

Ministry	State Department	Agency	FAQ	FAQ answers
MINISTRY OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, ASALs AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	STATE DEPARTMENT FOR EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY	EAC	What is the East African Community (EAC)?	The East African Community is the regional intergovernmental organization of eight (8) Partner States with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The Treaty for Establishment of the East African Community was signed in 1999 and it entered into force in 2000 following its ratification by the Partner States.
			Who are the current Partner States in the EAC?	EAC comprises of eight (8) Partner States namely: 1)Democratic Republic of the Congo 2)Republic of Burundi 3)Republic of Kenya 4)Republic of Rwanda 5)Federal Republic of Somalia 6)Republic of South Sudan 7)Republic of Uganda, and 8)United Republic of Tanzania
			What are the Pillars of EAC Regional Integration?	The following are the four (4) Pillars of EAC Regional Integration: 1)Customs Union 2)Common Market 3)Monetary Union 4)Political Federation
			What is the Customs Union?	The Customs Union is the first Regional Integration milestone and critical foundation of the East African Community (EAC), which has been in force since 2005, as defined in Article 75 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. It means that the EAC Partner States have agreed to establish free trade (or zero duty imposed) on goods and services amongst themselves and agreed on a common external tariff (CET), whereby imports from countries outside the EAC zone are subjected to the same tariff when sold to any EAC Partner State. Goods moving freely within the EAC must comply with the EAC Rules of Origin and with certain provisions of the Protocol for the Establishment of the East African Community Customs Union.
			What is a	The concept of a common market

			Common Market?	involves the elimination of all obstacles to intra-community trade in order to merge the national markets into a single market bringing about the conditions as close as possible to those of a genuine internal market. A Common Market can be defined as a merger/union of two or more territories to form one common territory in which there is free movement of persons, goods, labour, services and capital, and the rights of establishment and residence. Article 1 of the EAC Treaty defines a Common market as: "The Partner States' markets integrated into a single market in which there is free movement of capital, labor, goods and services."
			What is the Monetary Union?	The East African Monetary Union (EAMU) is an important stage in the process of East African Community (EAC) Regional Integration. The EAMU Protocol was adopted in accordance with the EAC Treaty and signed on 30th November 2013; it lays groundwork for a monetary union within 10 years and allows the EAC Partner States to progressively converge their currencies into a single currency in the Community. In the run-up to achieving a single currency, the EAC Partner States aim to harmonise monetary and fiscal policies; harmonise financial, payment and settlement systems; harmonise financial accounting and reporting practices; harmonise policies and standards on statistical information; and, establish an East African Central Bank.
			What is a Political Federation?	The Political Federation is the ultimate goal of the EAC Regional Integration, the fourth step after the Customs Union, Common Market and Monetary

				<p>Union. It is provided for under Article 5(2) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community and founded on three pillars: common foreign and security policies, good governance and effective implementation of the prior stages of Regional Integration. It is worth noting that attainment of the Political Federation is a process and not an event. Though the process has been slow, the EAC Heads of State resolved at a Special Summit held in Nairobi on 27-29 August 2004 to examine ways and means of deepening and accelerating the process through a fast-track Mechanism. The Summit set up a Committee to Fast-Track the EAC Political Federation, dubbed the Wako Committee, to carry out wide consultations and finalise the work on the Political Federation. The Committee presented its report to the Summit on 29 November 2004. As a result of the consultative process, the office of Deputy Secretary-General responsible for Political Federation was established in 2006 to coordinate this process. Since 2004, the EAC has been putting in place initiatives to fast-track political integration. Summit directives were given and national consultations with stakeholders between 2006 and 2008 as well as various studies were undertaken to examine, facilitate and fast-track the process. In the consultations, it became clear that the East African citizens want to be adequately engaged and to have a say in the decisions and policies pursued by the East African Community. On 20th May, 2017, the EAC Heads of State adopted the Political Confederation as a</p>
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				transitional model of the East African Political Federation.
			Where are the EAC Headquarters located?	The EAC Headquarters are located in Arusha, Tanzania
			When was EAC first established?	EAC was first established in 1967
			When was the first EAC dissolved?	The first EAC was dissolved in 1977
			When was EAC re-established?	EAC was re-established on 7 July 2000
			What are the areas of co-operation between the Partner States?	The regional co-operation and integration envisaged in the East African Community is wide ranging, involving co-operation in political, economic, social and cultural fields, research, technology and skills development, defence, security and legal affairs for mutual and equitable development in the region.
			Do I need a visa to travel from one EAC country to the next?	If you are a citizen of any one of the EAC Partner States you will not need a visa to travel to any of the countries within the EAC bloc.
			What Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs)?	Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) refer to restrictions that result from prohibitions, conditions, or specific market requirements that make importation or exportation of products difficult and/or costly. NTBs also include unjustified and/or improper application of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) such as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and other technical barriers to Trade (TBT).