Annex to the Kampala Declaration

PLAN OF ACTION ON JOBS, LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE FOR REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN THE IGAD REGION

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Draft

Hosted by the Government of the Republic of Uganda, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) convened a regional ministerial meeting in Kampala on 28th March 2019 in collaboration with the European Union, the German Cooperation, the Swiss Cooperation, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the World Bank.

At the meeting, Member States made a four-point commitment to implement the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action on Durable Solutions for Somali refugees and reintegration of returnees in Somalia with a focus on jobs, livelihoods and self-reliance for refugees, returnees and host communities in the IGAD region by:

(1) advancing livelihood opportunities and economic inclusion to improve self-reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities,

(2) adopting the accompanying Plan of Action to the Kampala Declaration for enhancement of livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities,

(3) rolling out comprehensive national implementation roadmaps and institutional mechanisms through a whole of society approach that facilitates multi-stakeholder participation including social partners, private sector, refugees and host communities and finally, and

(4) seeking durable solutions for protracted displacement situations and address associated socio-economic challenges affecting refugees, returnees and host communities.

Further to this, the Member States entered into commitments formulated collaboratively with the technical input of the high-level experts and structured along the five thematic areas - policy and legislative frameworks for livelihoods and self-reliance, the role of private sector and civil society in creating sustainable livelihoods and job opportunities, sustainable return and reintegration, natural resource management for livelihoods and self-reliance, and regional coordination, partnership and financing. These commitments are expressed in the Declaration, and adopted in this Action Plan, which outlines the actions to be carried out in order to improve livelihoods, ensure economic inclusivity and self-reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities.

Since the regional thematic meeting in March 2019, the IGAD member states have reinforced their commitments and pledges to improving asylum systems, policies and subsequent directives, deepening the inclusion of refugees in national development planning, national education and national health systems, facilitating improved access to jobs and livelihoods opportunities as evidenced during the launch

of the IGAD Support Platform Regional for the Nairobi Process at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) held in Geneva, Switzerland from December 16-18th, 2019.

Since the signing of the Kampala Declaration in 2019, the IGAD region has been affected by different natural and man-made disasters including severe flooding, locust invasion, and Covid-19 pandemic. Whereas in response to Covid-19 pandemic, IGAD countries have undertaken different measures to contain and respond, the pandemic has impacted its people, economies and prosperity. The Covid-19 impact on jobs and livelihoods, especially in the informal sector, have been severe. It has further highlighted the specific vulnerabilities of forcibly displaced people, refugees, returnees and hosting communities. While some IGAD Member States have put new initiatives to support displacement affected communities, the pandemic has implications in realising the full achievement of the commitments made by Member States in the Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan (NAP), and efforts to provide equitable and sustainable livelihoods for host communities, refugees, and returnees in the IGAD region.

This Action Plan for the Kampala Declaration reiterates commitments made to the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the New York Declaration and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action, and the Djibouti Declaration and Plan of Action on Quality Refugee Education. This Action Plan outlines the actions to be carried out by IGAD Members States and IGAD in order to improve livelihoods, ensure economic inclusivity and self-reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities to deliver the commitments expressed in the Kampala Declaration.

I. Policy and Legislative Framework for Livelihoods and Self Reliance

The policy and legislative actions address access to labour market, free movement, access to services (business development, financial services and access to markets, skills development and health), rights (to association, work and justice) and refugee and host community relations to ensure basic rights, protection and inclusion of refugees, returnees and host communities as elaborated below:

Promoting conductive policy and legislative environment

1. Review and amend national policies and legislations with regard to expanding access to work, simplify procedures for accessing employment (including work permits, formal employment, right to work), self-employment and business opportunities, and improving labour integration through better recognition of diplomas and certificates; as well as the right of association including joining trade unions and organised labour formations.

2. Review and amend national polices and legislations with regard to access to rights, equal opportunity and treatment in accordance with national laws, namely in the areas of: simplified asylum process; free movement of refugees to exercise the aspirations of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in IGAD Region; access to justice; as well as financial services and financial inclusion; education; health; documentation (identification, birth certificates, permits, property, certification, skills). Further review progress, bottlenecks, capacity of institutions on the policy and legislations implementations and put remedial measures and actions to maximize quick, efficient and free processes for refugees, returnees and host communities.

3. Review/ develop and adopt new commitments to policy and legislative change that could help improve the economic contribution that refugees make in their host communities.

4. Acquire policy and practice measures that facilitate access to markets for refugees and underlying value chain to enable the competitive negotiation of fair value for their products and services.

5. Review and amend national policies and legislations to incorporate refugee needs in national as well as local development plans and approaches including establishing mechanisms that facilitate the integration of refugees and returnees in both urban and rural displacement affected communities.

6. Review and amend national policies and legislations that provide access to quality, needs-based training and skills development programs for refugees, returnees and host communities to promote and ensure viable livelihoods and self-reliance.

II. The Role of Private Sector, and Civil Society in Creation of Sustainable Livelihoods and Job Opportunities

These provisions enhance structured engagement with the private sector in stimulating job opportunities, supporting livelihoods and enhancing self-reliance, developing infrastructure as an enabler for increased private sector and diaspora investment, providing access to quality and continuous training and skills development programs to refugees, returnees and host communities based on market needs to promote viable livelihoods and self-reliance.

Generating knowledge base

1. Conduct research on the economic impacts of refugees to document the positive role of refugees to local economies in the IGAD Region.

2. Assess the roles of humanitarian and development partners to identify areas of intervention by the private sector in emergencies including protracted and development settings.

3. Undertake socio-economic analysis – identifying the target group, scanning the environment in which they currently make a living, the legal environment, available support functions for refugees and host communities - that includes a value chain analysis (including the ILO-UNHCR Approach to Inclusive Market Systems (AIMS) to develop economically viable approaches, consumer market studies and market assessments (labour, etc.); natural resource base; access to land; skills sets, recognitions and lifelong learning; access to training and TVET; access to decent work; access to education; healthcare and social protection; financial services (grants and credit facilities) and markets in order to support demand driven responses by relevant stakeholders.

4. Conduct a study identifying levels of infrastructure development including markets, roads, mobile and internet connectivity etc., needed to enable increased private sector engagement.

Creating conducive environment for private sector engagement

1. Increase private sector access into refugee hosting areas through financing, provision of guarantees, Public Private- Partnership (PPP), blended finance, stronger diaspora involvement and diaspora investment flow, business development services support to private sector to address the infrastructural challenges that limit access to financial services.

2. Conduct regular forums to bring together private sector, international partners, civil society, social partners, refugee representatives and policy makers to identify areas of action, challenges and opportunities of private sector engagement through social dialogue.

Improving cash-based interventions and access to finance

1. Integrate cash-based interventions and access to financial services including low interest or no interest loans to refugee and host communities.

2. Strengthen linkages between IFIs, local financial institutions, private sector, development actors and policy makers, to capitalise on existing good practices and to promote innovative approaches to financial inclusion in displacement settings, in regular consultative meetings.

3. Invest in financial literacy and innovations to support sustainable reintegration.

Expanding market access

1. Increase market opportunities and networks for local goods and services that support IGAD Member States participation in annual Refugee, Returnees and Host Communities Trade Expos to enhance visibility and markets of their goods and products in partnership with UNHCR.

2. Attain market-based approaches in supporting governments with investments in infrastructure needed to increase market access for produce and products by refugees and host communities.

Developing access to wage employment for refugees and returnees

1. Create wage employment that matches both the skills and the aspirations of refugees including issues such as family unity, access to education for their children and gender norms.

2. Establish decent work practices and principles for refugees', host communities' and returnees' labour protection to improve safety, job stability, and other working conditions both in formal and informal sector in partnership with ILO.

3. Maximize collaboration between humanitarian and development actors to advance refugee labour market integration efforts in waged employment.

Establishing access to self-employment and entrepreneurship-based livelihoods initiatives for refugees and returnees

1. Create opportunities for business start-up or incubator services for refugees, returnees and host communities to promote and sustain self-employment.

