



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE SECOND INTER-MINISTERIAL STOCKTAKING MEETING ON THE NAIROBI DECLARATION AND ACTION PLAN

18 September 2019, 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 18 September 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with humanitarian and development partners to conduct a second review on the progress made in the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan in the region.

Observing the shrinking of protection and asylum space worldwide as a result of intolerance, closing of borders and forced return of refugees as well as reduced opportunities for resettlements;

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

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan on Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities made during the Special Summit of IGAD Heads of State and Government held in Nairobi, Kenya on 25 March 2017 as a regional application of the comprehensive refugee response framework;

Further recalling the IGAD Roadmap and its accompanying Results Framework for Implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan adopted in September 2017 to guide the Nairobi Declaration;

Noting the progress made in the implementation of the Djibouti Declaration and Action Plan on Quality Refugee Education adopted during the Regional Conference on Refugee Education held on 17 December 2017;

Further noting the outcomes of the 10th Meeting of IGAD Health Ministerial Committee held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 19 March 2018 that guaranteed every refugee, returnee, cross border population, and members of the host communities' access to quality healthcare services without discrimination and the integration of refugees into national health systems;

Recalling the First IGAD Inter-Ministerial Stocktaking Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya on 22 March 2018 that applauded progress made across the Member States in the implementation of the pledges made in regards to protection of refugees, returnees and host communities;

Further recalling the recommendations of the Stocktaking Meeting that called on the Member States and partners to accelerate the finalization of national plans of action, improve finance tracking mechanisms, address root causes of forced displacement, implement the provision of the Djibouti Declaration on Refugee Education, hold thematic meetings on sectoral priorities (education, health, livelihoods and natural resource management) and urge the international community and other partners to meet their commitment to burden sharing;

Applauding progress made over the 2018/2019 implementation period in the hosting of a thematic sectoral priority meeting at regional level, including:

- i. The IGAD Ministerial Meeting on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self Reliance for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities held in Kampala, Uganda on 28 March 2019; and
- ii. The IGAD Regional Scientific Conference on Forced Displacement and Mixed Migration held in Nairobi, Kenya between 8 and 10 May 2019.

Appreciating the decision of the African Union Assembly in Nouakchott Mauritania on 2 July 2018 that adopted the theme of 2019 as "The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa"; and aware of the subsequent decision of the AU Summit in Addis Ababa Ethiopia in February 2019 to appoint the President of Equatorial Guinea, H.E. Teodoro Mbasogo, as the African leader in charge of the implementation of the Forced Displacement theme and expected to report to the next AU Summit in February 2020;

Commending South Sudan and other member states for the progress made in the ratification of the instruments of protecting victims of forced displacement including the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees, the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugees Problems in Africa; and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (The Kampala Convention);

Reaffirming our continued commitment to make practical steps towards comprehensive refugee responses inspired and guided by the New York Declaration and Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and its the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and signified in the Nairobi Declaration;

Welcoming the affirmation by UN General Assembly of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in December 2018;

Anticipating and preparing for the First Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to be held in Geneva on 17 and 18 December 2019 as an opportunity to take stock of progress made and showcase the IGAD process as a model refugee response framework and share costed national response plans and strategies for support within the context of responsibility sharing;

Acknowledging the need for further development of regional capacity and cooperation, and progress made in the establishment of the IGAD Support Platform to sustain and galvanize broad based support for the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and its accompanying action Plan;

Applauding the increasing involvement of new partners in the humanitarian, development and private sectors as well as civil society to ease the burden of refugees and returnees on host communities and to address the impacts of forced displacement on the environment and service delivery in line with the Nairobi Action Plan; and

Acknowledging continued support by international partners to national and local governments, and the civil society in the region in the provision of services to refugees, returnees and host communities as outlined in the Global Compact on Refugees;

Now, we hereby:

Agree to:

1. Intensify continuing efforts to address the root causes of increased numbers of refugees and other drivers of forced displacements in the region, while advocating for further international burden sharing;
2. Develop and cost national and sectoral response plans and financing strategies to support realisation of the pledges made by Member States;
3. Convene a follow-up IGAD Special Summit in 2020 to review progress made since the one held in Nairobi in 2017 and to maintain the political momentum on the search for durable solutions for refugees, returnees and host communities;
4. Undertake periodic assessments and publish an annual report of the State of Migration and Forced Displacement in the IGAD Region to document the dynamics, trends, processes and responses to refugees, returnees and host communities in line with the Nairobi Action Plan;
5. Convene the third thematic meeting on refugee health in early 2020, leading to the development and adoption of a regional declaration on refugee health and its plan of action;
6. Continue to maintain open-door policy across Member States and to operationalize reforms in national refugee laws and proclamations, refugee registration, issuance of identity cards, and inclusion of refugees in national development plans and employment schemes to facilitate self reliance and access to basic services (education, health, livelihoods, water and sanitation) and socio-economic opportunities;
7. Build broad-based and sustainable partnerships involving humanitarian, development and private sectors as well as civil society and community-based organizations to increase effectiveness and scale of support to the line ministries, local authorities and host populations for effective service delivery and response to impacts of forced displacement such as natural environment resource management and development of infrastructure in refugees and returnees hosting areas;
8. Increase the support of IGAD Secretariat to Member States to accelerate the in-country implementation of the NAP/GCR/CRRF in line with their priorities;

9. Enhance security and safety in refugee hosting areas by increasing financial and technical support for conflict prevention related programmes that enhance social cohesion and to maintain the humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements;
10. Step up mobilization of resources in support of programmes for voluntary repatriation and re-integration of returnees through the provision adequate packages, legal, financial, material and logistical assistance to refugees and returnees;
11. Harmonize policy frameworks and structures within each member state to avoid duplications, overlap and potential conflict of mandates to ensure efficient implementation of programmes and strategies at the national and local levels to strengthen the inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms as part of the 'whole-of-government' approach and sharing of responsibilities;
12. Lead multi-stakeholder country consultations towards preparation of the Global Refugee Forum in regard to responsibility sharing on the Nairobi Declaration and subsequent thematic declarations;
13. Prepare regional and national level participation at the Global Refugee Forum to showcase the IGAD process as a model refugee response framework and share costed national response plans and strategies for support within the context of responsibility sharing;
14. Establish the IGAD Support Platform to sustain the momentum, galvanize and mobilize additional support for the national as well as the regional-level, including strengthening IGAD and Member States capacity for coordination, cooperation and technical support in the implementation of NAP/GCR/CRRF for refugees, returnees and host communities;
15. Request the IGAD Secretariat to work with partners towards supporting the IGAD Regional Migration Fund (RMF) in form of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) as envisaged and endorsed in the Nairobi Declaration to help rolling out the implementation of Nairobi Declaration and its Plan of Action.

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

Decide to remain seized of this matter.

Done on 18 September 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia