



Report on High Level Security Mission by Kenya and Uganda

Held on 20th February 2023, at Hotel Africana – Moroto District

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Executive Summary

The Joint Security Mission between Uganda and Kenya was necessitated by an appeal from the President of the Republic of Kenya to his counterpart, the President of the Republic of Uganda, following a petition by a Member of Parliament from Loima Constituency in Turkana, of alleged mistreatment and detention of Turkana pastoralists in Uganda. The petition also called for strict adherence of both parties to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which was signed between Kenya and Uganda on the 13th September 2019 in support of cross border programme for sustainable peace and development.

Consequently, a directive was given by both presidents for a joint Kenya and Uganda team to visit Moroto, Uganda and resolve security related matters.

Accordingly, Gen. Caleb Akandwanaho, convened the Joint Security Mission between the two countries. As a matter of concern to the two countries, he was mandated by the President of the Republic of Uganda to convene, chair and guide the deliberations of the two delegations. The Mission further aimed at reviewing, revitalizing and aligning the 2019 MoU with other emerging issues from the two parties as well as accelerating its implementation.

In his opening and welcome remarks, Gen. Caleb Akadwanaho urged the delegates of the Joint Security Mission to discuss pertinent issues on security and the MoU with honesty and openness. He promised to remain neutral and only use the deliberations to extract the critical issues to present to the two Principals.

The head of the Uganda delegation, Gen. Jim Muhwezi, in his welcome remarks expressed his gratitude to the convener for recognizing the need for harmonious co-existence between the people of Kenya and Uganda particularly from the affected regions. He urged the two parties to strive to strengthen and promote partnership and cooperation in the field of cross-border programmes on sustainable peace and socio-economic development, existing cross-border relations between the border communities and mutual cooperation and peaceful co-existence.

Finally, he exhorted the two delegations to candidly discuss the matters at hand with an aim of arriving at far-reaching resolutions for both parties.

On her part, the head of the Kenyan delegation, Ms Rebecca Miano reiterated the cordial bilateral relations between Kenya and Uganda have enjoyed since independence. She noted that the cordial relationship between the two countries, provided a platform for discussion of security issues and other issues of common interest between Kenya and Uganda. She also

expressed that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss emerging security concerns that our people have experienced across the border. Finally, she looked forward to a discussion about the peace and security development nexus, the peace building and conflict management, the peace dividend project and also how to operationalize the MoU that was signed and also the issues of some of the Kenyans in custody here in Uganda.

Arising from the presentations from the two countries, the following issues were tabled for discussion and generation a way forward:

- a) Securing the release of all the detained Turkana pastoralists in Uganda.**
- b) Putting in place modalities for the implementation of the MoU.**
- c) Pastoralists from Kenya entering Uganda with firearms.**
- d) Peace dividend projects.**
- e) Cross border trade**
- f) Shared Services**

The Joint Security Mission discussed the above issues at length and amicably arrived at a joint communique which made the resolutions below:

- 1. The leaders appeal to H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda to graciously exercise his prerogative power of mercy and grant pardon to the nine (9) Turkana herders currently in Uganda prisons.**
- 2. The Kenya Government have made a commitment to collaborate with the Uganda Government in carrying out thorough investigations on the killings of the Uganda nationals by suspected Kenyan herders and ensure criminals who were involved in the killing of the geologists are arrested and prosecuted.**
- 3. The Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries that was signed on 12th September 2019 to be reviewed, aligned to emerging issues and immediately operationalized for the attainment of sustainable peace and development in the region.**
- 4. The Ministry of East Africa Cooperation and ASAL (Kenya) and the Minister for East African Community Affairs and the Minister for Karamoja Affairs (Uganda) should immediately nominate members to the Joint Technical Steering Committee to spearhead efforts for resource mobilization and the implementation of the MOU in accordance with Art. 4 of the MOU.**

- 5. The Kenya Government will consider mechanisms to strengthen the military liaison office in Karamoja by extending the year of stay.**
- 6. The County government of Turkana will consider establishing a Civilian Liaison Office in Karamoja as a bridge between security and civil administration in resolving day to day issues affecting Turkana herders in Karamoja.**
- 7. The Turkana County government (Kenya), the county government of West Pokot (Kenya) and Karamoja district administrations to constitute Joint Committee to support the national Joint Technical Steering Committee in the implementation of the MOU at sub-national levels.**
- 8. That the disarmament that is on-going in Kenya will require the cooperation and coordination with the Uganda government in order to curtail herdsmen from crossing over to Uganda with the illegal small arms and light weapons.**
- 9. To facilitate recovery and handover of stolen livestock, the sister governments should deploy adequate security forces on strategic points along the border points, taking into account specific raiding routes and known hide-outs for bandits.**
- 10. The security agencies of the two sister countries should consider establishing communication channels and networks to enhance effective communication, coordination on rapid action and conflict early warning and response.**
- 11. The two states, the county governments in Kenya (Turkana and West Pokot) and the district administration in Karamoja should allocate resources to cater for provision of health, education and water services. There is urgent need to build and equip health facilities, schools and water points along the border areas to cater for herders in the region.**
- 12. The two states and county governments in Kenya should build and improve roads network, establish immigration and customs boarder points at Lokiriana, Nawountos, Nakitong'o and other strategic places along the borders to enhance cross-border trade.**

The two governments should mobilize resources for peace dividend projects and to facilitate peace building initiatives in the region for sustainable peace and security.

Introduction and Background

This Joint Security Mission between Uganda and Kenya was necessitated by an appeal from the President of the Republic of Kenya to his counterpart, the President of the Republic of Uganda, following a petition by Hon. Protus Ekuja, Member of Parliament, Loima Constituency, of alleged mistreatment and detention of Turkana pastoralists in Uganda. The petition also called for strict adherence of both parties to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which was signed between Kenya and Uganda on the 13th September 2019 in support of cross border programme for sustainable peace and development.

