

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND EVOLVING SECURITY ISSUES IN AFRICA A CASE STUDY OF EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY

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Abstract: The purpose of this research is to assess the role of regional integration on security in Africa and is carried out on East Africa Community as the case study with the following objectives; To find out the challenges of security in EAC region, to examine the various forms of regional integration in East African Community and to find out the impact of EAC integration on security in East African community. The research design used is descriptive and analytical while the population is 210 from staff of MAGERWA, officials from ministry of East Africa Community and foreign affairs. The sample size is 68 selected from the total population using purposive and simple random sampling techniques. Data was collected using questionnaires and interviews. Data analysis is done using frequencies and percentages. The researcher found out that despite the different benefits that accrue from regional integration various challenges still exist like leaders who may be having different views and intentions from integration, economies that are not strong enough to sustain themselves as a regional block and mistrust between leaders. The researcher found out that the impact of regional integration on security include encouraging conflict resolution and working together towards a peaceful regional block. Therefore East African community is important in fostering and promoting security in the region still lot needs to be done for enhancing it within region.

Keywords: Regional Integration, security, conflict, Challenges.

1. BACKGROUND

Regionalism is now widespread in Africa. According to Hill (2009)[1], Regional integration refers to agreements between countries in a geographic region to reduce, and eventually remove, tariff and non-tariff barriers to the free flow of goods, services, and factors of production between each other. The East African Community (EAC) is the regional intergovernmental organization of the Republics of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Rwanda and Republic of Burundi with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

EAC was first established in 1967 and reestablished on 30 November 1999 and entered into force on 7 July 2000 following its ratification by the original three Partner States Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Burundi acceded to the EAC Treaty on 18 June 2007 and became full Members of the Community with effect from 1 July 2007.

The EAC has a mission and vision, the Vision of EAC is a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa; whereas its mission is to widen and deepen Economic, Political, Social and Culture integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments. (Francesco, 2007)[2].

Security is essential in regional integration. In pre-Westphalia era, the contract between different countries was minimal and, therefore, security was above all national issues and in most cases, had exclusive the domestic implications. In an era when communication and mobility were sluggish or inexistent, the increase of security in the country or feud had no positive or negative direct impact on the neighboring countries. In the post-Westphalia world, this configuration has been profoundly altered. The formation and consolidation of state led to their securitization and, consequently national security became, hence, a relational concept. States played out their security strategies versus other state. The UN report of the high level panel on treaties is interrelated and a treat to one is a treat to all. "The mutual vulnerability of weak and strong has never been clearer. (UN, 2004)[3].

As early as in the Roman period security was regarded as the absence of distress upon which happy life depends , Shams, R. (2003)[4]. The types of conflicts where the regional level plays the dominant law, either as the provider or/and the receiver of the treaty are shadowed. Most conflict are, however, civil war or are associated to terrorism which sometimes does not have direct connection to the regional level. In the present globalized world a treaty or an attack to the national security of one state (be it perpetrated by a domestic opposition force or by a global terrorist organization) has an inevitable seismic reaction in neighboring state.

Among the key recommendation on security and foreign policy, there was the need to develop defense industries especially considering then heavy defense expenditure partner states incur while supporting defense operations, and the need to create mechanism to grantee regional environmental security, recognizing the impact of environment degradation and climatic change on food security in particular and human security in general. As a security in the region, posed a real threat to the EAC partner state, delegate pointed out the need to develop regional peace and security framework within which the EAC would correctively undertake peace support operations when required, EAC Secretariat (2009). These and all other recommendations will be implemented within ongoing EAC project and programs under peace and security and good governance sectors. Other programs shall be designed based on recommendations and funds sourced from the EAC partner states and development partners.

The quest of regional peace and EAC is safeguarded under Article 5 of the treaty establishing the EAC (1999), which provided that peace and security and good neighborliness in the region shall be the fundamental objectives of the community. Article 124 of the treaty elaborates on the cooperation in regional peace and security; and the partner states have a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in defense matters (EAC Secretariat, 2010).

