



This project is co-funded by the European Union



REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE PEACE FOR THE CROSS-BORDER COMMUNITIES OF MOYALE



17 – 18 APRIL 2019

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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BACKGROUND

The instability in the Horn of Africa (HOA) continues to threaten long-term regional peace, security and socio-economic development. A large part of the population in the conflict prone cross-border areas often faces displacement and consequent destitution. Recent conflicts, though taking place at local levels, have involved complex political and economic dynamics that extend from local to national, and even regional dimensions, encompassing the communities and their allies across the border lands.

Moyale is a flashpoint for perpetual ethnic clashes between various pastoralist communities who live in the border areas. These conflicts often spill over from one country to another. However, what makes the recent conflict between the Borana and Garre communities in Ethiopia extremely disturbing is the magnitude of the conflict and the use of heavy artillery/weapons by both sides, unlike what has been witnessed in the past. On 13 December 2018 in Moyale, Ethiopian side, about 20 people were killed and over 60 people injured because of the inter-communal clashes.

On 17th December 2018 a deadly shooting which took place inside Bekele Molla Hotel in Moyale, Ethiopia claimed the lives of at least a dozen civilians. According to some sources, the incident happened during talks between regional security forces, representatives of the two warring factions of the Borana and Garee and members of the federal army on handing over the city's security from regional forces to the federal army. Observers of conflicts and development workers in the region, classify the causes of conflicts between different ethnic groups along Kenya/Ethiopia border as disputes over political and administrative boundaries, competition over resources (traditional pasture land and water sources), ethnic or clan political rivalries that lead to communal revenge attacks, cattle raids and counter-raids, weakness of governance and rule of law structures.

Traditional mechanisms of conflict resolution that have been used in the region particularly by the pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are the most appropriate in dealing with the root causes of conflict and establishing sustainable peace. However, the current scenario is that, the traditional institutions of conflict management in the region have been eroded due to lack of support from the state, interference by the political elites, infiltration of small arms and lack of recognition of outstanding community leaders, human right activists and peace crusaders in the region and lack of institutional capacity of cross-border peace committees.

Experience has shown that peace agreements founded on traditional systems and mediated by traditional institutions across even regional borders with the support of the states, civil societies and international organizations have the most legitimacy and the highest chances of success. One such peace agreement is the cross-border peace initiative along Kenya-Ethiopia Border that followed the infamous Torbi Massacre in Marsabit County popularly known as Maikona Declaration and Madogashe Declaration in Northern Kenya.

Based on the complexity of issues in the cross-border area, it emerged that consultation among stakeholders is extremely essential for lasting peaceful coexistence. Ownership depends on consultation and participation in the formulation processes and planning of local, regional and national initiatives and activities. The region requires sustained awareness campaigns to understand the of root causes of conflict and design peaceful resolutions, as well as a sense of social responsibility and consciousness of individual actions and how they affect social interaction and cohesion.

To address the challenge of violent clashes in Moyale, a high-level Regional Conference on Sustainable Peace for the Cross-Border communities of Moyale was organized from 17th - 18th April 2019 at Skylight Hotel, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. More than 150 participants attended the Conference, including a State Minister, Ministry of Peace, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Vice President, Oromia Region, President of the Somali Regional Government of Ethiopia, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and ASAL, Kenya, Governors of Turkana, Mandera and Marsabit Counties, Administrators of Borana Dawa Zone, Ambassador of the EU in Ethiopia, UN Resident Representative to Ethiopia, Members of Parliament from Kenya, Religious and traditional leaders together with security officers from the area, the youth and women representatives, faith-based organization, civil society organizations, the local media, and representatives of the business community and other stakeholders.

Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The overall objective of the conference was to discuss the surge of violent conflict among various communities in Moyale and come up with solution for sustainable peace and security in the region. More specifically, the conference aimed to:

1. Create a common understanding on, and address the root causes of conflict in the region and prevent the relapse of similar deadly incidents;
2. Build trust and understanding among the communities of the cross-border area, thus shifting potential conflict situations to opportunities for critical conversations to enhance sustainable peace;
3. Lay out the role of different actors both at national and county/regional governments levels, and how they effectively carry out and coordinate their responsibilities and;
4. Recognize and appreciate the critical role religious and traditional leaders, women and youth would play in in conflict prevention, management and resolution.

The underlying programme thinking is that, mutual understanding, agreement and commitment to community harmony requires constructive dialogue and discussion that secure mutual understanding and respect, while working on issues of border demarcation, tackling governance deficits including the provision of public services and confidence building that are central to successful conflict resolution leading to sustainable peace. In this regard, the conference was expected to facilitate shared understanding of the recent surge of conflict in Moyale and enhance knowledge and competency of local authorities and the communities for conflict prevention and management. The Conference, based on latest evidence on conflict situations in the region and considering recent developments, recommended strategies on how security challenges can be addressed, and opportunities can be leveraged for better development outcomes to respond to local community needs.

An outcome document, based on shared lessons and experiences and summarizing key policy debates and recommendations on opportunities, mechanisms and partnerships for sustaining peace, in the follow up of the review of the peacebuilding architecture and related resolution will be developed. The document will detail the proceedings with the main messages, the proposals on how to operationalize key peacebuilding recommendations, including measures to strengthen the peacebuilding partnership of the Government of Ethiopia and Kenya, UN, EU and IGAD to support efforts towards sustained peace and development across the border between Kenya and Ethiopia.

EU Kenya-Ethiopia Cross-Border Programme

Supported by the UNCTs of Ethiopia and Kenya, a cross-border peace and development initiative was conceived by Ethiopia and Kenya Governments in December 2015 that can be used as platform for sensitizing communities and local governments in both sides of the border and bring peaceful coexistence. Within the broader, EU cross-border initiative in the HOA, this Cross-border cooperation project between Ethiopia and Kenya for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in Marsabit-Moyale cluster supports EU's Trust Fund objectives of improving peacebuilding, local governance and conflict prevention, and reducing forced displacement and irregular migration. The project also responds to the EU Trust Fund Strategic Orientation document that "emphasizes the need for a new approach to peripheral and cross-border areas, providing a more targeted response to tackle the main determinants of vulnerability (marginalization, exclusion, destitution) and targeting populations at risk (particularly youth)."

The project is also meant to foster peaceful co-existence, environmental protection and livelihood improvements, trade and development in the border regions, with the aim of addressing the root causes of the recurrent conflicts and socio-economic development gaps observed in the regions. The programme also aims at building cross-border sustainable peace and bolster socio-economic development that will transform the border regions and stabilize the current tension caused by resource-based conflict on Kenya-Ethiopia border-line.

Preventing violent conflict is about paying closer attention to the root causes and drivers of violent extremism. Studies show that conflict and poverty are inextricably intertwined; exacerbated by ethnic and religious tensions; high level of illiteracy; competition for scarce natural resources; land access; ownership; transnational criminal activities; inadequate policing and state security; the collapse of traditional governance systems; and wider geo-political interests.

Despite these challenges, there are opportunities for attaining sustainable peace and development in the region. The détente between Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia, the emerging rapprochement between Djibouti and Eritrea, and the revitalized peace agreement in South Sudan have increased confidence in regional solutions to regional problems. A new narrative of compromise, cooperation, and economic complementarity is emerging in the region. This new regional cooperation for peace and development in the HOA is an initiative that was launched by his Excellency Dr. Abiy Ahmed, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, that would address issues of escalating regional and local boundary disputes; resource-based conflicts, particularly in cross-border areas, and other historical injustices by involving community institutions and creating peace forum and sensitizing government institution dealing with peace and security in the region.

In addition to the programmes, there are also some changes in social economic, legal and political landscapes that are either on going or have happened in the region. In Kenya, for instance, the endorsement of the Constitution of Kenya in 2010 and the Kenya Vision 2030 present excellent frameworks for devolved governance and to engage citizens, the civil society, and the private and public sector in an integrated and holistic socio-economic transformation process. In response to this progressive constitution, by 2013 Kenya embraced 47 devolved Units that are called Counties headed by Governors.



SUMMARY



The high-level Regional Conference on Sustainable Peace for the Cross-Border communities of Moyale took place from 17th - 18th April 2019 at Skylight Hotel, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where more than 150 participants attended the event. The participants included high-Level officials from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Kenya, EU, UN, religious and traditional leaders, the youth and women representatives, faith-based organizations, civil society organizations, local media, and business community representatives and other stakeholders.

The objective of the conference was to discuss the surge of violent conflict among various communities in Moyale and come up with solution for sustainable peace and security in the region. The conference participants shared understanding of the surge of conflict in Moyale and the importance of enhanced knowledge and competency of local authorities and the communities for conflict prevention and management.

The cross-border peace and development project was launched by the Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya in December 2015 to be used as platform for sensitizing communities and local governments in both sides of the border and bring peaceful coexistence. The project is also meant to foster peaceful co-existence, environmental protection and livelihood improvements, trade and development in the border regions, with the aim of addressing the root causes of the recurrent conflicts and socio-economic development gaps in the regions.

Among the key issues that require urgent attention include putting the right strategies in place at the community level while sensitizing the community members to change their attitudes and enable them to be part of the solution. Recognizing that most conflicts are man-made, local leaders in cross-border agreed to end the conflicts to allow for initiation of programmes that go beyond the border areas.

To address violent conflict and attain sustainable peace in the region, participants were divided into four groups and deliberated on the following thematic areas:

1. Causes, Drivers, Enablers and Impacts of Violent Conflict in Ethiopia - Kenya Cross-border Region
2. Roles, Responsibilities and Coordination of National and Sub-national Government Mechanisms to Deter Conflict and Migration in Ethiopia - Kenya Cross-border Region
3. Consensus and Reconciliation through Empowering Religious and Traditional Leaders, Women and Youth in Ethiopia - Kenya Cross-border Region
4. Strategies for Conflict Prevention and Management for Sustainable Peace in Ethiopia - Kenya Cross-border Region

The groups had contextualized discussions and came up with strategies and action plans capturing shared understanding of the problems, issues and solutions. The issues that require attention to ensure sustainable peace in the region include, among others, the Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya to work together to develop the border area of Moyale to a peaceful and prosperous region by addressing issues of water, cross-border trade and other infrastructure facilities to reduce conflicts while addressing inequalities and imbalance of social services in the marginalized communities of the cross-border area. To address poverty, food insecurity, and problems water in Moyale Border region, it is important to embark on a joint investment framework in human capital development, livestock trade, health and education programmes.

Traditional leaders should also take a leading role in bringing sustainable peace in the cross-border communities since the communities who live in this area share the same leadership, culture, language, identity and values. The Traditional Leaders in the cross-border communities are the key drivers to translate the Ethiopian and Kenyan leaders cross-border peace initiatives into action. It is also important to build capacity of the peace committees at the local level while strengthening institutions of peace structures at all levels including regional/county and national levels.

There is a need to move out from the humanitarian approach to a more resilient and development approach. This is the best way to avoid conflicts in the cross-border regions. Radicalization is a critical challenge in the cross-border regions. Both Governments of Kenya and Ethiopia must be well equipped to deal with violent extremism, arms smuggling, human trafficking and other cross border challenges. In this regard, empowering the youth and women groups and creating a conducive environment for them to participate in all political and socioeconomic activities is crucial.



OPENING REMARKS



His Excellency Mr. Zeinu Jemal, State Minister, Ministry of Peace, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia expressed his gratitude to be amidst the gathering of officials who are passionately trying to bring sustainable peace among the cross-border communities of HOA, including Moyale. He said that the people in the border areas of Ethiopia and Kenya are one and the same people; and noted that the recent violence in Moyale that led to many people losing their lives, others wounded, properties destroyed and had caused emigration and displacement was disturbing not only to the communities of Moyale but even to the Government of Ethiopia. The minister said that the Ethiopian Government is working with all stakeholders to ensure peace returns to the area. The Minister acknowledged the support of development partners such as EU, UNDP and IGAD for the financial and technical support to bring peace along the cross - border area and expressed his confidence that the conference would facilitate dialogue to overcome the conflicts in the area once and for all.

His Excellency Mr. Girma Amante, Vice President of the Oromia Regional State, indicated that the people in the cross-border areas have the same language, culture and traditions. He stated that the Conference should understand the existing situation on the ground to facilitate peace and ensure development. He stressed that water scarcity in the area is escalating the conflicts combined with other factors including poverty and competition over other resources. He suggested that the Government of Ethiopia and Kenya should jointly design common projects to address the causes of conflict, such as water and rangeland.



His Excellency Mr Mustafa Omer, President of Somali Region, Ethiopia said that the recent conflicts have taken a political dimension disabling the traditional mechanisms of solving conflicts. He said that the Conference provides the leaders with a platform for honest and constructive discussions to end

the conflicts. Leaders were urged to commit themselves to the outcomes of the conference and end hate speeches in their communities.



The Governor of Marsabit County Kenya, H.E. Mohamud Mohamed Ali, mentioned that Ethiopia borders all 8-member states of the IGAD except Uganda. He said that cross border conflict can disrupt the HOA region. He stated that despite the unresolved ethnic and territorial disputes,

fragility and volatility of the region, there is need to focus on more shared identities of the region and working together for peace and eradication of poverty as the region has the potential for development and transform the region based on its huge resources.



Turkana County Governor, H.E. Josephat Nanok, acknowledged the chronic conflict in all cross-border areas of HOA despite the communities sharing the same & strong cultural identity & connection. He stressed that cultural connection is a tool to bring peace in the region. He urged the Conference participants to prioritize and address the water problem in the cross-border regions including strengthening the peace building structures from the community level. He also highlighted the importance of One Health Programme across the border region for both humans and animals, investment in human capital development and livestock trade and moving forward towards a joint regional action plan which is well funded to bring sustainable peace for economic development in the Cross-Border Region.



The **Governor of Mandera County and Chairperson of Frontier Counties Development Council, H.E. Ali Roba** shared his real life experience as a Traditional Leader. He pointed out that the pastoralist community has suffered from Government's deliberate marginalization policy for a long time and that pushed them to the Law of the jungle "Survival of the fittest", which in the end fueled conflicts in the cross-border areas. He further said food insecurity, fight for water and pastoral land are the major causes of conflict in the cross-border areas. He urged for urgent Government response to conflicts, responding to early warning signs of conflicts.

UN RC/HC for Ethiopia Mr. Aeneas

Chuma pointed out that the main objective of the Cross-Border Project is to reduce vulnerability of the communities surrounding the cross-border areas and urged the conference participants to focus on long term transformation initiatives in resolving the conflicts, strengthening the peace building structures in the border areas and concluded that the cross-border areas have huge potential for economic development in the region.



EU Ambassador to Ethiopia, H.E. Johan Borgstrom

assured the participants of EU's commitment to peace building in the HOA. He mentioned that the EU is convinced that building resilience of communities in the cross-border region is the best way to avoid conflicts. Provision of basic human needs in the cross-border areas would reduce some of the challenges. He stressed the important role of each in bringing peace in the region while partners in the EU-UN project should work together in addressing the key issues and come up with action plans.



Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and ASALs Kenya H.E. Ambassador Tuneya Hussein

appreciated the cross-border initiative which was signed in 2015 and its undertakings. Among the key aspects the project aims to achieve and sustain is bringing effective peace and enhancing capacity to manage conflicts.



PANEL DISCUSSIONS



Steps and Methodologies of Cross-Border Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution for Sustainable Peace

Key highlights of the presentation included the need to view boundaries not as a separation but points of collaboration in many areas as the border is porous, isolated and border lines are not clear. In addition, the communities inhabiting these areas are very poor. Therefore, there is need to identify what brings these communities together and to manage the politics of mistrust and numbers in a wholistic dialogue.

It was noted that conflicts are driven by lack of access to water for both human beings and livestock. It is important to consider livelihoods diversification and support initiatives such as training of youth on small scale business skills for Income generating and facilitating trade in the border area, strengthening policy and legal frameworks for cross-border conflicts prevention and peace building by introducing early warning system. Other initiatives should include support for local community's alternative dispute resolution initiatives, incorporation of ceasefires and Leaders Resolution for Peace in Marsabit County into the County Integrated Development Planning (C.I.D.P). Emphasis was made on the need to work with all stakeholders together and creating that opportunity for the communities, equity distribution of resources, integrating livelihood support system and building the capacity of both government and key stakeholders officials on various strategies for early warning, preventing, managing conflicts among other initiatives. Most importantly sharing intelligence across the border by involving the youth, women and different institutions is key for conflict prevention and management.

Role of Government, Non-Government, IGAD and the UN in Deterring Violent Conflict in Ethiopia-Kenya Cross-Border Region

The main stakeholders include elders of Ethiopia and Kenya, peace committees of Ethiopia and Kenya, development partners, local civil society organizations, local media, county government, the communities in border areas, Ethiopia and Kenya Government Administrators, women and youth groups and traditional community structures. Participants were

informed that there is need for capacity assessments of projects and capacity building for project stakeholders to take into consideration of:

- gender mainstreaming,
- training on early warning systems,
- public private partnerships for development and peace building,
- diversifying streams of livelihoods,
- training the youth and women in economic activities,
- establishment of markets for youth and women,
- support for shared sport center facilities,
- strengthening policy and legal frameworks for cross-border conflict prevention and peace building,
- supporting peaceful traditional methodologies in conflict resolutions,
- aligning their development plans to the Government priorities and the global protocols such as Agenda 2030 on sustainable development and AU Agenda 2063, and
- putting monitoring and evaluation structures for peace building and conflict management at the ground community level.

Among the key issues that require urgent attention include putting the right strategies at the community level while sensitizing the community to change the attitude while giving communities a chance to be part of the solution and trying to understand the situation from the perspectives of the community. Recognizing that most conflicts are man-made, local leaders in cross-border agreed to end the conflicts to allow for initiation programmes that go beyond the border areas.

Other aspects that are required are Government involvement and contribution in cross-border peace building as a critical catalyst to peace building and management while respecting community agreements and in providing equitable social services in the marginalized communities. At the same time, politicians must come strong in sentencing and educating communities not to indulge in violence.

Role of Traditional and Religious Leaders, Women and Youth in Deterring Violent Conflict

Based on the panelists and interventions from participants, the following was identified as key to building and sustaining peace in the region;

- Ensuring effective governance which is critical for peace building
- Engaging and investing in community structures in peace building
- People in the border areas have coexisted for a long time and therefore can use culture as a uniting factor
- Incorporating the religious leaders in peace building and conflict resolution and instituting permanent peace building and conflict management functioning mechanisms
- Engaging youth and women as a tool to make peace and sustain it and make them part of the process as they have huge potential
- Giving emphasis to the role of religious leaders can play in sustaining peace
- Incorporating non-state actors in building culture of peace and having continues dialogues among communities as peace building is a process that needs everyday attention and investment
- Focusing on local media which has become platforms for dialogue and strengthening early warning system by strengthening the different associations (women, youth and peace committee) for quick interventions that are crucial.
- Politicians to be prevailed upon to stop inciting and fueling conflicts in the cross-border areas.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS

To address surging of violent conflict and attain sustainable peace in the region, participants were put into 4 groups. Participants were asked to choose any of the four groups depending on area of expertise and interest. The four themes for the group discussions were;

1. Causes, Drivers, Enablers and Impacts of Violent Conflict in Ethiopia - Kenya Cross-border Region
2. Roles, Responsibilities and Coordination of National and Sub-national Government Mechanisms to Deter Conflict and Migration in Ethiopia - Kenya Cross-border Region
3. Consensus and Reconciliation Through Empowering Religious and Traditional Leaders, Women and Youth in Ethiopia - Kenya Cross-border Region
4. Strategies for Conflict Prevention and Management for Sustainable Peace in Ethiopia - Kenya Cross-border Region
5. The groups had contextualized discussions rather than general view points. Each group came up with strategies and actions which were presented in plenary capturing shared understanding of the problems, issues and solutions.

Theme 1: Causes, Drivers, Enablers & Impacts of Violent Conflict in Ethiopia-Kenya Cross-border Region

This group comprised of participants drawn from elders, government officials, civic societies and the UN. The group identified four drivers of conflict which are categorized as economic, social, legal and political drivers.

The economic drivers identified by the group are poverty, unemployment, shortage of resources like water and pastoral land, prevalence of smugglers and illegal traders (arms), lack of access to markets and provision of social services like health centers and school.

The social drivers of conflict identified by the group are harmful traditional practices that glorify violent acts and killings through songs and ceremonies, low level of literacy, lack of civic education on peace building, intolerance and exclusiveness, and increasingly diminishing common understandings around common values and mutual benefits.

Legal drivers of conflict identified are weak rule of law and accountability, lack of sustainable systems, strategies and structures, government perception on insuring rule of law, weakened traditional legal institutions, lack of complementarity of traditional institutions and government systems and weak control over on wide practice of cattle raiding.

The political drivers of conflict identified are from the Ethiopian government side perception of federal arrangement in Oromia and Somali region and lack of participation in the demarcation of regional borders, lack of sustainable governance, lack of predictability in change, marginalization of the border areas from the center (continuous armed struggle), lack of good governance and capacity gap, politicizing conflicts by aligning them to ethnic issues, promoting 'hate' and violence, presence of illegal armed groups and insurgency (terrorism is not currently an issue of concern but if not given due attention to arise in the near future).

The group first identified the main actors from both Kenya and Ethiopia governments. The main actors from Kenya government include, at the national level Ministry of Interior (National steering committee on peace building and conflict management), Ministry of Devolution and ASAL, National Red Cross and at the sub national levels which include all 47 counties; the local Peace committee, the Sub county peace committee, Divisional Peace committee, Location Peace committee, Sub Location Peace committee and the National Red Cross. All actors from both the national and subnational levels play a role in conflict prevention through coordination, resource mobilisation for conflict prevention and peace building, promoting peace through communities-based initiatives, facilitating dialogue with other stakeholders, early warning and transferring of information from the county to the central Government.

From the non-government actors, this include local peace committees, deputy county commissioner, subcounty administrator, governor, youth and woman groups and the religious leaders who play a role on deterring migration in Kenya.

For the Ethiopia side, the main actors identified include Ministry of Peace, Ministry Foreign Affairs, the Security Council, Police, Defence Force, Religious leaders and Elders and at the sub-national level include all 9 regional states and the 2 city

councils: Regional Security council, Elders, Religious leaders, Federal police, Civil societies, Sub zonal security council, NGOs and Youth and Woman groups. All the listed actors play the role of coordination, promotion of peace through community-based initiatives, facilitate dialogue with other stakeholders, early warning, and transfer information from the regional to the central Government through weekly meetings, Conflict resolutions, dialogues and mitigation.

The group identified the challenges these actors face from playing their roles which include insufficient funds for the local peace committee, conflict early warning is not systematic, harmonisation of Peace structure, lack of capacity, lack of water, insufficient resources for community development, illegal trade, no follow up on previous resolutions, marginalisation of stakeholders (inclusiveness) and politicisation.

The group recommended the following as joint suggestions for both countries:

- To ensure ownership, both Kenya and Ethiopia Government should contribute to the funding for peace building at 10% of the programme cost as agreed during the inception of the programme.
- Mapping of all Government's cross border interventions and identify gaps.
- Institutionalize peace structures at all levels.
- Harmonize peace building structures at national and subnational levels.
- Promote inclusivity of all stakeholders in peace building, management and development.
- Address underlying causes of conflict in line with provision of livelihood.
- Strengthen existing Platforms such as CPMR or others and include all cross-border actors (UNDP and other partners for example)
- Effective follow up and implementation of previous resolution's and recommendation in particular Hawassa high level meeting held in December 2018. Namely;
 1. Strengthening Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution (CPMR) structures
 2. Strengthening traditional peace building mechanisms/institutions
 3. Improving information sharing
 4. Investment in infrastructure development and peace dividends
 5. Improving border management and facilitating cross border movement
 6. Addressing SALWs and cross-border crimes
 7. Providing livelihood and humanitarian/development support to communities at border areas



Theme 2: Roles, Responsibilities and Coordination of National and Sub-national Government mechanisms to Deter Conflict and Migration in Ethiopia – Kenya Cross-border Region

The main actors from Kenya government include Ministry of Interior (National steering committee on peace building and conflict management), Ministry of Devolution and National Red Cross. At the sub national levels which include all 47 counties; the local Peace committee, the Sub county peace committee, Divisional Peace committee, Location Peace committee, Sub Location Peace committee and the National Red Cross. Their roles in conflict prevention include coordination, resource mobilisation for conflict prevention and peace building, promoting peace through communities-based initiatives, facilitating dialogue with other stake holders, early warning and transferring of information from the county to the central Government.

Non-government actors include local peace committee, deputy county commissioner, sub county administrator, governor, youth and woman groups and the religious leaders. They play a role on deterring migration in Kenya.

For the Ethiopia side the main actors identified include Ministry of Peace, Ministry foreign affairs, the Security Council, Police, Defence force, Religious leaders and Elders and at the sub-national level which include all 9 regional states and the 2 city councils: Regional Security council, Elders, Religious leaders, Federal police, Civil societies, Sub zonal security council, NGOs and Youth and Woman groups. All the listed actors play the role of coordination, promotion of peace through communities-based initiatives, facilitate dialogue with other stake holders, early warning, and transfer information from the regional to the central Government through weekly meetings, Conflict resolutions, dialogues and Migration.

