



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



IGAD - EAC High Level Ministerial Conference on Durable Solutions for Refugees



**DURABLE SOLUTIONS
FOR REFUGEES
IN THE EAST AND
HORN OF AFRICA**

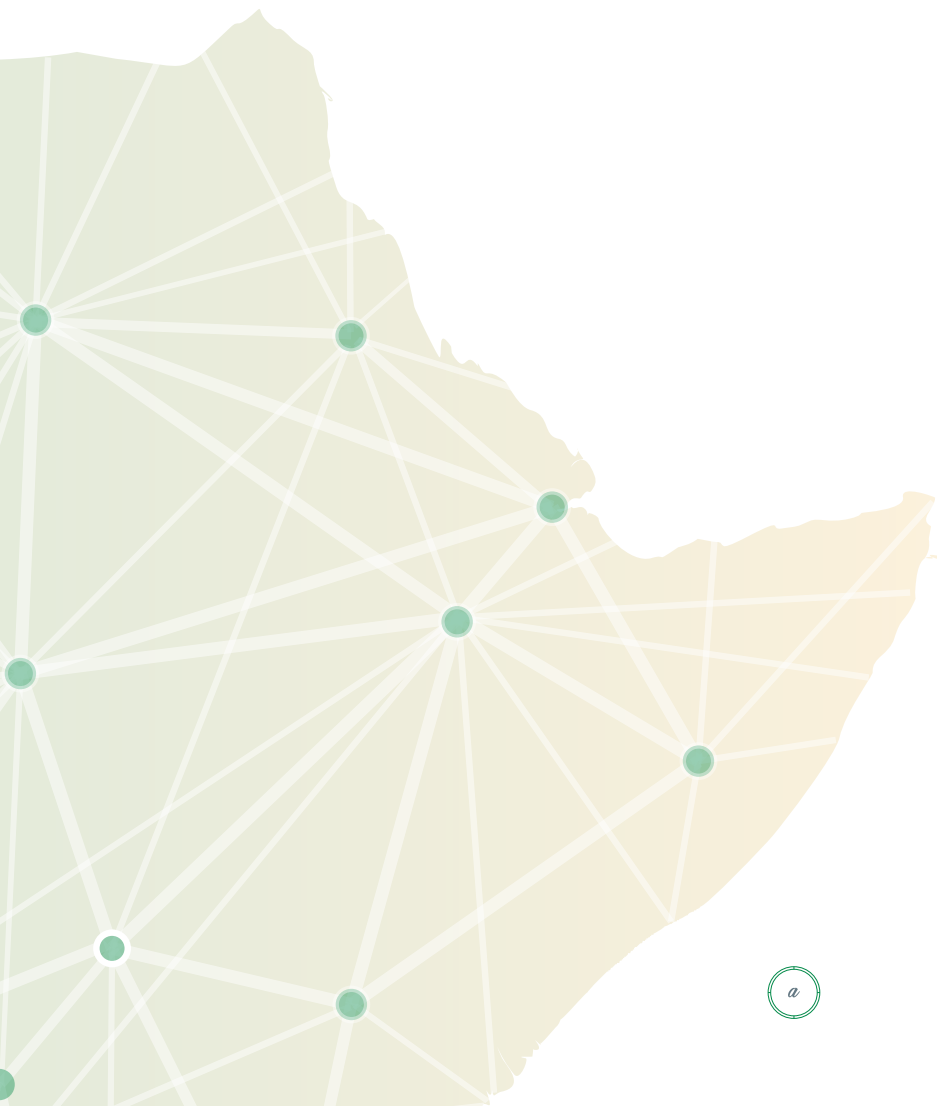
13 – 16 | Speke Commonwealth Resort Munyonyo,
JUNE 2023 | KAMPALA, UGANDA



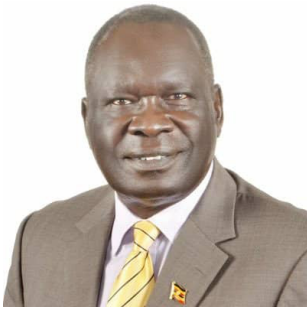
PROGRAMME GUIDE



Theme:
Enhancing Coordinated Regional Approaches to the Refugee
Situation in the East, the Horn of Africa.



FOREWORD



Hon. Eng. Hillary Onek

Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees,

Office of the Prime Minister,
Government of the Republic
of Uganda, Kampala.

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

I thank you for honouring our invitation to this conference. I welcome you to the joint Government of Uganda-IGAD-EAC High Level Ministerial Conference on Durable Solutions for Refugees in the East and Horn of Africa. The Experts session will run from 13th – 16th June 2023 while the ministerial session will run from 15th – 16th June 2023.

As you are all aware, by May 2023, the East and Horn of Africa region hosted over 5.2 million Refugees and Asylum seekers, as well as 12 million Internally Displaced Persons. Noteworthy is that the primary drivers of this displacement are violent conflicts and wars, natural disasters due to climate change and economic recession in the Region which followed the COVID-19 pandemic.


Uganda currently hosts over 1.535,900 million refugees, primarily arising from violent conflict in neighbouring countries within the IGAD and EAC Region. Whereas to us in Uganda, hosting a neighbour running from violence is the most humane and right thing to do and is within our spirit of Pan African brotherhood, the unprecedented increase of refugees and asylum seekers in a protracted refugee situation i.e. spanning on average 20 years of protracted individual displacement, is posing serious challenges for our Member States to meet their obligations to international standards for refugee management under the UN Refugee Convention 1951 and the Global Compact on Refugees and related international protection instruments.

Several trends have arisen which impact negatively on our ability to sustainably support our people and these factors include: limited humanitarian emergency support, increased adverse effects of climate change, limited livelihoods and job opportunities for both refugees and host communities and cyclical violent conflicts and wars. This has become a limitation to our ability to fulfil our commitments to the Global Compact on Refugee objectives of easing pressure to host countries and over-stretching our open door refugee policy.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

The 2nd Global Refugee Forum which is the biggest Global Forum on Refugees will be held in Geneva from 13th -15th December 2023. Most notably the Republic of Uganda and Republic of Niger selected from Africa as Co-convenors alongside France, Japan and Colombia. With this current positioning in the Global Refugee Forum, we in the IGAD and EAC Region should grab the opportunity of this second Global Refugee Forum to put a case as a regional block for the international community to support us with:

- a) Increased humanitarian funding for refugees, host communities and IDPs;
- b) Building sustainable regional peace and security;
- c) Building safe and viable conditions for repatriation and local integration of refugees in countries of origin;

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- d) Increased engagement of the private sector in the Refugee Hosting countries to harness the potential of refugees and host communities for economic development;
 - e) Mobilise higher investments (including carbon credits) against negative effects of climate change on host countries and build community resilience against natural hazards in our region which is 70% arid and semi-arid. These issues are critical to the attainment of a fully protective and sustainable environment for refugees, IDPs and all our citizens in the Region.

It is indeed my prayer that by the end of this conference, we will have achieved the following outcomes;

- a) The June 2023 Munyonyo IGAD-EAC Ministerial Declaration on durable solutions for refugees in East and Horn of Africa.
- b) Documentation of Good Practices, Lesson learned and recommendations on durable solutions for refugees in East and Horn of Africa.
- c) Joint IGAD-EAC Pledge for the Global Refugee Forum 2023

Finally, I take the opportunity to thank the IGAD and EAC Secretariats for Co-convening this important Conference with the Government of Uganda. We also wish to thank our loyal partners the EU, Germany, Sweden, GIZ, UNHCR, ILO, IOM and UN Women for supporting and organising this historical regional Conference on Durable Solutions for Refugees.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates I thank you.

For God and my Country



CONCEPT NOTE

1.1 Background on forced displacement situation

IGAD and the EAC region host the largest number of refugees on the African continent and have been at the forefront of developing comprehensive and innovative approaches to protect and find solutions to both protracted situations and new refugee crises. By the May 2023, the East and Horn of Africa region hosted over 5 million refugees and asylum seekers, as well as 12 million internally displaced people. Primarily drivers of displacement across the region include conflict, drought, flooding, food shortages, insecurity, and localized violence.

Uganda currently hosts over 1.5 million refugees making it the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, followed by Sudan with over 1.1 million refugees. However, the ongoing conflict in Sudan is causing new displacement within and beyond Sudan, including refugees and asylum seekers who were residing in the country. South Sudan remains the largest refugee-producing country with over 2.2 million refugees presently hosted by Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

To effectively address the highly dynamic refugee context unfolding in the region, there is need for a comprehensive understanding of regional realities that drive it and initiatives being carried out at the regional level. The Regional Dialogue will be convened by the Government of Uganda in its capacity as the co-convenor of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, and with the support of IGAD and EAC secretariats. The Dialogue seeks to take stock of progressive operationalization of solutions informed by GRF pledges and best global protection standards and practices of refugee management among IGAD and EAC Member and Partner States respectively. It will also explore innovative approaches for mitigating and addressing the drivers of forced displacement across the East and Horn of Africa region. The Dialogue will facilitate the exchange through tailored protection and solution plenaries and thematic panel discussions involving practitioners of protection and solutions to refugee management.

The Dialogue will bring together ministers, senior practitioners in refugee matters and Commissioners of refugee agencies from member states of the region namely: Burundi, Djibouti, DRC Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Tanzania. Discussions will focus on the achievements and gaps in durable solution and refugee management. The overarching aim is to identify and share good practices to improve the regional protection and solutions environment for refugees and host communities, and to explore ways to mitigate and address the drivers of displacement across the region.

1.2 Rationale

Regional approaches enable neighbouring countries facing similar challenges to work together to harmonise and coordinate approaches to finding solutions for refugees. It will also enable them to address the root causes of displacement with the support and assistance of the international community. The ministerial conference will:

- a) Examine the regional protection environment, root causes of forced displacement and triggers of irregular or onward movement of refugees;
- b) Explore successes and lessons learned from comprehensive approaches to solutions (including stocktaking of GRF pledges) in IGAD and EAC region.

1.3 Objectives of the Ministerial Conference

The overall objective of this conference is to enhance coordinated regional approaches to the refugee situation in the East, the Horn and Great Lakes Region of Africa.



Specific objectives will include:

- 1) Identify good practices, lessons learned and challenges on across the following spheres:
 - i) Protection
 - ii) Open door policies,
 - iii) Whole-of-government approaches,
 - iv) Naturalisation,
 - v) Socio-economic inclusion,
 - vi) Return and reintegration.
 - vii) Resettlement.
- 2) Strengthen regional and national systems to prevent, mitigate and respond to all drivers of displacement such as conflict, disasters and climate change.
- 3) Revitalize strategic partnerships to enhance coordinated and complementary responses to contribute to increased resource mobilization to address unmet needs for protection and solutions for refugees and host communities.
- 4) Develop consensus on regional input(s) into the GRF 2023

The thematic sessions will focus on five core areas of the protection and solutions dialogue which include:

- 1) Good practices, bench-marking, lessons learned and challenges on:
 - i) Protection of refugees and asylum seekers including vulnerable groups.
 - ii) Open door policies
 - iii) Government-led whole-of-society approaches
 - iv) Naturalisation
 - v) Socio-economic inclusion
 - vi) Return and reintegration
 - vii) Resettlement.
- 2) Regional and national mechanism for prevention, mitigation and response to drivers of displacement:
 - i) Violent conflict,
 - ii) Disasters and adverse of effect climate change
- 3) Partnerships for increased resource mobilization to address unmet needs for protection and solutions for refugees and host communities.
 - i) Measuring the impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees
 - ii) Development Financing
 - iii) Track the implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments on localisation
 - iv) Private Sector Engagement
 - v) Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus
 - vi) Reflection on the UN Common Pledge for GRF 2023
- 4) Identify a joint IGAD-EAC pledge to seek commitment from the international community at the GRF 2023