Under the memorandum of understanding, the EAC partner states are taking measures to address the issues of defense, peace and security through, among others: insuring maintenance of peace and stability in the region; avoidance and prevention of conflict within the region; observance of good neighborliness and peacefully resolution of conflicts; address the roots causes of conflicts through observance of good governance, respect for human rights; and cooperation in defense matters, including preparedness for common defense and peacekeeping, conflicts resolution and disaster management (EAC Secretariat, 2009).

"The most important reasons for joining regional groupings have been the hope of addressing common challenges improving economic policy, reducing poverty, and managing the process of liberalization in collective and coordinated manner," Kasekende & Ng'eno, (2000)[5]. By pooling together fragmented markets, regional cooperation may spur economic growth and development by promoting interregional trade and economies of scale. Just like the rest of continent, the EAC requires high output growth, based on export oriented industries to fight poverty mostly rural and unemployment mostly urban. It would also bring external and domestic indebtedness to sustainable levels, and raise social and human capital development.

Many obstacles to realizing these goals are giving a new lease on life on the idea of regional integration. The key concern that is addressed in this study was to evaluate whether the chances of fulfilling the goals of regional integration lead to peace and security in EAC. Hence the main purpose of the study is to examine the impact of regional integration on peace and security in Africa using the case study of East African Community (Adar, 2005)[6].

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Many countries in Africa and beyond have formed integrations for different purposes notably among others, the need to promote security for example Organisation of African Unity (OAU) currently the African Union. This has been the case

with East African Community, however in many cases integrations have failed or have not been successful as per original objectives as it happened to east African community in 1979 . Some countries have not also fully embraced the idea of economic integration because they don't exactly see or know how integrations contribute to security. This therefore necessitates a research on the concept of regional integration and security. It is against that background therefore that this research was carried out with reference to East African Community.

3. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study was to assess the role of regional integration on security.

3.2 Specific objectives

The study attempts to reach the following specific objectives:

- i. To find out the challenges of security in EAC region.
- ii. To examine the various forms of regional integration in East African Community.
- iii. To find out the impact of EAC integration on security in East African community

4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- i. What are challenges of security in East African Community?
- ii. What are the various forms of regional integration in East African Community?
- iii. What is the impact of Regional Integration on East African community?

5. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The researcher used a descriptive and analytical research design. The intention of using this design was to ensure that issues related to regional integration and security were fully analysed and interpreted. The research design used is based on both qualitative and quantitative data.

A population study is 210 including 140 from officials and the general public at MAGERWA, 35 from Ministry of East African community and 35 from ministry of foreign affairs at Kimihurura, Gasabo district as shown in the table below.

Institution	Population
MAGERWA staff	42
General public	98
Ministry of East African community	35
Ministry of foreign affairs	35
Total	210

The sample size of the study is 68 respondents. The sample size is selected from the total population using simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques

For the purpose of this research, the researcher used questionnaires and interviews for primary data while documentary review was used for secondary data. The researcher set clear and understandable questions concerning the regional integration and security in member countries.

Interview is another crucial means of obtaining data from respondents. The researcher held short and precise interviews with respondents that never had enough time to go through questionnaires. Documentary review is applied as one of

reliable data collection methods when reviewing documents concerning regional integration and security from documents of East African community and ministry of foreign affairs.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher presented, analysed and interpreted the findings of the study in relation to the objectives of the study.

6.1 The challenges facing regional integration

The researcher presented, analysed and interpreted the views of respondents in relation to the challenges facing regional integration so as to present necessary and relevant conclusions

Table 1: The challenges of regional integration in East Africa

Challenges	Frequency	Percentage
Misunderstandings	11	16
Different levels of development	19	28
Political leaders with different ideologies	9	13
Poor economies	14	21
Mistrust	15	22
Total	68	100

Source: Primary data, 2013

According to table 1, respondents contacted said the challenges of integration in East African Community region are misunderstandings (16%) while 28% said different levels of development and 13% aid political leaders with different ideologies. 21% said poor economies and 22% said mistrust. This led the researcher to the understanding that despite the different benefits that accrue from regional integration various challenges still exist like leaders who may be having different views and intentions from integration, economies that are not strong enough to sustain themselves as a regional block and mistrust between leaders.

