



# DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025



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## COMMUNIQUE FOR THE 9<sup>TH</sup> DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE HELD FROM 12<sup>TH</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025, AT HOMA BAY HIGH SCHOOL, HOMA BAY COUNTY

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### Preamble

The Devolution Conference, 2025 was held from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at Homa Bay High School, Homa Bay County. This was the 9<sup>th</sup> Devolution Conference since the advent of County governments and also marked as the Second Biennial Conference.

The **Theme** of the Conference was **“For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice**. The **Sub-theme** was **“Re-engineering County Governments to Accelerate Developments and Close the Socio-Economic Divide”**. The Conference provided a platform to reflect on the role of devolution in advancing equity, inclusion, and social justice, while generating practical proposals for adoption by both State and non-State actors towards bridging the socio-economic divide.

The Conference was convened by the Council of Governors (CoG) and was planned by a steering committee the included the Office of the Deputy President represented by State Department of Devolution, the Senate, Host County (Homa Bay), County Assemblies Forum (CAF), the National Youth Council and Act Change Transform (ACT).

The Devolution Conference 2025 made the following resolutions:

### On Good Governance

1. THAT both the National and County Governments shall work collaboratively in strengthening accountability and transparency; and enhance their credibility and preserve public trust and confidence.

**Actors:** *Office of the Auditor General, Office of The Controller of Budget, National Treasury, County Governments, Development Partners, Citizens*

2. THAT both National and County Governments shall accelerate adoption of systems that uphold and demonstrate: the national values and principles of governance as provided in Article 10 of the constitution; the objects of devolution in Article 174 and principles of devolved governance in Article 175 of the Constitution.

**Actors:** *Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, County Governments, County Public Service Boards, Council of Governors, Public Service Commission*

3. THAT both National and County Governments shall ensure communities are informed, engaged, and actively participate in policy design, intervention assessment, and service delivery, as a key building block of empowered communities and accountable government.

**Actors:** *National Government, County Governments, Private sector, Development partners*

4. THAT both National and County Governments shall strengthen partnership and collaboration with private sector actors in Kenya to promote equity and innovation to accelerate investments and job creation.

**Actors:** National Government, County Governments, Private Sector

5. THAT County Governments shall facilitate further decentralization to ensure that resources are distributed equitably in all decentralized units (sub-counties, cities, municipalities, urban areas, and wards), while promoting inclusion, social justice and the rule of law.

**Actors:** Council of Governors, Senate, County Assemblies, County Executive, Citizen-led organizations

6. THAT the Executive at the two levels of government, Parliament and the Judiciary shall ensure effective enforcement of all anti-corruption laws, including the Conflict-of-Interest Act 2025.

**Actors:** Judiciary, EACC, Parliament, County Governments, Civil Society Organizations

7. THAT Parliament shall fast-track enactment of a Pension Bill for Governors and Members of County Assemblies to secure the welfare of County State Officers.

**Actor:** Parliament

8. THAT County Governments shall collaborate, share best practices, and accelerate the adoption of technology to boost efficiency and enhance performance.

**Actors:** County Governments, Council of Governors, Development partners

9. THAT the Public Service Commission shall develop a framework to promote equity and inclusivity in human resource management across the National and County Governments.

**Actors:** Public Service Commission, Council of Governors

10. THAT both levels of government shall collaborate in nurturing and supporting the COG-Devolution Training Institute to strengthen leadership and promote good governance culture and practices.

**Actors:** Senate, State Department of Devolution, County Governments, Development Partners

### **On Human Rights and Social Justice**

1. THAT the National Government, Council of Governors, County Governments with the support of other stakeholders shall accelerate the process of delineation of roles in the inclusion space and provide clarity on responsibility between the two levels of government and financing aimed at expanding social welfare and protection programs for the vulnerable populations, especially children, women, persons with disability, the youth and older persons.

**Actors:** National Government, Council of Governors, County Governments, IGRTC

2. THAT County Governments shall develop and implement policies that promote and demonstrate inclusivity and accountability to special interest persons and groups-including children, young mothers, women, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons.

**Actors:** County Governments, County Assemblies, Council of Governors, National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), National Youth Council, State Department for Children Services.

3. THAT the two levels of government shall jointly review policy and legal framework to clearly define the role of County Governments in refugee management.

**Actors:** Parliament, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Council of Governors, County Government, Civil Society, Development Partners.

