



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

**[Annex to the Declaration]**  
**Nairobi Comprehensive Plan of Action for Durable Solutions for  
Somali Refugees**

## **1.0 Introduction**

Hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) convened a regional Heads of State and Government Summit (hereafter 'the Special Summit') in Nairobi on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017, which was undertaken in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and supported by the European Union.

At the Special Summit, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of IGAD, in cooperation with the international community, resolved to deliver durable solutions for the more than 900,000 Somali refugees, who have been displaced in one of the world's most protracted crises, as well as over a million displaced persons within Somalia. This commitment is expressed in their Declaration, and adopted in this Comprehensive Plan of Action, which emphasizes the actions to be carried out in the delivery of durable solutions for Somali refugees.

The Comprehensive Plan of Action reflects the commitment by regional leaders to marshal a comprehensive integrated regional approach to deliver durable solutions for Somali refugees, whilst maintaining protection and promoting self-reliance and assistance in the countries of asylum, with the support of the international community and other stakeholders.

With its focus on delivering durable solutions for Somali refugees, the Comprehensive Plan of Action builds on the commitments made by the individual Member States that are signatories to the 2016 New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants, especially the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), and the specific commitments made by countries in the region, including the Addis Ababa Commitment towards Somali Refugees 2014, and internationally at the 2016 Leaders' Summit and other pertinent regional frameworks and mechanisms.

## **2.0 On Solutions for Somalia**

Stabilisation of Somalia is imperative to creating an environment that is conducive to taking actions aimed at establishing political, legal, social, and economic conditions of normality that will enable the delivery of durable solutions for Somali refugees in safety and dignity, and prevent or mitigate forced displacement of Somali refugees in the region. This includes activities to tackle the root causes of violence and armed conflict, vulnerabilities caused by disasters and drought in particular and to achieve the necessary solutions and the peaceful settlement of disputes as well as to assist in reconstruction efforts.

### **2.1 Actions**

- 2.1.1 Support ongoing security sector transformation and extension of state authority in Somalia. In the case of security, the major areas of focus are Somalia's security architecture and support for the efforts of the Federal Government to build the capacity of the security forces through an effective representative and accountable national security system and justice sector; long term and coordinated support to developing this; and maintaining support to AMISOM to deliver its mandate; all of which

are key deliverables at the International Conference on Somalia to be held in London in May 2017, to which the Summit has underlined its support.

- 2.1.2 Support the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia to build the capacity and expand the presence of the Somali National Police Force to enforce law and order as well as bring about stability in areas of return as a strategic priority to restore security and to render voluntary return sustainable.
- 2.1.3 Strengthen the capacity of AMISOM and Somalia's National Security Forces to open and maintain humanitarian corridors in order to enable the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population as well as to allow development-based engagements.
- 2.1.4 Support the Federal Government of Somalia in the restoration and capacity building of civilian authorities, particularly in areas with current or expected high rates return and displacement, including those people who lead the planning and management of the return and reintegration process, as well as those engaged in managing information in support of it. Governance arrangements supporting the return and reintegration process should be put in place.
- 2.1.5 Continue the roll-out of the State-led Durable Solutions Initiative and finalise its attendant framework, and carry out comprehensive and area based planning, assessments and programming to support implementation of the National Development Plan at all levels integrating needs of all poor and vulnerable groups and addressing the

specific vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees.

- 2.1.6 Adhere to Somalia's National Development Plan, which provides an overarching framework for Somalia's engagement with the international community over the coming period.
- 2.1.7 Support the outcomes and key deliverables of the International Conference on Somalia to be held in London in May 2017.
- 2.1.8 Accelerate and scale up the provision of basic services and infrastructure, job-creation, livelihoods, economic development, peace and reconciliation, and social cohesion of government institutions, private sector, civil society and communities in areas of return to receive, absorb, re-integrate and meet the needs of returnees and internally displaced persons in Somalia.
- 2.1.9 Drive forward a major programme of investment in urban planning, development and resilience in Somalia, by mobilizing development partners to make specific commitments to help with its rapid delivery; whilst also recognizing the importance of agriculture and rural livelihoods to the Somali economy and the need to accelerate investment in these sectors, particularly given the impact of recurrent drought.
- 2.1.10 Undertake a comprehensive profile of the skills of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons as a major step towards supporting the further strengthening of the State-led Durable Solutions Initiative for return and reintegration, and contribution to the broader economic recovery of Somalia.

