navigation, landing, parking and COVID-19 related fees in order to lower flight costs and ease doing business. [Download](#)

5) EABC in partnership with AERC organized a Webinar on Regional Perspectives on Trade & Investment Recovery amidst COVID-19.

The webinar assessed the impact of COVID-19 on business sectors. The webinar discussion revealed intra-EAC trade dropped by 5.5% in 2020 due to COVID-19. EABC urged for more public-private dialogue and championing of Buy East African Campaign to drive the economic recovery agenda of the EAC bloc. [Watch Webinar](#)

6) EABC Policy Paper on EAC Common External Tariff

EABC developed and presented a policy paper on EAC Common External Tariff to the Dedicated Session of Permanent Secretaries from the EAC Partner States held on 12th November at EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. EAC Partner States agreed to adopt a 4-band tariff structure of 0%, 10%; 25% and 30% or 35% as the maximum tariff. The dedicated session of Permanent Secretaries from the EAC Partner States aimed to unlock the stalemate on the maximum tariff rate for the EAC CET, however, the meeting ended with no consensus on the percentage for the 4th band (maximum the tariff rate) and awaits the decision of the upcoming Council of Ministers meeting in Arusha. EABC policy paper urged the EAC Partner States to adopt the 35% threshold for the 4th band to promote industrialization in the region. [Download](#)





7) EABC-Afreximbank- AfCFTA Trade Opportunities Meeting & Launch of the Africa Customer due Diligence Platform (MANSA Repository Platform) in the EAC Partner States.

The meeting sensitized over 600 companies & SMEs on the trade opportunities availed by the AfCFTA and the MANSA digital platform. Watch : <https://youtu.be/lyZM2EH1yKs>

8) AfCFTA Secretariat adopts Tripartite Position on the participation of the private sector in AfCFTA

EABC participated in the 1st Coordination Meeting of the Heads of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) held in Accra – Ghana on 18th – 19th September 2021 and presented the proposed private sector engagement mechanism for the AfCFTA. The Heads of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) came up with the following resolutions:

- The rules of engagement for Business Councils at the continental level should be re-negotiate them participate in policy organs meeting i,e their participation to go beyond observers' status
- AfCFTA State Parties to review the relevant legal instruments of the AfCFTA Agreement to recognize Africa Business Council and facilitate them to participate in the policy organs meeting as a substantive participant.
- Head office of the African Business Council (AfCB) should be relocated to Accra Ghana to facilitate a closer working relationship with AfCFTA Secretariat.
- AfCFTA State Parties to conclude or fast-track the discussions on trade instruments especially on tariff elimination and Rules of origin





TECHNICAL POLICY ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENTS

1) EABC represented members' concerns in the EAC Sectoral Committee on Customs – pre-budget, tariffs, CET, single customs territory and One-Stop Border Post.

2) EABC in partnership with the East African Manufacturers Association Network organized the meeting to agree on maximum CET rate

Majority of Manufacturers Associations agreed to push for 35% as the Maximum CET rate while Rwanda supported 30%

3) EABC participated in the Extra-Ordinary Forum of the EAC CODEX held from 24th to 27th August 2021

The meeting prepared EAC positions for the upcoming 52nd Codex Committee for Food Additives, 46th Codex Committee for Food Labelling and 27th Codex Committee on Fats and Oils.

4) EABC took part in the Regional Harmonization meeting of the East African Standard Technical Committee meeting on fish and fish products held 20th -24th September 2021

