

**BIEAC PROJECT COMMENCEMENT OF PHASE II:**

Phase II of the BIEAC project commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009, with research dialogue among the project partners. This centered on issues raised from the various national workshops and awareness raising activities held in the first phase, as a result seven topical issues on the EAC integration process were agreed and are the following:

- **Burundi: Accession of Burundi and Rwanda into EAC and Implications for private sector development.**
- **Kenya: (a) State of Informal cross-border trade and implications on implementation of the EAC Common External Tariff. (b) Harmonization of EAC tax regimes: proposals for a SME's friendly taxation system.**
- **Rwanda: Integrating Migration with Development in EAC: Policy challenges and Recommendations.**
- **Tanzania: Non-Tariff Barriers in trading within EAC: status, challenges and way forward in 2010 and beyond.**
- **Uganda: Assessment of the Socio-Economic Implications of the EAC Competition Policy and Law.**
- **CUTS-GRC: Analysis of policy challenges for EAC integration.**

The team of researchers has been constituted as follows:

- **Burundi: Mr. Richard Nderayahanga**
- **Kenya: Mr. Clyde Atsango Mutsotso and Mr. Victor Ogalo**
- **Rwanda: Mr. Kanyangoga John Bosco**
- **Tanzania: Ms. Monica Hangi**
- **Uganda: Mr. Martin Kaggwa**
- **CUTS-GRC: Julian Mukiibi**

The 1<sup>st</sup> draft papers are envisaged by the end of February 2010, thereafter they will be presented at the national awareness raising workshops in the respective countries, early March and at the regional workshop to be held in April 2010. Inputs from the participants will then be incorporated and final outputs produced by May 2010.