RESOLUTIONS FROM CROSSBORDER MEETING BETWEEN KENYA AND UGANDA ON 24-25 AUGUST 2023, HELD IN LODWAR KENYA

The following resolutions were reached at by Representatives of Members of Parliament, County Government of Turkana, Security and Administration, Peace Leaders and Local Organizations from Turkana and Karamoja Regions of Kenya and Uganda during the Cross-border Meeting held on 24-25 August 2023 in Lodwar - Kenya.

Though traditional and informal institutions which are mainly founded on clans preserve credibility in a place where government institutions are weak and inefficient, the role of governments in security is paramount. The Members of PPG in Turkana County have been reaching out to their counterparts in Uganda but there has been challenges in terms of policies and a cross-border agreement that can help solve the insecurity between the two States. The IGAD Transhumance protocol will promote peaceful co-existence between these communities.

The leaders examined the drivers of cross-border conflicts and security challenges facing the two communities and resolved to establish a multi-sectoral cross-border platform to foster local-based solutions, dialogue and trust.

On Uganda Presidential Executive Order No.3 of 19th May 2023

i). Under the auspice of the Pastoralists Parliamentary Group of Kenya (PPG-K), Turkana and Pokot members of parliaments to lead a delegation to meet their counterparts in Moroto, Uganda including the Divisional Commander, Karamoja Parliamentary Caucus, both kraal Leaders from Karamoja and Turkana. This meeting is to be held within the month of September 2023

ii). Political leaders to mobilize their communities to fulfill the conditions of the executive order as follows:
   a) Members of parliament to lead diplomatic discussions between the two sides
   b) Discussions on the recovery of stolen livestock should start immediately. This should be collectively achieved by the government agents, polical leaders and the communities
   c) Members of parliament to lead mobilization of the communities to discuss compensation of the geologists.

iii). An appeal has been made to improve the protection of the herding / grazing communities

On Building Back Trust Between the Two Sides
Common engagements through regular cross border security meetings and patrols to address the mistrust caused by the escalating day-to-day conflicts and the revenge cycles between the ethnic groups in the two border sides
On Arms and Weapons
While small arms and weapons may not be the causes of conflicts by themselves, they exacerbate conflicts and intensify the appetite for counter attacks. The two government security agencies should consider a coordinated and harmonized cross border disarmaments of the communities. The agencies should also identify, profile, arrest and prosecute involved culprits in cattle raids.

On Youth and Unemployment
Unemployment was identified as a key factor that pushes pastoral youths into violent acquisition of livestock. The county government of Turkana to upscale its investment in youth-support initiatives like skills’ building and employment in value addition sector. The County government to also increase its investment in education of our young children and youth.

On Commercialization of Cattle Theft
Whereas in the past raiding was a means of restocking of livestock lost due to drought, diseases and natural calamities, the practice has become a business hence persistent insecurity. The security agencies to heighten joint border surveillance.

On Climate Change Effects
The delegates noted reduced agricultural production, food shortages and increased hunger. Vector-borne illnesses are expected to rise, thereby endangering human and animals well-being. The meeting encourages the two governments and partners to upscale resilience response programmes to address climate change effects – afforestation, reforestation, water projects and value addition of agricultural products.