



COMMUNIQUE OF THE 4th CONFERENCE OF IGAD MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF EDUCATION

Theme:

Towards Quality and Inclusive Education for All

The IGAD Ministers in Charge of Education held its 4th conference on Education for All, on the 30th of May 2024 in Entebbe, Uganda under the chairpersonship of **Mr. Chehem Mohamed, representing H.E. Moustapha Mohamed Mahamoud**, Minister of Education of the Republic of Djibouti and Chairperson of the IGAD Ministers of Education, to follow up the implementation of Djibouti Declaration on Education for Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and Host Community.

The meeting was attended by **H.E. Ayelech Eshete Woldesmeyat, State Minister for General Education Sector, representing H.E. Berhanu Nega Bongor**, Minister of Education of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; **Ms. Everlyne Akinyi Owoko, representing Dr. Ezekiel Machogu Ombaki, EGH** Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kenya; **H.E. Nura Mustaf Mukhtar, State Minister of the Ministry of Education, representing H.E. Farah Sheikh Abdulqadir**, Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Federal Republic of Somalia; **Hon. Gabriel Changson Chang**, Minister of Higher Education of the Republic of South Sudan; and **Hon. Peter Ogwang**, Minister of State for Sports **representing Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni**, Minister of Education and Sports of Republic of Uganda.

Also, in attendance were **Ms. Fathia Alwan** representing **H.E. Workneh Gebeyehu**, the Executive Secretary of IGAD; representatives from the core partners supporting the implementation of Djibouti Declaration: European Union; Government of Germany; GIZ; UNHCR; UNESCO; UNICEF; as well as youth and refugee representatives.

The Ministers:

1. **Recalling** the commitment in the Djibouti Declaration adopted on 14th December 2017, Addis Ababa Call for Action adopted on 6th December 2018 on Refugee Education in IGAD region, and Communiqué of 3rd Ministerial Meeting adopted on 30th March 2022 in Addis Ababa, reiterate the member states commitment to addressing the educational needs of refugees and including them into the national education system;



2. **Recalling** 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 Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihood and Self-Reliance for refugees, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF); 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 (SDG), notably SDG 4;
3. **Recalling** the High-Level Meeting on Action for Refugee Education organized in the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018, which reaffirmed the commitment for inclusion of the refugees into the national education systems and ensure quality learning opportunities for refugees, returnees, IDPs and host community learners;
4. **Welcoming** the outcomes of the Global Summit on Transforming Education convened by the UN Secretary General in September 2022 which responded to the global crises in education, with a particular focus on equity and inclusion, quality and relevance, heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic;
5. **Commending** the African Union for committing the year 2024 as year of education with the theme of "Educate and Skill Africa for 21st Century", through building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa;
6. **Reaffirming** our collective responsibility to ensure every refugee, returnee, and host community learners, in particular girls, have access to quality education in a safe learning environment within our respective countries without discrimination;
7. **Reiterating** our commitment to accelerating access to inclusive and quality Education for all with special focus on refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities;
8. **Alarmed** by the ongoing and emerging disruptions that conflict, climate change and displacement have on the education of the population, particularly refugees, returnees, and host communities in the IGAD region;
9. **Concerned** by the ongoing conflicts in IGAD Member States, particularly in Sudan, disrupting the educational system and leaving millions of learners out of education at all levels;
10. **Concerned** by the growing disconnect between education, skills and labour market needs and the widening digital gap;



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11. **Emphasising** on the importance of Regional Qualification Frameworks for enhancing access to quality education for girls, women, and other vulnerable groups, including people living with disabilities;
12. **Concerned** with the silent emergency of Out of School Children as a significant drawback for the attainment of SDG 4 and other interrelated SDGs;
13. **Appreciating** the progress made on the implementation of the 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;
14. **Recognizing** the IGAD comprehensive regional approach and the strong cooperation among Member States and partners in the acceleration of inclusive and quality education for refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities;
15. **Further recognizing** the IGAD Secretariat on the adoption of the new IGAD treaty and note the emphasis on Education, Science, Technology and Innovation;
16. **Also appreciating** IGAD for adopting the IGAD Regional Youth Policy Framework in September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya;

DO HEREBY:

17. **Adopt** the recommendations of the High-Level Technical Expert Session of the 4th Conference of IGAD Ministers in Charge of Education on the implementation of the Djibouti Declaration on Education for Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities held from 27th to 29th May 2024 in Entebbe, Uganda and commit to accelerate the implementation of these recommendations;
18. **Request** IGAD to review the IGAD Regional Education Policy Framework and update the TVET Strategy for the IGAD region;

A. On the Regional Qualification Framework (IGADQF)

19. **Adopt** the IGAD Qualifications Framework (IGADQF) as part of the Djibouti Declaration implementation;
20. **Urge** the IGAD Secretariat to develop a plan of action for the implementation of the IGADQF;
21. **Commit** to creating mechanisms for mutual recognition and equation of qualifications and micro-credentials across the IGAD region;

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22. **Task** IGAD Secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to develop standards and guidelines to support the implementation of IGADQF;
23. **Request** the IGAD Secretariat to facilitate training, capacity building, knowledge and experience sharing among IGAD Member States towards the implementation of the IGADQF;
24. **Commit** to develop National Qualification Frameworks (NQF) where they do not exist, and strengthen implementation of existing Frameworks;
25. **Urge** the IGAD Secretariat to support the efforts of Member States in the development and implementation of NQFs;
26. **Task** the IGAD Secretariat to establish Governance Structure and Platform for coordination and monitoring the implementation of the IGADQF;

B. On the Regional Response to Education in Emergencies

27. **Commit** to provide educational opportunities for students in emergency contexts in the IGAD Member States;
28. **Promote** intra-regional mobility of experts in the IGAD region, with a particular emphasis on those experiencing forced displacement;
29. **Urge** institutions of Higher Learning in the IGAD region, with the support of regional and international partners, to provide scholarship opportunities for learners in emergencies;

C. On Regional Response to Out of School Learners

30. **Request** IGAD Secretariat, Partners and Member States to undertake comprehensive studies to generate evidence on the magnitude of the problem related to out-of-school learners in the region;
31. **Urge** our national, regional and international partners including International Financial Institutions to invest in education/skills development, in general, and bringing out-of-school learners back to school, in particular;
32. **Commit** to promote student enrolment, retention and completion rates, including through free basic education including school feeding programmes;

D. On the Regional Response to Climate Change and Education

33. **Request** IGAD Secretariat, Partners and Member States to undertake comprehensive studies to generate evidence on the climate change, education and development nexus;
34. **Commit** to scaling-up school health and nutrition programmes;







35. Urge IGAD Secretariat, Partners and Member States to provide enabling environments to respond to climate change;
36. Urge IGAD Member States to rethink education curriculum in the context of climate change and indigenous knowledge adaptation;
37. Promote the use of alternative energy in school and educational establishments as a response to the impact of climate change;

E. On Resource Mobilization and Enhanced Partnerships for Inclusive Education

38. **Commit** to increasing domestic funding for education and putting in place sustainable financing arrangements where required, ensuring accountability and transparency for all, including in line with the commitments made under the IGAD Support Platform and the Global Refugee Forum;
39. **Request** IGAD Secretariat, Member States and partners to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for resource mobilisation for quality education at all levels;
40. **Task** the IGAD Secretariat to coordinate and foster international cooperation for implementation of the IGAD Regional Education Policy;

Finally

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

We commit to remain actively seized of this matter.

Done on this 30th Day of May 2024 in Entebbe, Uganda

H.E. Moustapha Mohamed Mohamoud,
Minister of National Education and Vocational Training of Republic of Djibouti



H.E. Berhanu Nega Bongor,
Minister of Education of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Hon. Dr. Ezekiel Machogu Ombaki, EGH
Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kenya

For CS:  _____

H.E. Farah Sheikh Abdulqadir,
Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Federal Republic of Somalia

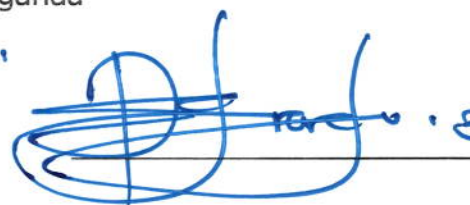
For FARAH  _____

Hon. Gabriel Changson Chang,
Minister of Higher Education of the Republic of South Sudan

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H.E. Mohamed Hassan Dahab,
Minister of Higher of Education of Republic of Sudan

Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni,
Minister of Education and Sports of Republic of Uganda

For:  30th / 05 / 2024