

# Eastern Africa Standby Force



## Annual Report 2024

*“Two Decades of Commitment to  
Promoting Regional Peace and Security”*



Burundi



Comoros



Djibouti



Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



Seychelles



Somalia



Sudan



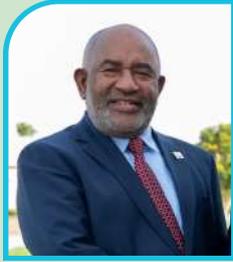
Uganda

**EASF MEMBER STATES**

## ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT



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**Burundi**



H.E. Azali Assoumani,  
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**Rwanda**



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**Comoros**



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Col. Idjihadi Yousouf,  
**Comoros**



Lt. Gen. Zakaria Cheick  
Ibrahim,  
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**Kenya**



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**Seychelles**



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**Somalia**



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**Sudan**



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**Uganda**

# MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE STAFF



Col. Mohamed Barkat  
**Head of Administration**



Brig. Gen. Domitien Kabisa  
**Head of Peace  
Operations Department**



Brig. Gen. S T Kashure  
**Joint Chief of Staff**



Mr. Vincent Didon  
**AU EASF Liaison Officer**



Brig (Rtd) Paul Kahuria  
Njema  
**EASF Director**



Brig. Gen. Getachew Ali  
**Force Commander**



Col. Julien Rwangarambe  
**Chief of Staff LogBase**



Dr. Leah Barasa  
**Head of Civilian Component**



Col. Ibrahim Mohamed  
**Chief of Staff - Military  
Component**



Commissioner Ali said Bacar  
**Head of Police Component**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



As we reflect on the year 2024, it has proven to be a significant period for the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF). Serving as Chairperson of this vital organization has been both an honor and a responsibility, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Members of the Council of Ministers and the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff for their unwavering support.

It is with a heavy heart that I express my deepest condolences on the passing of a distinguished member of the EASF Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff, the former Kenya's Chief of Defence, Gen. Francis Ogolla, who tragically lost his life in a helicopter crash on April 18, 2024. The entire EASF fraternity joins me in mourning his loss and remembering his invaluable contributions to our shared mission. May his soul rest in peace.

The Republic of Rwanda had the honour and the privilege of chairing the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) during the year 2024. EASF Structures have worked hard throughout 2024 to play an important role in promoting peace and security in the Eastern Africa Region.

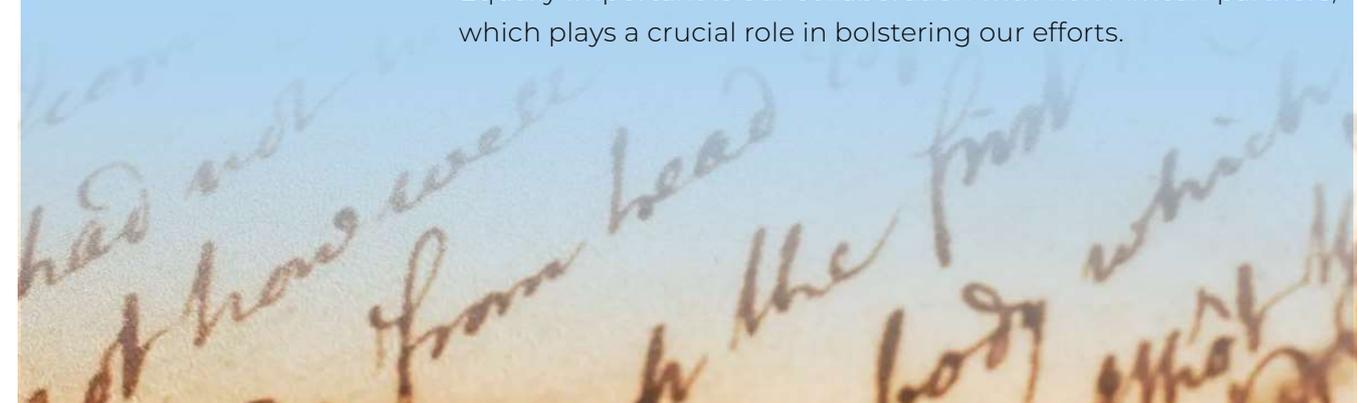
The persistent insecurity and conflicts that afflict our region remain a pressing concern. The EASF is dedicated to enhancing our own capabilities, which serve as a collective assurance of stability in Eastern Africa.

Our commitment to the regional, continental, and global agenda is unwavering as we strive for peace, security, and stability.

In 2024, our collaborative efforts were pivotal in guiding and managing EASF's activities. I am proud to report that these initiatives reaffirmed our belief in the necessity of solidarity among African nations to combat terrorism and other security threats. Equally important is our collaboration with non-African partners, which plays a crucial role in bolstering our efforts.



*The achievements of EASF would not have been possible without the support and patronage of its Member States, and the unwavering support of the African Union and the generosity of 'Friends and partners' of EASF.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Thus, EASF must continue to strengthen itself, to innovate in order to have its own capacities and to invent its own intervention solutions to guarantee regional stability, a pledge of any development. It proved the relevance of a regional organization such as ours, in its commitment to peace and reconciliation, and ensuring the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts.

As EASF continues to enhance its capabilities, I deeply appreciate the political will and leadership demonstrated by all Member States throughout the year. This commitment underscores the relevance of regional organizations like ours in fostering peace, reconciliation, and effectively preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts. To sustain this momentum, EASF must continue to innovate and develop its own interventions to ensure regional stability—a prerequisite for sustainable development.

The achievements of EASF would not have been possible without the support and patronage of its Member States, and the unwavering support of the African Union and the generosity of 'Friends and partners' of EASF.

I would like to thank the African Union for their support in providing the necessary strategic guidance to our regional efforts and the financial resources in building the operational readiness of EASF. Further, I also wish to thank the Friends of EASF, who have been instrumental in facilitating necessary coherence of the EASF's capacity building through training, conduct of exercises, and operational readiness and responsiveness of the multidimensional forces. I am convinced that EASF will remain an essential stakeholder in promoting regional peace and security. EASF is our common future. It deserves the full indulgence of its members.

As we approach the year 2025, I wish all Member States, partners, and stakeholders continued success, peace, and prosperity in the coming year. Let us renew our collective commitment to strengthening our efforts and achieving a peaceful, secure, and stable Eastern Africa.

I wish you all success and best of luck as we move ahead in the Chairmanship of our Organization.

**Hon. Marizamunda Juvenal**

**Chairperson, Council of Ministers of Defence & Security of Eastern Africa Region**



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



It is with great satisfaction that I present the Annual Report for 2024 of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF). This report highlights some of our most significant achievements, as well as the challenges faced throughout the year.

2024 has been a pivotal year for EASF, marked by a strong emphasis on enhancing the organization's profile and fostering meaningful engagement with our stakeholders. We have made notable strides in implementing our activity plan, and while some activities have been deferred to the coming year, we approach these with optimism, confident that they will form the cornerstone of our successes in 2025.

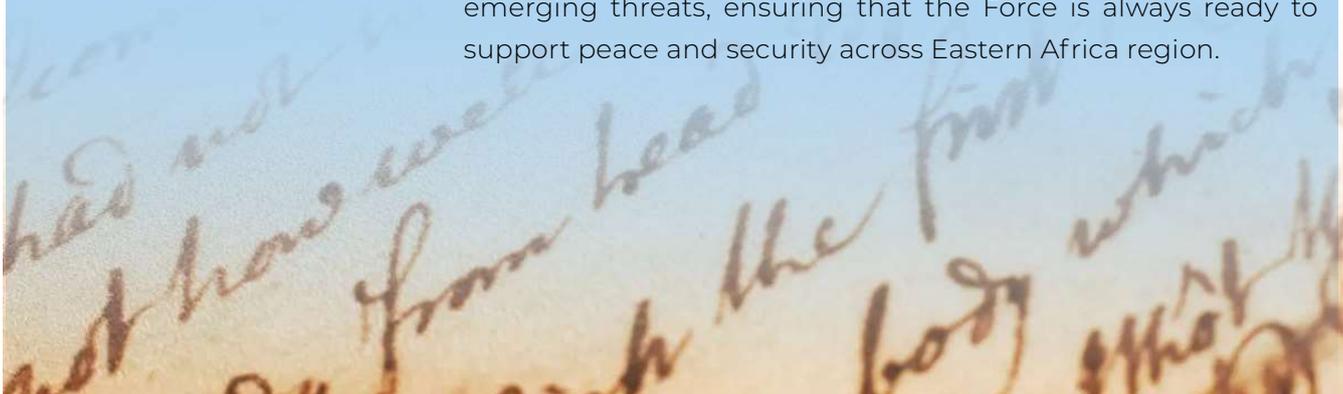
At the core of our endeavors are the four thematic areas outlined in our 2021–2025 Strategic Plan. These focus areas—Political and Advocacy; Enhancement of Full Operational Capability and Crisis Response; Institutional Capacity and Sustainability; and Diplomacy, Cooperation, and Partnerships are essential to our ongoing progress and success.

The alignment of our activities in 2024 with the strategic goals of this plan has paved the way for more effective and fruitful collaboration with regional partners. Furthermore, our commitment to supporting the democratic process in our region was evident through the deployment of Election Observer Missions in Comoros and Rwanda, reinforcing our role in promoting democratic governance.

In addition, the year has seen EASF making significant progress in strengthening its operational readiness. With the unwavering support of our Member States and partners, we successfully conducted Capabilities Verification exercises in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya. These exercises are part of our continuous efforts to maintain and enhance EASF's ability to respond to emerging threats, ensuring that the Force is always ready to support peace and security across Eastern Africa region.



*In line with our recognition of the critical role that youth and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, EASF organized activities that actively involved young people in the peace and security agenda. Their contributions are vital to the sustainability of peace in the region.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Through regular assessments of the capabilities of our Member States, EASF remains well-positioned to uphold its mission and support regional stability. These exercises underscore the growing commitment of East African nations to regional cooperation and their collective responsibility for peace in a region that faces many challenges.

Our efforts in enhancing institutional capacity were further demonstrated by a series of training workshops and courses conducted throughout 2024. These initiatives aimed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of both EASF personnel and our Member States in matters of peace and security, thereby enhancing our collective ability to respond to crises.

In line with our recognition of the critical role that youth and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, EASF organized activities that actively involved young people in the peace and security agenda. Their contributions are vital to the sustainability of peace in the region.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the EASF staff for their dedication and unwavering commitment to our mission. Their hard work has been the driving force behind our accomplishments in 2024.

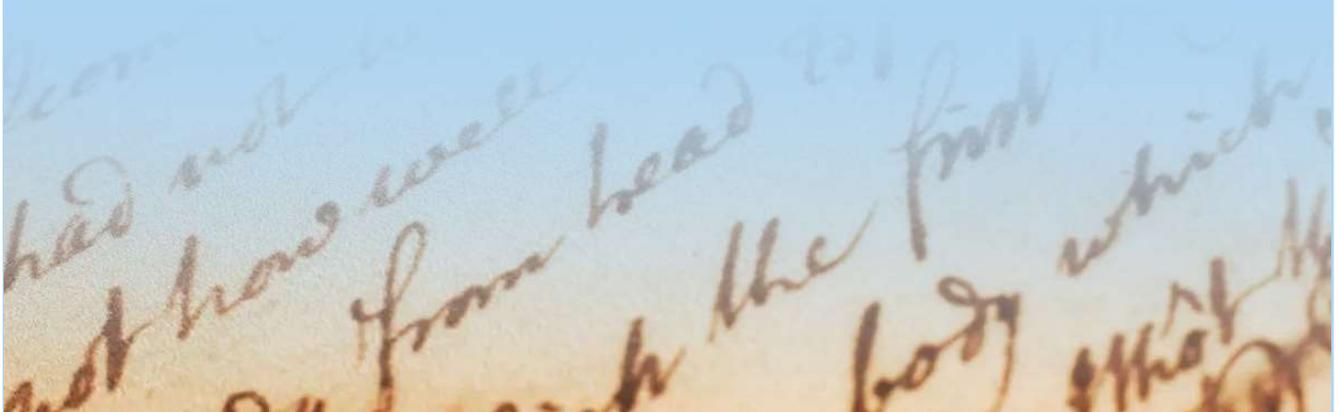
In conclusion, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the leadership of EASF, the Member States, and our Friends for their continued support and steadfast belief in the organization's vision. As we look ahead to 2025, it is imperative I call on all our partners to renew their commitment and enthusiasm for the work ahead.

Together, it is imperative that we continue to advance the cause of peace and security in Eastern African region.

wish everyone a peaceful and prosperous 2025, filled with success and blessings.

**Brig (Rtd) Paul Kahuria Njema**

**Eastern Africa Standby Force Director**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FRIENDS OF EASF



We have had a quite turbulent year, but the EASF Secretariat has navigated the troubled waters well under the competent leadership of EASF director, Brigadier retired Paul Kahuria Njema.

This year marks a special occasion; Eastern Africa Standby Brigade was founded 20 years ago in 2004. 10 Years later – in 2014 – EASF achieved Full Operational Capability, and I am proud to say that Denmark engaged with EASF back in 2007 and we have been on board ever since and still are with the coordinator of the International Advisory and Coordination Staff, Mr. Ken Albret, and Senior Law Enforcement Advisor Superintendent Claus Andersen.

It has been a fantastic journey that has yielded numerous achievements to the greater good of the Member States and beyond.

2024 started with a Policy Organ's Meeting in Nairobi where Kenya handed over the post as Chair of the Council of Ministers to Honourable Juvenal Marizamunda, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Rwanda. Under the auspice of Rwanda, and the firm leadership of Director EASF and his staff, this year has strengthened the cohesion of the Mechanism and within the Member States as a whole. Furthermore, great progress has been made on augmenting the regional instructor pools with an increased focus on integration between the three pillars – civilian, police, and military. In addition

to that, EASF has been conducting the activities as laid down in the activity plan for 2024, but there is a fly in the ointment. A strained financial situation has led to the cancellation of a number of activities. I find this a worrying tendency. One must not forget that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

EASF is, in my opinion, the leading Regional Mechanism when it comes to true integration. The Integrated Mission Planning Handbook is a testament to this. What could



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FRIENDS OF EASF

be seen as waning interest from the Member States can have a detrimental effect on EASF.

On a different, but potentially related topic, I deplore the decision of the Seychelles to leave the EASF. The timing is quite unfortunate since EASF is engaged with maturing its maritime capacity and the requirement for 'all hands on deck' is crucial in this phase. The departure of a nation with strong maritime traditions is unfortunate, but a firm commitment from the remaining nine Member States – including honouring your financial commitments – will hopefully see the Seychelles reconsider their decision.

At this point I would like to recognise Kenya and Ethiopia. Kenya has graciously offered to renovate the somewhat outdated facilities of the EASF Secretariat in Karen and Ethiopia has followed suite and offered to renovate the facilities of the Force Headquarters and LOG BASE in Addiss Ababa. Initiatives like that bear witness of a strong commitment and a deep acknowledgement of the importance of having a strong Regional Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution. Thank you to Ethiopia and Kenya for this commitment and for leading the way for other to follow.

In my opinion it might be worth promoting and rebranding EASF. Within the region and beyond. Within the Member States, EASF should be the preferred tool to resolve disputes before they spin out of control and result in humanitarian tragedy and immense suffering. EASF is NOT an invasive force. It is an objective tool that you all contribute to and all have the right to request and receive assistance from.

In a continental perspective EASF can inspire other Regional Mechanisms.

During the Integrated Mission Planning Course, we conducted in the beginning of December we had one instructor and three students from Ghana. They all expressed a desire to take this concept and implement it within ECOWAS. Well done EASF!

EASF is standing at a crossroads. Not only due to the requirement to invigorate the commitment of the Member States, but also because the concept of Peace Support Operations is up in the air following doubt about the effect of such operations. Furthermore, and

in lieu of this the African Union is evaluating the AU Peace and Security Architecture including the ASF construct.

It is of utmost importance that EASF and the Member States engage in this discussion, because EASF, as mentioned earlier, is at the forefront when it comes to integration of civilian, police, and military capacities. A lot of complex challenges must be discussed and decided upon and EASF has so much to contribute with in this context.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FRIENDS OF EASF

We – Denmark, the advisors and I – humbly offer our opinion based on our experience, but the decision is up to you. And I have the highest confidence in your ability to make a decision that will benefit the regional peace and stability.

The partnering role is the way we like to do things. We are not here to teach; we are here to learn. We are not here to dictate; we are here to inspire. These are some of the key messages in the new Danish Strategy for our engagement with African countries. But though it is good to have in writing it is only capturing what we have done for as long as we have been here and actually the principles have been put in the strategy based on the good experience, we have gained through our partnership with EASF among others. Up ahead lies challenges. It is not easy, but if it was, somebody else could have done it.

You are not somebody else. You are the foundation and backbone of EASF. Create the space and resource allocation for EASF to thrive and prosper. And with your permission, allow me as Chairperson of the Friends of EASF to support you. Denmark is in for the long haul. We are here to see you succeed.

I look forward to work with our new chair of the Council of Ministers and his political and military leadership.

Together we can make EASF the preferred political choice to promote peace and security in Eastern Africa and beyond in our uncertain future.

I will conclude with three recommendations to consider:

- Continue with ensuring an informed multidimensional and integrated Peace and Security mechanism, with the necessary expertise and capacities in mandated areas, and ensure a continuous dialogue on contemporary security challenges.
- Continue the work on creating awareness of EASF capacities and capabilities, and dialogue with like-minded organisations to ensure that EASF is counted as the preferred mandated mechanism for Peace and Security challenges in the region.
- Continue the build-up of capacities and expertise – and ensure testing them, in all areas of Conflict prevention, monitoring, and resolution in close partnership with member states.

I take this final opportunity to assure of the continued and unwavering support of the Friends of the EASF, my chairmanship of the Friends, and my sponsoring nation, the Royal Kingdom of Denmark.

**Jens Lindving**

**Chairperson of the friend of EASF**



## Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) Celebrates 2024 Achievements in Advancing Regional Peace and Security

As the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) marks its 20th year of operations, it continues to play a critical role in shaping the peace and security landscape of the Eastern Africa region. Established in July, 2004 in response to the region's history of devastating conflicts, such as the Rwandan Genocide and ongoing wars across the continent, the EASF has evolved into a robust force capable of responding swiftly to crisis situations. Originally known as the Eastern Africa Standby Brigade (EASBRIG), the organization broadened its scope by incorporating civilian and police components, thereby rebranding itself as the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) to align with the African Standby Force (ASF) concept.

EASF remains unwavering in its commitment to the principles of peace, security, and stability, guided by its Strategic Plan for 2021-2025. Throughout 2024, the organization has focused on enhancing its operational capabilities and responding to the dynamic challenges of the region. The year's activities, as outlined in the 2024 Activity Plan, were aligned with the core strategic pillars designed to strengthen the force's readiness and institutional capacity. These efforts underscore EASF's proactive stance in addressing security threats and advancing preventive diplomacy.

### The four key strategic pillars driving EASF's work are:

1. **Political and Advocacy:** Focused on strengthening political will among Member States and ensuring timely responses to emerging crises. EASF has intensified advocacy for greater regional cooperation, enabling faster and more effective interventions in times of conflict.
2. **Multidimensional Operational Capability:** EASF has continued to develop and maintain a multidimensional peace operations capability. This includes enhancing its Rapid Early Warning System (REWS) to detect potential threats and ensuring a force that is ready for intervention in critical situations to safeguard human lives.
3. **Institutional Capacity and Sustainability:** EASF has placed significant emphasis on strengthening its internal structures to ensure long-term sustainability. This includes securing the necessary resources and institutional capacity to manage its operations effectively and efficiently.
4. **Diplomacy, Cooperation, and Partnerships:** EASF has made great strides in fostering collaboration with regional and international stakeholders. By building and nurturing partnerships, the organization aims to enhance coordination and cooperation in peace and security efforts across the region.

2024 also marked a year of reflection for EASF as it celebrated the achievement of Full Operational Capability (FOC) in December 2014, a milestone that has allowed the Force to contribute more effectively to peace operations. Since then, EASF has continued to build on its operational strengths, refining its systems and processes to ensure it remains a formidable Force for peace in the region.

Despite the successes, 2024 also posed significant challenges for EASF, including resource constraints and the evolving nature of security threats. Nevertheless, the organization's resilience and dedication to its mandate have enabled it to continue supporting the broader goals of regional peace, stability, and sustainable development.

As EASF looks ahead, the organization remains committed to its mission, striving for greater cooperation among Member States and partners, and playing a pivotal role in the future of peace and security in Eastern Africa. Through continued dedication and strategic action, EASF aims to ensure that its work has a lasting and positive impact on the region's peace and security agenda



## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

### Eastern Africa Standby Force activities and achievement 2024:

#### Eastern Africa Standby Force Council of Ministers Held Meeting and Handover Ceremony

On January 27th, 2024, the Council of Ministers of Defence and Security of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) convened at the Emara Ole-Sereni Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, to address critical issues related to peace and security in the Eastern Africa region. The meeting provided a platform for key discussions on regional security challenges and collaborative efforts to ensure stability.

Following the meeting, a formal handover ceremony took place, marking the transfer of the chairmanship of EASF from the Republic of Kenya to the Republic of Rwanda, for continuing the region's commitment to strengthening peace and security through regional cooperation and strategic engagement.

The handover represents an important milestone for EASF, as Member States work together to address emerging threats and promote peace in Eastern Africa



## EASF Strengthened Regional Security Readiness Through Successful Capabilities Verification in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya

### Djibouti's Military, Police, and Civilian Contributions Assessed for Enhanced Regional Security

In November, 2024, the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF), led by EASF Director Brigadier (Rtd) Paul Kahuria Njema, completed a key verification exercise in Djibouti to assess the country's pledged military, police, and civilian capabilities. The verification, conducted from November 5 to 6, was part of ongoing efforts to ensure the EASF remains prepared to address emerging threats in Eastern Africa.

The exercise focused on Djibouti's readiness to contribute to regional security operations, underscoring the importance of each member state's role in maintaining stability across the region. The EASF director emphasized that this verification is a crucial step in strengthening EASF's operational capacity, enhancing its ability to respond swiftly to regional challenges.

"This verification is a vital part of our readiness framework, ensuring that our forces are ready to work together in the face of regional threats," according to EASF director.



### Ethiopia's Commitment to Regional Security Reinforced

The verification process pledged earlier in 2024, with a similar exercise held in Ethiopia on 4th July. The EASF assessed Ethiopia's pledged capabilities, ensuring that the country's contributions to regional peace operations are well-coordinated. During the exercise, the EASF Director underscored the significance of this exercise in enhancing operational readiness and fostering collaboration among East African nations in the pursuit of peace and security.

"Strengthening our collective readiness ensures we are ready to address any crisis that may arise," Brigadier Njema remarked following the successful verification.



## Kenya's Comprehensive Evaluation Highlights Multidimensional Readiness

Another verification took place in Kenya, from 24 to 26 September, 2024 where the EASF assessed the country's preparedness for potential deployments in future peace support operations. Led by EASF director alongside Force Commander Brigadier General Getachew Ali, the evaluation was a comprehensive review of Kenya's civilian, police and military capabilities, with a particular focus on integrating these components for mission success.

The exercise reaffirmed Kenya's readiness to contribute to peacekeeping missions, with a special emphasis on the critical role of civilian personnel in ensuring the success of regional peace operations. This assessment reinforced the EASF's integrated approach to peacekeeping, involving not just military and police forces but also civilian expertise.

"The participation of civilians in peace operations is essential. This exercise highlights the integrated approach that makes the EASF a unique and effective regional Force," Brigadier Njema stated.



## Building a Stronger EASF for Regional Stability

These verification exercises in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya form part of the EASF's ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance its operational readiness. By regularly assessing the capabilities of its Member States, the Force ensures that it is well-positioned to address emerging threats and support peace and security across the region.

As the EASF continues to build its capacity, these exercises highlight the growing commitment of East African nations to regional cooperation and the collective responsibility for maintaining peace in a volatile region.

## EASF Strengthens Regional Cooperation Through Election Observation Missions in Comoros and Rwanda

### Promoting Democracy and Stability in Eastern Africa

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) reinforced its commitment to supporting democratic processes in the region through successful election observation missions in the Union of Comoros and Rwanda in 2024. These missions reflect the EASF's ongoing role in promoting democratic governance and regional stability.

In the first mission, which took place on January 14, 2024, a delegation of 24 election observers from nine EASF Member States deployed to the Union of Comoros. The observers were tasked

with monitoring the country's electoral process, ensuring that it was free, fair, and in accordance with regional standards.

Later in the year, on July 15, 2024, the EASF conducted a second election observation mission in Rwanda, with 21 observers from various Member States participating. Like the mission in Comoros, the Rwanda observation was carried out in line with EASF's established guidelines, ensuring that the mission's assessment remained impartial and comprehensive.

Both missions were part of the EASF's broader effort to support democracy and the rule of law across Eastern Africa. By providing independent and credible assessments of the electoral processes, the EASF plays a key role in enhancing the legitimacy of democratic elections in the region.



## Building Trust and Promoting Stability

These election observation missions are vital components of the EASF's approach to regional security. By ensuring the transparency, the freedom and the fairness of elections, the Force contributes to greater political stability and the peaceful transfer of power, which are crucial for fostering long-term security across Eastern Africa.

## Commitment to Democracy and Regional Integration

The EASF's election observation missions not only contribute to the democratic development of individual nations but also serve as a testament to the region's commitment to peace, democracy, and cooperation. By observing and reporting on elections, the EASF helps Member States ensure that their democratic processes meet international standards, while also fostering greater regional integration and solidarity.

These missions are part of the broader efforts by the EASF to promote peaceful governance and support the democratic aspirations of the people of Eastern Africa. Through such initiatives, the EASF continues to strengthen its role as a key actor in the region's security and development, promoting stability and peace for all.



## Promoting Regional Collaboration Through the Friends of EASF Meeting

### Strengthening Partnerships for Peace and Security

On May 9, 2024, the EASF hosted the Friends of EASF (FoE) meeting in Nairobi. The meeting brought together over twenty Defence Attachés and Advisors (DAs) from diplomatic missions in Kenya, including EASF Member States. The FoE meeting allowed EASF to brief attendees on the region's security situation, fostering deeper cooperation between regional and international stakeholders. This informal network of nations and institutions remains crucial in enhancing peace and security within Eastern Africa.



### EASF Explores Capacity Building with Italy's Carabinieri

### Enhancing Collaboration with Italy for Training and Capacity Building

In 2024, the EASF visited Carabinieri facilities in Italy twice, first in June and then in November. These visits, initiated through discussions between the Italian Delegation and EASF, focused on establishing training collaborations in areas such as capacity-building and peace support operations. EASF explored opportunities to customize training packages and enhance the operational effectiveness of its forces through Italy's expertise. These discussions are set to strengthen EASF's capacity for peacekeeping across the region.



## EASF Enhances Disaster Response with HANDS Workshop

### Mapping Disaster Response Capabilities for Regional Resilience

In March 2024, the EASF held a workshop in Kigali, Rwanda, to map Member States' capabilities for humanitarian action and disaster response under the HANDS framework. The five-day workshop emphasized collaboration in disaster and pandemic response strategies,

aiming to strengthen the region's collective disaster preparedness. The workshop also reinforced EASF's role in supporting the resilience of Eastern African nations in times of crisis, in line with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Programme.



## Leveraging Technology in Peace Operations: ASF Training Workshop

### Innovative Approaches to Peacekeeping Training Discussed in Nairobi

From October 28 to November 1, 2024, EASF hosted the 16th Annual African Standby Force (ASF) Training Implementation Workshop in Nairobi. The event brought together key stakeholders to explore "Leveraging Technology in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Peace Support Operations Training." This workshop focused on incorporating technological advancements into peace support operations, reinforcing the need for innovation in mission preparation and deployment.



## Strategic Planning and Collaboration at EASF Expert Working Group Meeting

### Optimizing EASF's Operational Readiness



From October 22 to 24, 2024, EASF held its Expert Working Group Meeting (EWGM) in Nairobi, focusing on optimizing operational readiness across Member States. Discussions revolved around key items such as the Memorandum of Understanding on pledged forces, human resource policies, and a strategic assessment of

the EASF's capabilities. This meeting marked a significant step in strengthening EASF's capacity to address emerging challenges in peace support operations.

### Annual Management Retreat Focuses on Organizational Growth

#### Reflecting on Progress and Setting Future Goals

In September 2024, EASF's leadership convened for a three-day retreat in Naivasha, Kenya, to evaluate the organization's progress and strategize for future growth. The retreat, funded by Denmark, provided a platform for heads of components and departments to assess the organization's effectiveness, discuss challenges, and align efforts with the strategic goals outlined in the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.



## Logistics Training Enhances Mission Support

### Strengthening Logistics Coordination for Future Peace Missions

From September 19 to 27, 2024, EASF conducted a Logistics Map Exercise Training (MAPEX) in Addis Ababa. The exercise, aimed at enhancing logistics coordination for future peace support operations, brought together personnel from various Member States to build the critical logistics expertise needed for successful mission deployment. This initiative highlights the importance of logistical readiness in ensuring the swift and effective execution of EASF's mandates.



## Expanding Expertise for Peace Operations Through Civilian Roster Recruitment

### Recruiting and Verifying Civilian Experts for Future Deployments

In June 2024, EASF conducted a Civilian Roster Recruitment & Verification Exercise in Bujumbura, Burundi. The event saw the participation of 59 civilian experts, with 46 successfully included in the African Standby Capacity (ASC) database. This exercise is part of EASF's ongoing effort to ensure a diverse pool of experts ready for deployment in peace operations, emphasizing the critical role of civilians in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

## Civilian Focal Points Workshop Strengthens National Coordination

### Improving Coordination for Effective Peacekeeping

In March 2024, EASF hosted a Civilian National Focal Points (CNFP) Workshop in Mombasa, Kenya. The workshop brought together representatives from EASF Member States to enhance inter-state coordination and foster a more integrated approach to peacekeeping. The event emphasized the importance of maintaining an up-to-date civilian database and ensuring preparedness for peace support operations.



## Enhancing Civil Affairs Capacity for Peace Operations

### Training for Civil Affairs Officers to Support Peace Missions

In July and August 2024, EASF conducted specialized courses for civil affairs officers at its Force headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Civil Affairs Officers Course, held from July 22 to August 2, 2024, and the Integrated Mission Administration Course (IMAC) in August, aimed to equip participants with the skills necessary for successful peacekeeping missions. These courses focused on enhancing the capacity of officers to address local challenges, facilitate stability, and ensure the effective delivery of peace operations.



## Protecting Vulnerable Children in Conflict Zones

### Training on protecting Children Affected by Armed Conflicts

In October 2024, EASF conducted a Children Affected with Armed Conflicts (CAAC) Course in Entebbe, Uganda. The course, which involved 26 participants from military, police, and civilian components, aimed to enhancing regional capacity to protect children in conflict zones. This training is part of EASF's broader commitment to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations during peace operations.



These activities and achievements reflect the ongoing efforts of the Eastern Africa Standby Force to strengthen its operational capabilities, promote regional cooperation, and ensure peace and security in Eastern Africa.

EASF Strengthens Regional Peace and Security Through Key Activities in 2024



## EASF Enhances Early Warning Systems with OSCE Collaboration

### Benchmarking Visit to OSCE in Vienna, Austria

In March 2024, the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) Peace Operations Department's Early Warning (E-Warn) team traveled to Vienna, Austria, to collaborate with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) at its Conflict Prevention Center (CPC). The visit, held from March 12-13, focused on enhancing EASF's conflict prevention strategies by learning from OSCE's extensive experience in supporting peace operations across its 57 Member States. This collaboration is part of EASF's ongoing efforts to improve early warning capabilities, laying a foundation for future knowledge exchange and cooperation.

## EASF Strengthens Cooperation with Member States' Early Warning Agencies

### Roundtable Meetings for Enhanced Regional Coordination

EASF has been actively working to strengthen its early warning capabilities through collaboration with national early warning agencies across the region. In 2024, a series of roundtable meetings and workshops were held in Burundi, Comoros, Kenya, Seychelles, and Uganda. These discussions focused on improving information sharing, enhancing coordination mechanisms, and drafting Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between EASF and Member States. The agreements, expected to be finalized in 2025, aim to boost regional security by improving early threat detection across Eastern Africa.



## EASF Panel of Elders Prepared Strategic Action Plan for 2025

### First Panel of Elders Retreat Held in Burundi

From October 30 to November 1, 2024, the first session of the EASF Panel of Elders Retreat took place in Bujumbura, Burundi. The retreat centered on the development of a strategic action plan for 2025 and the approval of the Panel's Rules of Procedure. Key areas of intervention were identified, marking a significant step towards enhancing the role of the Panel of Elders in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. The outcomes of the retreat were presented at the 33rd Ordinary Policy Organs Meeting in December 2024.

## EASF Takes Active Role in Regional and Continental Peace Initiatives

### Engagement in Capacity Building and Collaborative Forums

In 2024, EASF continued to participate in various of regional and continental forums aimed at strengthening its capacity for peace and security operations. Notable activities included technical sessions on child protection, participation in the AU Interdepartmental Retreat on Climate Change, Peace, and Security, and involvement in the National Security Symposium hosted by the Government of Rwanda. These engagements underline EASF's ongoing efforts to enhance its role in shaping the future of peace and security in the region.

## EASF Fosters Youth Engagement in Peacebuilding and Environmental Protection

### Youth for Peace Seminar Held in Mogadishu, Somalia

In October 2024, EASF hosted a Youth for Peace seminar in Mogadishu, Somalia, bringing together 60 youth from Member States to discuss the interlinkages between peacebuilding, youth leadership, and climate change. The seminar also included a tree-planting initiative, where participants planted 50 trees as a symbol of their commitment to environmental stewardship. This event marked a significant step in empowering youth as leaders in both peacebuilding and environmental conservation across Eastern Africa.



## EASF Partners with Africa International University (AIU) to Celebrate International Day of Peace

### International Day of Peace Celebrated with AIU

On October 5, 2024, EASF partnered with Africa International University (AIU) to celebrate the International Day of Peace in Nairobi, Kenya. The event, themed “Cultivating a Culture of Peace: Youth and Climate Change,” attracted over 400 participants, including youth leaders and civil society representatives. Workshops, performances, and discussions focused on the role of youth in peacebuilding and environmental protection. The event concluded with a tree-planting ceremony, reinforcing the critical connection between peace and environmental sustainability.



## EASF Launches Green Champions Initiative in Kigali

### Youth Leadership in Peace and Environmental Efforts

In August 2024, EASF launched the Green Champions Initiative in Kigali, Rwanda, during the Youth Day celebrations. The initiative seeks to engage young people in promoting both peace and environmental conservation across the region. During the event, 30 youth leaders volunteered at the Mahama Refugee Camp, contributing to shelter construction and the establishment of a tree nursery. Supported by the African Union and the European Union, the Green Champions Initiative highlights EASF’s commitment to empowering youth for a peaceful and sustainable future.



## EASF Reflects on Rwanda's Peace Journey During Green Champions Visit

### Visit to Genocide Memorial Underscores Commitment to Sustainable Peacebuilding

As part of the Green Champions Initiative, youth leaders visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial on August 17, 2024, to reflect on Rwanda's post-genocide journey towards reconciliation and peace. This poignant visit underscored the importance of learning from history and reaffirmed the Green Champions' dedication to fostering peace and sustainability in their respective countries. The visit highlighted EASF's commitment to integrating both environmental and social dimensions in peacebuilding efforts



## EASF Hosts Seminar on Peace and Security for Seychelles Youth

### Youth Sensitization on Regional Peace Efforts

From May 14-15, 2024, EASF, in partnership with Seychelles' national platform for civil society and the youth council, hosted a three-day seminar aimed at sensitizing young leaders about the importance of peace in the Eastern Africa region. The seminar engaged youth from various structures, including NGOs, to foster a greater understanding of the role of youth in maintaining peace across Africa.

## EASF Police Component Enhances Regional Security Capacities in 2024

### Police Points of Contact (PPOC) Workshop in Entebbe

In March 2024, the EASF Police Component hosted a workshop in Entebbe, Uganda, where Police Points of Contact (PPOC) from Member States met to discuss the progress and challenges in maintaining an updated police database for peace operations. The workshop also provided guidelines on the selection of police personnel for deployment, ensuring that EASF's police forces meet regional and international standards.



## EASF Conducts Police Capacity Building Visits to Ethiopia and Somalia

### Strengthening Police Preparedness for Peace Operations

In April 2024, EASF, in collaboration with the African Union Police Strategic Support Group (AUPSSG) and GIZ, visited Ethiopia to enhance the country's police capacity for peace operations. The delegation met with Ethiopian Federation Police officers to provide strategic guidance on strengthening human resources, logistics, and training for peace operations. Similarly, in October 2024, EASF visited Somalia to help the Somali Police Force align with EASF and AU standards for contributing police capabilities to regional peace operations.



## EASF Police Component Conducts Advanced Training Programs

### Enhancing Regional Police Trainers' Capacity

In 2024, EASF conducted two Advanced Instructors and Mentoring Courses to strengthen the capacity of police trainers across the region. These courses, held in Uganda and Kenya, aimed to improve the trainers' ability to provide feedback and conduct training for peace operations. These initiatives are essential for building a self-sustaining police training framework within the region.



## EASF Military Component Advances Operational Readiness in 2024

### Air Movement Control Course in Ethiopia

In May 2024, EASF held an Air Movement Planning Course in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to enhance participants' knowledge of air operations and logistics planning for peace operations missions. The course was designed to equip military personnel with the skills necessary for coordinating airlift movements and supporting logistical operations in complex peacekeeping environments.



## EASF Conducts Battle Group Commanders Course in Uganda

### Leadership Training for Peace Missions

From June 3-14, 2024, EASF hosted the Battle Group Commanders Course (BGCC) in Entebbe, Uganda, to train potential peacekeeping commanders. The course covered topics such as disaster response, countering asymmetric threats, and managing peace operations. This training is pivotal in ensuring that EASF commanders are fully prepared to lead in diverse peacekeeping challenges.



## EASF Enhances Military Training Framework with (IMPC) Course in 2024

### Integrated Mission Planning Course in Seychelles

In February 2024, EASF hosted the Integrated Mission Planning Course (IMPC) in Seychelles, which trained military, police, and civilian personnel on the integrated operational planning process for peace support operations. This course aimed to enhance coordination between different components of peace operations, ensuring a unified approach to conflict resolution.

## EASF Promotes Counter-Terrorism Training in Nairobi

### Counter-Terrorism Syllabus Development Workshop

In September 2024, EASF held a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, to develop a comprehensive counter-terrorism training syllabus for its personnel. This initiative is part of EASF's



ongoing efforts to strengthen regional capabilities in addressing terrorism, a growing threat in Eastern Africa and beyond

## EASF Military Units Continue to Strengthen Regional Peace Operations

### Commitment to Ethical Standards and Operational Readiness

Throughout 2024, EASF continued to focus on ensuring that its military and police personnel are fully prepared to support peace operations. Initiatives such as the AU/EASF Compliance and Accountability Course and various specialized military training courses underscore EASF's commitment to maintaining high operational standards and ethical conduct in peace operations

## COURTESY CALLS

### EASF Director's Courtesy Visits Foster Regional Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships

#### EASF Director Visits Seychelles Vice President to Strengthen Regional Security Cooperation May 17th, 2024, Victoria, Seychelles

In a diplomatic engagement aimed at bolstering regional security, Brigadier (Rtd) Paul Kahuria Njema, Director of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF), paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Vice-President Ahmed Afif of the Republic of Seychelles on May 17th, 2024. During the meeting, the Vice-President Afif underscored the vital role of EASF in building the capacity of military, police, and civilian personnel in peace and security matters.



On his part, the EASF Director praised the welcoming and friendly nature of the Seychellois people and expressed his appreciation for the warm reception by the Vice President. "The strong will and support of the Republic of Seychelles is a clear indication of the importance the country places on ensuring regional security, particularly in relation to maritime security," said Njema.

The meeting also highlighted Seychelles' critical role in regional security, with discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in maritime security. The Director was accompanied by the Head of the Peace Operations Department and the Executive Assistant. Throughout the visit, the EASF Director engaged with key stakeholders, including the Board of the Citizens Engagement Platform (CEPS), the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Leadership of the National Assembly, and the Commissioner of Police.

#### EASF Director paid a courtesy call to the Minister of Defense of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

On June 6th, EASF Director Brigadier Njema also paid a courtesy call to the newly appointed Minister of Defense of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Hon. Aisha Mohammed. The two leaders discussed various security concerns and explored opportunities for enhanced cooperation between Ethiopia and the EASF to promote peace and stability in the region.



## ATMIS Leadership Visits EASF to Strengthen Regional Cooperation

August 7th, 2024, Nairobi, Kenya



In an important step towards enhancing regional security, Ambassador Mohamed El-Amine Souef, the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union and Head of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), led a delegation to the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) Secretariat in Nairobi on August 7th, 2024.