- 2.1.11 Undertake measures to enable the Somali Diaspora to continue contributing to the recovery of Somalia's economy and livelihoods through remittances, humanitarian assistance and participation in reconstruction and development efforts.
- 2.1.12 Commit to undertaking reforms in Somalia, supported with technical assistance from the international financial institutions, in order to meet the requirements of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) programme, in order to access concessional financing currently inaccessible due to existing arrears.
- 2.1.13 Support the Federal Government of Somalia, to prepare, receive and provide protection and assistance for newly internally displaced persons.
- 2.1.14 Maintain high level regional and international attention to the drought situation in order to sustain a significant response within Somalia and the region, which includes a more coherent approach between humanitarian and development assistance and shifting to more predictable financing in view of the magnitude of development needs and multifaceted humanitarian crises faced by Somalia. This is reinforced by the Mogadishu Declaration, which calls for closer regional cooperation and international collaboration to facilitate a more comprehensive response.

### **3.0 On Solutions for Refugees**

Under the auspices of IGAD and supported by UNHCR, a regional framework with a set of assertive national action plans for Somali refugees will be developed, in the spirit of the New York Declaration. Actions will be taken in furtherance of a commitment

to maintaining the asylum space in the region, taking into account to the potential for new refugee outflows and influxes.

The space for asylum must be rooted in international obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol and the 1969 African Union Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Asylum space should be open, predictable, and responsive in the region.

### **3.1 Actions**

- 3.1.1 Maintain protection space of host and refugee communities, and enhance the rule of law and security within refugee camps and out-of-camp refugee populations, in order to ensure the civilian and humanitarian nature of camps and settlements.
- 3.1.2 Support the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees under conditions of safety and dignity. To this end the international community are requested to mobilize resources to support the voluntary repatriation process for Somali refugees and scale up support for the effective re-integration of close to 60,000 returnees in Somalia.
- 3.1.3 Promote policies of national unity and social cohesion that promote peaceful co-existence of Somali refugees and host communities, and address negative perception of refugees to enhance social inclusion, including supporting the development of positive narratives, messaging and other communications.
- 3.1.4 Strengthen evidence-based approaches to protection, assistance and identification of appropriate durable solutions through profiling, needs assessment and the

generation and sharing of data disaggregated by gender, age and diversity.

- 3.1.5 Strengthen the capacity of IGAD Member States with the support of UNHCR to enhance data on Somali refugees in the region for socio-economic reintegration and development planning purposes.
- 3.1.6 Provide assistance which is balanced, system-based and long term, which responds to the vulnerabilities of both refugees and host communities, with a view to ensure social cohesion and a favourable protection environment.
- 3.1.7 Mitigate and respond to conflicts in refugee hosting areas over diminishing resources for instance in the event of drought, which reduces access to water, arable land, energy and other resources.
- 3.1.8 Invest in comprehensive skills development for refugees, strengthening their employability, self-reliance, social inclusion, and resilience; and create an enabling business environment for Somali refugees to access employment opportunities, by benefitting from the private sector and through generating a favourable climate for domestic and regional investment to support both refugee and host communities.
- 3.1.9 Consider introducing or expanding Out-of-Camp Policies and progressively increase the number of refugees who may benefit from the policy; and provide relevant documents and permits to facilitate the free movement of refugees.

- 3.1.10 Consider the provision of cash-based forms of assistance, which promote and support the inclusion of displaced persons and benefit local communities and economies.
- 3.1.11 Endeavour to provide work permits to refugees, those with permanent residence ID's and refugee graduates access to work within the bounds of domestic laws in the areas permitted to foreign workers.
- 3.1.12 Provide alternatives that reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance, increase self-reliance, inclusion and social cohesion, and ensure meaningful access to socio-economic rights, in particular with regard to shelter, health and human services, access to justice and civil registration, education and livelihood opportunities.
- 3.1.13 Provide access to arable land to rural-based refugees within the bounds of national laws and mobilize external financial assistance to facilitate the development of irrigation schemes to enable refugees and host communities to engage in agricultural production, building on the existing concepts and experiences of integrated settlements in the region.
- 3.1.14 Mobilize finances from international development partners, by building on current approaches and mechanisms, such as the World Bank supported Refugee and Host Population Empowerment framework in Uganda, the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP), which aims to improve income and productivity for host communities and refugees through support to the development of industrial parks as well as the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).



- 3.1.15 Undertake national initiatives on education and vocational training for Somali refugees and with the leadership of IGAD, convene at the earliest possible time, a regional refugee education meeting among Member States, relevant agencies and technical experts to reach an agreement on standards and certificate equivalency.
- 3.1.16 Building on the Mogadishu Declaration of 22 February 2017 and the commitment of countries neighbouring Somalia to provide appropriate protection and assistance to those compelled to leave their areas of origin as a consequence of the drought, continue and undertake further action, supported by the international community, to prepare, receive and provide protection and assistance for new arrivals of Somali refugees.
- 3.1.17 Develop an IGAD regional framework for durable solutions for Somali refugees and the accompanying national plans by Member States, including working with UNHCR in fulfilment of the implementation of the provisions of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, specifically the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Efforts should be made to include Yemen in such a regional framework given the significant number of Somali refugees there and the specific challenges they face.
- 3.1.18 IGAD to convene within a year a regional inter-Ministerial Committee to steer the development of this regional framework for durable solutions for Somali refugees and to put in place long term donor support by establishing a Multi-Donor Trust Fund that supports Somali refugees.
- 3.1.19 Reflect specific commitments made by IGAD Member States and the international community in the IGAD

regional framework for durable solutions for Somali refugees. Its development will be supported through close collaboration with AU, UNHCR, the broader UN system and multilateral and bilateral partners, and engage civil society organisations and the private sector.

- 3.1.20 The process of the finalisation of the IGAD regional framework for durable solutions for Somali refugees should be completed by mid-2018, in concert with the timeline laid out in the New York Declaration for a global refugee compact.

Further action should be taken to implement commitments undertaken by certain Member States of IGAD in the spirit of the New York Declaration and Leaders' Summit on Refugees held in 2016, as well as other commitments made by IGAD Member states in supporting durable solutions for Somali refugees.

## **4.0 Individual Member State Pledges & Commitments**

### **4.1 Djibouti**

- 4.1.1 Pledges to present the Refugee Bill, which will provide access to education, legal work, and the justice system, to the National Assembly in 2016.
- 4.1.2 Pledges to give all refugee children access to accredited education through: committing to assess and train an adequate number of refugee teachers to teach the refugee population hosted by Djibouti; working with the Government of Kenya to establish certificate equivalency for the English-language curriculum taught in Djibouti's refugee camps.

## **4.2 Ethiopia**

- 4.2.1 Pledges to expand its Out-of-Camp Policy to all refugees as defined by Ethiopian laws and policy documents, to benefit 80,000 refugees, or 10 percent of the current total refugee population in Ethiopia.
- 4.2.2 If resources allow, to progressively expand the number of refugees who may benefit from the Out-of-Camp Policy.
- 4.2.3 Pledges to provide work permits to refugees and to those with permanent residence ID within the bounds of domestic laws and to provide work permits to refugee graduates in the areas permitted for foreign workers by giving priority to qualified refugees.
- 4.2.4 Pledges to increase the enrolment of refugee children – without discrimination and within available resources – from approximately 148,361 students to 212,800 students overall, including through increasing refugee preschool enrolment from 46,276 to 63,000; increasing refugee primary school enrolment from 96,700 to 137,000; increasing refugee secondary school enrolment from 3,785 to 10,300; and increasing refugee enrolment in higher education from 1,600 to 2,500.
- 4.2.5 Pledges additionally to make available 10,000 hectares of irrigable land within the bounds of the national laws of Ethiopia to allow 20,000 refugee and host community households (100,000 people) to engage in crop production by facilitating irrigation schemes, subject to the availability of external financial assistance.
- 4.2.6 Pledges to allow for local integration for protracted refugees who have lived in Ethiopia for 20 years or more,

to benefit at least 13,000 refugees who have been living in camps already identified by the Administration of Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA).

- 4.2.7 Pledges to work with international partners to potentially build industrial parks that could employ up to 100,000 individuals, with 30% of the jobs to be reserved for refugees.
- 4.2.8 Pledges to strengthen, expand, and enhance basic and essential social services for refugees, including health, immunization, reproductive health, HIV and other medical services, within the bounds of national law; provide facilities for refugees to open bank accounts, obtain driving licenses, and access all other benefits to which any foreigner with a legal permanent residence permit is entitled; and provide birth certificates to children of refugees born in Ethiopia.

### **4.3 Kenya**

- 4.3.1 Pledges to undertake self-reliance and inclusion measures including providing economic opportunities in accordance with the laws of the country
- 4.3.2 Facilitate legal status for those refugees with legitimate claims to citizenship and/or residency in Kenya through marriage or parentage as per the laws of Kenya.
- 4.3.3 Continue to implement the "Guidelines on Admission of Non-Citizens to Institutions of Basic Education and Training in Kenya," which will facilitate enrolment of refugees and other non- citizens in Kenyan schools.

- 4.3.4 Pledges to continue with allocating financial resources towards the development Infrastructure and social amenities to expand access to economic opportunities and social services in refugee hosting areas
- 4.3.5 Facilitate and expand business infrastructure and opportunities for refugee populations in order for them to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities in trade occupations.
- 4.3.6 Pledges to continue providing access to health services and facilities to refugee populations in the country.
- 4.3.7 Pledges to continue extending access to the Education system, schools and training institutions at all levels from basic level to tertiary levels for refugees

#### **4.4 Somalia**

- 4.4.1 Develop new policies and legislation on internally displaced people, returnees, refugees, trafficking and smuggling and support investment in equipment and infrastructure to support the management of mixed migration.
- 4.4.2 Facilitate and coordinate the reintegration process of returnees. refugees and IDPs with host communities on a federal, regional and local level and support the provision of basic services and the creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities for displacement affected communities.
- 4.4.3 Ensure that returnees and IDPs are provided civil documentation and waive applicable fees for a period of two years;

- 4.4.4 Convene a national forum on Somali refugees and IDPs in order to build a national consensus on what needs to be done in order to create conducive conditions for sustainable solutions and reintegration;
- 4.4.5 Ensure that Yemeni refugees in Somalia are accorded the full range of socio-economic rights in order for them to achieve self-reliance”.

## **4.5 Uganda**

- 4.5.1 Pledges to continue its settlement approach and keep the asylum space open with a full range of socio-economic rights including providing access to education and legal employment for some 120,000 newly arrived refugees in 2016. Uganda’s approach includes two new settlements, and access to employment, education, and health care has already been identified.
- 4.5.2 Pledges to use the USD50 million World Bank loan that is currently being negotiated to sustain and expand work on the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment framework, which aims to improve income and productivity for host communities and refugees.
- 4.5.3 Explore alternative legal status for refugees who have been long-term residents in Uganda
- 4.5.4 Host the upcoming refugee summit in 2017 as part of the activities towards implementation of the CRRF.

