



DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2023



JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT THE END OF THE DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE, 2023 HELD FROM 15TH TO 19TH AUGUST 2023 AT ELDORET SPORTS CLUB, UASIN GISHU COUNTY

Preamble

The Devolution Conference 2023 was held from 15th to 19th August 2023 at Eldoret Sports Club, Uasin Gishu County. The Conference was convened jointly by the Office of the Deputy President represented by State Department of Devolution, Council of Governors (COG), the Senate, Host County (Uasin Gishu) and County Assemblies Forum (CAF). This marked the beginning of the Biennial Devolution Conferences.

The Devolution Conference 2023 made the following resolutions in line with the theme “**10 Years of Devolution: The Present and The Future**” and the Sub-Theme “**Driving Transformation from the Local Level: County Governments as the Centre of Economic Development.**”

1. Both levels of Government, Development Partners and the Private Sector shall in all sectors synergize their efforts and adopt a coordinated approach to partnerships and implementation of projects and programs to avoid multiplicity of efforts.

Action: National Government, County Governments, Development Partners; Private Sector

2. County Governments shall support adoption and scaling up of creative solutions by providing a conducive environment and incubation centers through budgetary allocation and technical support

Action: County Governments, Development Partners, Private Sector

3. Both levels of government shall review the legislative framework to enhance the autonomy of County Assemblies to strengthen their oversight role.

Action: Senate, National Assembly, Council of Governors, State Department for Devolution, County Assembly Forum.

4. The National government shall create a policy framework for anchoring digitization to support operationalization of programs in all sectors including health, agriculture, trade and blue economy.

Action: Ministry of ICT, Council of Governors, County governments, Private Sector.

5. Both levels of government shall ensure proper coordination between the ICT departments to ensure full automation of supportive departments such as security, energy, water and transport among others.
Action: Ministry of ICT, Council of Governors, County governments, Private Sector.
6. County Governments shall enhance their own source revenue through supportive policies and automation of systems in order to enhance transparency in revenue collection.
Action: National Treasury, Kenya Revenue Authority, Council of Governors (COG), Senate
7. Both levels of Government shall enhance and sustain performance management as a tool for strengthening effective service delivery.
Action: Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Council of Governors, County governments
8. Both levels of government shall explore entrenching division of revenue between the National and County Governments on the projected budget for the year, as opposed to using the last audited accounts.
Action: Council of Governors, County governments, Senate, National Assembly and CRA.
9. Parliament shall fast-track the enactment of various laws before both houses. that support the devolved functions in all sectors.
Action: Senate, National Assembly, County Assemblies
10. All devolved functions currently being carried out by National Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments shall be transferred to the County Governments within 60 days together with the attendant resources.
Action: Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee, Council of Governors, All Ministries, Departments and Agencies
11. Both levels of Government shall promote transparency and accountability through multi-pronged, innovative approaches within the existing policy frameworks.
Action: Commission on Administration of Justice (CAJ), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), County Governments, Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, County Governments, Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Controller of Budget (OCB)
12. Both levels of Government shall promote economic empowerment of the marginalized groups by adhering to the statutory reporting guidelines on the

opportunities created for the marginalized groups through Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO).

Action: All Ministries, Departments, Agencies, County Governments, Council of Governors, National Treasury, Public Procurement Regulatory Authority

13. Both levels of Government shall design programs to facilitate the prevention and elimination of Gender Based Violence and promote the reintegration of teenage mothers into the formal school system.

Action: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and The Art, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, Ministry of Health, County Governments, Development Partners

On Housing, Planning and Urban Development;

14. Both levels of Government shall fast-track regularization, automation, documentation and registration of land while also bridging the gender gap in land ownership.

Action: Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners, Ministry of ICT.

15. Both levels of government shall review or develop frameworks to facilitate provision of green housing including the Housing Policy, National Land Policy, Energy Planning Standards and County Specific policies on land and housing.

Action: Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Senate, National Assembly,

16. A framework shall be developed to establish and operationalize the National Urban Development Fund as provided for in the National Urban Development Policy.

Action: Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, National Treasury, Senate, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners

On Investment;

17. A database of all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) shall be developed to promote linkages between the investors and the MSMEs.

Action: Micro and Small Enterprises Organizations, Council of Governors, Private Sector, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs

18. Both levels of Government shall engage and harmonize investment initiatives in line with their development plans.

Action: Micro and Small Enterprises Organization, Council of Governors, Private Sector, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs

On the blue economy sector;

19. Both levels of government shall align County Blue Economy Policies to the National Blue Economy Policy that was adopted from the Blue Economy Concept of the Africa Union.

Action: Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, County Governments, Council of Governors

20. Both levels of government shall increase investment in research and development to improve efficiencies in the Blue Economy Sector.

Action: Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, County Governments, Council of Governors, Development Partners, Private Sector

On Health Service Delivery

21. County governments shall increase investment in primary health care, including community health services in order to step up preventive and promotive health services.

Action: Council of Governors, County governments and National Government

22. County governments shall strengthen collaboration between public and non-state actors in health for resource optimization and improved service delivery.

Action: Council of Governors, County governments, Development Partners, Faith Based Organizations within the health sector and private sector actors.

23. Efforts to eliminate disease-based and align health programmes in order to reduce duplication, build efficiencies and strengthen one integrated health system shall be heightened.

Action: Council of Governors, County governments, National government and Private Sector, Development Partners

On Strengthening food systems;

24. Agriculture shall be prioritized by investing 10% of budgets at both levels into the food systems.

Action: Ministry of Agriculture and livestock development, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

25. County Governments shall develop innovative products to ensure farmers get access to credit facilities and to attract the youth to engage in farming.

Action: County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

26. The National Treasury shall rationalize the taxes on agricultural goods to make them more competitive in the Market.

Action: National Treasury, Ministry of Agriculture and livestock development, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners, Council of Governors

On Green Economy transition in Counties;

27. A paradigm shift in the production system shall be explored and resources secured by mapping the resources and developing a national resource register, undertaking economic evaluation, putting in management systems, and creating incentives to better conserve the environment.

Action: Ministry of Water, National Treasury, County Governments, Development Partners, Private Sector

28. Both levels of Government shall engage with the indigenous communities for inter-generational knowledge transfer through climate change storytelling.

Action: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners, Council of Governors

29. Both levels of Government shall invest in alternative sources and promote farm forestry and incentives to grow trees at community levels.

Action: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners, Council of Governors

On Empowering Youth for Inclusive Economic Growth;

30. Both levels of government shall enable a conducive environment for youth to carry out business by ensuring reasonable fees and levies for permits especially for content creators wishing to access and use public spaces.

Action: Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

31. Both levels of Government shall address mental health issues rampant among the youth arising from issues that affect them, such as drugs, suicide, abuse, unemployment, and domestic violence by developing and implementing already existing frameworks.

Action: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners

Recommendations of the Children's Conference 2023

32. The Communique that arose from the Children's conference as read by the children's Governor and Deputy Governor is adopted as is and the resolutions will be implemented by the stakeholders identified (annexed herein).

Further details of the resolutions captured herein will form part of the final conference report.

Implementation of the above resolutions shall be monitored and reported by stakeholders every 6 months over the next 2 years, and the progress reported during the next Devolution Conference.

Action: Deputy President, Chair Council of Governors.

Finally,

The next Biennial Devolution conference shall be held in 2025 at a venue and date that will be communicated after Consultation.

Signed by:

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H.E Rigathi Gachagua, EGH
Deputy President, Republic of Kenya

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H.E FCPA Ahmed Abdullahi
Co-Chair of the First Biennial Devolution Conference and Vice Chair of the Council of Governors

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Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH
Co-Chair of the First Biennial Devolution Conference Speaker of the Senate

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Hon. Philemon Sabulei
Chairperson, County Assemblies Forum