



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

KAMPALA DECLARATION ON JOBS, LIVELIHOODS AND SELF- RELIANCE FOR REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN THE IGAD REGION

28TH MARCH 2019, KAMPALA - UGANDA

We, the Ministers for Labour and Ministers in charge of Refugee Affairs of the Member States of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) namely: Republic of Djibouti, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Kenya, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of the Sudan and Republic of Uganda, held the second thematic meeting on 28th March 2019 in Kampala, Uganda with representatives of humanitarian and development partners, the private sector, social partners, refugees and the diaspora on the implementation of Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action on Durable Solutions for Somali refugees and reintegration of returnees in Somalia with a focus on jobs, livelihoods and self-reliance for refugees, returnees and host communities in the IGAD region.

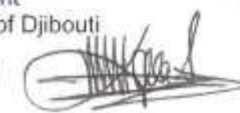
Recalling:

- The adoption and commitments of the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action by the Special Summit of IGAD Heads of State and Government held in Nairobi, Kenya on 25th March 2017 that agreed on a framework to find durable solutions to the Somali refugee crisis; and **appreciating** the role of the UNHCR Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, H.E. Amb. Mohamed Affey in the development of the Nairobi Action Plan and its implementation;
- The adoption of the Djibouti Declaration and Action Plan on Quality Refugee Education in the Regional Conference on Refugee Education held in Djibouti in December 2017;
- The Addis Ababa Call for Action by the Second Conference of IGAD Ministers in charge of education held in December 2018 that adopted, among others, the IGAD Regional Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Strategy for refugees, returnees and host communities;
- The pledge on quality health care services without discrimination and the integration of refugees into national health systems for every refugee, returnee, cross border population and members of host communities in the 10th Meeting of



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the IGAD Health Ministerial Committee held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 19th March 2018;

- The resolutions of the first IGAD Inter-Ministerial Meeting to stock take the implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan held in Nairobi, Kenya on 22nd March 2018, and planning to hold the second IGAD Inter-Ministerial Meeting in June 2019;

Further recalling the decision of the 31st Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Nouakchott, Mauritania held on 1st and 2nd July 2018 declaring 2019 as the year of "Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa";

Reaffirming our commitment to international and continental instruments related to refugees including the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention;

Reiterating our continued commitment to the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM);

Reaffirming our commitment to make practical steps towards achieving the objectives of the New York Declaration and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) as articulated in the pledges made by the leaders of the Member States of IGAD; and **anticipating** the Global Forum on Refugees to be held on 17th and 18th December 2019 to take stock, gather pledges and best practices on the implementation of the GCR;

Informed by the International Labour Organization Conventions, as well as International Labour Standards and Guiding Principles on the Access of Refugees and other Forcibly Displaced Persons to the Labour Market and **acknowledging** the importance of the provision of decent work opportunities for all, including nationals, refugees and other forcibly displaced persons;

Recognizing the challenges related to returnees in countries of origin and the need for the speedy ratification, domestication and implementation of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention, 2009);

Acknowledging the progress made so far by IGAD Member States in enhancing livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities, and **appreciating** the socio-economic contributions of the latter in the refugee-hosting region;

Aware of the need for further enhancement of regional capacity and strengthening of cooperation for effective implementation of Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action;

Recognizing the positive contributions, including economic benefits that self-reliant refugees make to host countries and communities;



Appealing for continued technical and financial support from the international community and IGAD partners to the IGAD Secretariat in its mandate to lead the process and coordinate the effective implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan;

Now, we hereby:

Agree to:

1. Advance livelihood opportunities and economic inclusion to improve self reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities;
2. Adopt the accompanying Plan of Action of this Declaration for enhancement of livelihoods and self reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities;
3. Roll out comprehensive national implementation roadmaps and institutional mechanisms through a whole of society approach that facilitates multi-stakeholder participation including social partners, private sector, refugees and host communities;
4. Seek durable solutions for protracted displacement situations and address associated socio-economic challenges affecting refugees, returnees and host communities;

We hereby solemnly declare:

On Policy and Legislative Frameworks for Livelihoods and Self Reliance:

5. To develop, review and amend national policies and legislations to:
 - a. Strengthen free movement of refugees within countries of asylum and simplify related procedures;
 - b. Expand access to labour markets by simplifying procedures for accessing employment including work permits, self-employment and business opportunities;
 - c. Improve access to services including justice, education, health, financial services and markets;
 - d. Ensure the inclusion of the needs of refugees and returnees in national and local development plans;
 - e. Ensure national and local development plans aimed at achieving social cohesion and equitable access to social and economic resources, as well as opportunities in refugee hosting areas are supported by the international community;
 - f. Promote the equality of opportunity and treatment for all refugees in accordance to national policies and laws;



- g. Safeguard the freedom of non-political association and rights at work in accordance to national policies, laws and ratified international labour standards;
- 6. Strengthen and utilize the existing National Coordination Mechanisms (NCMs) for the coordination of effective implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and accompanying action plans related to jobs, livelihoods and self-reliance for refugees, returnees and host communities;
- 7. Expedite the adoption of the IGAD Protocol on Free Movement of Persons to facilitate movement of refugees to access services as well as labour markets;
- 8. Support conflict early warning, conflict prevention and dispute resolution mechanisms that anticipate and mitigate tensions and conflicts among refugees, returnees and host communities;
- 9. Provide access to quality, needs-based training and skills development programs for refugees, returnees and host communities to promote viable livelihoods and self-reliance;

On the Role of Private Sector and Civil Society in Creation of Sustainable Livelihoods and Job Opportunities:

- 10. Engage the private sector in stimulating job opportunities, supporting livelihoods and enhancing self-reliance for refugees, returnees and host communities;
- 11. Develop infrastructure as an enabler of increased private sector and diaspora investment in both countries of origin and asylum;
- 12. Provide access to quality and continuous training and skills development programs to refugees, returnees and host communities based on market needs to promote viable livelihoods and self-reliance;

On Sustainable Return and Reintegration:

- 13. Develop incentives for increased private sector and diaspora investment to support the sustainable reintegration returnees;
- 14. Facilitate the portability of work-related entitlements, such as social security benefits including pensions, accrued savings, skills accreditation and recognition by refugees between countries of origin and asylum;
- 15. Develop business hubs for diaspora to capitalize their skills, expertise and resources in countries of origin to support the sustainable reintegration of returnees;
- 16. Promote speedy solutions to land issues and documentation for returning refugees and other returnees;

On Natural Resource Management for Livelihoods and Self-Reliance:

17. Support conflict prevention and dispute resolution mechanisms that anticipate and mitigate tensions and conflicts among refugees, returnees and host communities;
18. Foster conditions that allow refugees access to land in accordance with national laws and policies;
19. Introduce innovative responses to address the energy needs of refugees, returnees and host communities with a view to mitigate the adverse effects on the environment in refugee hosting communities;

On Regional Coordination, Partnership and Financing:

20. Finalize and implement the IGAD Regional Qualifications Framework with the aim to guarantee certification, accreditation and mutual recognition of qualifications;
21. Call for further support from International Financial Institutions (IFIs), development partners and the international community under the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development to the IGAD Secretariat in coordinating the effective implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and its accompanying Plan of Action;
22. Task the IGAD Secretariat to develop overarching employment strategy, and convene a third thematic meeting on refugees' health and other social sector issues encompassing livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities, and call on partners to support the implementation of the strategy;
23. Continue to strengthen IGAD's coordination mechanisms to implement and monitor the provisions of this Declaration, and set up a regional platform for engagement with the private sector and workers' organizations, as well as facilitate knowledge generation and learning;
24. Task the IGAD Secretariat to hold an inter-Regional Economic Communities (RECs) High Level Forum including IGAD, EAC and ICGLR on matters of refugee response;

Appreciate the People and Government of Uganda for hosting this important meeting, and;

Decide to remain actively seized of this matter.

Done on 28th March 2019 in Kampala, Uganda




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H.E. Hassan Omar Mohamed
Minister for Interior
DJIBOUTI

DATE & SIGNATURE

H.E. Zeynu Jemal
State Minister for Peace
ETHIOPIA

DATE & SIGNATURE

H.E. Patrick Keturat Ole Ntutu
Chief Administrative Secretary for Interior
KENYA

DATE & SIGNATURE

H.E. Abdulkadir Ahmed Kheyr
State Minister for Foreign Affairs
SOMALIA

DATE & SIGNATURE

H.E. Babkir Ahmed Elhussein Babkir
Representative of Minister for Interior
SUDAN

DATE & SIGNATURE

H.E. Persis Namuganza
State Minister for Lands
UGANDA

DATE & SIGNATURE

H.E. Hassan Idriss Sambrieh
Minister for Labour
DJIBOUTI

DATE & SIGNATURE

H.E. Ukur Kanacho Yatani
Cabinet Secretary for Labour
KENYA

DATE & SIGNATURE

H.E Hamza Said Hamza
Minister for Humanitarian Affairs
SOMALIA

DATE & SIGNATURE

H.E. James Hoth Mai
Minister for Labour
SOUTH SUDAN

DATE & SIGNATURE

H.E. (Eng.) Hilary Onok
Minister for Relief Disaster
Preparedness and Refugees
UGANDA

DATE & SIGNATURE