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The Situation in Aramwa

Nairobi, 6 February 2018: After consultations with the Government of Uganda and the African Union Commission, EASFSEC Director, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh, and EASF member states today unanimously decided to deploy civilian staff of the Eastern Africa Standby Brigade to the Ugandan region of Aramwa.

Aramwa descended into violence in September 2017 when members of several criminal gangs clashed over the control of illegal activities in the area. Already in January 2017, gang members rioted because of a perceived lack of political, economic and financial support to the region. Attacks on government premises are frequent. Since the start of the clashes, thousands of people fled the area in order to seek safety in other parts of the country.

Eastern African nations, as well as the African Union Commission have repeatedly condemned the attacks on civilians and security forces in Aramwa and offered support to the Government of Uganda.

The EASFSEC welcomes the decision of the Government of Uganda to accept regional assistance. The request for civilian support follows the murder of three women in Aramwa and the continuous attack on police stations and army barracks on 02 February 2018. Since the violence erupted in September last year, 253 people lost their lives.

EASFSEC member states committed themselves to deploy two Logistics Officers, one ICT Officer and one Protection Officer under the mission name "EASF Aramwa Support Mission".

The EASF civilian experts are due to arrive in Aramwa on 01 March 2018 and are initially expected to remain until 15 May 2018. Before the deployment to Aramwa, the EASF civilian experts are invited to a briefing at the EASF Secretariat in Nairobi.

The EASFSEC again urges the irregular groups to immediately cease attacks on civilians and security authorities in Aramwa. The member states remain as committed as ever to regional peace and security in the Eastern Africa region and stand by the people of Uganda in these difficult days.