

Public participation in the EAC regional integration process THE CASE OF KENYA

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From Cairo

to

Cape Town



RATIONALE

- ▶ Regional integration process driven by governments may have a shorter shelf life as was evident from the collapse of the East African Community (EAC) in 1977.
- ▶ Article 127 of the EAC Treaty

Deeper integration among countries is possible only when citizens are willing to integrate!

NSAs ENGAGEMENT PLATFORMS

Private Sector Engagement Platforms

- ▶ EAC SG's Regional Private Sector CEO Forum
- ▶ *Presidential Round Table (PRT*
- ▶ *Council of Governor's Forum*
- ▶ *Ministerial Stakeholders Fora*
- ▶ *Speaker's Roundtable Meetings*
- ▶ Presidential Delivery Unit
- ▶ East African Community Consultative Dialogue Framework!

NSA INVOLVEMENT *Cont'd*

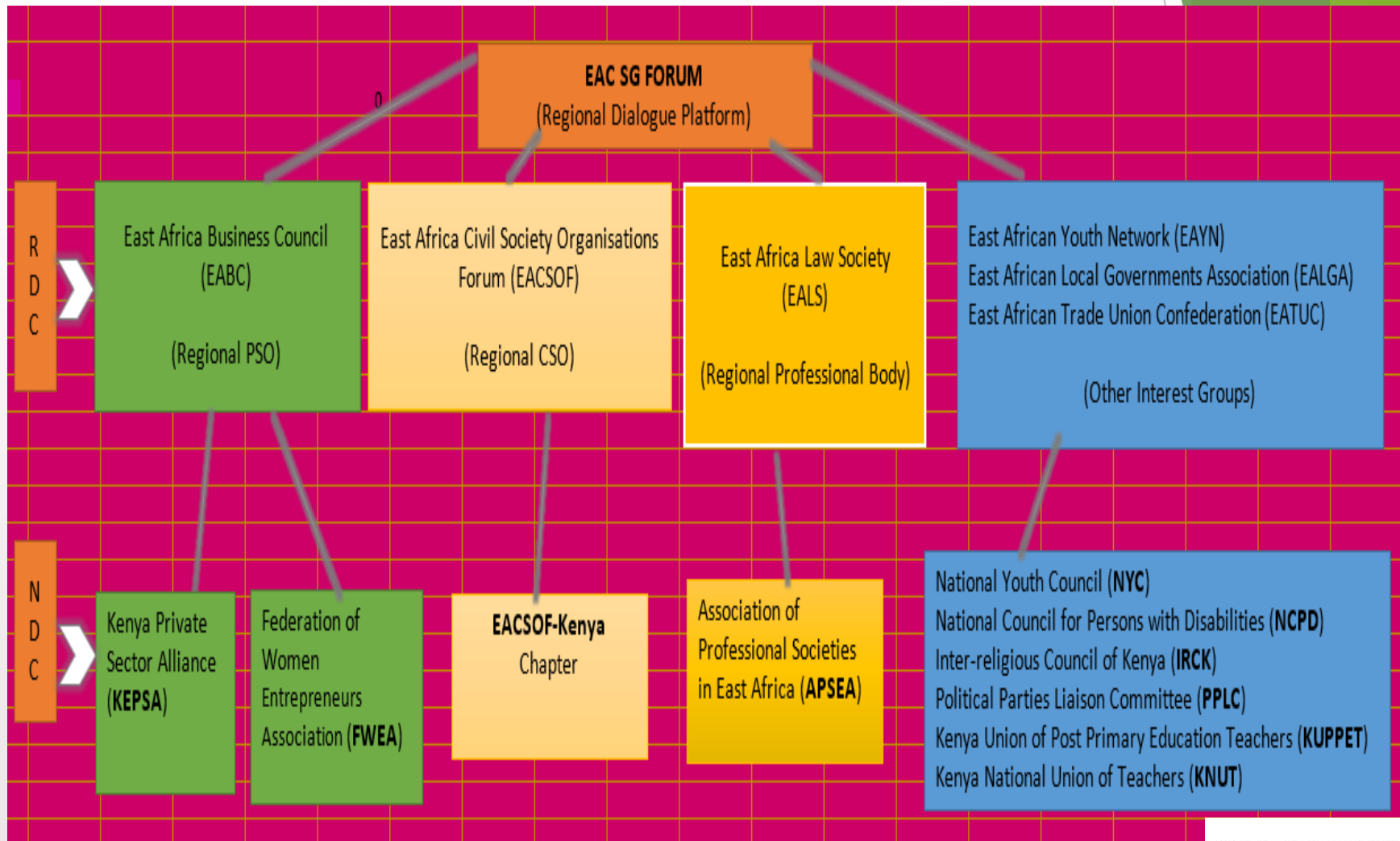
MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Presently, the media is involved at the last stage of regional integration processes- by only reporting events either during agreements or hyped negotiations, with little analysis on impacts on livelihoods of people and businesses. The mechanism of engaging the media so far has been through invitations from the government; often just before the launch of an agreement to sensitise reporters on how to report on the issue.

Civil Society Sector Engagement Platform in Trade Discourse

- ▶ East African Community Consultative Dialogue Framework (EAC CDF)
- ▶ National Trade Committees (TF Committee, AGOA Committee, NCWTO etc)

EAC CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE FRAMEWORK IN KENYA



AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

What can we learn from the EAC CDF in order to have a better version of an engagement framework for the TFTA and CFTA?

GAPS IN THE CDF AND ITS OPRATIONALISATION

- ▶ Absolute focus on EAC SG's office and no representation of other EAC organs in the CDF for instance the
- ▶ **Funding** - sufficient and sustainable? (Ownership and Sustainability) + Nairobi based CSOs only
- ▶ **Limited scope (SGF)**
- ▶ **PSO= MSMEs? (W)ICBT?**
- ▶ **CSO= membership individual CSOs but not theme based CSO network?**

Challenges WITHIN CSOs

- ▶ Total reliance on donor funding → interest driven vs. issue driven?
- ▶ Wrangles within CSOs
- ▶ Rivalry among CSOs
- ▶ Corruption/ financial malpractice
- ▶ Staff moving to government organs (particularly Commissions) and into politics
- ▶ Communication with Gov't (adversarial/confrontational/combatative vs. collaborative)

TFTA, CFTA important to the public.....

What TFTA, CFTA are, What TFTA, CFTA are not, potential benefits and so on need to be communicated; after all it will need to be ratified by parliament.

Questions for Reflection

Q1: Will the TFTA, CFTA treaties recognise the role of the civil society/NSA as Article 127 of the EAC?

Q2: Will the TFTA, CFTA have an engagement framework- a better version of the EAC CDF?

Thank You!
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