The identified challenges these actors face while playing their roles which include insufficient funds for the local peace committee, conflict early warning is not systematic, harmonisation of Peace structure, lack of capacity, lack of water, insufficient resources for community development, illegal trade, no follow up on previous resolutions, marginalisation of stakeholders (inclusiveness) and politicisation. The group summarized their presentation by forwarding some joint suggestions for both countries.

- To ensure ownership, the two Government's should contribute on the funding for peace building 10%
- Mapping of all Government's cross border interventions and identify gaps.
- Institutionalize peace structures.
- Harmonize of peace building structures national and subnational.
- Inclusivity of all stakeholders in peace building and development.
- Address underlying causes of conflict in line with provision of livelihood.
- To ensure effective field approach
- Strengthen existing Platforms such as CPMR or others and include all cross-border actors (UNDP and other partners for example)
- Effective follow up and implementation of previous resolution's and recommendation in particular Hawassa high level meeting held in December 2018.

Theme 3: Consensus and Reconciliation Through Empowering Religious and Traditional Leaders, Women and Youth in Ethiopia-Kenya Cross-border Region

The group started with general observations that the theme was too loaded. The group observed that the roles these institutions play is very crucial, but governments calls upon them after the problem has occurred particularly the religious leaders and elders. The group came up with the following recommendations:

- Facilitating offices and other capacities for culture and religion.
- Engage and listen to the youth and empower women.
- Establish and strengthen inter-faith and women and youth groups.
- Religious roles, structure to be mainstreamed and budgeted for in the government structures for peace building and to provide support for religious leaders.
- Establish cross-border interfaith groups, youth and women in addition to cross border peace committees which already exists.
- Establish a coordination mechanism between UN system and county/zones administrator governments and local actors.
- Initiate psycho-social support and reintegration programmes.
- Activate community advocacy for peace and reconciliation and PVE.
- End harmful traditional practices such cattle rustling, highway robbery, traditional leaders war heroes mobilizing attack.
- End the culture of praising warlords as heroes instead of being condemned.
- Reinvigorate and strengthen traditional conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Governments must boldly resolve the boundary issues.
- Governments must put in place robust early warning system and rapid response mechanisms.
- Use cultures, rituals, festivals in communities as peace building activities by exploring deeper to know how to use the best practices to keep and use for peace building.
- Various festivals in various communities which are held as annual events – should be used as opportunities for peace and cohesion.
- All peace structure across the border should be established jointly.
- Recognize and award peace champions at all levels.
- Resources must be budgeted and made available for mediation and reconciliation.

Theme 4: Strategies for Conflict Prevention, and Management for Sustainable Peace in Ethiopia - Kenya Cross-border Region

The group came up with about 33 strategies to combat the problem and branded the priority level as ongoing, immediate and long term. The immediate strategies provided by the group are as follows:

- Formation of joint border committees combining of the religious elders, community leaders, youth and women associations and business communities and empowering them (including building their capacities).
 - Establishment of conflict early warning systems.
 - Revamping and establishing community dialogues as a priority to peace building.
 - Capacity building for peace stakeholders (committee, youth, women, vulnerable groups, traditional and religious elders and leaders).
 - Disarmament process of warring parties in communities.
 - Legislation on issues of incitements and hate speeches on social and mass media.
 - Launch a comprehensive local conflict mapping and assessment.
 - Set up accountability mechanisms for conflict perpetrators.
 - Empowering peace committees, traditional institutions, women and the youth associations.
 - Set up flexible border management mechanisms.
 - Empower women, youth, religious and traditional institutions to compliment peace building processes.
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- Establish youth recreation cultural exchange centres.
- Reactivate and implement trade and peace agreements and other agreements and MOUs between Kenya and Ethiopia to address issues related to illegal trade.
- Capacity building of both border police with instruments/equipment for surveillance of people and contrabands (small arms) and commodities.
- Introduction of annual cross border cultural events/festivals.
- Empower/incorporate business communities in peace building and management processes.
- Establish joint emergency response centres and joint natural resource sharing protocols.
- Set up strong coordination and cooperation and partnership between development actors.
- Raise awareness on cross-border procedures and policies to both communities.
- Ensure regular stakeholders' engagements in peace building processes and activities.
- Setup of cross-border community radios for awareness creation and information sharing.
- Establish cross-border efficient and effective peace building monitoring and reporting systems.

The strategies categorized as ongoing are as follows;

- Conflict mapping and regular assessments.
- Respect for diverse cultures.
- Common livelihood and shared cultures should be used as an opportunity for peace building.
- Initiate livelihood support programmes.
- Fair decision making by governments in the spirit of equality.
- Government to take lead role towards firm and fair decision in consultation with communities for protection of lives and properties.
- Engage pastoral communities in income generating activities.
- Share intelligence information between security apparatus.

The long-term strategies are:

- Demarcation of administrative boundaries by both local and federal governments and
- Invest in establishing shared facilities like health centres, schools and water facilities on common border.



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- Ethiopian Government is seriously working with all stakeholders in Moyale to bring peace in the area.
 - Government and all stakeholders are encouraging people to return to their homes and restore their livelihood. Government and other stakeholders are committed to support the communities to return to their homes.
 - Government admitted the challenge encountered in striving to bring peace in Moyale but pointed out that all stakeholders must take advantage of the Peace Conference by putting down all their differences and bring together lasting peaceful solutions in the border Region of Moyale.
 - The Government of Ethiopia and Kenya should work together to develop the border area of Moyale by designing common projects to address the conflicts such as water and rangeland. Development in the Moyale Cross Border Area could reduce conflicts. Addressing inequalities and imbalance of social services in the marginalized community strengthens peace sustainability.
 - Addressing poverty, food security, clean good water in Moyale Border region
 - Exploring other opportunities by extracting water from the ground to communities surrounding border areas of Moyale as one way of reducing competition for water.
 - Politicians who are not knowledgeable of the community dynamics on cross border contributing to conflicts in Moyale Cross border Area.
 - Addressing the root causes of conflicts and altitude change to the usual altitude in solving conflict could bring lasting peaceful solutions.
 - Integration of the communities in the cross-border regions to work together in various sectors of life is important in ending conflicts in border regions Moyale and the rest of cross-border areas of HOA.
 - Technical Leaders to have the same commitment as the Head of States for both Ethiopia and Kenya to bring peace and development in the border region of Moyale.
 - Traditional leaders should take a leading role in bringing sustainable peace in the cross-border communities as they share the same leadership, culture, language, identity and values. The Traditional Leaders in the cross-border communities are the key drivers to translate the Ethiopian and Kenyan leaders cross-border peace commitments into action.
 - Building capacity of peace committee at the local level is important.
 - Strengthening and building capacities of the peace building structures at all levels including the cross-border communities.
 - Joint investment framework in human capital development, livestock trade, health and education programmes between cross-border areas of Ethiopia and Kenya for economic development and sustainable peace.
 - Inclusivity of all the prayers in the conflict border areas is critical in finding the last peaceful solutions to the problems.
 - Urgent need to respond to early signs of conflict and urgent Government response to conflicts areas is important in resolving the conflicts.
 - Border areas have the potential for economic development and need to focus on the long-term transformational initiatives in resolving conflicts and Peace Building.
 - There is a need to move out from the humanitarian approach to interventions in the cross-border areas to a more resilient approach. This is the best way to avoid conflicts in the cross-border regions.
 - EU has a long-term commitment in peace building in the HOA Region and the rest of the world.
 - Peace and Development in the cross-border areas and the rest HOA region is vital for Peace and Sustainability, Economic development and Social Development.
 - Radicalization is a critical challenge in the cross-border regions. Both Government of Kenya and Ethiopia must be well equipped to deal with arms smuggling, human trafficking and deal with the extremist. Therefore, empowering the youth and women socially and economically and integrating them into economic activities IGAs ensures sustainable peace and reduces conflicts.
 - IGAD is an important player in bringing peace in the volatile cross-border areas.
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CLOSING REMARKS

The conference was closed by the State Minister, Ministry of Peace, Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands in Kenya. The remarks emphasized on the importance of ensuring peace and coexistence in the border regions of Kenya and Ethiopia. The 2 countries have the capacity of building peace and bring economic development in the HOA Region.

Participants were acknowledged for the candid discussions and proposed solutions to ensure lasting peace in the border regions to facilitate development. Both Government of Ethiopia and Kenya acknowledged and thanked development partners and other stakeholders for their efforts to bring sustainable peace in the border areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Specifically, IGAD, UNDP, EU and RSCA were mentioned for the peace initiatives being undertaken. Special mention was made to the European Union for providing most of the resources and technical support for building peace in cross-border areas.