4. THAT County governments shall institutionalize the Urban Expansion Planning (UXP) approach in policy to guide peri-urban zoning, ensuring planned growth that integrates housing, infrastructure, and economic hubs while safeguarding agricultural land through a unified regional spatial plan.

**Actors:** Council of Governors, County Governments, Urban Boards, National Government, Development Partners.

5. THAT National and County Governments shall intensify collaboration in Digitisation of Health Care in Promoting Social Equity, Justice and Inclusion.

**Actors:** Ministry of Health, Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy, Digital Health Agency (DHA), County Governments, Council of Governors, Private Sector.

6. That County governments, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, shall prioritize and invest in scaling up high-impact, evidence-based interventions for maternal and newborn health, adopt proven best practices from counties and facilities that have successfully reduced maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths, and strengthen the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) system to drive accountability and continuous improvement to be anchored on strong primary health care systems with targeted interventions that ensure equitable, quality services, particularly for underserved populations.

**Actors:** Ministry of Health, County Governments, Development partners.

7. THAT the two levels of government shall collaborate in the provision of affordable and social housing while creating employment opportunities in line with Article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya.

**Actors:** Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, Affordable Housing Board, County Governments.

8. THAT the Judiciary shall enhance access to legal information and justice by vulnerable groups and all citizens through supporting legal aid, witness protection measures, and victim protection to ensure that no one is left behind.

**Actors:** The Judiciary, State Department of Justice and Human Rights, Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ).

9. THAT both levels of government shall ensure meaningful inclusion of the youth and women in a bid to address systemic exclusion and inequitable access to public resources, opportunities and decision-making platforms.

**Actors:** National Government, County Government, Development Partners, CSOs.

10. THAT both levels of government shall undertake a comprehensive review of the planning frameworks (MTEF, Sector Plans, CIDP) and integrate nutrition outcomes.  
**Actors:** Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, County Governments, Department for Children Services, Development Partners.

#### **On Financing Equity and Inclusion**

1. THAT the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC), the National Treasury and Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA) in collaboration with County Governments shall finalise the identification and transfer of all attendant resources of the transferred devolved functions delineated in Gazette Notice No. 219 of 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 within three (3) months from now.  
**Actors:** Office of the Deputy President, State Department for Devolution, Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee (IGRTC), Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), National Treasury, County Governments.
2. THAT capacity of County government officials in public finance management shall be strengthened to enhance service delivery and reinforce people-centred prosperity across the Counties.  
**Actors:** State Department of Devolution, Council of Governors, Development Partners, Civil Society.
3. THAT County Governments shall enhance collection of own-source revenue by automating revenue collection systems to meet development needs.  
**Actors:** County Governments
4. THAT both National government and County governments shall make budgets that are inclusive, responsive, and guarantee equity, social rights and justice.  
**Actors:** National Treasury, County Governments, Council of Governors.
5. THAT both levels of government shall increase financing of initiatives and programmes such as immunization, drone technology among others to enhance efficiency, equity, and access to lifesaving commodities and services for vulnerable populations, while strengthening adaptation and resilience to shocks arising from climate change.  
**Actors:** National Treasury, County Governments, Ministry of health, Ministry of Environment, Development Partners, Communities, Non-State Actors.
6. THAT both levels of Government shall accelerate strategic investment in value chains and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) to spur industrialization and job creation, and promotion of exports.  
**Actors:** National Treasury, Ministry of trade, County Governments, Private Sector, Development Partners.
7. THAT both levels of government shall collaborate and increase financing of Early Childhood Development (ECD) services for human capital development.

**Actors:** County governments, National Treasury, Ministry of Education, State Department for Children Services, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Development Partners, Private Sector and Non-State Actors.

8. THAT the Senate shall establish a more efficient way for processing conditional and unconditional grants, so that counties can draw on them in a timeous manner.

**Actors:** Senate, National Treasury, Council of Governors, County Governments, Development Partners.

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 six (6) months over the next two (2) years, with mid-term review after a year and final implementation status reported during the next Devolution Conference.

**Action:** Deputy President, Chair Council of Governors.

**Finally,**

The next Biennial Devolution Conference shall be held in 2027 at a venue that will be announced after Consultation.

Signed by:

H.E. Prof. Kithure Kindiki, EGH  
Deputy President, Republic of Kenya

H.E Mutahi Kahiga, EGH

Chairperson of the Second Biennial Devolution Conference and Vice Chairperson of the Council of Governors

Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH

Co-Chair of the Second Biennial Devolution Conference and Speaker of the Senate