Consequently, a directive was given by both presidents for a joint Kenya and Uganda team to visit Moroto, Uganda and resolve security related matters. The Joint Security Mission was convened by Gen. Cale Akadwanaho on 20th February 2023 at Hotel Africana in Moroto.

Accordingly, Gen. Caleb Akandwanaho, who is the Senior Presidential Advisor on Security in Uganda convened the Joint Security Mission between the two countries. As a matter of concern to the two countries, he was mandated by the President of the Republic of Uganda to convene, chair and guide the deliberations of the two delegations. The Mission further aimed at reviewing, revitalizing and aligning the 2019 MoU with other emerging issues from the two parties as well as accelerating its implementation.

The then MoU adopted by the two countries was premised on the following key objectives:

- a) To accord communities on both sides of the border, opportunities for better cooperation, close coordination and peaceful coexistence.**
- b) To bridge the isolation gaps thus improving the livelihoods and social economic conditions for sustainable peace and development of both communities.**
- c) To promote peace building and livelihood promotion.
- d) To empower local governments in both countries to prevent conflicts, promote peace building.
- e) To establish effective cross boarder coordination mechanism.
- f) To facilitate cross border movement of people and livestock.
- g) To increase cross border trade and investment.

- h) To improve infrastructure.
- i) To improve livelihoods, food security, nutrition and support basic social services.
- j) To mobilize resources by the two states from internal and external such as development partners (Article 4)

The Joint Mission also urged the two governments to continue supporting borderline communities of Turkana, West Pokot and Karamoja in mitigating a myriad of challenges faced by the communities particularly insecurity, disease burden, roads, water and social infrastructure.

Agenda.

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
9:30 AM	Guest Arrival at Nadunget Airstrip in Moroto	To be received by Hon. Jim Muhwezi, Minister for Security
10:00 AM	Arrival at Hotel Africana, Moroto (Tea and refreshments)	
10:45 AM	Meetings Commences Opening Prayer Introduction of members of the Delegations	Hon. Betty Chelain
11:05 AM	Opening Remarks Welcome Remarks	Gen. Caleb Akandwanaho - Convener Head of Ugandan Delegation Head of Kenyan Delegation
10:30 AM	Presentation of Topical Issues	Head of Kenyan Delegation Head of Ugandan Delegation
12:30 Pm	Review of MoU Implementation Status and Recommendations	
1:30 PM	Lunch Break	
2:30 PM	Plenary Discussions and Way Forward	
3:30PM	Joint Communiqué (Read and Signed)	

4:30 PM	Departure of Guests	
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Welcome Remarks by Gen. Caleb Akandwanaho.

I have already welcomed the Kenyan Delegation and I have already been with the Ugandan delegation. I warmly welcome both delegations. It is my hope that you will present the issues and fruitfully use the little time available so that by the end of the day, we shall have good recommendations for implementation of how to strengthen our cooperation which has been in existence since 2019 when we jointly signed the MoU. Today will witness us resolve the most outstanding issues in that MoU. My team is led by Hon. David Pulkol. Since I am for both Delegations, I will not interfere in the discussions, and right from the onset, you will be on your own. My duty has been to prepare a conducive environment for this important Joint Mission. Thereafter, my other task will be to extract the critical issues to present to the two Principals. I intend to be neutral during the deliberations. In conclusion, you know I am East Africanist by birth and for that matter I humbly welcome both delegations so that the meeting can commence. He concluded by thanking the delegates.

Presentations.

a) Uganda Delegation

Remarks by Hon. Jim Muhwezi – Head of Ugandan Delegation.

In his welcome remarks, Hon. Jim Muhwezi thanked the convener and his team. He also welcomed the Kenyan delegation led by Ms Rebecca Miano. He reiterated that the Joint Mission is aimed at improving the livelihoods of our border communities of Uganda and north-western Kenya. He expressed his gratitude to the convener for recognizing the need for harmonious co-existence between the people of Kenya and Uganda particularly from the affected regions. As you are aware two heads of State have shown considerable interest in commitment to working together in harnessing the opportunities and addressing the challenges that face our communities in the border regions. We should therefore, strive to strengthen and promote partnership and cooperation in the field of cross-border programmes on sustainable peace and socio-economic development, existing cross-border relations between the border communities and mutual cooperation and peaceful co-existence.

It is well appreciated that in the day-to-day conduct of our cross-border transactions, both Ugandan and Kenyan communities might have experienced some challenges one way or another with law enforcement officers. It is my hope that this will amicably be handled during these discussions. However, we should sensitize our communities to follow the law wherever they are, more especially when it comes to cross-border movements and utilization of shared resources such as water and pasture. In tackling various challenges affecting our communities, we have brought in a wide spectrum of stakeholders and it is our hope that by the end of the meeting, candid recommendations will be derived. I, therefore, urge the two delegations to candidly discuss the matters at hand with an aim of arriving at far-reaching resolutions for both parties. I thank you very much and wish you fruitful deliberations. Thank you very much.

b) Kenya Delegation by Ms Rebecca Miano – Cabinet Secretary, East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development.

The Convener,

The leaders from Uganda Present,

The Ugandan Delegation,

Members of the Kenyan Delegation

Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Delegation of the government of Kenya, I wish to thank the Government of the Republic of Uganda for hosting us on the occasion of this Joint Security Mission. We therefore relay the warm greetings from the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Hon. Dr. William Samoe Ruto to the President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

From the onset, we wish to reiterate the cordial bilateral relations between Kenya and Uganda have enjoyed since independence. These cordial relations have contributed to peaceful co-existence of our people who to a larger extent share kith and kin across our international border. This peaceful co-existence has further resulted in seamless movement of our people across the border through various entry and exit border points. There has also been an increase in cross border trade that translates into real gross domestic product (GDP) for both countries. In particular, our cooperation under the East Africa Community has contributed to regional integration of our people.

