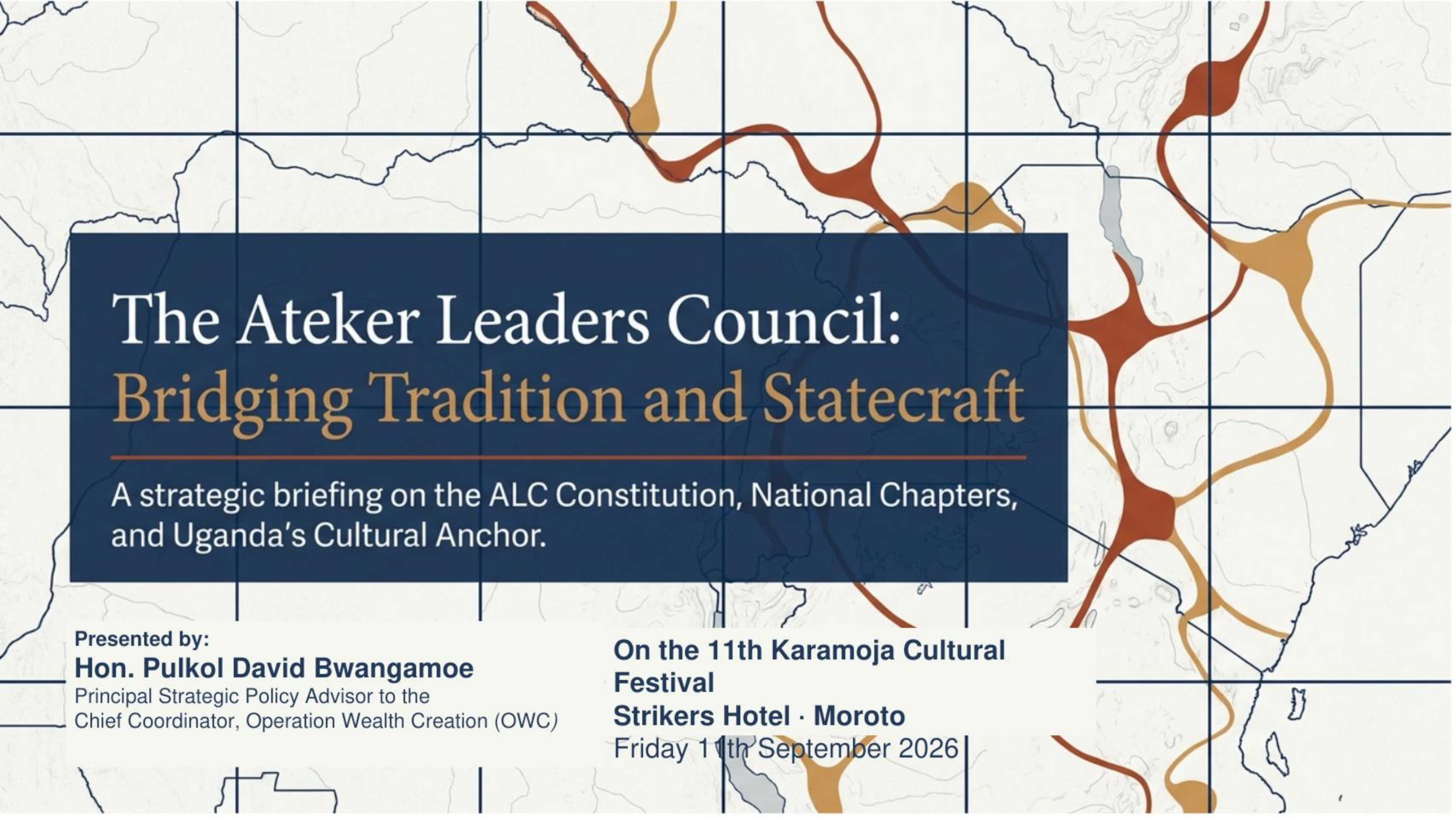




The Ateker Leaders Council: Bridging Tradition and Statecraft

A strategic briefing on the ALC Constitution, National Chapters,
and Uganda's Cultural Anchor.