Harmonized standards on fish and standards related NTBs addressed





HIGH-LEVEL VISITS & ENGAGEMENTS

- ❑ [EABC Board Director Mrs. Amelie Ninganza held a meeting with EAC Secretary-General. The EAC Secretary-General reaffirmed the partnership with EABC on unlocking trade barriers under the EABC-EAC Technical Working Group.](#)
- ❑ [EABC CEO paid a courtesy visit to the CEO of RwandAir and forged collaboration on Open Skies in EAC](#)
- ❑ [South Sudan Members of parliament paid a courtesy visit to EABC. EABC urged South Sudan MPs to ratify the AfCFTA Agreement](#)
- ❑ EABC held a meeting with the East Africa Development Bank (EADB) and agreed to collaborate on the provision of finance to enterprises.
- ❑ EABC visited Hon. Dickson Kateshumba and agreed to co-organize the Regional Parliamentary Forum on EAC Affairs in December 2021
- ❑ [Mr. Cheptoo Amos, Executive Director of African Development Bank paid a courtesy visit to EABC and agreed to collaborate on Africa Investment Forum, financial integration, Women in Business and AfCFTA matters.](#)
- ❑ EABC held a meeting with the Executive Secretary of the Central Corridor and agreed to collaborate on improving trade facilitation and elimination of NTBs.
- ❑ EABC held a meeting with the Director-General of Tanzania Bureau of Standards Dr. Athuman Ngenya and agreed to have a designated officer liaise with EABC on standard matters.



HIGH-LEVEL VISITS & ENGAGEMENTS

- ❑ [EABC CEO paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Major General Charles Karamba, Rwandan High Commissioner to the United Republic of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam](#) and H.E. Joseph Rutabana, Rwandan High Commissioner to the Republic of Uganda in Kampala Uganda.
- ❑ EABC held a meeting with Hon. Olivier Suguru, MP & Chairman of Association of Burundi Industries during the Burundi Industrial Fair held on 26th August 2021
- ❑ EABC held a meeting with Mrs. Lilian Kajuju Registrar of EAC Competition Authority and agreed to sensitize the private sector on competition laws.
- ❑ EABC held a meeting with the Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and agreed to collaborate on skills development to boost industrial productivity.
- ❑ EABC visited the following members: Plast Packaging Ltd, Traders Association of Burundi (ACOBUR), Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), Private Sector Federation Rwanda (PSF), Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), East African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (EACCIA), Burundi Federal Chambers of Commerce Industries (CFCIB), EAC MSMEs Trade Fair, Braliwa Ltd, Volkswagen, Port of Bujumbura and Burundi –DRC border.



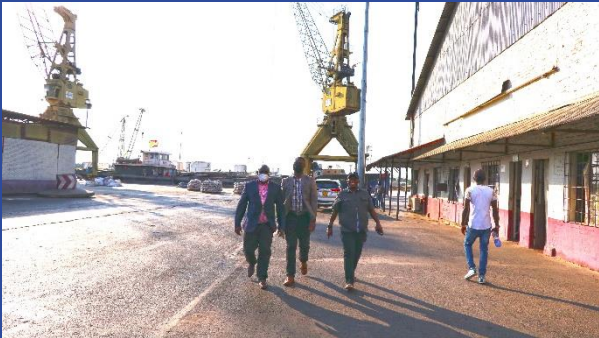
MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT

EABC Round Table Meeting for Chief Executive Officers of Apes National Private Sector Associations

EABC and National Focal Points prepared policy priorities areas and issues for advocacy to the EAC. The main policy priority is to push EAC Partner States to develop a common COVID – 19 Vaccination Certificate to hasten the economic growth. [Read More](#)

EABC CEO Roundtables in the Partner States

- ❑ EABC organized visits to national focal points and industrial visits to members.
- ❑ National Focal Points presented policy areas EABC Secretariat should advocate at the Regional level
- ❑ Recruited 13 new members



EABC Achievements 2021



In partnership with UNECA- EABC successfully organized the Webinar on AfCFTA – Opportunities for the EAC Private Sector.

The webinar deliberated on the contribution of the ecosystem to the EAC economies and invest areas with a positive impact in biodiversity. [Watch Webinar](#)

In partnership with the EAC – EABC co-organized the 1st EAC Tourism Expo- 2021 to showcase the Tourism products and market the EAC region as a single tourism destination.

EABC also co – organized the side session on Collaboration in combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the EAC.

EABC in partnership with the Kenya Ports Authority and the Shippers Council of Eastern Africa organized Regional Round Table for Maritime Leaders in Mombasa Kenya. [Watch RT](#)

Visit: <https://eabc-online.com/newsroom/>



EABC Achievements 2021



EABC took part in the Moyale One-Stop Border Post private sector workshop held on 15th September 2021 in Addis Ababa. Discussed issues on trade corridor development in order to increase trade between the Republic of Kenya and Ethiopia

ICT4Business - regional cyber security webinar

EABC in partnership with project Digital Skills for an Innovative East African Industry (dSkills@EA) and EAC organized the ICT4Business - regional Cyber security Webinar. The Webinar urged EAC Partner States to Improve Cyber security for the Competitiveness of the ICT Sector & Digital Trade. [Watch](#)



East African Trade & industrialization Week 2021

[EABC took part in the East African Industrialization week held on 30th August 2021](#)

Africa Trade Conference

EABC CEO shared insights on promoting intra – African trade during the Africa Trade Conference held on 12th November 2021 Visit: <https://africatradeconference.com/>



2nd Regional Bioeconomy Conference

[EABC CEO and members took part in the 2nd Regional Bioeconomy Conference held on 10th – 11th November 2021](#)



EABC Achievements 2021

MEMBERSHIP

Thirteen (13) companies and associations joined EABC membership:

| Company / Association | Website |
|---|---|
| Juanco Group Ltd | https://juancogroup.com/ |
| Safe Power Ltd | https://saferpowerltd.co.ke/ |
| Groupe Eis Eka | https://eisekagroup.com/ |
| Koko Networks | https://kokofuel.com/ |
| Abbot Laboratories | https://www.abbott.com/ |
| ICPAK | https://www.icpak.com/ |
| TIPC | |
| Kaze Delphinkage Ltd | |
| BUMAC | https://bumac.bi/ |
| MRB Attorneys | https://mrbattorneys.rw/ |
| Good Life Services | |
| Federal Chambers of Commerce and Industries Burundi (CFCIB) | http://cfcib.bi/ |
| Yo Kuku | https://yokuku.com/ |



EABC Achievements 2021





NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Afreximbank

- [EABC partnered with Afreximbank and rolled out the African Due Diligence Platform and AfCFTA Trade Opportunities](#)

UN- World Food Programme(WFP)

- EABC has entered an MoU with the UN- World Food Programme (WFP)

MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS TCDC)

[EABC –MSTCDC signed MoU on establishing Youth in Business Desk and organizing the YouleadSummit2021](#)

- [EABC-IUCEA and GIZ launch the EAC online matchmaking platform \(dSkills\) to link young professionals to jobs during the YouleadSummit](#)





The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)

- [EABC – NM-AIST signed MoU on establishing organizing Academic – Private Sector Dialogues](#)

East Africa Tourism Platform (EATP)

- [EABC –EATP signed MoU on areas of collaboration for recovery of the tourism sector in EAC](#)

Africa Global Chamber of Commerce (AGCC)

- [EABC- AGCC Partnered to lure more USA investments into the EAC bloc](#)

UNECA

- EABC partnered with UNECA AfCFTA sensitization and research

Rwanda Convention Bureau

- EABC-RCB signed MoU on co-organize and host upcoming EABC events in Rwanda





UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Events 2021

- ☐ EABC Parliamentary Round Table December 2021
- ☐ EAC *Jua Kali/Nguvu Kazi* Exhibition on 2nd - 12th December, 2021 Rock City Grounds in Mwanza, Tanzania
- ☐ Kenya – DRC Trade Mission 2021 on 29th November to 13th December 2021
- ☐ “Unleashing Africa’s Potential In Renewable Energies” [register [here](#)] on 2nd December at 12:00PM
- ☐ Creative Industry Summit, Egypt: “Making Africa’s Cultural And Creative Industries Thrive” [register [here](#)] 9th December 2021 at 12:00PM