Cognizant of this long-standing relation, therefore, this Joint Security Mission, is among the numerous bilateral and cross-border engagements that have positively contributed to cementing our relationships. The regular joint administrators' and commissioners' cross-border meetings have often provided a platform for discussion of security issues and other issues of common interest between Kenya and Uganda.

I take note that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss emerging security concerns that our people have experienced across the border. Both Kenya and Uganda experience trans-boundary security challenges because of the shared boundary and because our people are related, we need to sort out the emerging issues. As Kenya and the Kenyan delegation, we remain committed to find shared lasting solutions to these transboundary security concerns. We do hope that in the discussion some of the issues we will discuss will include the recurrent drought in Kenya, that may be forcing some of our people to cross over. However, even as we engage in this discussion, the government of Kenya appreciates the support that the government of Uganda has accorded to many of our people who relocate in search of water and pasture. We do hope as well that there will be a discussion about the peace and security development nexus, the peace building and conflict management, the peace dividend project and also how to operationalize the MoU that was signed and also the issues of some of the Kenyans in custody here in Uganda.

The Kenya's new administration, the President of Kenya remains committed to nurturing our bilateral relations and cooperation in an effort to improve the economic well-being of our citizens. We encourage facilitation of communication between our two governments and look forward to sustained peace and security not only across the border, but in the entire region.

I look forward to fruitful engagements with positive outcomes and that by the time we leave here, we will all be celebrating. Thank you very much!

Discussions

Presentation of Issues for Discussion by the Kenyan Delegation

The Gen. who is the Convener of the meeting, first allow me to appreciate the opportunity you have given us the people of Kenya and for accepting to host us in your country and to discuss the issues that touch on our citizens, particularly from Turkana county but also on your side around this part of Karamoja region.

Allow me give a brief background to the emerging issues so that then, we are able to have an open and candid conversation around those issues and if acceptable at the end of the day we will be able to have a way forward in terms of how to progress.

The relationship between the two countries has been mutual and cordial and we are literally the same people. The boundaries were imposed on us by the foreigners, but that does not remove the fact that we are one, one community, one East African and also Africa at large.

Now our challenges around security have been with us for years and they are caused by competition over resources. In this way, you have the herders pushing for water and pasture for their animals, but also in that process people feel that there is a trespass. There have been a lot of efforts in trying to see that there is peace and security within this region, the most recent being the MoU that was developed but was not fully implemented by both sides, both the Kenyans and Ugandans. We have to look at that MoU and see how it can be operationalized. Within the MoU, the main sticking point is how do we deal with our people when they cross over, whether they are armed or unarmed.

The local leaders have tried their very best with a lot of success but also with some degree of challenges. Hence it is critical here that we speak to that; they were also challenges on how to make resources available especially water. We also have an issue with security and carrying guns by our people; how do we go about that? We have armed civilians who must be disarmed but how do we ensure that these civilians are protected? Further, we understand that a number of Kenyans have been held in custody and through the relationship we have cultivated over the years, we negotiate and most recently some of them were released. However, we now have another group of nine (9) Kenyans who are still in prisons here in Uganda. It would be good that as we have the conversation we are able to secure their release. Apart from that, we want to know how we move forward in resolving our conflicts without having to call on the Generals and Ministers from Kampala. This is because there is more that unites us as a people.

On the Kenyan side, there are a lot of activities taking place in Turkana and a few other counties where we are trying to disarm the communities to address the issues of banditry and cattle rustling. As that exercise continues, there is a likelihood of spill-over to the Ugandan side. How are we able to work together so that our efforts are more sustained and that the current security situation does not continue.

There is also the broader issue around climate change. Currently, there is an on-going drought in Kenya and we have suffered four (4) successive failed rains and we are into the fifth season

and this calls for peace so that herders can cross over to look for water and pasture. Thus we are appealing to you to look at our herders in that context. There is a lot of conversation that we want to have along those lines.

In summary, high in the agenda is how can we secure the release of our colleagues who are in prison? Second, the MoU was signed and a lot has not happened since then. So how do we get back to that MoU and operationalize it so that we fully realize the benefits of that agreements which was signed between the two countries? Are there any issues that made that MoU not to be realized? It is good to speak to some of those issues and look at how we can possibly address those issues to allow us implement the MoU. Thirdly, going forward as we operationalize the MoU then incidences that will continue across both sides either by the citizens themselves or the security agencies or the administrators or the leadership on either side. How do we have a reconciliation together and closing the gap for the benefits of both countries? These are the broader issues we wanted to raise and one or two more members of our delegation can also add to the conversation before we can hand over to the Ugandan side.

Deputy Governor of Turkana – Dr. John Erus

He saluted the Convener, heads of Ugandan and Kenyan delegations and all the people gathered here. He thanked the Convener and the two governments for making the meeting possible. He conveyed the regards of the Governor of Turkana County to the Joint Mission.

I want to remind this forum that we need to address the flight of our people due to climate change. Kenya and Uganda continue to enjoy good relationship, both by our own bilateral relationship and also because Turkana share the same origin, culture and language with the communities represented here today. We in Turkana government are very passionate about our role in support of the national government in pursuit of peace. We have demonstrated this, not just by rhetoric but we have held four (4) meetings discussing the issues of cooperation. The Turkana government together with the national government have worked hard to protect Ugandans living in Turkana county. As we continue to encourage cooperation and mutual understanding, we appeal for the release of the nine (9) convicted Turkana. In all the various meetings we have held with our Ugandan counterparts before, both the Turkana and Ugandan communities have expressed concern about cattle which are not recovered, or traced; there are also issues of arbitrary arrest and in cases where these issues have come to the attention of our government, we have reciprocated the good gesture by ensuring that all livestock perceived to have come into Turkana are usually handed over. But there is no reciprocity as expressed by

our communities several times. We hope that this meeting will find ways of resolving that issue.

Another issue we would like to bring to the attention of this discussion, is the expression made by the people of the Turkana is unequal treatment. We continue to emphasize the need for us to come together and we also emphasize the need to build cohesive communities in this region. We appreciate the government of Uganda through the local governments and especially providing relief food to our communities. We continue to encourage shared services with our communities for instance we have just concluded vaccination of livestock for both Kenyans and Ugandans. The sharing of resources is very important to us and I want to share in this meeting that the President of the Republic of Kenya, during the celebration of Lokirima Peace Accord, made a commitment to accelerate socio-economic development in this region. It is us who are here today, who can make that possible.

One of the other issues that we would like to be discussed here today is how we continue to engage and communicate so that we can resolve the issues around our communities. There is need to work out modalities for sharing information so that our interventions are timely.

In Article 2 of the MoU, mention is made of some critical issues. We the Turkana government together with the national government put a lot of efforts into that document as a means for building lasting peace for transforming our communities. As we review the MoU, we would like to see how we can align it with other priorities and emerging issues so that we can work together. I have been appointed by the governor to be in charge of resource mobilization and this is critical in funding our joint activities. We are hoping that the establishment of the Joint Technical Committee under Art. 3 becomes very important as we deliberate on the way forward.

We also want to bring forward the issue of cross border coordination and communication with our liaison officers. This coordination will facilitate the resolution of any issues amicably. We insist that the development of these areas depends on how we can operationalize the MoU. In that regard, we would continue to put resources in addressing cross border road network. Our President in collaboration with his counterpart in Uganda take this meeting seriously and we too take this meeting seriously. Hence what will be raised here will received the most attention.

Finally, we need to undertake the establishment of a border post at Lokirima in order to enhance cross border trade.

I now invite two other colleagues of mine to add a few other issues. Thank you very much.

Hon. Protus Akuja – Member of Parliament, Loima Constituency

First and foremost, I thank the government of Uganda, and the people of Karamoja region for hosting the Turkana people in this region. There are more than 30,000 Turkana people who have lived here for the last 40 years. Some of the people who live in Uganda do not even vote in Kenya because they have lived here permanently. Those who are between 18 and 40 years, do not even know Kenya, they only know Uganda.

Allow me maintain that for all the time our people have lived here, the government of Uganda and the leadership of Karamoja have taken care of them. When I was a Member of Parliament between 2013 and 2017, we had very few incidences of banditry and cattle rustling and we were able to track them down whether from Kenya or Karamoja region.

I also know that Uganda people are peaceful people because for one to live for 40 years here it means one is comfortable and happy. This has encouraged us and as the leadership of Turkana, we are grateful. Moreover, these people of ours received all the services here including water and medical care. They should be encouraged to acquire dual citizenship and even vote in Uganda, just like the Pokot of Amudat.

The issue of insecurity escalated from 2019 during COVID-19 because there was a vacuum in terms of movement of security forces. This is when cattle theft increased on both sides. However, in December 2020, we had an incident at Kobebe where the Turkana were flashed out at a time when drought was at its height back at home. Our government sent a delegation to meet the Minister for Karamoja to negotiate for the return of the Turkana back to Uganda and we were successful.

We are here because of the issue of insecurity and the arbitrary arrest of our people in Kobebe, Kotido, Naput and Nakiloro where people are rounded and taken to camps. Unfortunately, some (66) of the animals taken at Kobebe cannot be traced to-date. These arrests lead to many of our people being convicted and detained only for us to learn about this after a long time. Last week some three (3) boys were arrested in Moroto with 3 (three) bulls and 12 (twelve) donkeys. Even these are still being detained while their animals cannot be traced. This kind of treatment of our people does not reflect the affinity our people have towards one another.

To me Ateker community, are cursed because we are fighting while other tribes are settled and involved in development activities. As a way forward, we are requesting for defined civilian

structures with civilian Liaison officers for coordinating activities here and in Kenya. Our liaison officers stay in the barracks where it is difficult for our pastoralists to easily access them.

Finally, to curb cattle thefts, I also recommend for a modern livestock tracking system or tracking chips. This will stamp out animals disappearing mysteriously.

Hon. Martin Namwar – Member of Parliament, Turkana Central.

Gen. allow me declare some conflict of interest, namely, that I know some Members of Parliament from Uganda including Hon. David Pulkol. Hence to me, any conflict affecting Turkana directly affects me since I come from Lodwar. Moreover, currently, there is a lot of trade taking place between our communities: the cabbage, beans, posho and even Senator beer, are all bought from Uganda. In sum, more than 40% of trade items in Lodwar town come from Uganda and which is why I want to thank you for that.

Besides, there are many Ugandans in Lodwar carrying out construction work while others serve in hotels and all of them are very comfortable. We have also witnessed some young men marrying in Turkana, and all these are positive signs of peaceful co-existence. We are encouraging them to register as citizens who can vote in an election so that they can vote for me and others.

However, it is not good to report cases of cattle raids when we are neighbours. The Turkana migrated to Uganda in 1960s even before independence when they were only 3,000 people. To-date, their numbers have increased to 40,000 or even 50,000. Some of them have died when they do not know that they are Kenyans. This is the story I am telling you so that we resolve these issues because I know that we are brothers and sisters. I thank you very much.

Moderator's Insight: Hon. David Pulkol

We are still unpacking issues, and we have heard from the Kenyan counterparts about those who are in prison. However, what is not clear is whether they want to serve their sentences in Kenya. What is the judicial system in place when Ugandans commit crime in Kenya and Kenyans commit crime in Uganda. Do we just have a handover ceremony at the border? The issues have been unpacked and now it is Uganda's turn to respond.

Response from the Uganda Delegation.

Hon Remiggio Achia – Chairperson Karamoja Parliamentary Group.

The Convener of the meeting, Gen. Caleb Akandwanaho. Head of Kenyan delegation, Hon. Rebecca Miano and the Head of the Ugandan delegation, Hon. Jim Muwhezi, the security personnel and all of us present.

Yesterday, while with Gen. we were asking ourselves what issues our brothers and sisters from Kenya would bring to the table.

We as Ugandans emulate the spirit of Lokiriana Peace Accord which we have celebrated for over 50 years now. It is an annual event, which was an initiative of the two communities of the Turkana and Matheniko. We also note the spirit of the MoU signed by H.E Yoweri Museveni and the former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on the 10th September 2019. There are also several other initiatives such as the 2021 MoU signed during ‘*Tobongu Lore*’ Ateker Cultural Event where all the Ateker communities converge. In this event we were able to hold a side-meeting to develop some projects to be jointly implemented. We recognized the cordial and strong relationship between the two countries and this has made us implement some elements of the MoU.

As pastoralists and cattle keepers, it would be really wrong for us not to allow the Turkana to graze in Uganda. It is to our best interest that the Turkana also keep cattle because if they do not have any, the Turkana will be forced to raid ours.

In this regard, we identified five issues that we will table for discussion.

For Karamoja the biggest foundation made has been the removal of over 40,000 guns that were in the hands of the Karimojong. Following the successful disarmament that was embarked in 2001, with the first phase of voluntary disarmament which took almost one year and eventually forceful disarmament was also undertaken. In the voluntary phase, there was a lot of mobilization to ensure the success of the exercise.

Consequently, a number of positive initiatives were undertaken in the region and some of them are the shared resources we have today such as the construction of Kobebe dam and Arechek. Besides, we have a good road network for instance one can drive from Kampala to Moroto on tarmac and from Moroto to Mbale through Nakapiripirit, and there is a planned tarmac road from Moroto to Kidepo.

In terms of agriculture, many people have resettled in areas which had been rendered no go areas due to insecurity such as Lotisan and Karita sub-counties.

We have also witnessed the establishment of markets along our borders (between Uganda and Kenya) although there are some challenges such as mechanisms to deal with cross border arms. This is in view of the disarmament process being undertaken in Kenya so that no criminals with small arms and light weapons find any safe haven in Uganda. We are convinced that one of the strategic decisions of government of Uganda was embarking on successful disarmament which has brought peace in the region despite some criminals still wreaking havoc within the communities. There is also a challenge in the rapid response especially across the borders since there is no mechanism for the military to pursue cattle rustlers across the border. So once these criminals cross one border, they relax knowing that no one can go after them into another country. In this regard, we need some level of deployment close to the borders, conflict corridors and a signal for communication. Besides, the two armies need to establish a communication mechanism for sharing and exchange of information across the borders.

Secondly, we have the question of social services. We need concrete mechanisms for investment in health and education infrastructure which are critical for future development. For instance, on the northern axis, we have only Nakiloro Health Centre II which was meant to serve only 2,000 people. These centres normally get overwhelmed during peak periods when we have both the Pokot and Turkana in Uganda. Therefore, the question is how do we develop these infrastructures together?

Thirdly, the development and business arm. We are happy as Karamoja and Uganda that trade across the border has tremendously increased and has led to improved incomes among our business community, since it takes only 2 and half hours for a business person to reach Lodwar in Kenya. However, there are a few challenges to be tackled jointly as we have done before. We are happy to note that we have handled these with the Governor of Turkana and a lot can still be done to consolidate this through advocacy. We recommend review meetings at international, national and local levels including the coordinators of the business community in Moroto so as to harmonize and streamline business operations.

Another aspect which we had jointly discussed in December 2021, is the establishment of business hub and cross-border storage facilities as exemplified by what Gen. Salim Saleh has established in Gulu, northern Uganda. These stores will facilitate business in our countries.

Fifthly, livestock and disease control. We want to commend the government of Kenya, the county of Turkana and Pokot for the recent initiatives in the treatment and vaccination of livestock, particularly the PPR, where they carried out joint treatment and vaccination of cattle. Such initiatives have truly brought our people together and have encourage close ties and confidence in our people.

Sixth, as already alluded to, we also aspire for peace dividend projects. We are excited that some of the binding constraints is due to limited income and poor roads. We also advocate for a Joint Technical Committee which can undertake proper mapping and identification of peace dividend projects that actually directly support our people in these areas.

Lastly, our observation today indicates that the coverage of the MoU also includes West Pokot. The head of delegation from Kenya will note for the future the inclusion of all our brothers across the border from Mt. Elgon up to Morungole.

In conclusion General, we extend our gratitude to the convener of the meeting, our commitment to strengthening and deepening closer collaboration with our sister countries. As pastoralists, we feel we are the first East Africans because we have persistently crisscrossed our borders and shared our resources. It is our hope that we quickly put in place a technical committee that can develop operational guidelines and protocols for future engagements. Thank you very much.

Response from the Military – Brig. Gen. Balikuddembe Joseph– Commander 3rd Battalion

Thank you very much Sir - Convener.

Karamoja shares international borders with South Sudan and Kenya in the most Eastern part of the country. A large part of the border is rugged and porous characterized by mountains and seasonal rivers. These characteristics facilitate trafficking in small arms and light weapons and pose a challenge in detecting and control of illegal arms entry. Armed pastoralist groups in Kenya over time have made alliances with Ugandan pastoralist groups. This bonded relationship has facilitated armament and rearmament of Karimojong especially the Matheniko, Jie and Pokot by the Turkana. These guns further find their way to other clans in Karamoja sub-region.

Due to that bondage that I have talked about, the criminal elements within Uganda find the way the get arms from the Matheniko especially those who get the gun because they are not close

to the border like the Bokora, Pian and other criminal elements. These arms have continuously caused insecurity and denied development in the sub-region and the neighbouring sub-regions like Teso, Acholi, Sebei and other areas.

The aim of this brief is to acquaint you with general security situation in Karamoja and the impact of small arms for proliferation.

