



COMMUNIQUE OF 3RD CONFERENCE OF IGAD MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF EDUCATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DJIBOUTI DECLARATION ON EDUCATION FOR REFUGEE, RETURNEES, IDPS AND HOST COMMUNITIES

Theme:

Accelerating Access to Inclusive and Quality Education for refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities: Shared responsibilities for better results amidst the COVID-19 pandemic,

The IGAD Ministers in Charge of Education, in their 3rd conference on Education for Refugees, Returnees, IDPs, and Host Communities held on the 30th March 2022 in Addis Ababa, under the chairpersonship of **H.E. Mohamoud SirElkhatim M. Huree, Minister of Federal Ministry of Education, represented by H.E. Gamal Elsheikh, Ambassador of the Republic of the Sudan to Ethiopia**, to follow up the implementation of Djibouti Declaration on Education for Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and Host Community.

The meeting was attended by **H.E. Moustapha Mohamed Mohamoud**, Minister of National Education and Vocational Training of Republic of Djibouti; **H.E. Prof. Berhanu Nega Bongor**, Minister of Education of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; **Mr. Charles Obiero, Deputy Director of Education**, representing **H.E. Prof George Albert Magoha, CBS**, Cabinet Secretary of Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kenya; **H.E. Nouria Aden Issa, Deputy Minister of Education** representing, Minister for Education, Culture and Higher Education of the Federal Republic of Somalia; **H.E. Gabriel Changson Chang, Minister of Higher Education**, Science and Technology of the Republic of South Sudan; and **H.E. Ambassador, Rebecca Amuge Otengo, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to Ethiopia**, representing Minister of Education and Sports, Republic of Uganda.

Also, in attendance were **H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu Negewo**, the Executive Secretary of IGAD; and representatives from the core partners supporting the implementation of the Djibouti Declaration: European Union; Government of Germany; Education Cannot Wait; GIZ on behalf of the Government of Germany; UNHCR; UNESCO; UNICEF; and USAID

The Ministers:

1. **Recalling** the commitments in the Djibouti Declaration adopted on the 14th December 2017 and Addis Ababa Call for Action adopted on 6th December 2018 on the Refugee Education in the IGAD region and **reiterating** the Member States' commitment to address the needs of the refugee education and include them into national education systems;

2. **Recalling** Other relevant national, regional and international strategies, frameworks and initiatives, notably the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia, and its accompanying Plan of Action; the IGAD Regional Migration Policy Framework and the Migration Action Plan; the African Union's Agenda 2063 on Education; the 2016 New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants; the Global Compact on Refugees; and the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goal 4 on education and skills development;
3. **Recalling** the High Level Meeting on Action for Refugee Education organized on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018, which reaffirmed the commitment for inclusion of refugees into national education systems and sought to ensure quality learning opportunities for refugees, returnees, IDPs and host community children;
4. **Reaffirming** our collective responsibility to ensure every refugee, returnee, IDP and members of host community, in particular girls and people with special needs have access to quality education in a safe learning environment within our respective countries without discrimination;
5. **Deeply concerned** by the unprecedented negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education systems, specifically on the teaching and learning processes for refugees, returnees, IDPs and members of host communities;
6. **Alarmed** by the continuing disruption that conflict and displacement have on the education of refugees, returnees, host communities and other people of concern in the IGAD region, and the impact that this has on their aspirations and their contribution to society and the economy in host communities and upon return;
7. **Concerned** by the growing mismatch between education, skills and labour market needs and the widening digital gap;
8. **Emphasising** the importance of the education of women and girls, as well as other vulnerable groups including people living with special needs must have equal access to education, skills training and professional development at all levels;
9. **Noting with satisfaction** the progress made on the implementation of Djibouti Declaration on education for refugees, returnees, IDPs and Host Communities and its five key pillars namely: Regional Education Quality Standards, Regional Skills Development, Inclusion of Refugee Education into National Education Systems, Accreditation and Certification of Education Programmes, and Financing, Partnerships and Monitoring in support of Refugee Education;

10. **Welcoming** UNESCO's Qualifications Passport (UQP) for the prior learning of the refugees and vulnerable migrants until the completion of Regional Qualification Framework (RQF);
11. **Recognizing** the need for all IGAD member states to ratify the Revised Addis Ababa Convention (2014) on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications on Higher Education including TVET and skills development in African States; as basis for recognition of refugees, returnees qualifications;
12. **Further recognizing** the IGAD comprehensive regional approach and the strong co-operation among Member States and partners in the acceleration of inclusive and quality education for refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities;

DO HEREBY:

13. **Adopt** the recommendations of High Level Experts' Meeting on the implementation of Djibouti Declaration on Education for Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities held from 6th to 9th December 2021 in Djibouti and commit to implement these recommendations; and **further adopt** the recommendations of Steering Committee of the IGAD-ECW project;
14. **Reiterate** our commitment to accelerating access to inclusive and quality Education for all with special focus on refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities;
15. **Implement** measures to alleviate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on education systems;

A. On the development of Regional Qualification Framework

16. **Recognize and acknowledge** the development of the roadmap for the Regional Qualifications Framework (RQF) as part of Djibouti Declaration implementation; and **task** IGAD Secretariat to finalize and table the IGAD RQF at the upcoming Ministerial Meeting scheduled for December 2022;
17. **Task** IGAD Secretariat in collaboration with the relevant development partners to develop the standards and guidelines to support the implementation of IGAD RQF;
18. **Request** Taskforce Members of Djibouti Declaration and other partners to build the capacity of IGAD Secretariat and Member States for the development and operationalization of the National Qualification Frameworks (NQF);

19. **Further request** IGAD Secretariat to facilitate capacity building through training and knowledge/experience sharing among Member States towards the implementation of the Regional Qualifications Framework;
20. **Appoint** national focal points from each Member State for the IGAD RQF governance structure;

B. On the Inclusion of Refugees, Returnees, IDPs, and Host Communities into National Education Systems

21. **Commit** to accelerate inclusion of refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities into our national education systems;
22. **Further commit** to develop or update national multi-year costed plans of action for the inclusion of refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities into national education systems;
23. **Commit** ourselves to sustain and increase domestic resources for the implementation of inclusion activities outlined in the multi-year costed national education response plans;
24. **Task** the IGAD Secretariat to develop a strategy for resource mobilization in the spirit of burden and responsibility sharing with the international community for the implementation of multi-year costed national education response plans;
25. **Call upon** development partners, including the International Financial Institutions, to strengthen the capacity of the IGAD Secretariat and its Member States for accelerated inclusion of refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities into national education systems;
26. **Commit** to integrating gender responsive interventions towards realising the Djibouti declaration with the aim of achieving SDG 5 on gender equality in the inclusion of refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities into the national education systems;

C. On IGAD Teacher Training Initiative

27. **Appreciate and commit** to promote the initiative of IGAD and Government of Germany through GIZ for the IGAD Teacher Training Program to enhance quality, inclusivity and accessibility of education for refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities;
28. **Take note** of the successful completion of the pilot phase of the IGAD Teacher Training initiative; and **Request** IGAD to compile and share lessons from the training process and scale up the training to all IGAD Member States;

29. **Request** the IGAD Secretariat and partners to explore further areas of skills development for refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities with particular focus on female teachers, in line with the Djibouti Declaration as well as the IGAD Regional Strategy for TVET;
30. **Commit** to simplify the process of certification and recognition of the qualification of refugee teachers;

D. On Scholarships for Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities

31. **Appreciate** universities that are providing scholarship opportunities to refugee, returnee, IDPs and host community students in the IGAD region and **call upon** more universities and higher institutions of learning in our countries to allocate/increase scholarship opportunities;
32. **Request** IGAD Secretariat to develop and implement a coherent scholarship plan and put in place effective coordination mechanisms for this initiative;
33. **Urge** our partners to support the IGAD initiative on scholarships as a mechanism for ensuring inclusive access to tertiary/higher education;

E. On the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Djibouti Declaration

34. **Appreciate** IGAD and UNICEF for developing the IGAD Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Djibouti Declaration;
35. **Adopt** the M&E framework for Djibouti Declaration to track the progress, facilitate reporting and review implementation;
36. **Request** partners to provide support to IGAD and its Member States in the performance appraisal of the Djibouti Declaration in line with the Nairobi Declaration;

F. On Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Education for Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities

37. **Commit** to strengthen a multi-sectoral and coordinated interventions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on national education systems;
38. **Develop** guidelines to support educational curricula to address the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on education systems across IGAD Member States;
39. **Build** our digital infrastructures, policies and strategies in line with the global digital agenda for virtual teaching and learning among refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities;
40. **Promote** mental health and psychosocial support for learners, teachers, caregivers and persons with special needs in national education systems;

Finally


41. **Thank** the Government and People of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting this important Ministerial Meeting;

We commit to remain actively seized of this matter

Done on this 30th Day of March 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

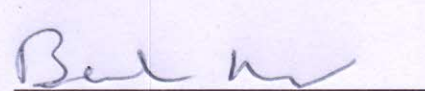
S.E. Moustapha Mohamed Mohamoud,

Minister of National Education and Vocational training of Republic of Djibouti



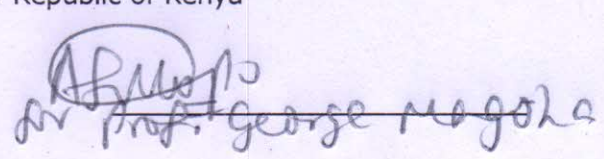
H.E. Prof. Berhanu Nega Bonger,

Minister of Education of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



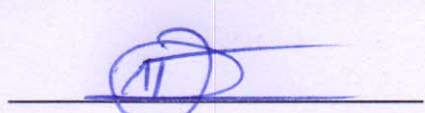
H.E. Prof. George Albert Magoha, CBS,

Cabinet Secretary of Ministry of Education of Republic of Kenya



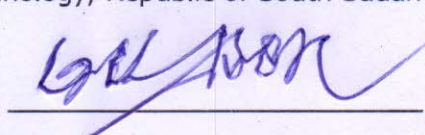
H.E. Eng. Abdulahi Aboker Haji,

Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education, Federal Republic of Somalia



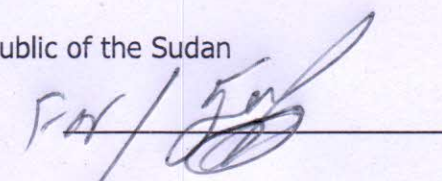
H.E. Gabriel Changson Chang,

Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Republic of South Sudan



H.E. Mohamoud SirElkhatim M. Huree,

Minister of Federal Ministry of Education, the Republic of the Sudan



Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni,

Minister of Education and Sports, Republic of Uganda