Table 2: Views of respondents on whether the challenges can be controlled

Views	Frequency	Percentage
They can be controlled	47	69
They can't be controlled	21	32
Total	68	100

Source: Primary data, 2013

According to table 2, respondents contacted revealed that the challenges faced in the regional integration can be solved (69%) while 32% said the challenges cannot be solved. This led the researcher to the understanding that despite the challenges faced, respondents still have high hopes and belief that regional integration is important in various ways notably among them regional security.

6.2 The Impact of regional integration on security

The researcher in this section presented analysed and interpreted the views of respondents in relation to the impact of regional Integration on security.

Table 3: Impact of EAC integration on peace and security

Views	Frequency	Percent
Agreed	68	100
Disagreed	0	0

Source: Primary data, 2013

According to table 3, respondents contacted agreed that East African community is important in fostering regional integration. Through the table below, data shows that the total number of our respondent (68 out of 68 or 100%) agreed that the East African Community has a big and positive impact on peace and security within the countries members. This led the researcher to the understanding that respondents appreciated the role of regional integration in fostering or enhancement of security in East African community.

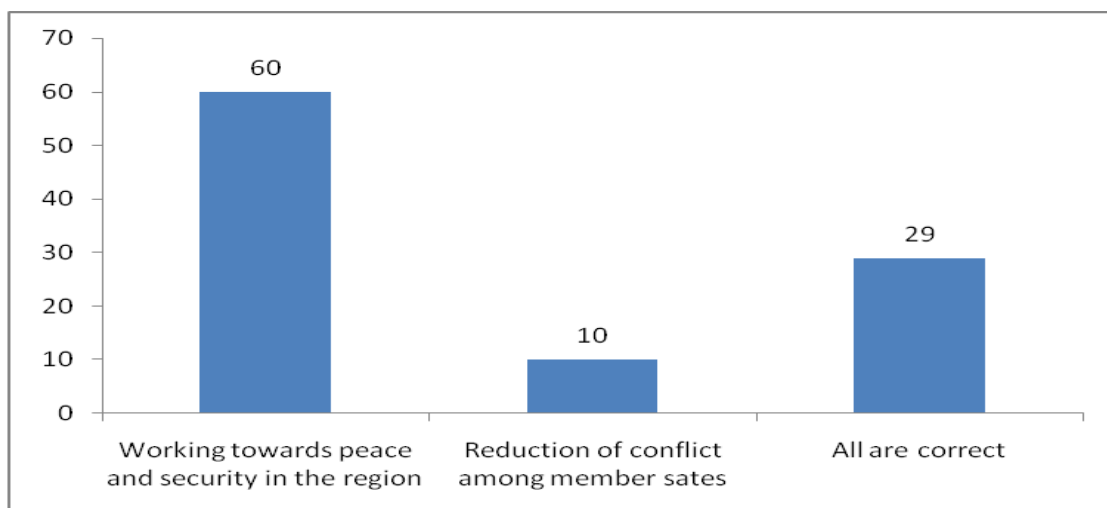
Table 4: The ways through which East African community enhances security

Ways	Frequency	Percentage
Exchange training programs for security	34	50
Implementation of protocol to combat trafficking	20	29
All answers are collect	14	21
Total	68	100

Source: Primary data, 2013

According to table 4, respondents contacted revealed that the benefits of East African community are Exchange training programs for security (50 %) and that implementation of protocol to combat trafficking 29% while 21% of respondents said all are collect. This led the researcher to the understanding that East African community is important in fostering security.

