



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

RESOLUTIONS OF IGAD MINISTERS ON THE REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL AND RELATED STRATEGIES

WE, THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF BIODIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF IGAD MEMBER STATES, NAMELY DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, SOMALIA, SOUTH SUDAN, SUDAN AND UGANDA HELD A MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA ON 14TH JULY 2017.

RECALLING THE MINISTERIAL RESOLUTIONS OF 18TH OCTOBER 2012 ON THE ENDORSEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IGAD ENVIRONMENT POLICY, THE IGAD ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) POLICY FRAMEWORK, THE IGAD EIA PROTOCOL, IGAD NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION STRATEGY AND THE IGAD WATER POLICY (2015);

FURTHER RECALLING THE MINISTERIAL RESOLUTIONS OF 3RD JUNE 2016 ON THE ENDORSEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IGAD BIODIVERSITY POLICY;

RECALLING ALSO THE DIRECTION GIVEN TO THE IGAD SECRETARIAT TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL AND OTHER RELATED STRATEGIES TO IMPLEMENT THE REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY POLICY;

CONVINCED THAT BIODIVERSITY FORMS THE BASIS OF OUR LIVELIHOODS AND LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY POSES A GREAT THREAT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION;

FURTHER CONVINCED THAT BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION RESULT IN HIGH VULNERABILITY OF COMMUNITIES LEADING TO DISPLACEMENTS, CONFLICTS AND MIGRATION IN THE REGION;

PERSUADED THAT HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY FORMS THE BASIS FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE, DESERTIFICATION AND ECONOMIC SHOCKS OF COMMUNITIES;

REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE IN REGIONAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE REGION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING IGAD, THE IGAD REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY POLICY AND IGAD REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL;

FURTHER REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO ENHANCE INTEGRATION INTO THE PAN-AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PROCESS AS OUTLINED BY THE AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063 AND ITS 10-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AS WELL AS THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS;

APPRECIATING THE EUROPEAN UNION FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IGAD BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (BMP); AND

ACKNOWLEDGING THE EFFORTS OF THE IGAD SECRETARIAT TO HARMONIZE AND COORDINATE MEMBER STATES' EFFORTS TO SUSTAINABLY MANAGE THE ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES OF THE REGION;

DO HEREBY:

CALL UPON THE IGAD SECRETARIAT TO EXPEDITE AND SUPPORT THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATABASES AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, IN LINE WITH IGAD REGIONAL INTEGRATED INFORMATION SYSTEM AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY;

FURTHER CALL UPON IGAD SECRETARIAT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH BMP IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS TO EXPEDITE THE REALIZATION OF THE ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE CROSS-BORDER DEMONSTRATION SITES TO ENABLE PROPER CLOSURE OF THE PROGRAMME;

ALSO CALL UPON EU TO CONTINUE AVAILING RESOURCES FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE GAINS MADE BY THE IGAD BMP;

URGE OTHER DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS THROUGH NEW AND EXISTING INSTRUMENTS AND FACILITIES FOR A SECOND PHASE OF THE IGAD BMP; AND

HAVING CONSIDERED AND ENDORSED THE IGAD REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL AND RELATED STRATEGIES;

DO HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

1. **AFFIRM** OUR COMMITMENT TO DOMESTICATE THE REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROTOCOL AND RELATED STRATEGIES INTO RELEVANT NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PECULIARITIES AND INTERESTS OF EACH MEMBER STATE;
2. **REAFFIRM** OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT/ STRENGTHENING AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATABASES AND THE REGIONAL REFERENCE INFORMATION SYSTEM;
3. **ENCOURAGE** PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ECOSYSTEMS AND LANDSCAPE/ SEASCAPE MANAGEMENT;
4. **FURTHER ENCOURAGE** THE REALIZATION OF THE DOMESTICATION OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS (MEAs) BY CREATING SYNERGIES AMONG INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING ON THE MEAs AND PROTOCOLS TO WHICH OUR MEMBER STATES ARE PARTIES;
5. **ENHANCE** SYNERGIES AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION INVOLVED IN THE FIELD OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT;
6. **ESTABLISH/STRENGTHEN** REGIONAL NETWORKS TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE IN PARTICULAR ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN THE REGION;
7. **HALT** THE BUSINESS AS USUAL APPROACH OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND SHIFT TO A NEW PARADIGM WHERE WE INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY EMBARK ON ENHANCING ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE AS A BASIS FOR OUR LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE REGION;
8. **CALL UPON** THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, NON-STATE ACTORS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST IGAD MEMBER STATES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO MANAGE AND MAINTAIN THE SUSTAINABILITY OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS AND THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE COMMUNITIES IN THE REGION;

9. **SUPPORT** THE IGAD SECRETARIAT IN MOBILISATION OF DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL, RELATED STRATEGIES AS WELL AS PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS; AND
10. **STRENGTHEN** THE IGAD DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT BY ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY COORDINATION UNIT

IN THIS REGARD, WE CALL UPON THE IGAD SECRETARIAT TO:

1. **SUPPORT** MEMBER STATES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY POLICY AND PROTOCOL AND RELATED STRATEGIES;
2. **REPORT** IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT;
3. **MOBILIZE** RESOURCES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL AND RELATED STRATEGIES FROM GLOBAL FINANCIAL MECHANISMS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHER SOURCES; AND
4. **REPLICATE** THE GOOD PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES ACHIEVED IN THE DEMONSTRATION SITES OF THE BMP INTO OTHER AREAS OF THE IGAD REGION.

FINALLY, WE HEREBY:

1. **EXPRESS** OUR GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA FOR HOSTING THIS MINISTERIAL MEETING;
2. **CALL UPON** THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA TO REQUEST THE CURRENT CHAIR OF THE IGAD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO BRING THIS RESOLUTION TO THE ATTENTION OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COUNCIL AND TO THE IGAD ASSEMBLY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT FOR ADOPTION; AND
3. **REMAIN** SEIZED ON THE MATTER.

DONE ON 14TH DAY OF JULY 2017 IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA.