



JOINT PRESS RELEASE
EUROPEAN UNION AND IGAD JOINTLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE STATE BUILDING OF
SOMALIA BY SIGNING A € 1.3 MILLION AGREEMENT

July 29, 2018: The European Union (EU) and Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) today signed a One Million Three Hundred Thousand Euros Grant Agreement to support Inclusive State Formation, National Reconciliation and Political Dialogue in Somalia.

The Agreement was signed on July 29, 2018 in Nairobi Kenya between EU Mr. Fulgencio Garrido Ruiz, EU Chargé d'Affaires and H. E Amb(Eng.) Mahboub Maalim, IGAD Executive Secretary.

This Agreement marks the extended support and political commitment of the EU to contribute to peace and stability in the IGAD Region as part of its strategy for the Horn of Africa¹. The EU has been contributing to the peace processes in the Region in partnership with IGAD enabling the regional body to play an important role in supporting its member states.

This grant is instrumental for the implementation of key Somali political and state building processes. It will help bringing the state authority closer to the Somali people and support the peacebuilding efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia and regional authorities.

EU Chargé d'Affaires Mr. Fulgencio Garrido Ruiz said *"Reconciliation is a key to the pacification and development process of Somalia. This project comes at a very important time and will enhance the capacity of IGAD to support efforts and initiative around the country together with the Federal Government and Federal member states of Somalia."*

The IGAD Executive Secretary H.E Amb (Eng.) Mahboub Maalim, expressed his appreciation to the EU for its sustained commitment to support peace in the Region and reiterated the regional organization's desire to work with Somali authorities and people towards a successful state building, peace building and political process in Somalia.

~END~

¹In November 2011, the EU adopted a Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa to guide its multi-sectoral engagement in the region. In October 2015, the EU adopted a regional Action Plan which highlights particular issues, affecting EU interests in the region, that have become more pronounced and critical over the last years.

