



**RBC**

Resource Based Conflicts Management Network

## **THE ENTEBBE DECLARATION ON LAND USE, LAND RIGHTS & LAND-RELATED CONFLICT PREVENTION**

We the participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> regional Resource Based Conflict (RBC) Conference, held in Entebbe, Uganda, from June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008, and organized by PENHA and the RBC Secretariat, members of civil society organizations coming from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, South Central Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland attending the conference as representatives of national resource based conflict networks:

Cognizant of the fact that our region has been beset by a host of human-made and natural disasters including conflicts, causing great hardship to our people and impeding socio-economic progress, peace and stability in our respective countries;

Aware of the high levels of poverty in our region and the urgent need to improve the well being of our people;

Mindful of the fact that the countries in our region need to cooperate in order to make the best use of the vital resources such as land, livestock, water and others;

Fully aware of the threat posed by climate change to the sustainability of livelihoods and of our commonly shared resources;

Aware of the need to recognize the land rights of women and minority groups;

Recognizing the important role that civil society has to play in promoting peace, sustainable development and good governance;

**We call upon the responsible regional institutions and our respective governments to:**

- ☐ Promote peace and stability in our countries through the instruments of integrated natural resource development strategies to ensure equitable access of all groups to life-sustaining resources
- ☐ Address land issues in a sustainable, transparent, and accountable manner in order to ensure the equitable utilization of land, to the benefit of all our people
- ☐ Respect the diversity of livelihoods among our communities

- Recognize pastoralism and agro-pastoralism as viable livelihoods and land use systems and facilitate peaceful and regulated pastoral mobility
- Harmonize laws and regulations in order to promote market access for pastoral and agricultural products and work towards the establishment of integrated marketing infrastructure that supports regional trade
- Develop and or review existing land policies and ensure wider participation of the communities concerned in the formulation of policies and regulations
- Work with civil society to build the capacity of communities and their representatives to participate in the formulation of policies and regulations
- Raise public awareness about regional bodies and initiatives and work with the media to promote a sense of a regional identity
- Ensure, in regulating land use changes that promote economic growth, that the needs of all stakeholders, governments, the private sector and investors as well as the communities are met
- Develop and where possible, harmonize cross border frameworks for conflict prevention and the promotion of cross-border trade
- Recognize the positive role of civil society in promoting peace, good governance and development

**We the undersigned** commit to the spirit and contents of the above declaration.

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