EAST AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

(EALGF)

Nairobi Communiqué

9th East Africa Local Governments Forum (EALGF) and East African County and Local Governments Association (EACLGA) Summit

Theme: Accelerating Local Autonomy

Nairobi, Kenya,

4 November 2026

At Windsor Golf Hotel &Country Club

Preamble

We, the Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and leaders of national Local government associations/ umbrella bodies for counties and local governments in the East African Community (EAC) and partner states, represented by the East African County and Local Governments Association EACLGA) in the meeting of the 9th East Africa Local Governments Forum held on 4th November 2026, at the Windsor Golf Hotel and Country Club in Nairobi, Kenya, under the theme ***Accelerating Local Autonomy***: **Strategic Pathways for Local Government Empowerment and Inclusion in the EAC Integration Agenda;**

1. **Reaffirm** that regional integration is ultimately measured by its impact on services, livelihoods and opportunity in our communities.

2. **Recognize** county and local governments as frontline actors in service delivery, local economic development, cross-border cooperation and public participation.

3. **Welcome** the handover of the Chair of the EALGF from the Republic of Uganda to the Republic of Kenya and **thank** Uganda for its leadership of the Forum.

4. **Express** our appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for hosting the Summit.

Now therefore **resolve** as follows:

Resolutions

I. Corporate Strategy and Leadership

5. **Adopt** the EALGF performance report and recommendations for the period 2024-2026 as presented by the Ministry of Local Government, Uganda, and call on the new leadership to follow up on the outstanding actions.

6. **Adopt** the EALGF–EACLGA Corporate Strategy 2026–2031 as the framework guiding collaboration among member countries and **direct** the Secretariat to develop an implementation plan and a funding and resource mobilization strategy for it.

7. **Direct** that the Strategy be translated into French and Kiswahili, as requested by the Executive Committee.

II. Local Government in the EAC Architecture

8. **Request** the EAC Council of Ministers to establish a formal framework for engagement between the EAC Secretariat, EAC sectoral ministries and local

government associations, including a mechanism for the timely dissemination of EAC policies and decisions to local governments.

9. **Support** EACLGA's pursuit of observer status within the Community and **welcome** the commitment by the Office of the EAC Secretary General to undertake a feasibility analysis.

10. **Call upon** the EAC to consider (a) the establishment of a Devolution Unit under the Office of the Secretary General; (b) a link between Ministers responsible for local government and the Council of Ministers; (c) the representation of county and local governments in the East African Legislative Assembly, including a special committee; and (d) a review of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC to provide a recognized institutional space for local governments.

11. **Continue** to advocate for decentralized governance to be recognized as a key implementation structure for the EAC governance agenda.

III. Domestication of Regional and Continental Frameworks

12. **Encourage** Partner States to align national decentralization and local government laws and policies with regional and continental commitments, and to give local governments clear mandates for implementation.

13. **Urge** Partner States to ratify the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development and the Niamey Convention on Cross-Border Cooperation, noting with concern the limited level of ratification to date.

14. **Request** each responsible ministry to prepare a ratification roadmap and to report progress at the next Forum, in a spirit of mutual learning and with a view to a common standard of devolution practice across the region.

15. **Commit** to champion awareness of the EAC integration in our communities at local level, leveraging from the existing county and LG platforms for community engagement

IV. Fiscal and Institutional Empowerment

16. **Advocate** for predictable, adequate and timely financing of local governments, matched their functions, so that finance follows function, together with the human resources required to deliver them.

17. **Strengthen** own-source revenue systems, including property rates, land value capture and integrated digital systems for revenue collection, planning, procurement and citizen participation.

18. **Promote** direct access by local governments to climate and development finance.

19. **Explore** innovative arrangements, including a joint border-county development fund and local participation in major EAC infrastructure projects.

20. **Promote** the professionalization of local government administration through merit-based recruitment, and pair local autonomy with accountability through the traceable use of public funds, anti-corruption measures and performance-based measurement.

V. Inclusion

21. **Mainstream** gender, youth, disability and social inclusion in local government planning, budgeting and participation within the EAC agenda, with measurable targets and monitoring.

22. **Support** the East African Women in Local Government Initiative and **welcome** the planned launch of the Commonwealth women-in-local-government initiative in early 2027.

VI. Coordination Mechanism

23. **Institutionalize** a regular ministerial and technical coordination platform among Partner States' ministries responsible for local government, supported by a joint secretariat arrangement with EACLGA.

24. **Fast-track** the signing and sharing of the EALGF Memorandum of Understanding between ministries of Local Government/Devolution and EACLGA, to give the Forum political weight at EAC level.

VII. Financial Sustainability of the Forum and the Association

25. **Urge** all members to pay their subscriptions in full and on time, and clear outstanding arrears, and commend Rwanda and Tanzania for meeting their obligations.

26. **Encourage** Partner States to provide dedicated budget votes for the Forum, EACLGA Secretariat and for national local government associations.

27. **Adopt** a sustainable funding strategy, with a six-month operating reserve and a progressive shift towards balanced own and external income by 2031.

28. **Invest** in the institutional strengthening and staffing of the EACLGA Secretariat.

29. **Call upon** the United Republic of Tanzania to finalize the endorsement of the Host Agreement and to facilitate work and residence permits for Secretariat staff, in support of the Secretariat's presence in Arusha.

VIII. Cross-Border Cooperation, Peace and Climate

30. **Develop** a comprehensive capacity-building program on the role of county and local governments in cross-border cooperation, building on the workplan with GIZ AU and the Niamey Convention.

31. **Pilot** a border markets authority and simplified trade regimes, give special attention to local governments within 20 kilometres of borders, and establish the cross-border peace committees targeted in the Strategy.

32. **Support** twinning and county-to-county programs, including Karamoja, Lake Victoria, Namanga and Lunga Lunga.

33. **Include** refugees and displaced persons in local planning and budgets.

34. **Prioritize** urban resilience, climate adaptation and the management of rapid urbanization, and promote climate-screened, risk-informed local plans.

IX. Knowledge, Data and Capacity

35. **Strengthen** peer learning, the documentation of good practice and harmonized data systems on local government performance, including a regional observatory and data platform.

36. **Work** with partners towards a regional centre of excellence and academy for local government capacity building, building on existing national institutions, including the Kenya School of Government.

37. **Develop** a regional capacity development framework, train and certify local leaders (with a target of 1,500), and institutionalize induction programs for new councilors and exchange visits among members.

38. **Share** good practice across the region, including slum upgrading in Kigali, Uganda's Parish Development Model, Kenya's county solar lighting program and Tanzania's waste management initiatives.

X. Partnerships and Membership

39. **Deepen** partnerships with development partners, including UN-Habitat, ICLEI, UCLG-Africa, CLGF, GIZ AU, the European Union and the African Union, aligned to regional and national priorities, and **hold** an annual development partners' roundtable.

40. **Consider** a regional fund for local governments, with the support of partners.

Welcome Somalia's initiative to establish a national local government association and **engage** the associations of South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

XI. Follow-up and Review

41. **Establish** a follow-up mechanism with quarterly reviews by the Secretariat.

42. **Commission** an independent mid-term evaluation in 2028 and an end-of-term evaluation in 2031.

43. **Adopt** the recommendations of the outgoing chairperson as communicated

44. **Report** progress on these resolutions at the next Forum.

45. **Thank** the Government and people of the Republic of Kenya for their hospitality, and **express** our gratitude to our development partners, including UN-Habitat, the European Union, GIZ, the African Union and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, for their continued support.

Done at Nairobi, Kenya, on the 4th day of November 2026.

Hon. Musalia Mudavadi
For State Department for Devolution, Kenya

Hon. Sam Atul
For Chairperson EACLGA

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Chairperson EALGF

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Chairperson EACLGA