1.4 Expected outcomes of the Ministerial Conference

- a) June 2023 Munityonyo IGAD-EAC Ministerial Declaration on durable solutions for refugees in East and Horn of Africa
- b) Documentation of Good Practices, Lesson learned and recommendations on durable solutions for refugees in East and Horn of Africa
- c) Joint IGAD-EAC Pledge for the GRF 2023

1.5 Conference Methodology:

- A background paper on the thematic areas of the conference will be developed based on desk reviews of available literature;
- The conference will be subdivided into two broad segments;
 - 2-day technical sessions, and
 - 2-day high level ministerial segment. This will include a [Closed] High-Level Ministerial Working Breakfast.
- The conference will be tailored through parallel plenaries and thematic panel discussions. Video clips will highlight the Refugee Situations in the Region.

1.6 Participation

- The Technical Experts segment involving practitioners and policy makers of protection and solutions to refugee management, including Commissioners and/or directors of refugee agencies, CRRF Secretariat, AU Commission and Secretariats of AU-RECS private sector, UN agencies, Humanitarian, Peace and
- Development Partners, as well as voices from Refugees and Refugee hosting communities

The Ministerial Segment will include Ministers responsible for Refugee Affairs in IGAD and EAC region as well as all the participants from the Technical Experts segment.

PROGRAM OF WORK

TECHNICAL EXPERTS MEETING DAY 1: TUESDAY, 13TH JUNE 2023

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR
08h30 – 09h00	Arrival and Registration	
09h00 – 10h00	<p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IGAD Executive Secretary. • EAC Secretary General. • UNHCR • UN ILO • UN IOM • EU Delegation • Government of Germany • US Government • World Bank • Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees of the Government of Uganda. • Guest of Honour: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs of Government of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga Alitwala. 	<p>IGAD Secretariat Djibouti. EAC Secretariat Arusha. Office of the Prime Minister Department for Refugees. Office of the Prime Minister, CRRF Secretariat. Ministry of Foreign affairs Government of Uganda</p>
10h00 – 10h45	<p>Session One: Setting the Scene and the Objectives of the Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video of Refugee Voices. • Statement from Refugee Representative. • Statement from the Representative of Refugee Hosting Districts. • Presentation of the Background Paper by IGAD Secretariat. • Presentation on Global Refugee Forum (GRF) <p>Discussions</p>	<p>IGAD Secretariat Djibouti. EAC Secretariat Office of the Prime Minister Department for Refugees. Office of the Prime Minister, CRRF Secretariat. UNHCR. UN ILO. GIZ</p>
10h45 – 11h20	Group Photo and Health Break	IGAD Secretariat.
11h20 – 13h00	<p>Session Two: Good practices, benchmarking, lessons learned and challenges on (Parallel Breakout Sessions at <i>Shiina</i> Hall)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of refugees and asylum seekers including vulnerable groups. • Open door policies <p>Representative Experts from each member States and All other Invited participants.</p> <p>Discussion.</p>	<p>IGAD Secretariat Djibouti. EAC Secretariat Arusha. UNHCR. IOM. Office of the Prime Minister Department for Refugees. Office of the Prime Minister, CRRF Secretariat. GIZ</p>