2. Mobilize external finance to generate livelihood opportunities for refugees and host communities such as in irrigation schemes.

Maximising the role of civil society organisations

1. Increase engagement among civil society/NGOs, trade unions, workers organisations, employer association in refugees' livelihood development in collaboration with private sector and government actors.

2. Consult civil society organisations, refugees' associations, trade union in all aspects of refugees' employment initiatives both in formal and informal settings.

Promoting market-oriented skills development

1. Assess local skills needed to ensure that the trainings are market and demand driven.

2. Acquire market-based skills development programmes, trainings and TVET approaches.

3. Attain apprenticeship programs in partnership with the private sector to increase gainful employment opportunities as well as employability of refugees and host communities.

4. Include refugees into national TVET systems.

III. Sustainable Return and (Re) Integration

The provisions below promote incentives for increased private sector and diaspora investment, facilitate the portability of work-related entitlements, land issues and documentation for sustainable return and reintegration.

Achieving sustainable and voluntary return

Host and receiving government responsibilities - Joint planning and analysis, awareness-raising, information sharing to strengthen local development plans in return areas

1. Attain progresses on policies related to returns and reintegration are translated into practical and tangible benefits for displacement affected communities.

2. Develop robust data to inform planning of local authorities to enable smooth return and reintegration.

3. Local authorities lead and develop referral mechanisms to ensure returnees are part of longer term and sustainable (re)integration programs and existing development plans at different levels (national and district).

4. Create linkage among government agencies, social partners and other related stakeholders in the actual planning and execution of the return and (re) integration,

through the development of a mechanism to ensure data sharing between the governments and relevant agencies.

5. Attain social inclusion and conflict prevention by strengthening capacities of the local government to address the needs of the vulnerable groups and people with specific needs including the youth, women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), minorities.

6. Generate desegregated data on gender and youth, on exact number of returnees and their skills, spontaneous versus organized return data to inform local authorities' analysis, planning and preparedness for (re)integration process.

7. Invest in communication and awareness activities in countries of origin, return and host country. This will include conducting intention surveys on the refugees who want to return, organising go and see visits so that they are able to access reliable information about the local situation, peace and security, availability of social services such as health, education, water, and livelihood opportunities to make informed decision to return.

8. Increase the process of registration and documentation of prospective returnees in the countries of asylum and coordinate the process with the countries of origin.

9. Conduct post-return integration surveys to monitor the conditions of returnees, including to determine the percentage who are able to establish independent livelihoods, gain access to land and/or adequate shelter, or end up living in an IDP camp and ensure that this information is available at the Helpdesks in hosting areas.

Sustainable re-integration – livelihood and economic development solutions

1. Attain sustainable (re)-integration through the creation of vibrant and inclusive local economies to promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

2. Review and upgrade the return package to provide tailored assistance to returnees recognizing their prior skills and experience gained in the host country.

3. Create business hubs in all areas of return to link diaspora and returnees to employment opportunities, business development, skills transfer and the sharing of best practices.

4. Involve private sector in the reconstruction and development of areas of return through employment incentive investment program.

5. Conduct an assessment of the gaps between skills and market demands in the countries of return to inform skills development programs in countries of asylum.

6. Conduct pilot surveys on skills profiles and labour market demands to address the mismatch between the skills transmitted to refugee populations and demands in the labour market in countries of origin thereby informing policy and programming.

7. Create refugees' and returnees' access to financial services and financial inclusion in countries of return and hosting countries to support savings, transfer of financial assets upon return and access to legal documentation to access financial services.

8. Establish financial harmonization/ regulations of legislation on mobile money to support transfers between hosting countries and countries of return.

9. Generate cross learning between countries in the IGAD region on sustainable reintegration.

10. Invest in communication and awareness activities in countries of origin/ return and host country to support social inclusion and conflict prevention in both host countries with returnees and in country of origin with communities that will receive returnees.

Mainstreaming protection and displacement for sustainable re-integration

1. Initiate a regional dialogue and establish a set of guiding principles for the restitution of housing, land and property programs in line with the Pinheiro Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons to promote durable solutions.

2. Attain re-integration by providing adequate support to returnees including access to land (e.g. establishing reliable land tenure system) and/or adequate shelter, and documentations.

3. Design and deliver social protection policies, programmes and systems to decrease the vulnerabilities of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs, returnees and hosting communities. This could include social assistance (e.g. cash or food support through transfers, food aid, school feeding), social insurance to provide resilience against livelihood, climate, pandemic shocks, as well as complementary initiatives to ensure and improve access to social protection through legislation, provision of social services that enable conditions of cash transfers, awareness raising campaigns to increase knowledge of rights, and setting up a social protection fund for use of refugees, returnees and hosting communities, and portability of social security benefits including pensions.

4. Conduct voluntary repatriation in safe and dignified manner in line with international standards.

5. Develop legal return and (re)integration frameworks to support effective reintegration and reconciliation processes.

6. Create legal (documentation) and justice (law enforcement such as police and court) systems in country of returns to ensure justice and legal systems are available to expedite and settle land and other disputes related to return.

IV. On Natural Resource Management for Livelihoods and Self Reliance

These provisions support conflict prevention and dispute resolution mechanisms that anticipate and mitigate tensions and conflicts among refugees, returnees and host communities, foster conditions that allow refugees and returnees access to land in accordance with national laws and policies and introduce innovative responses to address the energy needs of refugees, returnees and host communities with a view to mitigate the adverse effects on the environment in refugee hosting communities.

1. Develop and institutionalize community-based conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms that convene refugees, returnees and host communities to reduce natural resource conflicts through regular dialogue and inclusivity in decision making processes.

2. Launch and implement conflict resolution mechanisms inbuilt into livelihood interventions taking into account best practices in allocation of public land, communal land and possibility of compensation for host communities.

3. Avail sufficient resources to support mechanisms and initiatives for resolving conflict involving refugees, returnees and host communities.

4. Distribute land for rural based refugees in line with national laws and host communities land tenure.

5. Develop and utilise sustainable land use planning and practices to counter degradation and depletion of natural resources.

6. Invest in modern and innovative agricultural production and management practices that simultaneously improve productivity and have a minimal impact on the surrounding environment.

7. Utilize sustainable environmental management practices including (policies, laws and guidelines on sustainable natural resources management in place); the use of alternative and renewable energy sources, water resource management and conservation approaches and appropriate, environmentally friendly building technologies by refugees and host communities.

8. Generate humanitarian and development interventions to address the energy needs of refugees, returnees and host communities with environmentally friendly technologies and sustainable energy solutions (such as efficient stoves, alternative fuels and solar lighting) to have positive impacts on the lives of refugees and returnees as well as on the environment and the host communities.

9. Hold trade fairs and expositions that bring together both refugee and host communities.

10. Harmonize IGAD's different divisions and programme engagements in the areas of conflict resolutions, resilience, natural resource management, agriculture and climate to support strengthening the resilience capacity of affected communities, and enhance the capacity of governments to better manage displacement situations.

V. Regional Coordination, Partnership, Financing and Monitoring

These provisions focus on the IGAD secretariat mandated role as the regional coordinating mechanism for Member States and its support to Member States to harmonise, align and coordinate their efforts to support job creation, enterprise and livelihood opportunities for refugees, returnees and host communities. This will include development of regional strategies, coordination, mobilising resource, stocktaking, reporting and monitoring.

Development of regional strategies, policies and assessments to facilitate evidence-based programming, planning and decision-making and sharing of best practices

1. Conduct an assessment of the pledges and financial obligations of the international community in the Nairobi Declaration and its Plan of Action and its timely implementation.

2. Generate an assessment of IGAD Member States' implementation of the Global Compact for refugees (GCR) and pledges and commitments made during the first GCR

forum including related UNHCR refugees' livelihoods frameworks to ensure complementarity and coherence of approaches for maximum positive impact on livelihoods and decent working conditions.