Upcoming Activities & Events 2022

- ☐ EAC Business and Investment Mission to India on 13th – 18th March, 2022 in New Delhi
- ☐ Barometer on State of EAC Business and Investment amid COVID-19
- ☐ Regional Private Sector Forum on EAC CET Review
- ☐ Webinar on State of Trade of Perishable Goods in the EAC & Beyond
- ☐ Webinar on African Continental Free Trade Area - Trade in Services
- ☐ EABC Border Visit and Engagement with Trade Facilitation Agencies at the Border
- ☐ Webinar and Launch of East African SMEs Platform
- ☐ Barometer on Trade in Services
- ☐ Webinar on East Africa Services Trade
- ☐ Private Sector Pre- Heads of State Summit Engagement/ EA Business Summit



EABC Achievements 2021



EABC Achievements 2021

EABC In the Media - What we Voiced

- [Intra-EAC trade drop by 5.5% in 2020 due to Covid-19](#)
- [KEPSA, EABC plans to issue EAC vaccination certificates to SMEs](#)
- [EABC partners with Nelson Mandela AIST to upscale digital transformation in East Africa](#)
- [EABC reveals top policy priorities to ably tap into EAC common Market and AFCFTA](#)
- [African airlines 'lost a whopping \\$10bn to Covid-19'](#)
- [Regional business operators upbeat Covid vaccine rollout will spur economic recovery](#)
- [East Africa adopts due diligence platform for cross border trade](#)
- [Mansa digital platform to boost SMEs in EAC](#)
- [MILESTONE! AFREXIMBANK, EABC PSFU launch MANSA Due Diligence Data platform](#)
- [Afreximbank launch Africa due diligence platform](#)
- [EAC Urged to Finalize AfCFTA Tariff Offer](#)
- [Transporters say Northern Corridor is a non-trade barrier](#)
- [AfCFTA deal to boost Tanzania trade](#)
- [East Africa Tourism Platform Launches 'Tembea Nyumbani' Campaign](#)
- [Exit of foreign companies from Uganda](#)
- [EABC – EATP sign MoU to champion growth of the EAC Tourism Sector](#)
- [East Africa Tourism Platform calls for embracing regional single visa](#)
- [EABC, EATP sign deal to sell EAC bloc as a single tourist destination](#)
- [EABC Asked to Help Improve Trading Climate in the Region](#)



EABC In the Media - What we Voiced

- [EA Business Council Firm On Enhancing Regional Trade](#)
- [Editorial: We Hail Mansa Platform for Bolstering SMEs](#)
- [East African Companies to Access Afreximbank Due Diligence Data](#)
- [EABC signs MoU with Afreximbank on rolling out the Mansa Digital Platform](#)
- [East African firms to get access to Afreximbank due diligence data](#)
- [EAC lobby inks deal with Afreximbank to roll out customer due diligence platform](#)
- [MTN Rwandacell PLC welcomes Mr. Faustin Mbundu as the new Chairperson of the Board](#)
- [2021 East Africa Trade and Industrialization Week positions AfCFTA at the heart of the East African Community Integration Process](#)
- [East African states work to reduce regional air travel costs](#)
- [East African Bloc Takes Coordinated Approach To Tourism Recovery](#)
- [There is a coordinated approach to lead post-coronavirus recovery among countries in the East Africa Community-Zamkuwire](#)
- [East Africa's tourism sector loses USD4.8-billion, two million jobs due to COVID-19](#)
- [Implement Open Skies Policy, Regional Airlines Told](#)
- [East African Bloc Takes Coordinated Approach To Tourism Recovery](#)
- [There is a coordinated approach to lead post-coronavirus recovery among countries in the East Africa Community-Zamkuwire](#)
- [East African states work to reduce regional air travel costs](#)
- [Tanzania tips balance of trade in its favour under Samia leadership](#)
- [Baraza la biashara Afrika Mashariki lawakutanisha wafanyabiashara Zanzibar](#)



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL EABC MEMBERS AND PARTNERS



EABC Achievements 2021



Thank You

Contact Us

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