PROGRAM OF WORK

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR
11h00 – 13h00	<p>Session Three: Good practices, benchmarking, lessons learned and challenges on (Parallel Breakout Sessions at Meera Hall)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government-led whole-of-society approaches. • Social economic inclusion. <p>Representative Experts from each Member States and All other Invited participants. Discussion.</p>	<p>IGAD Secr é tariat, Djibouti. EAC Secr é tariat, Arusha. UNHCR. UN ILO. UN IOM. Office of the Prime Minister Department for Refugees. Office of the Prime Minister, CRRF Secretariat.</p>
11h30 – 13h00	<p>Session Four: Good practices, benchmarking, lessons learned and challenges on (Parallel Breakout Session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Integration. • Return and reintegration. • Resettlement. <p>Representative Experts from each Member States and All other Invited participants. Discussion and deliberations.</p>	<p>IGAD Secr é tariat, Djibouti. EAC Secr é tariat, Arusha. UNHCR. UN ILO. UN IOM. Office of the Prime Minister Department for Refugees. Office of the Prime Minister, CRRF Secretariat. GIZ</p>
13h00 – 14h00	Nutrition Break	
14h15 – 15h15	Plenary Session: Feedback & Discussion from Session Two (Victoria Ballroom).	Office of the Prime Minister Department for Refugees. Office of the Prime Minister, CRRF Secretariat.
15h15 – 16h15	Plenary Session: Feedback & Discussion from Session Three (Victoria Ballroom).	UN ILO. Office of the Prime Minister Department for Refugees. Office of the Prime Minister, CRRF Secretariat.
16h15 – 17h15	Plenary Session: Feedback & Discussion from Session Four (Victoria Ballroom).	UNHCR. Office of the Prime Minister Department for Refugees. Office of the Prime Minister, CRRF Secretariat.

Health break / End of day 1

PROGRAM OF WORK

FINAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS SEGMENT

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 14TH JUNE 2023

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR
08h30 – 09h00	Arrival and Registration	IGAD Secretariat Djibouti.
09h00 – 10h30	<p>Session Five: Regional and national mechanism for prevention, mitigation and response to drivers of forced displacement (Plenary Panel Session Victoria Ballroom)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violent conflict, disasters and adverse of effect climate change <p>Panelists: IGAD-ICPAC, Republic of Uganda, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Sudan.</p> <p>Discussion.</p>	<p>IGAD Secretariat Djibouti. EAC Secretariat. Office of the Prime Minister Department for Refugees. Office of the Prime Minister, CRRF Secretariat.</p>
10h30 – 11h00	Health Break	
11h00 – 13h00	<p>Session 6: Partnerships for increased resource mobilization to address unmet needs for protection and solutions for refugees and host communities (Plenary Panel Session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees Debt relief, Grants & Development Financing Track the implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments on localization Private Sector Engagement Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Reflection on the UN Common Pledge for GRF 2023. <p>Panelists: Republic of Djibouti, Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, State of Eritrea, World Bank, AfDB, IKEA Foundation, UN Resident Coordinator, Ministry of Local Government of Government of Uganda and Oxfam.</p> <p>Discussions.</p>	<p>IGAD Secretariat EAC Secretariat Arusha. Office of the Prime Minister Department for Refugees. Office of the Prime Minister, CRRF Secretariat.</p>
13h00 – 14h00	Nutrition Break	

PROGRAM OF WORK

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR
14h00 – 16h30	<p>Session 7: Identification of a joint IGAD-EAC pledge to seek commitment from the international community at the GRF 2023 Geneva Switzerland (Plenary Session Victoria Ball Room):</p> <p>Short Statements from Member States on the Joint IGAD-EAC Pledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republic of Burundi • Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). • Republic of Djibouti. • State of Eritrea. • Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia • Republic of Kenya • Republic of Rwanda • Federal Republic of Somalia • Republic of South Sudan • Republic of Sudan • United Republic of Tanzania • Republic of Uganda 	<p>IGAD Secretariat EAC Secretariat UNHCR UN ILO UN IOM Office of the Prime Minister Department for Refugees. Office of the Prime Minister, CRRF Secretariat.</p>
16h30 – 17h00	Health Break	
17h00 – 18h00	Session 8: Presentation and Discussion of the Draft Declaration – Plenary at Victoria Ballroom	IGAD Secretariat/ EAC Secretariat
18h00	End of the Technical Experts Segment	