3. Update and validate a harmonized regional strategy on jobs, livelihoods, and self-reliance for refugees, returnees and host communities. This shall focus on key problem areas and key assets to be developed, policies and institutional structures and identify concrete areas of intervention. This will include wide thematic areas including trade and industrial enterprise development, formal and informal employment mechanisms, natural resource management and utilisation, to mention but a few.

4. Create a regional private sector engagement strategy in displacement context that engages a wider range of private sector actors (ranging from the multinational through small-and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to local entrepreneurs) encompassing policy dialogue, knowledge-sharing, technical cooperation, capacity building, grants and donations, and financing, and taking into consideration the specific needs of refugees, returnees and host communities.

5. Develop and disseminate IGAD thematic policy briefing papers on sustainable livelihoods for refugees, returnees and host communities to share experiences, influence policy and practices to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

6. Develop an IGAD integration model for refugees, returnees and host communities that includes inter alia; communal, government and partner's development plans at both central and local level.

7. Establish IGAD IT communication and information platforms for local/national interaction of refugees, returnees and host communities to provide information, and serve as dialogue platforms to enhance socio-economic integration and welfare.

8. Launch the development and implementation of IGAD Member States Information, Education and Communications (IEC) radio programme on integration and cohesion of refugees, returnees and host communities, in collaboration with UNHCR and UN ILO and co-hosted by persons of concern.

9. Develop regional diaspora policy to have better understanding of diaspora and returnee's contribution, opportunities and remittances as well as harmonization of policies to support diaspora investment and remittances for sustainable return and re-integration.

Coordination and partnership

1. Establish a Regional Technical Taskforce of key partners including IGAD, EU, GIZ, UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, ILO and the World Bank.

2. Set up a regional platform for private sector and workers engagement.

3. Mobilise additional support for jobs, livelihoods and self-reliance in line with the implementation of the regional application of the New York Declaration for Migration and Refugees, the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action, the Djibouti Declaration, under the IGAD Support Platform, as the regional platform for coordination, reviewing of progress, monitoring, mobilisation of political momentum, partners and resources.

4. Maximise coordination, harmonization and complementarity among the various themes mentioned in this action plan provisions and existing IGAD structures such as the Regional Consultative Platforms (RCP), Education, IGAD Drought Disaster, Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDRRSI).

5. Hold an inter-Regional Economic Communities (RECs) High Level Forum including African Union (AU), IGAD, East African Community (EAC) and International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on matters of refugee response.

Thematic meetings

1. Convene a third thematic meeting on refugees' health and social protection issues (such as social safety nets) encompassing livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees, returnees and host communities, and call on partners to support the implementation of the strategy.

2. Hold a regional meeting to validate, adopt and facilitate effective implementations of the IGAD Regional Qualification Framework and the IGAD Regional Technical and Vocational education and Training (TVET) Strategy as part of the Djibouti Declaration and Plan of Action.

3. Assemble a special forum on urban refugees.

Mobilize resources

1. Mobilize funding and technical support (such as resource person on livelihoods) for implementation of Member States pledges made at the Global Forum on livelihoods, jobs and self-reliance for refugees, returnees and host communities in December 2019 through the IGAD Support Platform as the main platform to mobilise resources for the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration and its Plan of Action.

2. Mobilise development funding to the countries of origin targeting areas of return to improve infrastructures such as health, education facilities and ensure their proper functionality, quality and accessibility to both returnees and host community.

Stocktaking

1. Organise biannually inter-ministerial stocking meetings and policy briefings to IGAD Member States and partners on the progress made in rolling out the implementation and results achieved of this Action Plan and of the Kampala Declaration on Sustainable Livelihoods for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities in IGAD Region.

2. Hold regular meetings among IGAD Members States using existing IGAD structures to promote the exchange and sharing of best practices and success stories.

Monitoring and reporting

1. Establish a Results framework and robust Monitoring and Evaluation system for the provisions of the Kampala Declaration and Plan of Action and generate regular, timely and gender-sensitive progress reports. The IGAD Secretariat and Member States will be responsible for monitoring the indicators and timelines set in the results framework and generate progress reports.