

## **Memorandum of the Establishment of the Eastern Africa Nationality Network**

We, the undersigned,

*Recognizing* the right to nationality as an essential foundation for safeguarding human rights and promoting sustainable development,

*Affirming* the importance of cross-border collaboration and the opportunity to strengthen and build on collaboration that has existed among civil society in the Eastern Africa region,

*Recognizing* the role of civil society in ensuring the end of statelessness in the Eastern African region and around the world,

*Welcoming* international, regional, and national laws, state commitments, and progress on preventing statelessness and facilitating access to nationality rights in the region to date, and

*Urging* states towards greater collaboration with civil society, stateless persons, regional and international organizations, and other stakeholders for the eradication of statelessness

Agree to:

Establish the **Eastern Africa Nationality Network** (hereinafter the “Network”) in order to pursue the following objectives:

1. Reinforce solidarity among CSO partners and actors on ending statelessness in the Eastern Africa region,
2. Foster a common voice for joint regional and state-level advocacy on ending statelessness,
3. Increase visibility, awareness, and resources to promote nationality rights and end statelessness in Eastern Africa, and
4. Build capacity of civil society organizations, stateless-led organizations, and other stakeholders in the region on prevention of statelessness through peer learning and exchange

And to operationalize the Network through the following agreements:

1. Membership in the Network shall be open to civil society (non-state) organizations and individuals in East and Horn of Africa, inclusive of the Great Lakes region
2. The Network shall be guided by an Executive Committee. The initial Executive Committee shall have a 2-year term and consist of 7 members - one member each from Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, South Sudan, and Rwanda with two members from Kenya.
3. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once in every 3 months and will organize a minimum of one general membership meeting per year.

4. An interim Secretariat host will lead the Committee over the initial 6 months to establish effective systems of coordination and communication and work towards a Network roadmap with specific goals and plans in line with Network objectives.
5. All Network members commit to active engagement in Network meetings and activities and to make efforts to reach and involve new potential Network members.
6. The Network shall respect principles of solidarity, mutual cooperation, and partnership.

These operational agreements shall be revisited after a period of 12 months from the establishment of the Network and on a periodic basis. Adjustments will be made as necessary through agreement of the Network membership.

The Network shall be deemed operational upon execution of this Memorandum by all the founding Network members listed below.

**Signed in solidarity by the following Non-Governmental Organizations:**



**11 May 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya**