

COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN AFRICA CHIEFS OF DEFENCE STAFF OF THE EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY FORCE POLICY ORGANS MEETING

22nd – 23rd April 2015, Khartoum, Sudan

Summary Speech by Guest of Honour, H.E. Gen Abdelrahim Mohammed Hussaim MSc psc,
Minister of Defense of the Republic of The Sudan

The Guest of Honor, H.E. Gen Abdelrahim Mohammed Hussaim MSc psc, Minister of Defense of the Republic of The Sudan welcomed everyone attending the meeting to Khartoum. He stressed the importance of the meeting and expressed awareness of the cardinal role EASF plays at the regional and continental level for the establishment of peace, security and stability. He emphasized that this would help in getting rid of conflicts on the continent and promote its development. He pointed out the conflicts in South Sudan, Central African Republic, Libya as well as aggression against citizens in Kenya, Somalia and South Africa and stated that it is imperative that such challenges should be confronted and the crisis properly managed. He said that peace and security is needed everywhere in the continent. The minister also pointed out that collective action is needed in order for us to promote peace and development.

He reiterated that this meeting is taking place at a time when people are aware of the necessity of strong partnership between the EASF, the Regional Economic Communities and African Union for the consolidation of peace and security. He explained that EASF was purely an African initiative and this organization, despite the delay in its formation, was created and its structures were set up by Africans.

The Minister explained that the continent has suffered a lot. The Republic of The Sudan for example has been under sanctions for more than 20 years. Despite these sanctions, the country has achieved big strides in development and progress, although it would have done better without these sanctions.

He noted that, in the spirit of African solutions to African problems, it is critical to start using the African military equipment instead of equipment imported from outside the continent. He cautioned that Africans should not remain hostage to the E.U., U.S.A., and other hostile international powers. The Minister mentioned the Sudan has held elections deemed free and fair by the Arab League and AU observers. Despite this, the E.U. has stated that the election results were not acceptable. He recalled that the country had called for dialogue but the E.U. continued providing support to the rebels in the country and the region.