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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
KAMPALA-UGANDA**

COURT CASE AGAINST UGANDA AND TANZANIA OVER THE EACOP PROJECT TO BE HEARD

The East African Court of Justice (EACJ) will at 9.30 am today November 11, 2022 hear a court case against the Ugandan and Tanzanian governments as well as the East African Community (EAC) Secretary General at the Commercial Court in Kampala Uganda.

The court is sitting in Kampala, and not Arusha where it is headquartered, as the court took a decision to rotate its sittings to bring services closer to East Africans. The court began its rotational sitting in Kampala in November 2022.

The EACOP is a planned 1,443km pipeline that will be constructed from Hoima in Uganda to the port of Tanga in Tanzania. Construction of the pipeline is expected to commence in 2023.

If constructed, the EACOP will transport 216,000 barrels of crude oil per day at peak production. It will be the longest electrically-heated crude oil pipeline in the world.

The case was filed by Ugandan, Kenyan and Tanzanian environmental and human rights groups. These include Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)-Uganda, Centre for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT)-Uganda, Natural Justice-Kenya and Centre for Strategic Litigation-Tanzania.

The applicants argue that the project violates key East African and international laws or treaties. These include the EAC Treaty, Protocol for Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria basin, Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Others include the African Charter on Human and People's Rights as well as the African Convention on Conservation of Natural Resources among others. The EACOP project will have grave environmental, biodiversity, climate change, social and economic impacts.

The human rights groups want the EACJ to declare that the following:

- That signing of the Host Government Agreement (HGA) and Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) by the governments of Uganda and Tanzania violates both national and international laws.
- That the execution of the EACOP project in legally protected areas contravenes the EAC Treaty.
- The groups are also asking the EACJ for a temporary and permanent injunction to stop construction of the EACOP in protected areas in Uganda and Tanzania.
- In addition, the groups are also asking the EACJ for an order that the respondents compensate all the project-affected persons (PAPs) for the loss already incurred due to the restrictions issued on their property by the EACOP project developers.

The project is also faulted for failing to undertake a transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be approved by the EAC member states as required under the Protocol for Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria.

The project thus poses considerable threats to the 40 million people in East Africa whose livelihoods depend on the lake. Nearly a third of the pipeline will be constructed through the Lake Victoria basin.

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