



COMMUNIQUE

OF THE SECTORAL MINISTERS MEETING ON THE TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA ON LAND, CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONFLICT IN THE IGAD REGION

28th October 2022, Kampala, Republic of Uganda



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We, the Ministers responsible for Land, Environment, and Justice from IGAD Members States, namely: Republic of Djibouti, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Kenya, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of Sudan, and Republic of Uganda;

MEETING this 28th October 2022 in Kampala, Uganda, at Speke Resort Munyonyo, to discuss and agree on a shared regional agenda on Land use and Management transformation and Conflict Management, with a set of recommendations and a way forward;

THE meeting also being attended by representatives of international and regional organizations involved in rule of law, access to justice, and management of land conflict, notably the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crises (SPARC), and International Land Coalition (ILC);

THE Ministerial Meeting having been preceded by a High-Level Regional Conference on Land and Conflict in the East and Horn of Africa between 24th to 26th October 2022, which included a session of the Chief Justices of the EAC Region held on 25th October 2022;

RECALLING the International conventions, agreements and non-binding commitments that the IGAD Member States have ratified and or committed to including but not limited to the Agenda 2063, the Agenda 2030, the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa, the Maputo Protocol, the Paris Agreement 2015, measures spelt out in COP26, to be spelt out COP27 and beyond, and the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure;

RECOGNISANT of the fact that rangelands in the region and in member states are multi-functional and involve a diverse range of uses and economic activities;

APPRECIATING the need to ensure that there is appropriate balancing rights of communities, individuals, and legitimate state responsibilities of facilitating investments and development including utilization of land for pastoralist and agro-pastoralist purposes;

ACKNOWLEDGING the fact that women and vulnerable groups are often only perceived as victims of land and natural resources-based conflicts and need to be recognized as having agency and capable of leadership and participation in land governance in all contexts;

CONSCIOUS of the exclusion of the youth, informal and undocumented land users from formal participation in land ownership, use and management as a result of traditions, law and policies, conflict, and climate change;

AWARE that climate change, which manifests itself through short rains, droughts, excessive flooding, and unpredictable weather patterns, is a deeply destabilizing factor that causes disruption of livelihoods, exacerbates inequalities and fosters conflict and insecurity;

Handwritten signatures of the ministers and representatives, including those of the Republic of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, along with international and regional organizations.

CONSCIOUS that the issue of boundaries and overlapping with identities have defined and enhanced conflicts, both within Member States but also in transboundary conflicts;

MINDFUL that Member States are affected by conflict and the need to deter and stop people and institutions that may benefit from such conflicts;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that there are different levels of planning, responses, and actors to the holding, use, and management of land and the need to recognize such levels while crafting appropriate responses;

MINDFUL that communities at the local level should occupy the driving seat in the shaping and crafting of policies and laws that affect their way of life;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the plurality of legal systems to address land and conflict issues, and the lack of coherence among these systems leads to inefficiency and sometimes is a driving factor in conflicts related to land and natural resources;

REAFFIRMING that developed countries should take the lead in providing financial assistance to countries that are less endowed and more vulnerable, while for the first time also encouraging voluntary contributions by other Parties.

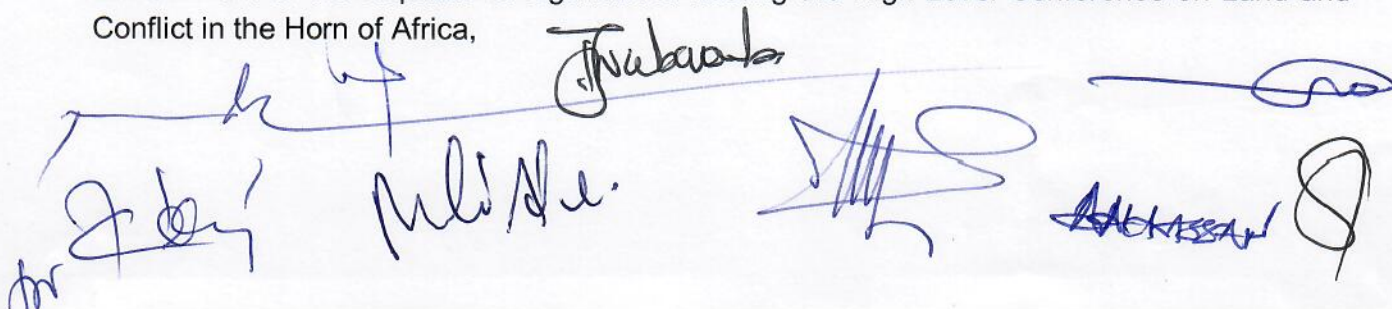
RECALLING that Member States in their NDCs, countries communicate actions they will take to reduce their Greenhouse Gas emissions in order to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. Countries also communicate in the NDCs actions they will take to build resilience to adapt to the impacts of rising temperatures.

TAKING NOTE that information and capacity gaps at all levels directly or indirectly contribute to persistence and recurrence of conflict;

APPRECIATING the Continued support of the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland to the development work of IGAD on natural resources governance, gender equality, conflict management, and peace and security;

ACKNOWLEDGING the contribution of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crises (SPARC), and International Land Coalition (ILC) in Organizing the High Level Conference on Land and Conflict in the East and the Horn of Africa;

APPRECIATING H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Jessica Rose Epel Alupo, Vice-President of the President of the Republic of Uganda, and the Government of the Republic of Uganda for hosting the High-Level Conference on Land and Conflict in the Horn of Africa,

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1. On land use and management:

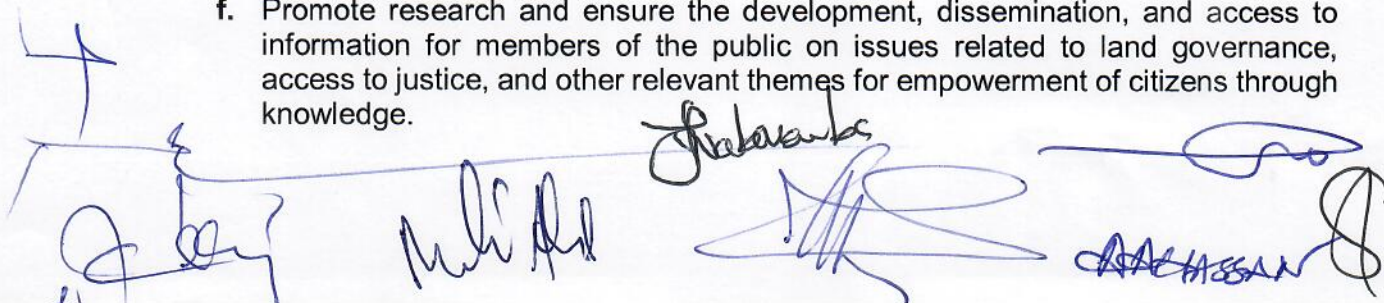
- ## 2. On Conflict prevention and access to justice

- b. Strengthen IGAD's regional response to addressing the emerging concerns relating to war economies within and among its Member States.

- c. Encourage the use of gender-sensitive early warning and conflict analysis and response mechanisms, and other tools such as the IGAD CEWARN to prevent and manage conflict in land and natural resources-based conflicts.
- d. Take steps to ensure coherence and harmonious co-existence of the multiple systems of administration of land justice and resolution of disputes on matters of land natural resources. Specifically, member states will take steps to ensure the adoption of indigenous and traditional norms in the prevention and management of disputes.
- e. Resolve and disentangle the multiple, overlapping, and conflicting interests and rights on the formal and informal land tenure systems
- f. Entrench alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation and negotiation, into the formal legal system while resolving disputes
- g. Support and strengthen Alternative Justice Systems, including traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, ensuring that women and youth rights are underscored, discriminatory practices outlawed, and forbidding forum shopping between the AJS and the formal systems, as well as gender balance in specialized courts.
- h. Improve the participation of both women and youth in AJS, not only as justice seekers but also as justice providers at all levels.
- i. Seek to establish specialized courts to handle disputes on environment and land use and management, and provide adequate gender balanced staffing and resources to ensure the effective operationalization of the Courts
- j. Ensure the entrenchment in law of legal aid and support the provision of legal aid.

3. On Capacity Development and Knowledge Management

- a. Build the capacity of stakeholders, including private sector, civil society, women, youth, persons with disabilities, minority communities, informal settlers and other vulnerable groups in areas such as climate change, climate finance, transparency, and accountability.
- b. Develop and implement national Awareness Plans on Gender, Inter-generational responsiveness, and Engagement Strategies on land use, management, and conflict.
- c. Build the capacity and explore linkages between formal and informal justice sector actors to solve land disputes, apply ADR mechanisms and protect the land rights of women.
- d. Build and strengthen the capacity of institutions, including local governments and state departments in areas such as climate change, climate finance, monitoring and reporting.
- e. Integrate climate change, protection of environment, peace and development in the education system and development plans.
- f. Promote research and ensure the development, dissemination, and access to information for members of the public on issues related to land governance, access to justice, and other relevant themes for empowerment of citizens through knowledge.



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4. On Women's effective and meaningful participation in land governance and dispute resolution:

- a. Remove discriminatory legal (including customary law) and policy and implementation blockages that prevent women from ownership, use and management of land and natural resources.
- b. Ensure cross-sectoral consultation for issues related to the intersection between gender and vulnerability, land, environment, food security, climate, infrastructure, peace and justice.
- c. Strengthen the capacity of women to engage in advocacy and policy-making activities including women in informal economies and settlements.
- d. Promote the access of women to credit, livelihoods and other economic resources.
- e. Ensure access to justice for women, including the provision of legal aid to women justice seekers, notably through community level organizations.
- f. Ensure meaningful participation and leadership of women, especially women local leaders to engage in policy making at all levels

5. On Climate change and natural resources management:

- a. Support the development and transfer of inclusive, accessible and affordable technologies that help to adapt to climate change such as stress-tolerant crops, irrigation, and early warning systems.
- b. Promote climate justice
- c. Promote the contextual diversification of livelihoods among households.
- d. Encourage agronomic practices such as agroforestry and conservation agriculture
- e. Support pest and vector surveillance and management
- f. Each member state to develop a strategy for incorporating and appropriating indigenous knowledge and strategies in climate change and Natural Resources management to mitigate and adopt to the adverse effects of climate change.

6. On regional efforts and integration:

- a. Redouble the efforts in the implementation of the Protocol on Transhumance, and the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, and their respective Implementation Roadmaps.
- b. Encourage the sustainable and equitable use and management of Transboundary resources as sources of peace and unity among the Member States.
- c. Follow up on the enforcement of regional court decisions in land-related conflicts.

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- d. Encourage support, both technical and financial, for implementation of the Horn of Africa Initiative, including through partnerships with international and regional organizations, and civil society groups to enable accountability and transparency in land governance and women's rights to land.
- e. Support the establishment of regional oversight mechanisms to ensure that member countries adopt best land governance practices in the region to protect its land.
- f. Support the Member States who are affected by conflict which has hampered their economies thereby rendering their populations poor and landless.

7. Adopt, endorse and remain seized of the accompanying Agenda for action on gender-responsive land use and management, climate change, and conflict transformation.

We, the Governments from the IGAD Region, seek to advance this shared Agenda at national and at cross-border levels under the overall coordination of IGAD secretariat and working alongside IDLO and all our partners including, SPARC, ILC, all relevant resource and technical partners, United Nations System, international and regional organizations, and Non-Governmental Organizations to transform the use and management of Land, and conflict prevention and resolution in the East and Horn of Africa.

We call on the Member States in the Developed world to fulfil their pledges to climate financing taking cognizance of the centrality of this to sustaining political and technical engagement in COP27 and beyond informed by local realities of the IGAD Region that is beset by climate extremes and its impact on populations and eco-systems.

We call for Governments of the Member States to commit funds, technical expertise and political will, in conjunction with international development partners, to support the operationalization of this transformative agenda.

Done in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, on 28 October 2022.

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FOR THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

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1. **H.E. Ms. Amina Abdi Aden**
Minister – Ministry of Town, Urbanism and Housing

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2. **H.E. Isman Ibrahim Robleh**
Minister, Ministry of Budget

P/O



FOR THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

-
1. **H.E Prof Eyasu Elias**
State Minister Ministry of Agriculture



FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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1. **Hon. Mr. Zachariah Mwangi Njeru**
Cabinet Secretary – Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning



FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

AHABEN

1. **H.E. Mr Ahmed Abdurahman Hassan**

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

2. **H.E Mr Sacid Mohamed Ali**

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

M. Ali

3. **H.E Mr Mohamed Ali Mahamud**

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing

M. Ali



FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

Michael

1. **Hon. Michael Chiangjek Geay**

Minister, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development

2. **Hon. Josphine Napwon Cosmos**

Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

J. Napwon


3. **Hon. Ruben Madol Arol Kachuol**

Minister, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs



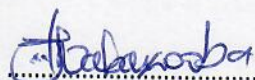
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

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1. **H.E. Mohamed Saed Alhilo Dongs**
Minister, Ministry of Justice

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2. **H.E. Dr. Mona Ali Mohammed Ahmed**
High Council for Environment and Natural Resources
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FOR THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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1. **Hon. Judith Nabakooba**
Minister - Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development

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2. **Hon. Norbert Mao**
Minister – Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

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3. **Hon. Peace Mutuzo**
Minister of State – Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
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