Background of Disarmament in Karamoja.

The Firearms Act of 1970 made it an offence for anyone to possess a firearm without a license. Let alone using it to terrorize other persons, was amended by the Firearms Act Cap. 299 Sect. 31; the Firearm Act 299 specifies that ‘no person shall purchase, acquire or have in his or her possession any firearm or ammunition unless in respect of each other firearm. He or she holds a valid firearm certificate. The Act makes it an offence for anyone who does so and is liable upon conviction to imprisonment.

Sect. 15.1 Clause 1 of the Uganda People’s Defence Forces Act Cap. 307 makes the Karimojong subject to military law for being in unlawful possession of firearms, ammunitions, equipment or other prescribed stores ordinarily being the monopoly of the army for illegally possessing and trafficking in arms and ammunition as well as carrying out raiding activities, the Karimojong commit offence of failing to protect war materials for which they commit an offence and are liable upon conviction to suffer death (Sect. 33.1 Cap 2).

All these laws have not deterred the illegal possession of unlicensed small arms and light weapons in Karamoja as different clans continue raiding each other, killing and committing other gun-related atrocities. In 2001 the first phase of disarmament was launched after involvement of Parliament and Karamoja local leaders in the presence of the President of the Republic of Uganda Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. This phase took place from 2nd December 2001 to 15th February 2002.

The President camped in Karamoja for the purpose of mobilizing the Karimojong to hand over guns illegally held. However, it yielded minimum results. In 2005, arising from poor response of warriors to hand over guns voluntarily, a forceful disarmament campaign was launched involving all the major MDAs, institutes and departments. This campaign resulted into retrieval of 40,000 guns by 2009 from all illegally armed natives.

As a result, relative peace was realized in Karamoja sub-region leading to some infrastructural development e.g. construction of the tarmac road: Soroti – Moroto and Moroto – Sironko and

we also have modern markets here, schools are for upgrading and Moroto Regional Referral hospital, connection of hydro-power to all the 113 sub-counties in Karamoja among other development initiatives.

By 2017, criminal elements re-armed and resumed the plan cattle raids, killing of innocent civilians and theft of household property. They also extended their criminal acts in other districts outside Karamoja such as Kapelibyong, Otukei district, Kitgum, Agago, Katakwi, Bunambuli, Abim and Kween.

The On-going Disarmament Operation.

In response to emerging threat of increasing incidents of cattle rustling by armed warriors in Karamoja associated with increased re-arming of perpetrators of cattle rustling, also seeing a large increase in criminality such as armed robberies, killings, UPDF again initiated a plan to disarm some armed Karimojong groups. On 13th July 2021, another phase of operation code-named ‘Operation Salaama kwa Wote’ was launched at 3rd Division HQs here in Moroto. This was meant to disarm illegally armed elements, recover raided livestock, arrest and prosecution of criminal elements. This operation is intelligence led and executed by a joint effort of security forces that is the UPDF, the ASTU (Anti-Stock Theft Unit), the ISO (Internal Security Organization) and Uganda Police Force.

Like any other disarmament operation, this operation is in its initial stages majorly encouraged by voluntary hand over of guns. However, the warriors did not fully adhere to the call to surrender weapons peacefully as a result of the operating forces launch in a forceful disarmament operation. . The conduct of this operation involves use of codon and search targeting warrior networks and *manyattas* or kraals, trading centres where they go and relax avoiding codon and search. So we normally go through the trading centres rounding them up and we have a system of identification of those hardcore criminals. We also moved to grazing areas and animal markets where these stolen animals are sold.

The warrior network includes warriors armed with guns, the warriors armed with bows and arrows because they move together with those with guns and commit the same offence. We also look at the warriors that are armed with sticks because once we arrest one, he will reveal to you those accomplices he moves with to commit crime or go for cattle rustling, then those sticks are used to drive the cows.

And another issue, we deal with collaborators since they help these people to go and raid cows, or any other suspect we may not have profiled, we make sure he is arrested and charged alongside these criminals.

Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding in Kenya and Uganda.

In reference to the MoU signed on 12th September 2019, between Kenya and Uganda governments in support of Turkana and West Pokot, while in Uganda among the Karimojong cross border for sustainable peace and development. The implementation of this agreement has largely remained futile in terms of security and small arms proliferation. As a consequence, the security forces have tried to implement the implied tasks of the MoU such as reduce tensions over water and pasture. This has been done through joint mobilization and sensitization meetings with affected communities and their leaders on both Uganda and Kenya.

However, the Turkana have continued to violate the conditions of the MoU. On 3rd December 2022, armed Turkana criminals engaged the UPDF who were deployed to protect Kobebe grazing area, because Kobebe grazing area has both Karimojong and Turkana and we protect both communities there. In this incident a soldier was shot and injured when they were on patrol and our Kenyan liaison officer was informed of this and he documented the incident.

Following this confrontation, one Turkana was put out of action, and his gun was recovered, SMG with 9 rounds, then 11 armed Turkana were arrested and brought at the Division HQs for safe custody. They were handed over for further management in Kenya to the county government of Turkana on the 2nd of February 2023 and some people who received them are here with the Liaison Officer Major Abdallah Kerica.

Elimination of Illegal Flow of Arms and Light Weapons in the Region.

Intelligence continues to identify and profile criminal elements involved in commission of this crime including sources of these weapons. Available evidence indicates that the amicable relationship of criminal elements in Turkana and Karamoja facilitate illegal entry of weapons. The Turkana using a cover of MoU continue to enter the country with guns which was not part of the MoU. On 21st March 2022, armed Turkana and Matheniko engaged UPDF soldiers escorting geologists in Lokisilei village, Lotisan sub-county in Moroto district, killed three (3) geologists and two (2) UPDF soldiers and charged their guns. In response, UPDF carried out an operation in pursuit of the criminals and arrested eleven (11) criminals in Matheniko and

Turkana and recovered seven (7) guns. The eleven (11) were later charged at Military Court Martial and charged for eight (8) years and they are in Moroto government prison. Working with the Turkana County leadership, the guns that were charged from the geologists' escorts were recovered in April but the arrest and hand over of perpetrators of this killing has not been done including the surrender of killer weapons. However, we have been promised by the county government that they will be searched, arrested and handed for prosecution.

Achievements.

A total of 739 guns have so far been retrieved from illegal hands. These guns are majorly illegally acquired from the Turkana and other sources are: the Pokot, in the period of July 2021 to date because just yesterday we recovered three (3) guns from the Turkana in Kobebe. The other sources of guns are the Pokot of Kenya and the Toposa of South Sudan.

The threat of road ambushes has been controlled through patrols and picketing along the roads. We have also seen ASTU have dealt with interception of stolen livestock in lorries and control the importation of crude *waragi* that end up with these kraals and has been a catalyst in these raids.

Challenges.

The following are challenges that we highlighted:

- **Recovery of stolen animals which are taken across the border remains a challenge because in several meetings which we normally conduct with communities around and even in joint meetings, the Ugandan pastoralists after recovering the cows for the Turkana they normally ask us 'what about those across when shall we expect to receive them from the other side?' If there was a joint operation with our counterparts from Kenya, they would coordinate in recovering the cows on the other side.**
- **We have also seen no proper information and details of the number of animal and people from Turkana and Pokot that cross into Uganda in search of water and pasture.**
- **Failure of our neighbours to carry out disarmament exercise. This criminality has persisted because the re-armament from the Turkana and Pokot of Kenya and Toposa of South Sudan is persisting.**

- **Lastly, lack of gazette border crossing points to facilitate movement of human beings and goods and services. If we had these, we would minimize the issue of gun trafficking.**

In conclusion, we remain committed to the spirit of East Africa and peaceful co-existence in order to protect, promote peace, security and prosperity in the region. I thank you very much sir.

Q and A.

The Brig. Gen. offered to respond to some questions earlier on raised by the Kenyan delegation.

Q.1. How do we treat the Turkana who enter Uganda, either armed or not armed?

A.1. My response here is that we are in disarmament and we recognize the presence of the Turkana in Uganda. And when they are here we protect them and when they are here armed, we cannot segregate them from the Karimojong (Ugandans) by allowing them to remain armed. Even the eleven (11) we handed back, we kept the guns in our custody. It is the same treatment we subject Ugandans and we cannot allow any armed person illegally in Uganda or in Karamoja.

Q.2. How many Kenyans are still in custody?

The Turkana are not held alone, we also have Ugandans in custody over these cases, but we have our Kenyan Liaison and whatever we do he also knows since we do not have any secret. He is in our barracks and all the commanders know him and he goes to interrogate them. Moreover, he is the one who picks all the arrested Turkana from different locations and brings them to us. The reason why others were sentenced is because of the killing of the geologists. After the killing we conducted an operation in that particular area where we arrested several suspects, interrogated them, then eventually we went back with some of these suspects and recovered illegal guns in those kraals; moreover they were the ones who led us to the recovery of those guns. We subjected both the Matheniko and Turkana to our Division Court Martial because they were suspected of killing the geologists. Being in custody now, the prerogative of release or prerogative of mercy is before the President of Uganda, even our General here may not order for their release since they were taken through the Courts of Law.

Q.3. On the spill-over of activities in Kenya with regards to the on-going disarmament.

As the military, we shall discuss that among ourselves and see how best to handle the situation. If there is successful disarmament in Kenya, then people will have access to water and pasture without any interruption. However, upon receiving information that there are some people who move with firearms, then operation will continue. The kraals in Kobebe are protected with tanks supported by a helicopter, we only need to mobilize our people not to possess guns.

Secondly, we do not segregate the pastoralists. For example in one year alone, 987 Ugandan Karimojong have been sentenced and are in prison for illegal possession of firearms.

Q.4. The flashing of the Turkana from Kobebe.

This is not true, and we do not do that. It is a conflict of recovery of guns and I am happy to state that pastoralists we have whether Matheniko, Jie, Bokora know that when they commit an offence, they expect an operation and they flee by themselves. When I received calls from the county administrators, I assured them to send the people back to access water and pasture. When pastoralists kill a soldier, they know that we shall pursue them and so they run into safety.

Q.5. The disappearance of 3 bulls and 12 donkeys?

I am aware of 3 Turkana who are in our custody. I will establish whether they were the ones with bulls and donkeys. If they came with bulls and donkeys, then we have them. Besides, our Liaison should know because we normally inform him. I will also crosscheck with our Kenyan Liaison since he should know about the suspects.

Q.6. Access to the Kenyan Liaison Officer.

We have ably facilitated the Liaison officer with a brand new land cruiser pick-up. He can access all the areas occupied by the Turkana in Karamoja; moreover, we have just returned from Kaabong where we recovered 140 heads of cattle with him. He has unfettered movement day and night into the kraals. Therefore, he cannot claim that his brothers from Turkana do not have access to him.

Recommendations

Following the side discussions with a select group to tease out the nitty-gritty issues between the two parties, these were later presented at the plenary, where the meeting made these recommendations:

- 13. The leaders appeal to H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda to graciously exercise his prerogative power of mercy and grant pardon to the nine (9) Turkana herders currently in Uganda prisons.**
- 14. The Kenya Government have made a commitment to collaborate with the Uganda Government in carrying out thorough investigations on the killings of the Uganda nationals by suspected Kenyan herders and ensure criminals who were involved in the killing of the geologists are arrested and prosecuted.**
- 15. The Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries that was signed on 12th September 2019 to be reviewed, aligned to emerging issues and immediately operationalized for the attainment of sustainable peace and development in the region.**
- 16. The Ministry of East Africa Cooperation and ASAL (Kenya) and the Minister for East African Community Affairs and the Minister for Karamoja Affairs (Uganda) should immediately nominate members to the Joint Technical Steering Committee to spearhead efforts for resource mobilization and the implementation of the MOU in accordance with Art. 4 of the MOU.**
- 17. The Kenya Government will consider mechanisms to strengthen the military liaison office in Karamoja by extending the year of stay.**
- 18. The County government of Turkana will consider establishing a Civilian Liaison Office in Karamoja as a bridge between security and civil administration in resolving day to day issues affecting Turkana herders in Karamoja.**
- 19. The Turkana County government (Kenya), the county government of West Pokot (Kenya) and Karamoja district administrations to constitute Joint Committee to support the national Joint Technical Steering Committee in the implementation of the MOU at sub-national levels.**
- 20. That the disarmament that is on-going in Kenya will require the cooperation and coordination with the Uganda government in order to curtail herdsmen from crossing over to Uganda with the illegal small arms and light weapons.**
- 21. To facilitate recovery and handover of stolen livestock, the sister governments should deploy adequate security forces on strategic points along the border points, taking into account specific raiding routes and known hide-outs for bandits.**

- 22. The security agencies of the two sister countries should consider establishing communication channels and networks to enhance effective communication, coordination on rapid action and conflict early warning and response.**
- 23. The two states, the county governments in Kenya (Turkana and West Pokot) and the district administration in Karamoja should allocate resources to cater for provision of health, education and water services. There is urgent need to build and equip health facilities, schools and water points along the border areas to cater for herders in the region.**
- 24. The two states and county governments in Kenya should build and improve roads network, establish immigration and customs boarder points at Lokirama, Nawountos, Nakitong'o and other strategic places along the boarders to enhance cross-border trade.**

The two governments should mobilize resources for peace dividend projects and to facilitate peace building initiatives in the region for sustainable peace and security.

ANNEXES

Joint Communique



JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON THE HIGH-LEVEL SECURITY MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, 20TH FEBRUARY 2023 AT MOROTO, REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

ACKNOWLEDGING the continued cordial and friendly relations between the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Kenya since independence which have enabled the two nations and their people strengthen cooperation, cross-border movement, trade and social economic development.

NOTING that the people of Karamoja region in Uganda and the people of Turkana County in Kenya share ancestral, cultural and historical ties and similar social economic livelihoods that has enabled these borderlands communities co-exist peacefully while sharing pasture, water, trade and other resources in the region.

AWARE that Karamoja and Turkana communities along the border of the two countries are faced with numerous challenges including insecurity attributed to the proliferation of small arms and light weapon, limited economic and livelihood opportunities, impacts of climate change occasioning pro-longed cyclical draughts and famine and limited infrastructure in the region;

RECALLING the impact of continued dialogue and initiatives by Turkana County Government and the Karamoja leaders in fostering peace and development and facilitating cross-cultural exchanges and peace celebrations;

RECOGNIZING the efforts by both Heads of State in the two sister countries to engage with the leadership of the local communities in Karamoja and Turkana with a view to finding long term and lasting solutions to enhance security, peace and development in the region, **AND COGNIZANT** of the urgency with which the two heads of states have convened this high-level joint security mission in Moroto, Uganda to give attention to the issues in the region;

CONSIDERING that the Joint High-Level Security Mission today has deliberated on and taken decisions on the critical agenda including: the request by the Kenya Government for the

release of nine (9) Turkana herders from Uganda prison; the review and implementation of the joint MOU between Kenya and Uganda ,and mechanisms to enhance coordination and communication between the two countries and across the sub-national levels of governments and communities; improved cross-border infrastructure, enhanced security and disarmament

WE the heads of Delegations from the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Uganda have together and alongside our respective delegations comprising of government, political and local leaders in Karamoja and Turkana County, after fruitful deliberations have **RESOLVED** as follows, **THAT**:

- 25. The leaders appeal to H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda to graciously exercise his prerogative power of mercy and grant pardon to the nine (9) Turkana herders currently in Uganda prisons.**
- 26. The Kenya Government have made a commitment to collaborate with the Uganda Government in carrying out thorough investigations on the killings of the Uganda nationals by suspected Kenyan herders and ensure criminals who were involved in the killing of the geologists are arrested and prosecuted.**
- 27. The Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries that was signed on 12th September 2019 to be reviewed, aligned to emerging issues and immediately operationalized for the attainment of sustainable peace and development in the region.**
- 28. The Ministry of East Africa Cooperation and ASAL (Kenya) and the Minister for East African Community Affairs and the Minister for Karamoja Affairs (Uganda) should immediately nominate members to the Joint Technical Steering Committee to spearhead efforts for resource mobilization and the implementation of the MOU in accordance with Art. 4 of the MOU.**
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- 33. To facilitate recovery and handover of stolen livestock, the sister governments should deploy adequate security forces on strategic points along the border points, taking into account specific raiding routes and known hide-outs for bandits.**
- 34. The security agencies of the two sister countries should consider establishing communication channels and networks to enhance effective communication, coordination on rapid action and conflict early warning and response.**
- 35. The two states, the county governments in Kenya (Turkana and West Pokot) and the district administration in Karamoja should allocate resources to cater for provision of health, education and water services. There is urgent need to build and equip health facilities, schools and water points along the border areas to cater for herders in the region.**
- 36. The two states and county governments in Kenya should build and improve roads network, establish immigration and customs boarder points at Lokirama, Nawountos, Nakitong'o and other strategic places along the borders to enhance cross-border trade.**
- 37. The two governments should mobilize resources for peace dividend projects and to facilitate peace building initiatives in the region for sustainable peace and security.**

DATED THIS 20TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023 AT MOROTO, REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
SIGNED BY

Hon. Rebecca Miano,
Cabinet Secretary East African
Community ASAL and Regional
Development

Maj.Gen. (Rtd) Jim Muhwezi
Minister for Security

List of Attendants