

# IGAD

INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT



AUTORITÉ INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE  
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT

## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

### Resource Mobilization for the Establishment of the IGAD Regional Cancer Centre of Excellence (RCCE)

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**We, the representatives of IGAD Member States, the IGAD Secretariat, the IGAD Partners' Forum (IPF), all stakeholders and development partners including UN Agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, philanthropic foundations, private companies, academic and research institutions, pharmaceutical firms, cancer patients' support and advocacy groups, and health service providers convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to advance the establishment of the IGAD Regional Cancer Centre of Excellence (RCCE) through the creation of opportunities to mobilize the required technical and financial resources;**

**Recognizing** that cancer is an enormous global health burden and one of the most common causes of morbidity and mortality today that accounts for one in every eight deaths worldwide;

**Taking into account** the latest World Health Organization (WHO) statistics that there were an estimated 12.7 million cases of cancer diagnosed and 7.9 million deaths from cancer around the world each year;

**Realizing** that there were an estimated 850,000 new cases and 600,000 deaths from cancer across Africa in 2012; and it is predicted that by 2030 there will be 1.27 million new cases and close to a million cancer deaths in Africa each year;

**Further realizing** that the magnitude of the cancer problem will grow as life expectancy increases and therefore unlikely that IGAD Member States can immediately take on every aspect of cancer control - from prevention to treatment and palliative care - because of acute shortages of trained personnel, treatment facilities and reliable communication network and referral systems;

**Being aware** of the socio-economic impact due to the high cost of seeking cancer treatment within the countries and abroad with the latter entailing expatriation of huge amounts of foreign currencies thereby affecting the livelihoods of families and national economies in the region;

**Being cognizant** of the fact that improving the health and wellbeing of people from all walks of life is one of the priority targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as national development plans;

**Recalling** the initiative undertaken by the IGAD Secretariat in collaboration with the African Diaspora in North America led by the Ethiopian North American Health Providers Association (ENAHPA) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) that culminated in the holding of a technical consultative meeting in July 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

**Referring** to the main recommendation of the consultative meeting that a regional cancer centre of excellence be established in East Africa to avail the people of IGAD Member States with high quality cancer services;

**Further recalling** the approval of the IGAD Council of Ministers in July 2012 for the establishment of the regional centre in Addis Ababa and the enhancement of the national centres in the member states;

**Further taking into account** the findings of the Assessment Report on Cancer Services in the IGAD region finalized in February 2015 and the recommendations of the Policy Brief based on these findings;

**Reaffirming** the commitments made by the IGAD Ministers of Health at the First IGAD International Scientific Conference on Health held in December 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to, *inter alia* scale up prevention and treatment programs that are scientifically evidence-based emphasizing the need to address emerging health issues in the region with appropriate resources; and

**Further recognizing** the efforts already undertaken and resources available in the IGAD Member States that could support and complement the regional centre.

**Now the Member States' delegates, as well as the stakeholders and partners present do hereby:**

1. **Recommend** that the IGAD Secretariat should work with the member states to support the development and strengthening of National Cancer Control Programs and their strategic plans with resources currently available to implement specific actions that will lessen the impact of cancer on their populations;
2. **Call upon** IGAD Member States, IPF members, the UN Agencies, bilateral and multilateral, as well as private sector foundation and endowment donors to build consensus and allocate adequate resources for the establishment and operations of the IGAD Regional Cancer Centre of Excellence (RCCE);
3. **Urge** IGAD Member States, IPF members, the UN Agencies bilateral and multilateral, as well as private sector foundation and endowment donors to promote and advocate for the establishment of the IGAD RCCE in relevant national, regional, continental and international fora;
4. **Further call upon** the core group made up of all stakeholders to form a functional regional board linked to strong national and international coordination committees with clear terms of reference and areas of synergy;

5. **Encourage** research and academic institutions in the region and beyond, as well as bilateral and multilateral donors, philanthropic foundations, private companies, pharmaceutical firms and health service providers to link and collaborate with the IGAD RCCE;
6. **Further call upon** IGAD Member States to establish and strengthen regulatory systems for preventing and reducing the risk to public health from Substandard, Spurious, Falsely labelled, Falsified and Counterfeit (SSFFC) medical products, as well as harmful practices inaptly used for cancer control;
7. **Further encourage** IGAD Member States and development partners to support health professional education and research, as well as continued training and capacity building that enhances cancer control in the region;
8. **Further urge** IGAD Member States along with the other stakeholders to develop a regional policy framework in line with the continental and international policy guidelines to address emerging challenges relating to cancer control in the region;
9. **Further call upon** the IGAD Secretariat to use the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Stop Cervical, Breast and Prostate Cancer in Africa Conference to be hosted by the First Lady of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in July 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as an advocacy and resource mobilization platform for the IGAD RCCE;
10. **Further encourage** the IGAD Secretariat to scale-up its resource mobilization efforts for the establishment and operations of the IGAD RCCE with an elaborate business plan, clear implementation timelines and a well developed resource management system;
11. **Further encourage** the IGAD Secretariat to develop a comprehensive advocacy and awareness strategy that would use diverse media channels and prominent personalities to champion and enhance cancer control campaigns at national, regional, continental and international levels;
12. **Further urge** all IGAD Member States to host similar resource mobilization events in their respective countries together with the IGAD Secretariat to establish and strengthen specialized centres;
13. **Welcome** the creation of financing mechanisms including a regional foundation and trust fund to support the establishment and operations of the IGAD RCCE;
14. **Thank** the People and the Government of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting this important conference and making a firm commitment towards the actualization of the IGAD RCCE; and
15. **Decide** to remain engaged of this matter.

**Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2016**