PROGRAM OF WORK

MINISTERIAL MEETING DAY 3: THURSDAY, 15TH JUNE 2023

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR
08h30 – 09h00	Arrival and Registration	IGAD Secretariat.
09h00 – 10h45	<p>Session 1A: [Closed] IGAD-EAC Member States Ministerial Working Breakfast with Hon. Eng. Hilary Onek, Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Government of Uganda.</p> <p>Session 1 B: Drafting of the Declaration by the technical experts (drafting team of IGAD, EAC and MS) [Parallel Session]</p>	<p>IGAD Secretariat. EAC Secretariat. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Uganda. Drafting team of select IGAD, EAC, UNHCR, OPM, UN ILO, IOM and MS experts.</p>
10h30 – 11h00	Health Break	
11h00 – 13h00	<p>Session 2: Ministerial Panel Discussions Panel 1: Regional protection environment, root causes of forced displacement and triggers of irregular or onward movement of refugees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republic of Uganda • Federal Republic of Somalia • Republic of South Sudan • Democratic Republic of the Congo • Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, • Republic of Sudan. <p>[Discussions] Venue: Victoria Ballroom.</p>	IGAD Executive Secretary.
13h00 – 14h00	Nutrition Break	
14h00 – 16h00	<p>Session 2: Ministerial Panel Discussions (continuation) Panel 2: Successes and challenges from comprehensive approaches to Durable Solutions for Refugees in IGAD and EAC region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republic of Djibouti • Republic of Burundi • Republic of Kenya • Republic of Rwanda • United Republic of Tanzania • State of Eritrea, <p>Discussions [Venue: Victoria Ballroom]</p>	EAC Secretary General.

PROGRAM OF WORK

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR
16h00 – 16h30	Nutrition Break	
16h30 – 17h30	Presentation of the Updated Draft Declaration to ALL Experts of IGAD-EAC Member States. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts’ validation of the Declaration. Venue: Victoria Ballroom.	Drafting team of Select Experts of IGAD, EAC UNHCR, UN ILO, IOM, MoFA and MS Experts.
17h30	End of Day 1 of Ministerial Meeting	

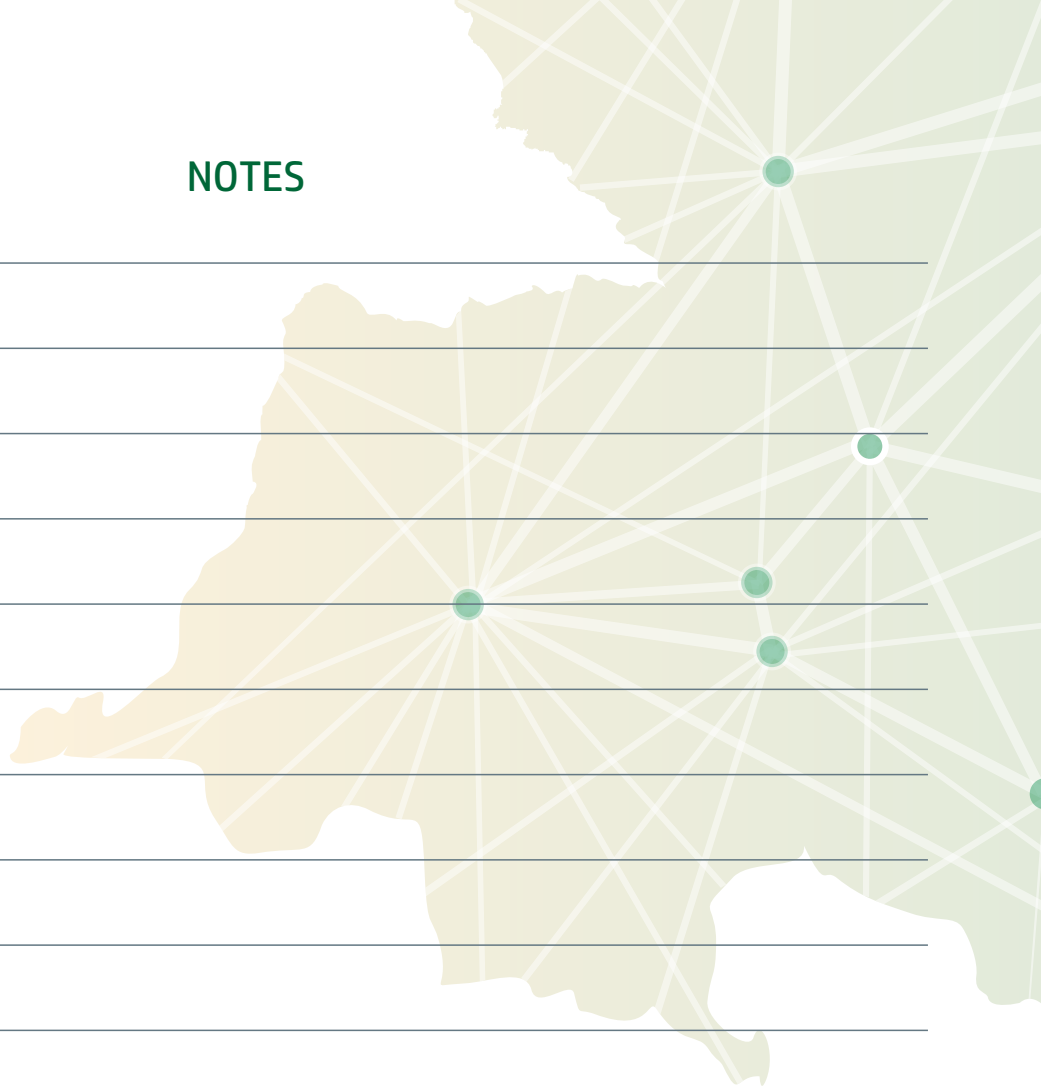
FINAL MINISTERIAL SEGMENT DAY 4: FRIDAY, 15TH JUNE 2023

Guest Of Honor: H.E. The President of the Republic of Uganda

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR
08h30 – 09h00	Arrival and Registration	IGAD Secretariat.
09h00 – 09h05	Video on Refugee Voices	IGAD Secretariat, UNHCR.
09h05 – 10h30	Guest of Honour: The President of the Republic of Uganda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement by IGAD Executive Secretary. • Statement by EAC Secretary General. • Statement by ICGLR Executive Secretary. • Statement by the AU Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development. • Statement by UN Resident Coordinator (Uganda) • Statement by Regional Director UNHCR • Statement by Regional Director UN IOM • Statement by Regional Director UN ILO • Statement by Government of Japan (Co-Convener of the Global Refugee Forum GRF 2023 Geneva, Switzerland). • Statement by Government of France (Co-Convener of the Global Refugee Forum GRF 2023 Geneva, Switzerland). 	IGAD Secretariat. EAC Secretariat. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Uganda. 1 st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Government of Uganda.

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR
10h30 – 12h00	<p>Session 2: Ministerial Statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republic of Uganda • United Republic of Tanzania • Republic of Sudan • Republic of South Sudan • Federal Republic of Somalia • Republic of Rwanda 	<p>IGAD Secretariat. EAC Secretariat. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Uganda. 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Government of Uganda.</p>
12h00 – 12h30	<p>Session 3: Ministerial Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republic of Kenya • Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia • State of Eritrea. • Republic of Djibouti. • Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). • Republic of Burundi 	<p>IGAD Secretariat. EAC Secretariat. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Uganda. 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Government of Uganda.</p>
12h30	<p>Reading of <i>The Munyonyo</i> Declaration of IGAD-EAC Ministers of Refugee Affairs on Durable Solutions for Refugees in the Horn and East Africa Region.</p>	<p>Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Uganda. 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Government of Uganda.</p>
13h00 – 13h30	<p>Signing of the Declaration by Ministers of IGAD and EAC Member States.</p>	<p>IGAD Secretariat. EAC Secretariat. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Uganda.</p>
13h30 – 14h00	<p>Closing Speech by the Guest of Honour: H.E The President of the Republic of Uganda.</p>	<p>Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Uganda. Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees of the Government of Uganda.</p>
<p>- END OF THE MEETING -</p>		

NOTES





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