

Experts from the East African Community (EAC) member states have convened in Kigali, Rwanda, for a significant conference aimed at bolstering regional security collaboration. The three-day event, which commenced on Monday, November 18, 2024, and runs until November 20, focuses on tackling critical security threats, including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) risks.

In his opening address, Brigadier General Dr. Eugene Ngoga, representing the Army Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF), welcomed the participants and underlined the importance of the gathering.

“Your presence here today reinforces our shared commitment to safeguarding the security of our region and protecting our citizens from the complex and growing threats posed by CBRNE terrorism,” he stated.

He further emphasized that the forum serves as a crucial platform for fostering unity and collaboration among EAC member states. “Through this platform, we are demonstrating the unity that propels the EAC forward. Together, we have the opportunity to establish strong, lasting partnerships that will enhance our collective efforts to secure our region,” Brigadier General Ngoga added.



The conference brings together a wide array of professionals, including medical experts, chemists, military personnel, law enforcement officials, and civilian specialists. Together, they aim to develop comprehensive guidelines for military and security operations across the EAC.

Colonel Deng Mayom Manyang Malual, South Sudan’s Defence Liaison Officer to the EAC and a representative of the EAC Secretary General, expressed confidence in the conference’s objectives. “We are optimistic that this meeting will be productive and that the collaborative efforts here will strengthen the security framework of the EAC,” he remarked.

The East African Community, comprising eight member countries, is committed to advancing regional integration and sustainable development across various sectors, including trade, infrastructure, health, and security.

This conference represents a vital step in addressing emerging security challenges and reinforcing cooperation among EAC states to ensure a safer and more resilient region.