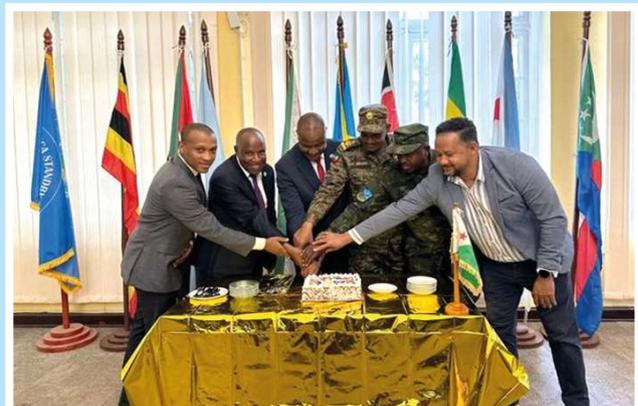
EASF Director Brigadier (Rtd) Paul Kahuria Njema warmly welcomed Ambassador Souef, along with Force Commander Lt. Gen. Sam Kavuma and their team. During the meeting, Brigadier Njema stressed the importance of closer collaboration between ATMIS and EASF in addressing the security challenges faced by the region.

“This visit follows our previous discussions and reinforces our shared commitment to achieving peace and security in the region,” said Brigadier Njema. Both organizations expressed their dedication to working together to strengthen their coordination and contribute to the stabilization of Eastern Africa.

## EASF Director Visits EASF Structures in Addis Ababa

June 6th - 7th, 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

EASF Director Brigadier (Rtd) Paul Kahuria Njema visited the EASF Structures in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on June 7th, 2024, to engage with the organization’s regional operations. The visit was part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen EASF’s operational capabilities in the region.



## EASF Director Meets with Amani Africa to Discuss Conflict Prevention

June 4th, 2024, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

EASF Director Brigadier (Rtd) Paul Kahuria Njema, paid a visit to Amani Africa on June 4th, 2024. During the visit, both sides exchanged valuable insights on conflict prevention and peacekeeping strategies in Eastern Africa. The meeting underscored the importance of collaboration between regional organizations in preventing conflicts and ensuring long-term peace and security in the region.



## EASF Director Strengthens Ties with UNITAR for Capacity Building Initiatives

March 12th, 2024, Geneva, Switzerland

On March 12th, 2024, The Director of EASF, Brigadier (Rtd) Paul Kahuria Njema, paid a courtesy call on Mr. Evariste Karambizi, Director of the Division for Peace at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Geneva. The two leaders discussed expanding the scope of cooperation between UNITAR and EASF, with a particular focus on enhancing capacity-building initiatives in the region.

The discussions built upon the Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNITAR and EASF in March 2022, which focuses on collaborative efforts in capacity building for peace and security. Both parties agreed to explore new areas of partnership to strengthen the region's ability to respond to security challenges.

## Kenya Foreign Service Academy Director Pays Courtesy Call to EASF

February 6th, 2024, Nairobi, Kenya

On February 6th, 2024, Ambassador Paul Kamweru, Director-General of the Kenya Foreign Service Academy, paid a courtesy visit to EASF director Brigadier (Rtd) Paul Kahuria Njema, to discuss potential areas of collaboration between the two organizations. The meeting emphasized the importance of educational and training programs for enhancing the diplomatic and security capacity of EASF and its Member States. The discussion also focused on strengthening partnerships to support peace and security in the region.



These courtesy visits reflect the Eastern Africa Standby Force's ongoing efforts to strengthen regional partnerships, enhance operational readiness, and foster cooperation with international and local stakeholders in the pursuit of peace and security across Eastern Africa.



## MILESTONES

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) reached a significant achievement in December 2014, when officially declared the Full Operational Capability (FOC). This milestone marked the establishment of a fully equipped, multidimensional, and multinational force consisting of 5,200 personnel, representing a mix of military, police, and civilian components. The force's readiness was a critical step towards ensuring that EASF could respond to crises across the region effectively.

Following the declaration of FOC, the focus shifted to the maintenance of operational readiness, ensuring the force remains capable of deploying swiftly and sustaining its missions across the region. Continuous efforts have been made to enhance the force's operational capacity, with an emphasis on the effective management and deployment of EASF missions in alignment with its core objectives. This includes maintaining personnel training, equipment readiness, and logistical support to ensure that EASF remains responsive to the needs of Eastern Africa and can engage in peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and conflict prevention missions as required.

### Shared Values

The success of the EASF relies on the shared values held by its management, staff, and stakeholders, which guide the organization in achieving its mission and upholding its commitment to regional peace and stability. These values reflect a collective belief in the importance of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism, ethics, and cooperation within the Force.

The functional relationships between the Policy Organs, the EASF Management Team, and the staff are built on mutual respect and a shared vision for the organization's goals. This cooperation is essential for ensuring that EASF continues to be a responsive and dynamic Force. As such, fostering these shared values is crucial for maintaining organizational cohesion and alignment with the EASF's mandate.

The core values are principles that guide the daily operations and decision-making processes of the organization. These include:

**Professionalism:** Upholding the highest standards of conduct, competency, and operational effectiveness.

**Multidimensionality & Diversity:** Embracing diverse perspectives and expertise, recognizing the value of different backgrounds and experiences in achieving mission success.

**Equity:** Ensuring fair treatment, opportunities, and outcomes for all members of the force, regardless of their background.

**Transparency:** Promoting openness and honesty in all processes, fostering trust within the Force and with external partners.

**Accountability:** Holding all members of the organization responsible for their actions, ensuring the integrity of operations and the achievement of mission objectives.



**Good Governance:** Prioritizing ethical leadership and decision-making, and maintaining the highest standards of good governance to support the EASF's mission.

By incorporating these values into every aspect of its operations, EASF strengthens its ability to inspire collaboration and unity within its Secretariat, structures, and departments, ensuring the continued success and relevance of the organization in the ever-evolving landscape of Eastern Africa's security challenges.





Eastern Africa Standby Force, 2025

**Publication:** EASF Annual Report 2024

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Edited by: EASF Editorial Team  
Layout & Design: Smati Graphics  
Printed by: Smati Graphics

## EASTERN AFRICA STANDBY FORCE

“STRIVING FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN EASTERN AFRICA”



[easfcom@easbrig.org](mailto:easfcom@easbrig.org)



Westwood Park Road  
Karen Nairobi Kenya



+254 20 3884720  
Fax: +254 20 3884633



[www.easfcom.org](http://www.easfcom.org)