The Importance of pastoralism and livestock development for the development of rural areas in the region

We, representatives of pastoralists’ communities from the Eastern and Southern African region, having met and discussed widely on the topic of pastoralism in the climate change era, dynamic African Governance systems and diverse policy and regulatory frameworks do herewith state as follows.

Pastoralism in Africa continues to contribute substantially to the national GDPs of our countries while at the same time providing essential services to ecological integrity, protection and conservation of nature that continues to support the vital tourism and livestock sectors.

Pastoralism livelihood and production system that is founded on land and natural resources, livestock herds and traditional governance remains the key and viable economic occupation that enables the communities inhabiting arid and semi-arid lands to utilize the available resources and cope better with climate variability.

The Pastoralist way of life has been in existence for many centuries and has sustained the constituency of pastoralist community. Pastoralist communities live in a vast area of land and the nature of the area has mostly given them resilience for many years.

Pastoralism is very important in terms of economy, social, and environment of pastoralists and nations. Pastoralists’ livestock contribute highly to the local, national and regional economies through internal trade and exports of live animals, quality meat/carcasses, milk and milk products, skins, hides, fiber, hooves, horns, leather and bones. They form the primary source of livelihoods and incomes through marketing of animals and animal products to the local markets. Further, pastoralist livestock serve as the source of protein foods – meat, milk and milk products for urban dwellers. Pastoralists’ herds generate employment both for the pastoralists and others along the value chain and also contribute to the establishment of public institutions that serve them thereby creating employment opportunities for the nations.

Pastoralists have indigenous knowledge and ecosystem know-how to protect and preserve nature. They also use rangelands, mountains and water points in a traditionally efficient and sustainable way. Pastoralism co-exists harmoniously with the fauna and flora of their areas thereby providing most resilient alternative system to cope with the vagaries of climate change.

Socially, pastoralism is a comprehensive way of life that has laws, rules, norms, values and practices that have governed them for centuries and ensured their survival. Furthermore, it is still a system that is governing the rural communities at large in the region. Livestock plays an essential role in social safety nets, dowry, compensation, social gatherings and rituals, as draught power, sources of manure/dung used as fertilizer; as a source of energy for households, for plastering houses, and for sale to generate finances for defraying fees/bills and other expenses. Through the gifts, exchanges, reciprocity and solidarity systems; livestock are enabling pastoralists to maintain and
strengthen social and family relations. Pastoralists are keeping indigenous breeds that are highly adapted to the local environment and resilient to climate change effects.

In terms of its contribution to the development of rural areas in the region, pastoralism and livestock development is important in market development, which has a multiplier economic effect; help for the establishment of livestock related private businesses such as meat and dairy industries; they are sources of revenue for the nations through tax collection; infrastructural development like roads; help in the proliferation of small businesses that generate diversified and additional incomes for the pastoralists; contribute to the empowerment of women –through sale of milk, and small ruminant trade; the system provides a flexible and adaptable livelihoods means against climate change shocks; the mobility practice avoids soil, water and environmental degradation and also controls pests by rotating settlement and grazing areas.

However, pastoralist livelihood and way of life is increasingly being threatened by diverse challenges like climate change, conflict, multi-national investment industries, mega infrastructural projects, encroachment, exclusion of women in major decision making and unfavorable government policy and frameworks in their ancestral lands.

In reference to the above we recommend to IFAD the following:

1) Priority areas for investments in pastoralism and recommendations for partnership with IFAD

- **Range Management**
  - Knowledge management – dissemination of information to pastoralist communities (documentation of successful case studies, lessons learned and research)
  - Promotion of indigenous breeds and plants
  - Promotion of alternative sources of fuel, including use of biogas and invasive plants
  - Support increased pastoralist productivity through sound rangeland management practices
  - Improve co-management between traditional systems and governance and public investments in the rangelands
  - Land tenure security, reclamation and access rights
  - Control of invasive plants
  - Support mapping of grazing land and water point using GIS

- **Capacity building**
  - Support women IGAs (micro finance, curios, animals products, bead jewelry etc)
  - Gender mainstreaming through inclusion of women across pastoralist organizations and CSOs networks
  - Business management and linkages to financial institutions
  - Support local private sectors and create linkages to available markets
  - Strengthen and support pastoralist associations and customary institutions
  - To policy makers and government officials on pastoral dynamic systems
  - Training on fodder production, value addition (preservation of meat, dairy products, etc)
  - Support of community radio stations in pastoralist areas for easier communication, awareness raising and dissemination of information

- **Pastoralist infrastructure**
  - Support opening up of grazing areas and water points to reduce conflicts and increase access to limited resources among pastoralists.
  - Support water, sanitation and hygiene at the community level, including slaughter houses, reconstruction of water points, coolers for milk, etc.
  - Improve rural road networks and accessibility
- Support access to renewable energy sources and electricity
- IFAD should prioritize investments in cross border livestock marketing infrastructure.

**Education**
- Support the introduction of pastoralism curricula in learning institutions
- Promote and support girl and boy children education (boarding facilities, mobile education, educational materials… etc)
- Promotion of both formal and informal education through support of teachers and mobile kits
- Support vocational trainings and linkages with labor markets (start-up capital, internships, business incubation centers etc)

**Institutional building**
- Strengthen pastoralist organizations, associations, CSO networks at local, national, regional and global level (coordination, exchange and exposure visits. etc)
- Support training in resource mobilization, lobbying, advocacy and governance for the local pastoralist organizations, associations and CSOs
- Promote gender mainstreaming through inclusion of women in pastoralist organizations, associations and CSOs networks
- Support the development of a coordination system for pastoralists and livestock herders for Southern Africa region.
- Support country and regional secretariats for pastoralist organizations, associations , and CSOs network

**Commercialization**
- Support value addition for pastoralist products (hides and skins, milk, meat, artifacts etc)
- Support access to credit facilities especially for local women and youth to engage in IGAs
- Increase access to markets (rural roads, market infrastructures, markets information, linkages with traders, abattoirs, marketing groups, fattening grounds)
- Support the development of inclusive value chain/market information systems and coordination between market actors
- Support improvement of quality and safety of animal products and compliance with international standards

**Animal Health**
- Support animal health with a keen focus on TADs (trans-boundary animal diseases) through continuous surveillance, diagnosis, treatment and vaccination
- Support the creation of regional disease free zones as a quality assurance measure
- Support capacity building of animal health service providers and systems (CAHWs, Para-vet etc)
- Support trans-boundary coordination for animal health service delivery and surveillance
- Support rural animal health facilities (drug shops, extension services, linkages with suppliers, etc)
- Support livestock drugs quality control (regulatory frameworks, drugs storage, etc)

**Risk Management**
- Support community trainings and planning on disaster risk management
- Strengthen EWS
- Provide contingency funds
- Support capacity building of Risk Reduction Institutions
- Provide appropriate support to gender specific needs during conflict (girls/women, sanitary pads, separate toilets, etc)

**Youth**
Support to reformed warriors in pastoralist communities through alternative livelihood options (income generating activities)
- Promote attitude change behavior (sports, cultural events, artistic ventures etc)
- Support vocational and business skills development
- Support youth inclusion and involvement in pastoralist development activities
- Support youth organizations’ innovative activities and projects

- **Women**
  - Support Pastoralist women led institutions to champion for women specific issues within the pastoralist communities
  - Support pastoralist women to access resources (micro-finance and credit)
  - Strengthen the capacity building of pastoralist women to take leadership roles
  - Support pastoralist women organizations and activities (savings and loans, fodder production, homestead gardens… etc)

2) **Priority areas for policy dialogue, advocacy and other policy initiatives in support of pastoralist organizations and livestock herders.**

In order to ensure the survival and sustainability of pastoralism, we make the following recommendations to IFAD and member states within the Eastern and Southern African Regions;

IFAD shall consider supporting participatory and inclusive implementation of continental and regional policy frameworks on pastoralism i.e. African Union Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa; and support research initiatives on the contribution of pastoralism to Eastern and Southern Africa economies; for evidence based advocacy for pastoralist organisations and institutions, CSOs and policy makers to justify their call for more investments in the sector through the following key actors;

**Uganda:** Greater North Parliamentary Forum, Coalition of Pastoralist Civil Society Organizations (COPACSO), Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and parliamentary committees.

**Tanzania:** Parliamentary Committees, Parliamentary Working Groups, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations (PINGO’s) Forum s and Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF).

**Ethiopia:** Pastoralist Standing Committee of Parliament, Federal Affairs and Pastoralist Ministry, Ministry of livestock and Fisheries Development and Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia.

**South Sudan:** Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources at National and State levels, Pastoralist Organisations, Institutions, Civil Society Organizations Networks, Sudan Council of Churches, Council of Ministers at state and national levels.

**Kenya:** Ministry of Agriculture-department of livestock, Ministry of devolution, County Ministries of Pastoralism and livestock production, Pastoralist Parliamentary Group, Senate Committee, Council of Governors, Parliamentary Committees, Constitutional Implementation Committee, Pastoralist Civil Society Organizations Networks, Pastoralist Leaders Forum, ASF, National Drought Management Authority,

**Somalia:** Ministries of Pastoralism and Environment (Somaliland, Puntland, Somalia), Pastoralist Parliamentary Committees, Pastoralist Organisations, Institutions, Civil Society Organizations networks, City Councils, IGAD Sheikh Veterinary School

South Africa: Small scale farmers organizations, Non Governmental Organizations, other community based organizations and semi state organizations, state organizations (Agriculture, Rural Development... etc)

Regional and Continental Organisations: East Africa Community, Inter Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), African Union, Africa Development Bank (AfDB), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Further, we recommend that IFAD prioritize the following:

- Support participatory national and regional processes for formulation of livestock marketing initiatives to regulate and facilitate national, cross border and international marketing of livestock and livestock products.
- Support the formulation and domestication of pastoralist related policies that support trans-boundary livestock mobility, disease surveillance and control.
- Support exchange and learning programs between policy makers, government ministries, pastoralist organizations, institutions, CSOs and communities as a basis to inform policy making and regulatory frameworks to support, safeguard and promote pastoralists livelihoods and production systems. Facilitate participatory and gender inclusive rangeland management and climate change policies and frameworks making processes at regional, national, and community levels.
- Support programmes that enhance disaster risk assessment and risk reduction planning, resilience building and climate change adaptation among pastoralist communities
- Support pastoralist communal land tenure security and natural resource governance in line with IFAD’s policy framework on land tenure.
- Pay more to supporting participatory, inclusive and effective land use plans in order to protect communal land, secure livestock resources and stock routes.
- Facilitate policies tailor made in support of education and training for pastoralist areas with special focus on mobile communities.
- Support the involvement of pastoralists in policy formulation and implementation

3) Inclusion of pastoralist organizations and livestock herders at different stages of IFAD business model (country strategy development project design, projects implementation and supervision) and overall IFAD programme in the following ways;

- Global level:
  - IFAD to support the inclusion of pastoralist organizations in the Farmers Forum (FAFO) steering committee
  - IFAD to develop a policy for supporting pastoralism programming (as also recommended by the Evaluation Synthesis by IFAD and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Evaluation Offices)
  - IFAD to support the institutionalization of pastoralists by having a technical advisor at IFAD headquarters.
  - IFAD to oversee that the designed COSOPs are informed by evidence of social, economic, cultural and livelihood assessment to minimize negative impacts on pastoralist livelihoods and maximize support to pastoralist communities
  - IFAD shall consider the outcomes of the IFAD/VSF consultation process challenges, gaps and recommendations to inform future programming decisions and funding priorities.
Regional Level:
- IFAD to support institutionalization of Regional and Country Pastoralist Organizations networks, Secretariats to promote participation of pastoralists and accountability of its funded programmes and projects.
- IFAD to support the formulation and implementation of pastoralist related Regional and National policies e.g. the Africa Union Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa and national pastoralist policies and implementation strategies.

National Levels:
- IFAD to support feasibility studies to identify emerging opportunities for Country programming in pastoralist areas e.g. County governments/regions/provinces.
- IFAD shall ensure that pastoralist organizations are represented in the Country Programme Management Teams to enhance their participation in the formulation of Country Operational Strategy programmes and the process of designing, planning, implementation and supervision of country programmes and projects.
- IFAD to recognize the role of Pastoralist organizations in providing feedback on the impacts of country programmes and projects implemented in pastoralist areas during projects implementation phase and programme/projects evaluations.
- IFAD supported projects must be informed by Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) by pastoralist communities within proposed project areas to avoid projects that do not guarantee pastoralist safeguards – forced displacements, evictions, land use rights).
- IFAD shall increase its financial support to pastoralist organizations and institutional building of pastoralist women organizations.
- IFAD to strengthen cross border livestock mobility, services delivery programmes by supporting inter-country COSOPs and programme harmonization during designing and implementation e.g. livestock vaccinations, mapping of migratory and marketing routes, water and pasture, conflict resolution and peace building.

We, the pastoralist organisations of Eastern and Southern Africa meeting at Lukenya (Kenya) between the 22nd and 23rd of January 2016, are committed to pursue pastoralism as way of life and its contribution to environmental, social and economic wellbeing of our communities and respective states and to respond to current and emerging threats.
We further commit to support the efforts of IFAD by acting as it’s’ partners in realizing the objectives and intent of this statement.

The Organizations present:

Ethiopia
- Labata Fantalle Organization (LFO)
- Ogaden Welfare and Development Association (OWDA)
- Oromiya Pastoralist Association (OPA)
- Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PARD)

Kenya
- Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO)
- Marsabit Indigenous NGOs Network (MIO-NET)
- Pastoralist Development Network of Kenya (PDNK)
Pastoralist Women Health Education (PWHE)
Samburu Women Trust (SWT)

**Namibia**
Conservation Agriculture Namibia (CAN)
Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IDDNC)

**Somalia**
Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA) Somalia

**South Africa**
Kamiesberg Heritage Foundation (KHF)

**South Sudan**
Catholic Diocese of Torit
South Sudan Women Empowerment Development Initiative (SSWEDI)
Losolia Rehabilitation & Development Association (LRDA)

**Tanzania**
Association for Law and Advocacy for Pastoralists (ALAPA)
Kimokouwa Pastoralists Community (KPC)
Pastoralist Indigenous NGOs Forum (PINGOs)
Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF)

**Uganda**
Coalition of Pastoralist Civil Society Organizations (COPACSO)
Dodoth Agro-Pastoralist Development Organization (DADO)
Greater North Parliamentary Forum (GNPF)
Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA) Uganda