



**COMMUNIQUE OF THE THIRD INTER-MINISTERIAL
STOCKTAKING MEETING OF THE IGAD SUPPORT PLATFORM
ON THE NAIROBI DECLARATION AND ACTION PLAN**

23 November 2023, Addis Ababa - Ethiopia

Ministers from 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 a Stocktaking Meeting on 23 November 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with humanitarian and development partners to conduct the third review on the progress made in the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as the subsequent Declarations and Plans of Action on Refugee Education, Health, Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-reliance;

Observing the shrinking of protection and asylum space worldwide as a result of intolerance, restrictions on access to territories, and forced return of refugees as well as reduced opportunities for resettlements;

Further observing the increasing levels of forced displacement in IGAD region and neighbouring countries resulting in higher numbers of refugees and asylum seekers in the Member States and heavier burden on host states and communities;

Recognizing the increased risks for groups with specific vulnerabilities in conflict and forced displacement situations, and emphasizing the imperative to embrace age, gender and diversity approach in designing forced displacement interventions.

Concerned over the ongoing conflict in Sudan and the continued devastating impact of the fighting on civilians;

Express solidarity with the people of Sudan and **Call** for immediate humanitarian ceasefire to end the suffering of people displaced both internally and externally;

Commend the IGAD Member States for maintaining asylum space, sustained political commitment for the implementation of the Nairobi Process, and the expansion of commitments of the Nairobi Declaration to cover all persons in need of international protection in the IGAD region;

Commend the IGAD Member States efforts towards inclusion of displacement data and statistics in the national statistical systems.

Further commend IGAD Secretariat for maintaining the regional approach in promoting the protection and durable solutions for displaced populations;

Further Commend IGAD efforts towards stabilization of the region through peace mechanisms, mediation, and reconciliation processes;

Recognizing the underlying drivers of displacement including conflict, violence and effects of climate change that result in significant increase in the number and duration of displacement;

Further recognizing that climate, environmental degradation, and natural disasters increasingly interact with the drivers of refugee movements and aggravate the exiting hardships faced by displaced populations such as refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless persons;

Recalling the landmark Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia by the IGAD Heads of State and Government Summit on 25th March 2017; which led to thematic declarations namely the IGAD Djibouti Declaration on Refugee Education, 2017, the IGAD Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self Reliance for Refugees, Returnees, Host Communities 2019, the Mombasa Declaration on Refugee and Cross Border Health Initiatives 2022, and the Solutions Initiative for Sudan and South Sudan 2020;

Further recalling the IGAD-EAC Ministerial Declaration on Durable Solutions for Refugees in the East and Horn of Africa (June 2023) that called for enhanced and coordinated regional approaches in addressing the root causes and drivers of forced displacement;

Reaffirm our commitment to effectively implement the Global Compact on Refugees and uphold all principles enshrined in it to achieve comprehensive regional refugee responses in an endeavour to reach the furthest behind first;

Further reaffirm our commitment to sustain and galvanise the political momentum of the IGAD Support Platform as a mechanism to coordinate, support and promote burden and responsibility sharing, comprehensive policy initiatives to ease pressure on host countries, build resilience and self-reliance and find regional solutions to regional challenges;

Recalling the First and the Second IGAD Inter-Ministerial Stocktaking Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya on 22 March 2018 and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 18 September 2019;

Applaud the progress made by IGAD Member States in the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as the subsequent Declarations and Plans of Action on Refugee Education, Health, Jobs Livelihoods and Self-reliance, adoption of the Regional Education Policy, the regional TVET Strategy, the IGAD Teacher Training Initiative, the IGAD Scholarship Program, and the IGAD Qualifications Framework (IGADQF), and the increased engagement of the private sector in creating jobs and livelihoods in displacement settings;

Further Applaud IGAD Member States for upholding the Rights of forcibly displaced populations, providing enabling policy environment for protection, alternatives to camps, comprehensive solutions, and enhanced Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP) Nexus;

Commend the progress made by IGAD Member States in implementation of pledges made during the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019;

Acknowledging the continued support by international partners and the increased involvement of new actors in the humanitarian, development and private sectors as well as civil society in the provision of services to refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities as provided by the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR);

Welcoming the two IGAD regional pledges for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum on Delivering comprehensive solutions and scaling up climate action for displaced and host communities in the IGAD region;

Anticipating and preparing for the Second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to be held in Geneva from 13 to 15 December 2023 as an opportunity to take stock of progress, showcase good practices, and announce and match concrete pledges within the context of burden and responsibility sharing;

Acknowledging that refugees make positive contributions, boost local economies and enrich communities, and have the desire to be self-reliant,

agents of their own change, and able to provide for themselves and their families—given the opportunity;

Further Acknowledging the Core Group members of the IGAD Support Platform (UNHCR, EU, Germany, Sweden, World Bank and UNDP) for their technical and financial support to IGAD in the implementation and domestication of the Nairobi Declaration;

Appreciating the European Union, the Government of Germany through GIZ and the Government of Sweden for providing the financial resources for convening the Third Inter-Ministerial Stocktaking Meeting;

Now, we hereby:

Agree to:

1. Commit to develop and accelerate the implementation of the national costed response plans to support the realisation of the commitments made by Member States on the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as the subsequent Declarations and Plans of Action on Refugee Education, Health, Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-reliance and other emerging priorities;
2. Commit to finalise and submit national and regional pledges that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) for the Second Global Refugee Forum to be held in Geneva from 13 to 15 December 2023;
3. Encourage Member States to join multi-stakeholder pledges to galvanize concrete commitments from a wide range of stakeholders;
4. Task IGAD Secretariat and Member States to fastrack the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as the subsequent Declarations and Plans of Action on Refugee Education, Health, Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-reliance;
5. Endorse the IGAD Policy Framework on Refugee Protection as validated by technical experts and call for the development of its implementation plan to promote harmonization of refugee protection approaches;
6. Endorse the Regional Solutions Strategy for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees and Host Communities in-and-from Sudan and South Sudan, and operationalize early solutions taking into consideration humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) nexus;

7. Endorse the consolidated results framework for the IGAD Support Platform that is aligned with the GCR Indicator Framework, as validated with comments from the technical experts, and commit to continuously track progress using the agreed indicators;
8. Build broad-based and sustainable partnerships involving all actors to increase effectiveness and support to the line ministries, local authorities and host populations for effective service delivery and response to impacts of forced displacement;
9. Step up mobilization of resources in support of the creation and strengthening of conducive and enabling environments for comprehensive and sustainable solutions for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities, including through efforts to enhance peacebuilding, reconciliation, development and social cohesion;
10. Encourage Member States to Step up efforts in finding peaceful resolutions of conflicts both at national and regional level with the view to minimize conflicts, which is one of the root causes of most displacement in the region;
11. Promote government-led whole-of-society approaches at the national and subnational level to facilitate collaboration across the humanitarian, development, and peace spectrum;
12. Prepare for regional and national level participation at the Second Global Refugee Forum to Showcase the regional approach to comprehensive refugee response in the IGAD Region;
13. Promote the inclusion of persons affected by forced displacement and their respective host communities in the design and implementation of climate action plans and policies and scale up accessible financing for host countries to address the environmental and climate change-related challenges;
14. Commit to sensitize and raise awareness amongst refugees, host communities and policy makers on the provisions of the existing regional and national policies, frameworks and declarations related to the Nairobi process;
15. Call for and support the inclusion and meaningful participation of refugees and refugee-led organizations in forced displacement discourse and the operationalisation, follow up and review of regional and national frameworks, and create equitable coalition

with refugee-led organisations to jointly secure fund, build their capacity, and expand their advocacy and programmatic work;

16. Call for international and development partners, and new actors such as private sectors as well as civil society to increase their financial and technical support for humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts;
17. Convene a solidarity summit on return and reintegration in Mogadishu Somalia in 2024:

Thank the Government and the People of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting this important meeting, and;

Decide to remain seized of this matter.

Done on 23 November 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia