HORN OF AFRICA INITIATIVE: POLICY PERSPECTIVES

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS WORKSHOP, RADISSON BLUE

21st – 22nd August, 2023
Focus

• Security Threats And Challenges
• The Need for Borderland Cooperation
• Policy Frameworks
• Priority Areas
Security Threats in the Borderlands

- Regional instability
- Recurrent drought
- Insecurity and conflict
- Influx of refugees and asylum seekers,
- Displaced population
- Unemployment
- Disasters
- Food insecurity,
- Proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons,
- Illicit trade in counterfeits and contraband products,
- Tax evasion,
- Human smuggling and trafficking,
- Drugs trafficking,
- Cross-border radicalization, terrorism,
- Cybercrime,
- Money laundering,
- Illicit trafficking in precious items like gold, diamond, indigenous timber.
The Need for Borderland Cooperation

- There is need for effective border management systems that: promote regional cooperation; promote common understanding of border insecurities and approaches to addressing them; minimize border tensions; increase joint enforcement and surveillance efforts; deter organized crime activities; secure flow of goods and people in the spirit of regional and continental integration; integrate and develop marginalized border areas through provision of essential infrastructure; and promote a sense of security and well-being among the border populations; enhance communication and information exchange between neighbouring countries; and maintain secure borders that do not obstruct but rather facilitate legal cross-border trading and movements of people.
Kenya’s Borderlands

• Kenya’s Bordelands are largely Arid and Semi Arid.

• The National Government, County Governments regional economic blocs, Development Partners, Regional Blocs and Inter-Governmental Organizations have remained instrumental in ensuring equitable development in Kenya and its borderlands.

• Devolution has contributed to significant county-based development especially in infrastructure. Despite these gains, there are recurrent intra-community conflicts and insecurity around some borderland counties.
Policy and Legal Frameworks

- Constitution of Kenya, 2010
- Kenya Vision 2030
- Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)
- National Policy for Disaster Management
- Refugees Act 2021
- Sessional Paper No.8 of 2012 on The National Policy for the Sustainable Development of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands;
- Sessional Paper No.5 of 2014 on National Policy for Peacebuilding and Conflict Management in Kenya;
- Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2016 on National Climate Change Framework Policy
Regional Frameworks

Include the following, among others:

• IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), 2011;
• IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN)
• IGAD Policy Framework on the nexus between Informal Cross Border Trade and Cross-Border Security Governance, 2018;
• IGAD Transhumance Protocol;
• EAC Peace and Security Protocol;
• EACWARN
Where Are We?

• Cognizant of the HOAI Vision” To work together to build a prosperous, integrated and peaceful HOA”

• There are numerous policy and institutional frameworks with regard to governance and development of borderlands.

• There are various programmes/projects by partners in the Borderlands.

• Kenya has excellent bilateral and multi-lateral relations and engagements with States within the HOA. Various Sectoral MoUs are in place.

• Need to optimize these frameworks, institutions, investments and opportunities to create impact.
**Proposed Policy Interventions**

- Enhanced coordination of Partners within a Programs Approach.
- Institutional capacities for the formulation and implementation of policies for the security, stability and development of borderlands;
- Strengthening of institutions responsible for security, stability and development;
- Support policies for transboundary resource management and sharing;
- Development of policies that facilitate cross border cooperation in peace, security and development;
- Harmonization of cross-border policies with a view to promote economic cooperation;
- Development of policies that promote cross-border trade;
Priorities

• Capacities for enhanced awareness raising and sensitization of the citizenry in the member states to ensure buy-in and support of the policy frameworks.

• Development of Entry and exit points, including One Stop Shop Border Posts (OSBP)

• Strengthening of Border Control to ensure integrated border management.

• Support cross-border structures, coordination, consultations and Policy Dialogue.

• Deepen in-country and cross-border Peace initiatives;

• Open up security roads for rapid response to insecurity and conflict;

• Promote natural resource management.
Thank You