## **5.0 On Regional Cooperation on durable solutions**

Building on the Mogadishu Declaration, the Governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, commit to initiate the

holding of regular meetings to help address the underlying structural issues that commonly affect their security, economies, environments and communities, and other areas of mutual interest. These include: cross-border rangeland and water resource management, in order to harness these resources and prevent conflict over scarce resources during times of recurrent drought, cross-border infrastructure and borderland development to facilitate trade, communications and transport, building on the experience of existing IGAD-led initiatives in the region, protection-sensitive border management to facilitate and safeguard the movement of people, goods and livestock, and more security-related issues, such as countering terrorism and transnational organised crime; with a view to developing joint mechanisms and investments for enhancing sub-regional cooperation.

## **5.1 Actions**

- 5.1.1 IGAD and Member States to maximize the economic and development potential of remittances secured by the Somali diaspora by continuing to advocate for the lifting of restrictions on such remittances and for the reduction in the cost of sending remittances.
- 5.1.2 IGAD to complete the negotiations towards the protocol on free of movement of persons and pursue the possibility to broaden the protocol to benefit Somali refugees so they can effectively engage in activities and apply skills that will contribute to their host communities and live up to their full productive potential.

## **6.0 On International Sharing of Responsibility to Refugees, IDPs and Returnees**

### **6.1 Actions**

- 6.1.1 IGAD with the support of the AU, the EU and other inter-governmental stakeholders to call upon the key stakeholders – Somalia and its creditors – to agree on a clear and comprehensive milestone-based roadmap towards the normalization of relations with the International Financial Institutions with the objective of realizing speedy access to concessional financing and to play a proactive role in advocating for debt cancellation for Somalia.
- 6.1.2 International Financial Institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, and their shareholders to take the necessary steps to consolidate rapidly the strengthening of public finances in line with the benchmarks of the Staff Monitored Program of the IMF, to consider the cancellation of debts to Somalia and providing access to financial assistance, concessionary loans and essential support to facilitate and accelerate development inside the country.
- 6.1.3 Create opportunities for private sector involvement to contribute to the delivery of durable solutions including local integration, as well as promoting self-reliance, resilience, and reintegration of returnees and displaced persons.



- 6.1.4 Promote an enabling business environment for Somali refugees and IDPs to benefit from private sector opportunities and foster favourable domestic conditions that encourage the Somali diaspora to invest in Somalia.
- 6.1.5 Building on the momentum achieved by the Horn of Africa Initiative in 2014, development partners commit to explore what further efforts need to be taken to support cross-border co-operation and borderland development. As an immediate next step, this group will develop by the end of 2017, a mapping of current and planned investments, which will be shared with IGAD and its Member States, international partners, the private sector, and relevant civil society organizations.
- 6.1.6 Engage the international community to increase the resettlement numbers of Somali refugees, as well as expedite the opening of complementary pathways for third country admissions through such means as medical evacuation and humanitarian admission programmes, family reunification and opportunities for skilled migration, labour mobility and education, including the possibility of increasing opportunities for the free movement of persons within the region.
- 6.1.7 Engage the international community and the international financial institutions, in the spirit of sharing the burden and responsibility for hosting refugees, to help expedite and sustain the delivery of the above commitments, including ongoing implementation of pledges made by countries in the region at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees in New York in September 2016.

- 6.1.8 Secure the support of the international community and IFIs to provide predictable, multi-year financing to support countries in the region hosting refugees, as well as generate innovative financing instruments; and to fulfil promptly their pledges made at recent international conferences, including the forthcoming International Conference on Somalia in London in May 2017.
- 6.1.9 Increase collaboration with a broader range of partners, including development agencies, IFIs, the private sector and civil society organisations, with new forms of expertise and technical assistance to generate longer term and more developmental approaches that assist both Somali refugees and host communities, and which also complement humanitarian assistance.
- 6.1.10 Request the international community to provide its collective support in helping develop social and economic infrastructure for the benefit of both host communities and refugees, and to rehabilitate the environment in areas hosting refugees.

## **7.0 On IGAD remaining seized of this Action Plan**

IGAD will operationalise, follow-up and monitor implementation of the Action Plan and the Inter-Ministerial Committee of IGAD will take stock of the progress made on the outcomes of the Summit and make a gender-sensitive report on such progress to Summit of the IGAD Heads of State and Government.