



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

PRESS RELEASE

MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE IGAD PROTOCOL ON TRANSHUMANCE

12TH – 13TH NOVEMBER 2020, ENTEBBE, UGANDA

For immediate release

12 November 2020 (KENYA, Nairobi): The need for the transhumance protocol in the IGAD region is premised on the understanding that migration in search of pastures and water is paramount to the very survival of pastoralist communities. Transhumance is a net contributor to the economies of the IGAD region and not just a taker. Evidence shows that transhumance contributes 6-10% of the GDP of these economies.

The region has a significant number of pastoralists, which calls for enhanced governance. Pastoral livestock supports 70% of the livelihoods in the IGAD region, which is actually the only region that is self-sufficient in its needs for meat in Africa. The region normally exports about 12.8 heads of sheep and goats as well as 60,000 tons of meat every year. Extreme weather such as drought, brought about by climate change, places pastoralists in persistent conflicts in the competition for pasture and water. As a result, pastoralists have been and will continue moving with their animals.

The aim of the Transhumance Protocol in IGAD region is to promote an orderly free movement regime for transhumance so as to exploit the full social and economic potential of the pastoral system by:

- Allowing orderly cross-border mobility of transhumant herders and their livestock to access pasture and water as an adaptation mechanism to climate variability within IGAD region;
- Committing Member States to invest adequate resources to pastoral regions and competent institutions managing transhumance;
- Harmonization of national laws and policies related to livestock and pastoral development, including land use and governance, disease control and cross-border measures.

The process of developing the IGAD protocol on transhumance has encompassed a series of technical consultations with Member States. This included harmonization of a technically all-inclusive draft version through national and high-level regional negotiation meetings with Member States' technical experts and legal / policy makers, which culminated in the endorsement by the IGAD Committee of Ambassadors in Khartoum on 27th February 2020.

This ministerial meeting, for IGAD Ministers responsible for livestock and pastoral development, is expected to seek an endorsement of the Protocol's implementation roadmap, given that the mandate to oversee and coordinate the overall implementation of the protocol lies with the Sectoral Ministries. The endorsed protocol will thereafter be submitted to the IGAD Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, for signing and adoption by the IGAD Summit.

Media requests

- **Christine Norah:** ICPALD: christine.norah@igad.int, + 254 722 858 264

Additional resource

[Video of the transhumance journey](#)

Hashtags

#Livestock #IGAD #Pastoralists