



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE FIRST INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE NAIROBI ACTION PLAN ON DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR SOMALI REFUGEES AND REINTEGRATION OF RETURNEES IN SOMALIA

22ND MARCH 2018, NAIROBI - KENYA

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 Stock Taking Meeting on 22nd March 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya with humanitarian and development partners to review the implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia.

Recalling:

- The Special Summit of IGAD Heads of State and Government held in Nairobi, Kenya on 25th March 2017 that agreed on a framework to find durable solutions to the Somali crisis, one of the world's most protracted and;
- The set of commitments made at the Summit to provide sustainable options for addressing the Somali refugee crisis and the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action on durable solutions for Somali refugees and reintegration of returnees in Somalia;

Reaffirming our commitment to make practical steps towards comprehensive refugee responses inspired and guided by the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and signified in the Nairobi Declaration;

Acknowledging the progress made to create conditions conducive for safe, voluntary, and dignified repatriation of refugees to Somalia;

Recognizing the efforts made in providing protection and quality asylum space in the region;

Appreciating the commitments and progress made in enhancing self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion of refugees in host countries in the region;

Acknowledging the development of regional capacity and a cooperation framework to formulate common goals and spearhead the implementation of regional commitments for refugees in general and Somali refugees in particular;

Noting with satisfaction the highly successful regional refugee education conference hosted by the Republic of Djibouti in December 2017, which adopted the Djibouti Declaration and Action Plan on Quality Refugee Education;

Welcoming the Declaration of the 10th IGAD Health Ministerial Committee held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 19th March 2018 that guarantees 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, and;

Appreciating the continued partnerships in support of the Nairobi Action Plan and other refugee and host community initiatives in the region;

Mindful of:

- The need to roll out the national roadmaps that would require multi-stakeholder participation within government, regional, international and local actors while involving refugees and host communities in a whole of society approach;
- The fact that displacement takes a regional dimension, and therefore the indispensable role of regional organizations and frameworks;
- The on-going formal consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees that could benefit from the lessons of the regional application of the comprehensive refugee response in the IGAD Region, and;
- The need to promote and share the lessons learnt on the African continent;

Building on:

- Somalia's National Action Plan that requires a continued whole of government approach in its roll out and implementation to ensure effective coordination between relevant federal government line ministries and federal member states to ensure coherence between the policy and technical level in finding solutions for IDPs, returnees and refugees, in line with the National Development Plan, and;
- The urgent need to finalize a National Policy on Displacement in Somalia to guide the search for durable solutions and to set an effective, realistic and comprehensive normative framework to respond to the needs of the displaced persons, including returning refugees, IDPs and host communities.

Now, we hereby:**Agree to:**

1. Invigorate efforts aimed at addressing root causes of forced displacement in the sub-region;
2. Sustain the progress being achieved in Somalia to generate an environment conducive for sustainable return and reintegration;
3. Finalize the development of national action plans of action by the end of 2018, which for many are taking the form of CRRF roadmaps;
4. Improve significantly the access and quality of education for both refugees and host communities by implementing the Djibouti Declaration and Action Plan;
5. Hold the second regional thematic meeting within six-months, which will be on livelihoods and will help promote self-reliance and increase economic growth in refugee hosting areas, as well as provide the opportunity to exchange best practices and innovations;
6. Explore opportunities for expanding livelihoods in refugee hosting areas of the IGAD region, and how development partners and the private sector can be more effectively engaged;
7. Develop better finance tracking mechanisms at the national level, in particular by bolstering existing aid information management systems;

8. Continue developing or enacting refugee laws and implementing newly adopted legislations as a way of prioritizing the transformation and implementation of legal frameworks for refugee protection and durable solutions;
9. Undertake joint planning as a way of ensuring integration of durable solutions at the onset of displacement with development and humanitarian partners, and;
10. Urge the international community and other partners to demonstrate stronger solidarity and responsibility sharing in the region that supports predictable response to new and on-going displacements through multi-year development finance and avail increased opportunities for third country resettlement and other complimentary pathways;

Call for:

11. Enhanced regular dialogue and coordination with humanitarian and development partners as well as the management of finances, including the generation of financing strategies in support of national, sub-national or sectoral plans and the delivery of results taking into account the increasingly diverse set of financial sources supporting refugees and host communities;
12. Continued investment by all stakeholders in cross-border development initiatives as highlighted in the Nairobi Action Plan as a way of ensuring holistic development that addresses humanitarian, self-reliance and development concerns of refugees and host communities in border regions, and;
13. Increased investment, in collaboration with partners, in data and evidence, with a focus on strengthening national systems, in order to improve the effectiveness of support to refugees and host communities, and in particular undertake analysis on the costs and benefits of self-reliance and inclusion of refugees in social services;

Welcome multi-year commitments made by development partners that would provide greater predictability, enable a more efficient response and demonstrate a new and comprehensive approach that addresses both immediate and long-term needs of refugees and host communities;

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

Decide to remain seized of this matter.

Done on 22nd March 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya