

Joint Communique on the occasion of the official visit of His Excellency Isaias Afwerki , President of the State of Eritrea, to the Republic of Kenya





JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY ISAIAS AFWERKI, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ERITREA, TO THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

1. At the invitation of **His Excellency William Samoei Ruto**, President of the Republic of Kenya, **His Excellency Isaias Afwerki**, President of the State of Eritrea, made an Official Visit to Kenya from **8th - 9th February, 2023**. **President Afwerki** led a high-level delegation from Eritrea, which included the Minister of Foreign Affairs and senior government officials.
2. President **Ruto** was accompanied by Prime Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretaries in charge of: Foreign Affairs; Defence, Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, his National Security Advisor, the Attorney General as well as other senior government officials.
3. President Ruto and President Afwerki held high-level talks in Nairobi on **9th February, 2023**. The discussions, held in a friendly atmosphere, recalled the deep historical bonds of friendship that had been forged between the two countries over many years. The discussions focused on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest and concern.
4. At the bilateral level, the two Principals agreed to deepen relations across the political, economic, social and cultural areas. In this regard, they instructed the development of comprehensive plans of cooperation in various sectors including agriculture, trade and investment; air transport; mining, education, renewable energy, water management, tourism, the blue economy and regional integration.
5. To facilitate growth in trade and connectivity between the two countries, the two leaders **agreed to abolish the requirement of Visas permanently, effective today and** instructed their respective ministries of interior to work on the modalities for the ratification of this directive.



6. President Ruto announced the standing of **a diplomatic mission representation in Asmara and** instructed the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs to commence the process of operationalizing this commitment.
7. The respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs signed a Framework Agreement for Cooperation, which will form the basis for elaborating joint action across the various sectors. They also committed to the convening of a Joint Commission of Cooperation, in the near future, to elaborate on the various areas of action.
8. In the spirit to further enhance regional integration, they discussed strategic cooperation between the two countries. **In this regard President Ruto thanked President Afwerki for his declaration to rejoin our regional organization, IGAD.** They agreed to work closely with the rest of the member states to re-engineer IGAD, make it fit for purpose and enable it respond effectively to the needs of our region.
9. The two Leaders underscored the need to maintain peace, security and stability in the Horn of Africa. They affirmed their strong commitment to uphold the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States as well as non-interference in domestic political processes of African Countries by external forces.
10. The two principals also re-affirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation at the multilateral level. Consequently, President Ruto thanked his counterpart for his gracious support of Kenya, including during its campaign for the United Nations Security Council seat. They underscored the imperative for stronger cooperation to drive the African agenda at the global level, at a time when dynamics beyond the continent continue to impact negatively on the lives of the African people.



11. At the conclusion of the official visit, President Afwerki expressed profound gratitude and appreciation to President Ruto, the Government, and the people of the Republic of Kenya for the warm reception and generous hospitality extended to him and to his delegation.

Issued at Nairobi in the Republic of Kenya on this **9th Day** of **February, 2023.**

Dr. Alfred N. Mutua, E.G.H.

**CABINET SECRETARY FOR
FOREIGN AND DIASPORA
AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF KENYA.**

H.E. Osman Saleh Mohammed

**MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE STATE OF ERITREA.**

