MEETING OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR LANDS
IN THE IGAD REGION
(DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, SOMALIA, SOUTH SUDAN,
SUDAN AND UGANDA)

COMMUNIQUE ON
LAND GOVERNANCE IN IGAD REGION

Dated 18th October 2018 at Nairobi, Kenya
We, the Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Ministers responsible for Lands (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda):

CONSCIOUS of the role that land governance plays in achieving sustainable socio-economic and environmental development in the region

FURTHER CONSCIOUS of the increasing competing claims over land to satisfy human and socio-economic development needs, which should be consistent with sustainable land utilization requirements;

AWARE that over 80 percent of the land in the IGAD Member States remains under customary or informal tenure;

APPRECIATING the need for strong systems of land governance rooted in principles of sustainability in an effort to ensure preservation, protection and renewability of IGAD Region’s land and related resources;

TAKING NOTE of the provisions of the Agreement Establishing the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), done in Nairobi on the 21st March 1996, and in particular Article 13A in which Member States agree to develop and expand cooperation and in addition, undertake to:

   e) strengthen land resource monitoring systems.
   f) coordinate their efforts towards the sustainable management and utilization of shared natural resources.
   g) harmonize existing national plans of action for marginal lands and dry lands management and control of land degradation in line with the resolution of Urgent Action for Africa under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
   h) support the elaboration of Sub-regional Action Programmes for the implementation of the UNCCD,

MINDFUL of the existing IGAD policies and strategies on the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment in the IGAD region;

CONCIOUS of the existence of other mechanisms for cooperation in sustainable land management in the IGAD region;

DESIROUS of the need to institutionalize land governance in IGAD through the creation of the Land Governance Unit at IGAD Secretariat;

REAFFIRMING the commitments we made in the AU Declaration on land issues and challenges in Africa to prioritize, initiate and lead land policy development and implementation processes in our countries, notwithstanding the extent of multi-stakeholder contribution to such processes involving also civil society and private sector;
GUIDED by the principles enshrined in the Africa Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa;

ACKNOWLEDGING the existence of continental instruments relevant to land governance such as the Agenda 2063, Malabo Declaration 2014, the AU Borderland Program, Maputo Protocol on Gender Equality, AU Convention on Cross Border Cooperation and; the AU Policy Framework on Pastoralism in Africa;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Agenda 2030 and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure over Land, Fisheries and Forests;

RECALLING the mandate endowed on Regional Economic Communities to appropriately capture and address issues of land policies within their respective common agricultural policy framework;

APPRECIATING the work done at national and regional levels to improve land governance and land administration services;

DESIROUS to implement effective regional land governance programs that enhance regional integration and cooperation necessary to achieve broader social, economic and environmental goals as enshrined in Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030;

HEREBY consider and endorse the IGAD Land Governance Strategy and the Strategy to Mainstream Land Governance into IGAD Programs and Projects as well as those of its Member States;

FURTHER consider and adopt the IGAD Land Governance Business Plan 2019-2023 and commit our Member States to mobilize domestic financial resources for its implementation.

COMMIT to take special measures in support of countries that have not advanced in developing national policies, legislative and institutional frameworks on land, special attention will be paid to post-conflict countries.

REAFFIRM our commitment to allocate adequate budgetary resources for national land policy development and implementation processes, including the monitoring of progress.

FURTHER REAFFIRM our commitment to cooperate within the framework of an established land unit and program at the IGAD Secretariat with a view to improving Land Governance through the development and implementation of national land policies, enhancing regional learning and experience sharing;

APPRECIATE the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for the financial support to implement the IGAD Land Governance Programme and their pledge to support the second phase of the programme;

FURTHER APPRECIATE the partnership between IGAD and the Land Policy Initiative/Africa Land Policy Centre supported by African Union, African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa;
REQUEST Development Partners to provide financial and technical support for the implementation of the IGAD Land Governance Strategy, the IGAD Strategy for Mainstreaming Land Governance and the IGAD Land Governance Business Plan for the period 2019-2023;

FURTHER REQUEST the private sector, non-state actors and other interested groups to support IGAD and its Member States in the implementation of the land governance and mainstreaming strategies and the Land Governance Business Plan 2019-2023;

COMMEND IGAD Secretariat and the Africa Land Policy Centre for the achievements in the first phase of the Land Governance Project 2014-2018 and direct IGAD Secretariat to enhance the implementation of the Land Governance Strategy, the IGAD Strategy for Mainstreaming Land Governance and the Land Governance Business Plan 2019-2023; and

EXPRESS gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for hosting this Ministerial Meeting and further call upon and mandate the Minister in charge land governance of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, as the current Chair of IGAD, to bring this communique to the attention of the next IGAD Council of Ministers.

Done at Nairobi, Kenya, on this 18th day of October 2018.

For The Republic of Djibouti

H.E Moussa Mohamed Ahmed:
Minister of Housing, Urbanism and Environment

H.E Mohamed Ahmed Awaleh:
Minister of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Livestock and Fishery Resources

For The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

H.E Omer Husen:
Minister of Agriculture
For The Republic of Kenya

Hon Farida Karoney, OGW  
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning

Hon Mwangi Kiunjuri, EGH  
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

For The Federal Republic of Somalia

H.E Said Hussein Eid  
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

For The Republic of South Sudan

Hon Alfred Ladu Gore  
Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development

Hon Onyoti Adigo Nyikwec  
Minister of Agriculture and Food Security

For The Republic of Sudan

H.E Aboud Gabir Saeed  
General Secretary, Higher Council for Environment,

For The Republic of Uganda

Hon Vincent Bamulangaki Ssemajja  
Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

Hon Persis Namuganza Princess  
Minister of State for Lands, Housing and Urban Development