Presented by:

Hon. Pulkol David Bwangamoe

Principal Strategic Policy Advisor to the
Chief Coordinator, Operation Wealth Creation (OWC)

**On the 11th Karamoja Cultural
Festival**

Strikers Hotel · Moroto

Friday 11th September 2026

Moving from a visionary constitutional accord to a fully operational cross-border council.



THE VISION

The Lodwar Accord: The ALC Constitution was successfully adopted at Lodwar in December 2025, establishing a statutory mechanism for cross-border governance.



THE REALITY

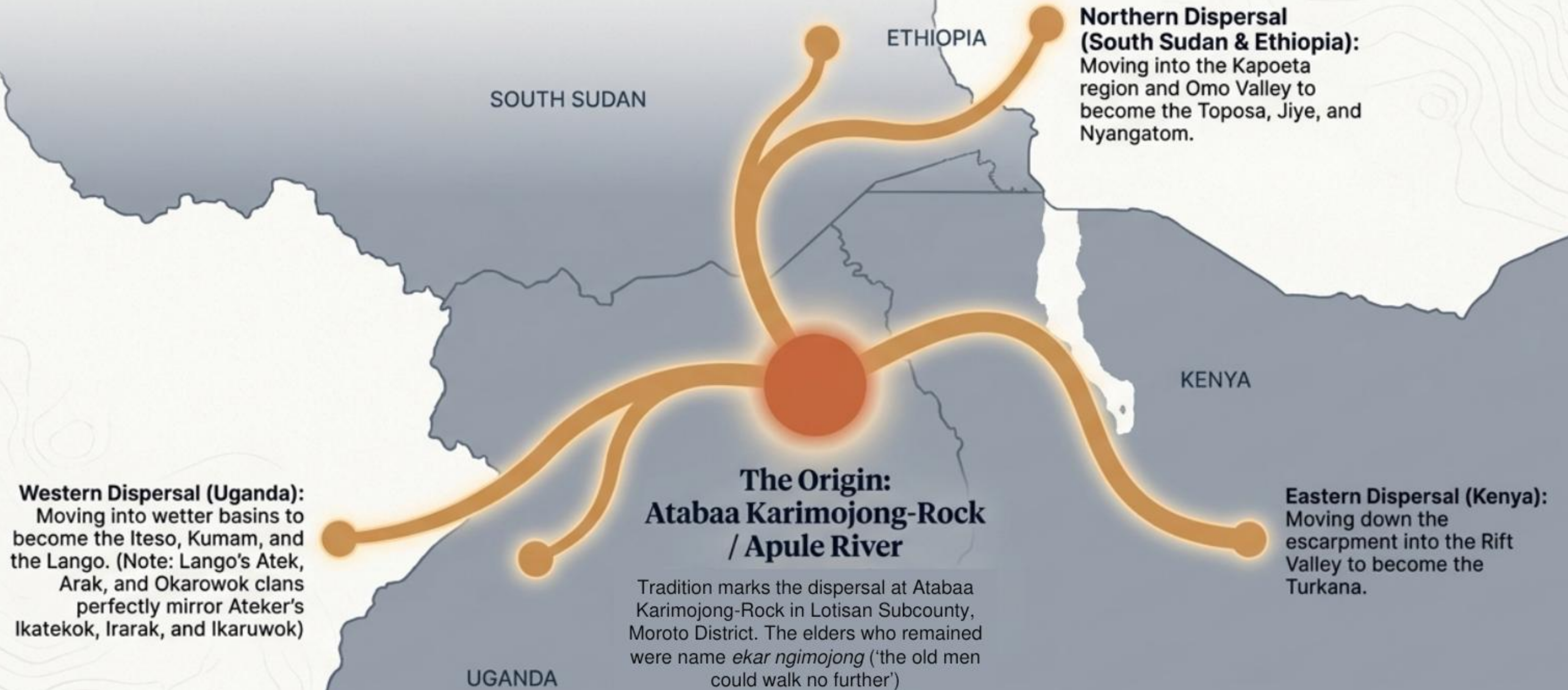
An Incomplete Council: The ALC Secretariat is seated, but membership remains incomplete. Kenya is active; South Sudan and Uganda are stalled; Ethiopia has entered a procedural reservation.



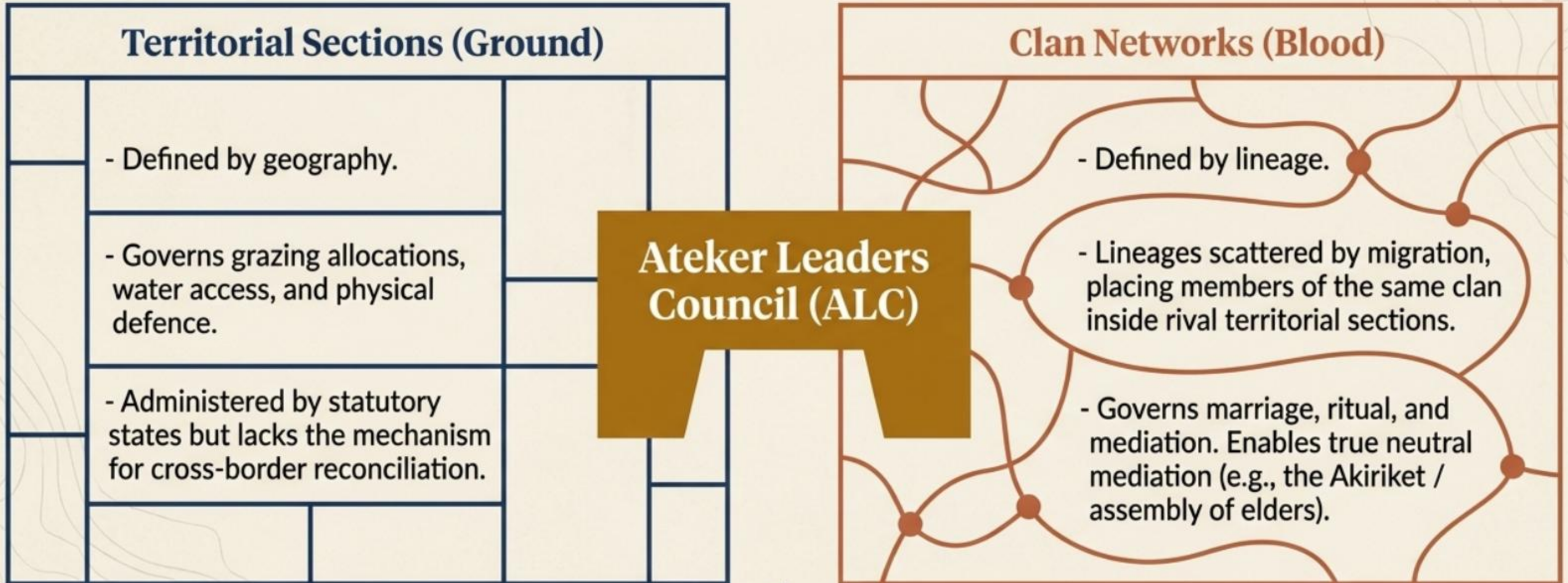
THE CATALYST

Uganda's Bottleneck: To complete the Council, Uganda must urgently operationalise the Karamoja Cultural Union (KCU) to serve as its statutory anchor ahead of the September 2026 Moroto Dialogue.

A shared ancestry dispersed across four modern national borders.



The ALC closes the gap between territorial statecraft and traditional clan authority.



The Gap: The Akiriket acts as the court of final appeal for resource allocation and dispute resolution, yet holds almost no statutory recognition in formal law. The ALC is designed to give these traditional institutions legal standing across borders.

The Lodwar Milestone establishes the statutory framework for cross-border governance.



Diagnostic Matrix: The divergent operational status of the National Chapters.

Country	Lodwar Signatory	Chapter Inaugurated	Domestic Anchor	Current Blocker
Kenya	 Yes	 Yes	 Active	None - Ready to operate.
Uganda	 Yes	 No	 Missing	Lacks gazetted Karamoja-wide cultural institution.
South Sudan	 Yes	 No	 Pending	Internal chapter formalisation delayed.
Ethiopia	 Did not sign	 N/A	 N/A	Procedural reservation on Lodwar documents.

Ethiopia's reservation is procedural, leaving the door open for future integration.

The Structural Open Seat

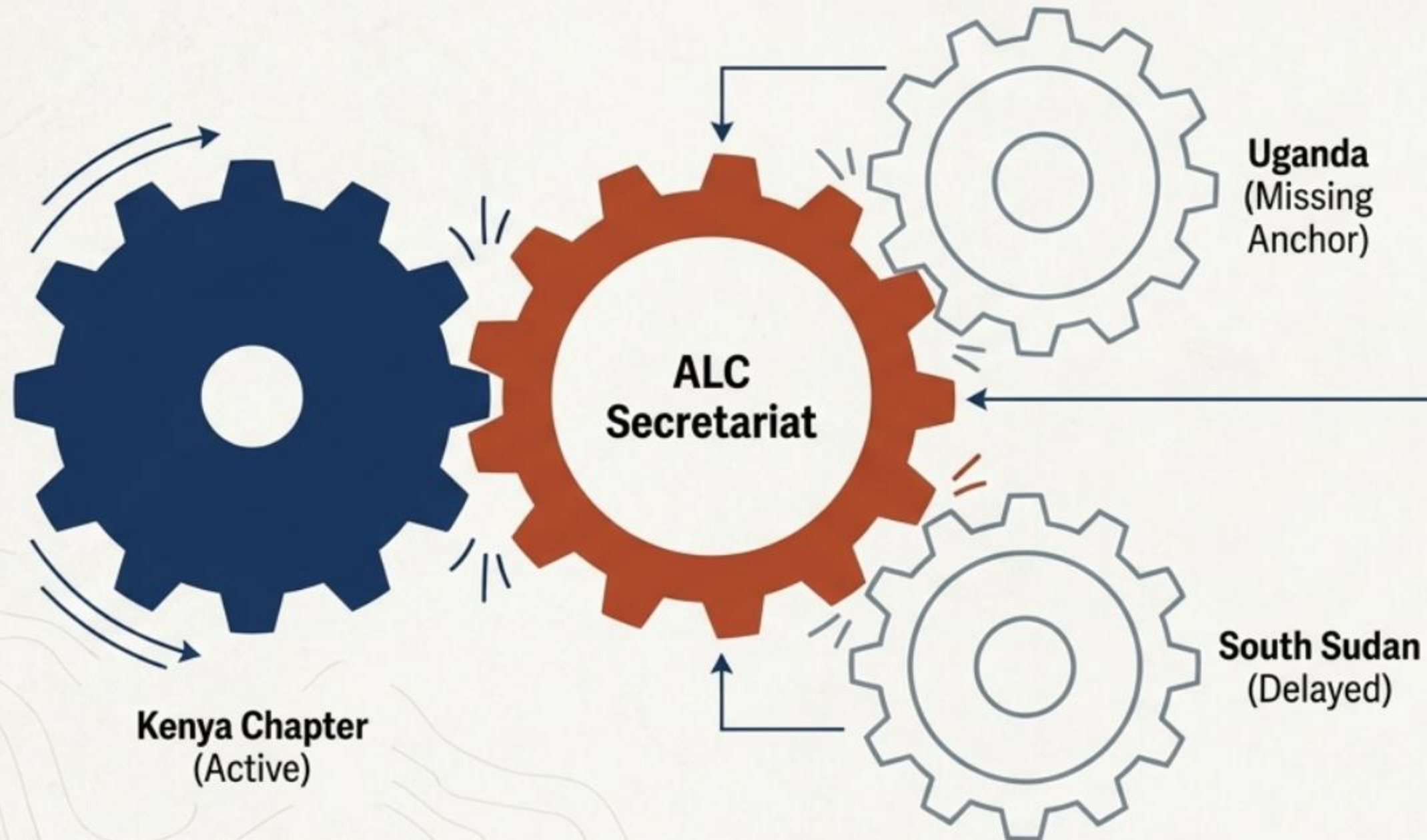


Ethiopia requested an extension for internal government processes. Feeling this disregarded, they disassociated from the Lodwar documents while renewing their commitment to work with shared communities.

— Ato Fitsum Girma, Director of Neighbouring Countries, Ethiopia (11 Dec 2025)

Synthesis Insight: The Council was forced to launch with three states. Ethiopia's seat remains structurally open, requiring ongoing bilateral diplomatic engagement to bring the Nyangatom into the formal architecture.

The Forum of Heads of Secretariat cannot function without a complete membership.



The Legal Mechanism

The central functioning body of the ALC is designed to be the Forum of Heads of Secretariat.

The Dependency

This Forum requires the formal seating of all participating national chapters to achieve quorum and operational legitimacy.

The Bottleneck

Until Uganda and South Sudan formally launch their national chapters, the Secretariat in Lodwar possesses infrastructure but lacks the constitutional mandate to execute cross-border programmes.

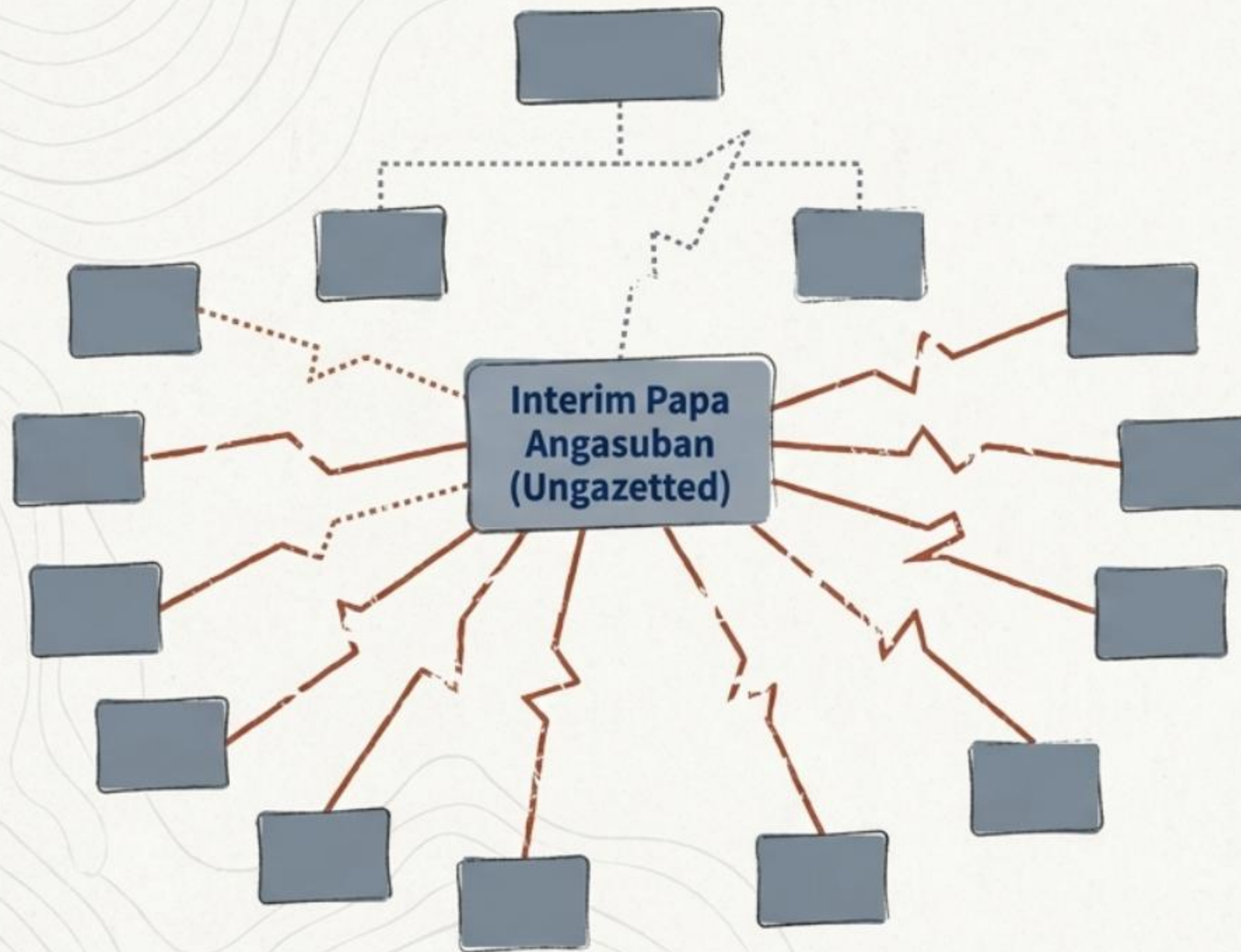
Uganda's Bottleneck: The absence of a gazetted statutory cultural anchor.

