



**AGREED MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**THE BILATERAL ENGAGEMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**AND**  
**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**  
**HELD AT**  
**THE WESTON HOTEL**  
**NAIROBI, KENYA**

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**24<sup>TH</sup> TO 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2024**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Bilateral Engagement between the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Uganda was held at the **Weston Hotel** in **Nairobi, Kenya** from the **24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2024**. The theme of the Bilateral Engagement was *"Safe and Orderly Cross Border Mobility for Peaceful Coexistence."* The Inter-Ministerial Forum brought together Government stakeholders that deal with cross-border issues among the Turkana and West Pokot communities of Kenya, and the Karamojong and Sabinu communities of Uganda.

The main objectives of the Bilateral Engagement was to review the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in support of Uganda (Karamoja) and Kenya (Turkana and West Pokot) Cross-Border Programme for sustainable peace and development signed on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, and negotiate the Cross-Border Resource Sharing Agreement (RSA) for Communities of Karamoja Sub-region and Sebei, and Turkana and West Pokot Counties.

The Programme for the three-day Bilateral Engagement was organized as follows:

- a) Day 1-** Session of Senior Officials;
- b) Day 2-** Session of Principal/ Permanent Secretaries; and
- c) Day 3-** Session of Cabinet Secretaries/Ministers/Governors/ Members of Parliament.



At the Senior Officials level, the Kenyan delegation was led by Ms. Maria Cherono, H.S.C, Secretary, ASALs of the State Department for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and Regional Development, while the Ugandan delegation was led by Dr. Andrew Musiime, Director, Ministry of East African Affairs. The Co-Chairs of the meeting were Dr. Alice Yalla, Secretary, Regional Integration of the State Department for East African Community and Major General Don Nabasa, Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) Commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Moroto.

At Permanent/Principal Secretary level, the Kenyan delegation was led by Mr. Kello Harsama, Principal Secretary, State Department for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and Regional Development, while the Ugandan delegation was led by Mrs. Edith Mwanje, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of East African Affairs. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Abdi Dubat, C.B.S., Principal Secretary, State Department for East Africa Community, Ministry of East Africa Community, the ASALs and Regional Development and Lieutenant General Joseph Butamanya Musanyufu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs.

At the Ministerial level, the Kenyan delegation was led by Beatrice Askul Moe, Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of East Africa Community, the ASALs and Regional Development while the Ugandan delegation was led by Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Affairs. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Simon Kachapin Kitalei, C.B.S, E.G.H., Governor of West Pokot County,



Kenya and Hon. Maj. Gen Kahinda Otafiire, Minister for Internal Affairs, Uganda.

**The Lists of Delegation from Kenya and Uganda are attached hereto as Annex I.**

## **2.0 OPENING CEREMONY**

The two Heads of Delegation delivered their Opening Remarks at the beginning of the Session.

### **2.1 Remarks by the Head of Delegation, the Republic of Kenya**

The Cabinet Secretary, Mrs. Beatrice Askul Moe, cordially welcomed the Ugandan delegation to Kenya. She commended the team that worked tirelessly to ensure that the draft Memorandum of Understanding and Resource Sharing Agreement are ready for review and negotiation respectively. She hailed the close and strong historical ties between Kenya and Uganda.

Mrs. Moe highlighted that whereas the Karamoja and Sebei of Uganda, and Turkana and West Pokot of Kenya have been co-existing peacefully over the years, they have experienced persistent challenges arising from competition for resources and impact of climate change. She recognized the critical nature of the bilateral engagement aimed at implementing the Cross-Border Programme for Sustainable Peace and Development.



She affirmed the government's commitment to achieving the cross-border transformation agenda through empowering of county and national governments to allocate more resources to facilitate the various peace initiatives in the County and accelerate completion of infrastructure projects. In addition, she mentioned that the government has enhanced continuous consultative political meetings to enhance security surveillance systems and has sunk more boreholes to avert conflict over water. She reiterated that with silencing of guns, the region would turn their cattle and crops into a viable and commercially viable and profitable venture.

## **2.2 Remarks by the Head of Delegation, the Republic of Uganda**

Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East Africa Affairs expressed her gratitude for the generous and warm hospitality accorded to the Ugandan delegation. She stated that that this was a testament to the fraternal relations shared between Kenya and Uganda.

She further welcomed the delegations to the bilateral meeting which was a culmination of previous efforts, including the Joint Ministerial Commission, Cross-border Peace Initiative, and the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding between Uganda and Kenya. These engagements demonstrated the unwavering commitment to peaceful coexistence, adherence to the rule of law, and sustainable development of the border communities.



Rt. Hon. Kadaga informed the meeting that technical officers had drafted a Memorandum of Understanding and Resource Sharing Agreements to promote cooperation, safe cross-border movement, peaceful coexistence, and bridge the socio-economic gaps in the livelihoods of the cross-border communities.

She also emphasized the importance of prioritizing the water infrastructure in Kenya in order to support livestock and pasture growth, thereby reducing cross-border movement and associated conflicts. Finally, Rt. Hon. Kadaga called upon the governments, cross-border communities, and key stakeholders to support the conclusion and implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and Resource Sharing Agreement, to make the envisaged transformation agenda a reality.

**The Agenda of the Bilateral Agreement and Programme are attached hereto as Annex II.**

### **3.0 CONSIDERATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

The Bilateral Engagement considered and agreed on two agenda items as follows:

#### **3.1. Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Government of the Republic of Kenya on Cross-Border Transformation Agenda for Uganda (Karamoja Sub-region**



**and Sebei) and Kenya (Turkana and West Pokot Counties).**

- 3.1.1. The meeting noted that the MoU was signed by both parties on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 and has since expired.
- 3.1.2. The meeting further noted that whereas there is no bar to renewing the expired MoU, there were other emerging issues that have necessitated a complete overhaul of this MOU and hence the need for amendment instead of renewal in its current form.
- 3.1.3. The meeting reviewed the 2019 MoU clause by clause and made changes by deletion and introduction of new provisions thereof to take care of the new and emerging issues to address the concerns of the two parties. **Attached hereto as Annex III is the amended Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Government of the Republic of Kenya on Cross-Border Transformation Agenda for Uganda (Karamoja and Sebei) and Kenya (Turkana and West Pokot).

**3.2. Draft Cross Border Resource Sharing Agreement (RSA) for the Communities of Karamoja Sub-region and Sebei (Uganda) and Turkana and West Pokot Counties (Kenya)**

3.2.1 The meeting agreed to negotiate a Resource Sharing Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Government of the Republic of Kenya.

3.2.2 The Draft Resource Sharing Agreement agreed upon by the two countries is **attached as Annex IV**.

#### **4.0 CRITICAL ISSUES NECESSARY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION**

4.1 To operationalize the MoU and successfully implement commitments in the Resource Sharing Agreement, the following were agreed:

- i. An implementation framework and annual work plans for the resource sharing agreement have to be developed not later than two (2) months from the date of signing; and
- ii. There should be annual reviews on the progress on implementation of the commitments in the resource sharing agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding.
- iii. The Ugandan delegation would conduct study visits and study the Sebei/West Pokot border to verify the situation on the ground, to wit: Kanyerus/Kokwochaya-Amerimeri (Sebei).
- iv. The Resource Sharing Agreement shall take effect 6 months from the date of signature to give time to both parties to implement.

## **5.0 PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 3 OF 2023**

The Ugandan delegation informed the meeting of the existence of the above Presidential Order for noting purposes.

## **6.0 UGANDA- KENYA SUMMIT**

The meeting, underscored the strategic role of their Excellencies the Presidents of the Republics of Kenya and Uganda in giving impetus and overall direction on key issues surrounding the MoU and the implementation of the Resource Sharing Agreement. It was recalled that their Excellencies had agreed to hold a Summit in Moroto. Whereas, an earlier date had been agreed, the Summit was postponed at the request of the Republic of Kenya. The Republic of Uganda, informed the meeting on their readiness to host the above Summit. It was agreed that consultations are held with their Excellencies, on the earliest convenient day for the Summit to be held.

The meeting agreed that both the MoU and the Resource Sharing Agreement shall be signed during the Summit in Uganda. 

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

The Bilateral Engagement was held in a cordial atmosphere. The technical teams will complete the development of the implementation framework within two months after signing of the MoU and the Resource Sharing Agreement.

Done at **Nairobi, Kenya** on this **26<sup>th</sup>** day of **September, 2024** in two original copies in the English language.



**Beatrice Askul Moe**

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of  
East African Community, Arid  
and Semi-Arid Lands and  
Regional Development **Rt. Hon.**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga**

1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of East African Community  
Affairs

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**