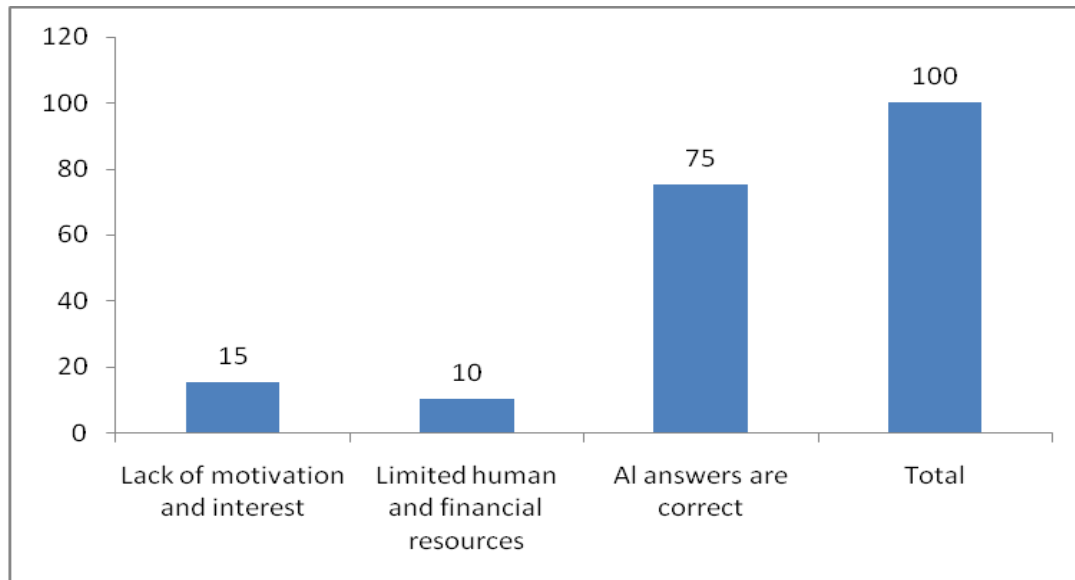
Figure 1: The impact of regional integration on security



Source: Primary data, 2013

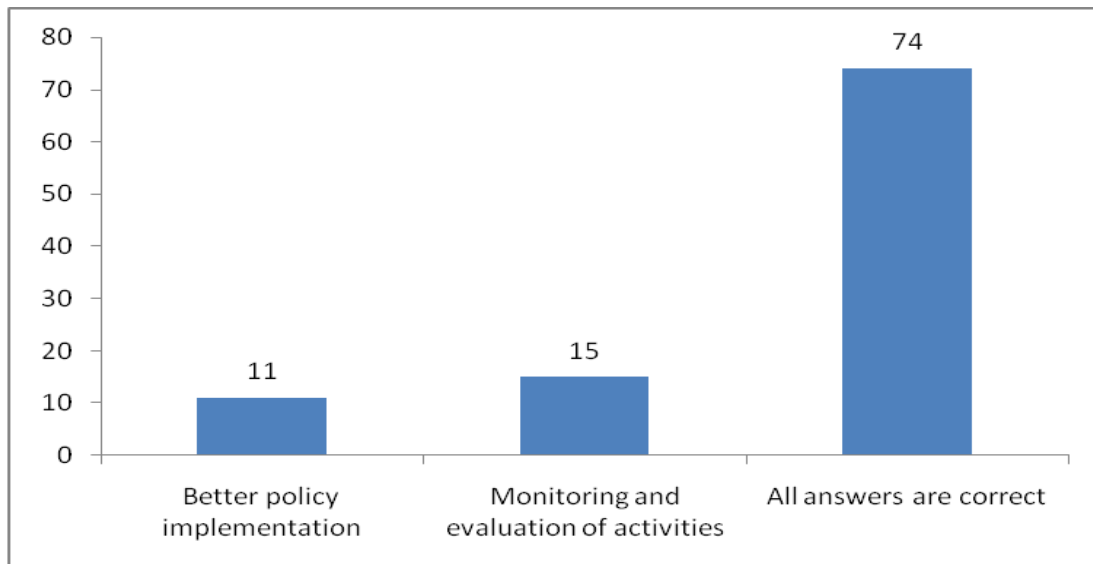
The impact on EAC as integration organization is big in terms of peace and security. our respondents expressed their views through the table below as it stated, the large number of respondents (60 %) said that the impact of EAC is that they work excessively towards peace and security in the region; The (10 %) of respondents said that the impact in reduction of conflicts among member states. the 29 % of respondents confirmed that all above mentioned answers are correct. Therefore east African community is important in fostering and promoting security in the region.