Uganda's Path to ALC



To **legally anchor** a national chapter, Uganda must comply with statutory law. Specifically, it requires a unified, recognised cultural body under Article 246 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and the Institution of Traditional or Cultural Leaders Act, 2011.

The interim struggle reveals the danger of vague institutional structures



The 2023 Moroto Meeting

In November 2023, a faction under the Karamoja Elders Association/Council (KEA/KEC)—chaired by Simon Peter Nangiro with Paul Abul—selected Peter Adei as interim leader (Papa Angasuban).

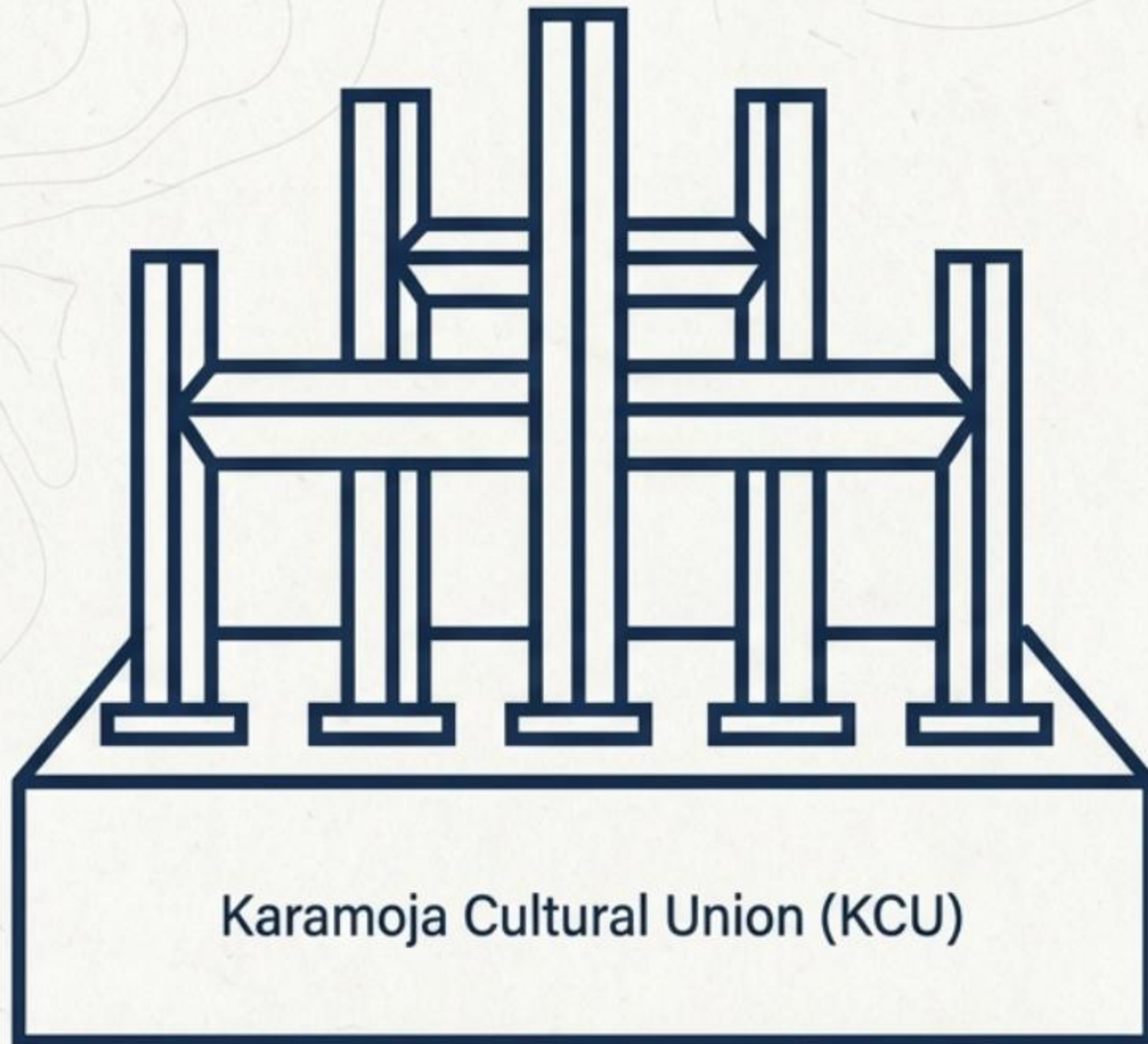
The Rejection

This selection was rejected by wider sections of the community, remains ungazetted, and lacks statutory authority.

The Ethur Precedent (March 2025)

A dispute over the installation of the fourth Ethur cultural leader (Otheme of Thur) at Abim occurred because procedures under the 2011 Act were bypassed. A Karamoja-wide body that leaves constituent relationships vague will replicate this fracture across all 11 indigenous communities.

The Blueprint: Structuring the Tochaku-lotem AKaramoja



Evolution, Not Erasure

Carries interim arrangements forward but transitions the office of Papa Angasuban from a hereditary concept to an elective position.

