



EASF POLICY ORGANS MEETINGS

KIGALI, RWANDA, 20TH AUGUST 2014

OPENING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR

MEETING OF THE EASTERN AFRICAN CHIEFS OF DEFENCE

STAFF

Guest of Honour, Gen Patrick Nyamvumba, The Chief of Defence, Rwanda Defence Forces;

Distinguished Chiefs of Defence Staff

Distinguished Inspector Generals of Police here Present;

Representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs;

Invited Guests;

EASF Staff;

Members of the Press;

Ladies and Gentlemen

All Protocol Observed,

Good Morning,

I feel very privileged to be given the blessed opportunity to welcome you to the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Committee of Chiefs of Defense Staff of the Eastern Africa Region.

We are happy indeed that you found time out of your very busy schedules to honour the opening ceremony of this important Meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Guest of Honour, in a special way, for finding time to be with us this morning, and grace this opening ceremony.

We really appreciate the participation to the works of this 17th ordinary policy organs meetings of the inspector generals of police and of the representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs of EASF Member States . this is the first time you are joining us, we are blessed with your presence and we really thank you. You are most welcome within the EASF Family.

I would like to thank in a very particular way, the Government and the people of the brotherly Republic of Rwanda for their warm welcome and hospitality extended to all of us since our arrival in the beautiful capital city of Kigali, and for hosting this important session of the EASF Policy Organs Meetings.

Distinguished Chiefs of Defense, Ladies and Gentlemen

Indeed, under your guidance and the leadership of the Council of Ministers, EASF has, since its inception in 2004 achieved very important milestones in line with the APSA program and African Union Roadmaps I, II to III.

We have successfully conducted two CPX in 2008 and 2011 in Nairobi, in the Republic of Kenya and Khartoum, in the Republic of The Sudan respectively, and have successfully conducted two FTX in 2009 in the Republic of Djibouti and 2013 in Jinja, in the Republic of Uganda.

EASF attained the Initial Operating Capability in 2010 after the successful conduct of the FTX held in 2009 in the Republic of Djibouti.

I have the pleasure to inform the distinguished Chiefs of Defence and Security of the Eastern Africa Region, that the decisions taken since Kigali's Extraordinary Meeting in April,

2014 are being implemented, and that the process leading to FOC in December 2014 is steadily on course.

This Meeting of the distinguished Chiefs of Defense and Security will be fully appraised of the achievements made at this stage, in respect to the upcoming CPX2014.

We remain totally convinced that the Distinguished Chiefs of Defence and Security will continue to provide us with necessary guidance in a way to ensure successful conduct of the upcoming CPX 2014, and thus offer the EASF the opportunity to declare officially, the attainment of its Full Operational Capability in December 2014.

Distinguished Chiefs of Defense, Ladies and Gentlemen

We owe sincere thanks to all Member States for the continued, valuable support availed to EASF and for availing their experts to EASF in order to ensure the positive development of our organisation.

We also acknowledge the Friends of EASF. Their support and commitment have made possible the achievements of EASF to the present level.

Once again, I wish to thank the Government and the people of the Republic of Rwanda for availing every support necessary for the success of this 17th Ordinary Session of the Policy Organs.

As we move on, towards the CPX 2014, allow me to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for voluntarily hosting the CPX 2014, and strongly acknowledge their commitment for the success of this very important Exercise.

Before I conclude, I would like, once again, to express our sincere gratitude to all the Chiefs of Defense Staff, Inspectors Generals of Police, and Representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Eastern Africa Region for honoring the

works of this important session of EASF Policy Organs Meetings.

I wish you very successful deliberations.

I thank you for your attention.