Figure 2: Major challenges for EAC in lasting peace and security



According to figure 2, the challenges for EAC in lasting peace and security are many but our respondent listed major of them in the following words: The 15% of our respondents confirmed major challenges includes also especially in the matters of lasting peace and security is the lack of motivation and interest for security actors. Then the 10% of respondents said that a major challenge is limited human and finance resource and willing to implement policy. The large number of respondents (75.5%) said that all the above mentioned answers are correct. This led the researcher to the understanding that the major challenges of East African community are limited resources an lack of motivation.

Figure 3: Possible strategies to overcome challenges



Source: Primary data, 2013

The figure 3 is about strategies that are possible to help in overcoming those mentioned challenges for the process of lasting peace and security in EAC region. Two major and possible strategies are suggested by respondents: better policy implementation (11%) and good mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of EAC activities on peace and security (15%) then the (74%) agreed that the above mentioned strategies are appropriate. The researcher realized that there are the various strategies of implementing peaceful and secure community.

7. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The researcher in this section was concerned with the presentation of the summary of the findings extracted from the views given by respondents. The presentation of the summary of findings was done in relation to the study objectives.

7.1 The challenges facing regional integration

The researcher found out that despite the different benefits that accrue from regional integration various challenges still exist such as leaders who may be having different views and intentions from integration(21%), economies that are not strong enough to sustain themselves as a regional block(22%) and mistrust between leaders and that despite the challenges faced, respondents still have high hopes and belief that regional integration is important in various ways notably among them regional security.

7.2 The impact of regional integration on security

The researcher found out that the impact of regional integration on security include encouraging conflict resolution(10%) and working together towards a peaceful regional block(60%). Therefore East African community is important in fostering and promoting security in the region. The researcher further found out that the major challenges of East African community are limited resources (10%) and lack of motivation(15%) and that there are the various strategies of implementing peaceful and secure community. The various forms of regional integration are economic, political and security.

8. CONCLUSION

The researcher concluded that the benefits of regional integration are improved. The member countries have managed to improve their security and stable approach towards conflict resolutions. The impact on EAC as integration organization is big in terms of peace and security. Other respondents expressed their views as it stated in the above data interpreted. The large number of respondents said that the impact of EAC is big and the following are some indicators of the impact: Working excessively towards peace and security in the region, reduction of conflicts among member states, common strategies to combating criminal activities, drugs trafficking limitation, information exchange facilitation between member states for criminal intelligence, joint operations and patrols and communication facilities for border and interstate security.

The challenges facing regional integration are mistrust and misunderstanding that the major challenges of East African community are limited resources an lack of motivation are political leaders with different ideologies an lack of sufficient resources to sustain the community. lack of motivation and interest for security actors in the region; limited human and finance resource; willing of different stakeholders to implement policy; ineffective common mechanisms for criminal investigation in the region.

The researcher concluded that the regional integration in East African community has been through economic integration, political integration and custom union where member countries benefit differently in terms of commerce. the most important reasons for joining regional integration have been the hope of addressing common challenges improving economic policy, reducing poverty, and managing the process of liberalization in collective and coordinated manner, by pooling together fragmented markets, regional cooperation may spur economic growth and development by promoting interregional trade and economies of scale. Just like the rest of continent, the EAC requires high output growth, based on export oriented industries to fight poverty mostly rural and unemployment mostly urban. It would also bring external and domestic indebtedness to sustainable levels, and raise social and human capital development.

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