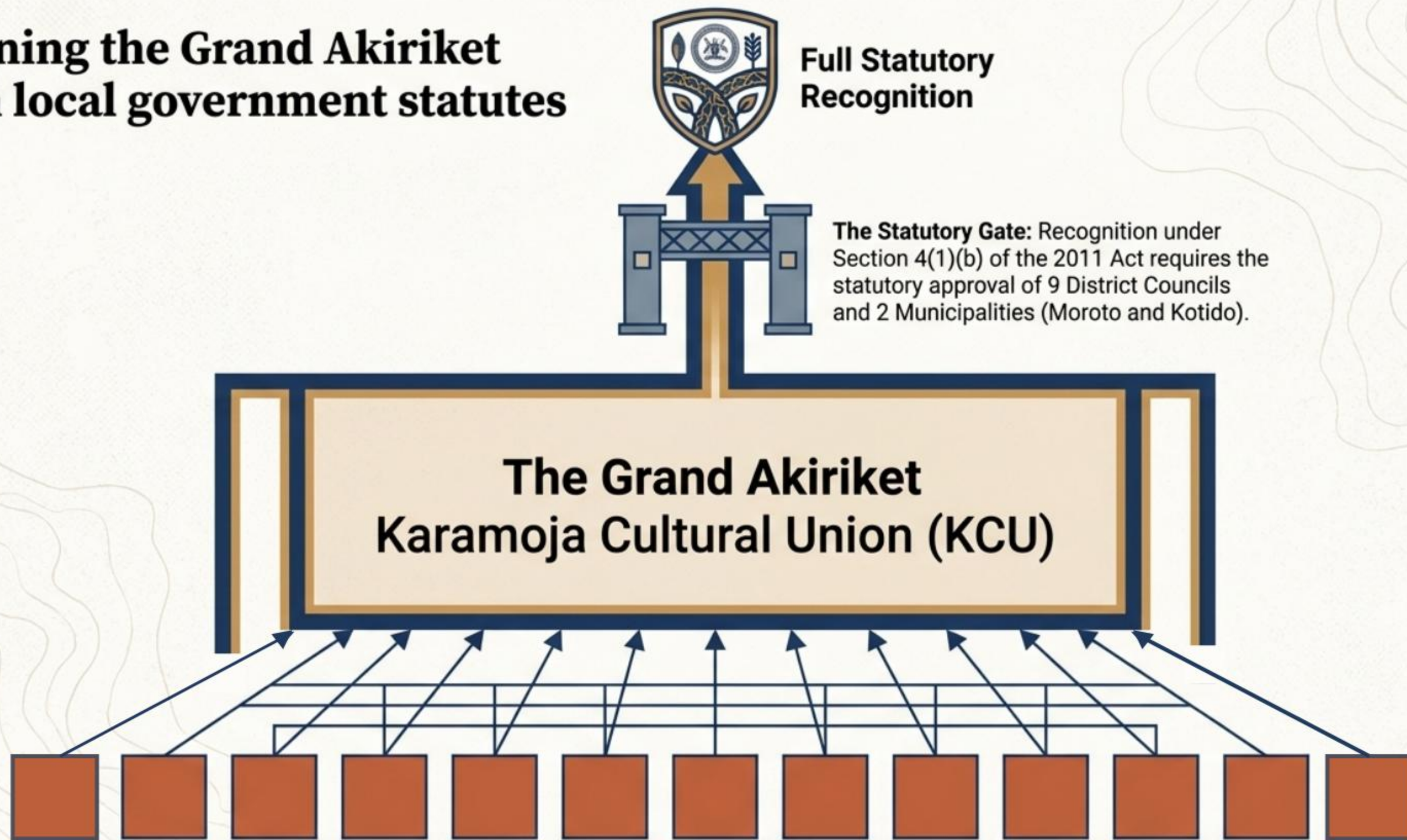
Term Limits

Institutes a structured 7-year term for the leader, renewable once, ensuring accountability and cyclical renewal.

Legislative Body

Formally establishes the Grand Akiriket as the Founding General Assembly and ultimate decision-making organ.

Aligning the Grand Akiriket with local government statutes



13 Indigenous communities (Third Schedule): Matheniko, Bokora, Pian, Jie, Dodoth, Pokot, Ethur, So (Tepeth), Ik (Teuso), Nyangia, Napore, Ngikutio, and Mening. (Each holding its own assembly)

The Catalyst: The September 2026 High-Level Leaders' Dialogue.

Event Details

Date: Friday, 11 September 2026

Time: Morning Session

Venue: Strikers Hotel, Moroto

Context: Set within the 11th Karamoja Cultural Festival

THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This is the designated venue to table the KCU draft constitution (Tochaku-lotem AKaramoja), address and settle elder objections, and secure a binding date for the Founding General Assembly.

Participants:

Political, administrative, cultural, and security leadership alongside delegates from Kenya, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

Strategic Roadmap to unlocking the Ateker Leaders Council

1. Table KCU Draft

Present the Tochaku-lotem AKaramoja at the Moroto Dialogue (Sept 2026) and resolve structural objections.

2. Founding General Assembly

Convene the Grand Akiriket to formally adopt the unified cultural constitution.

3. Statutory Recognition

Secure formal resolutions from the 9 District Councils and 2 Municipalities to gazette the KCU.

4. Uganda Chapter Inauguration

Utilise the legally recognised KCU to select the 20 delegates and formally inaugurate Uganda's ALC national chapter.

5. ALC Secretariat Operationalised

With Kenya and Uganda seated, constitute the Forum of Heads of Secretariat at Lodwar to commence cross-border programmes.

