



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

IGAD welcomes the decision by the government of Belgium to recognize diplomatic and service passports of Somalia

24 April 2019, DJIBOUTI (Djibouti): The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) welcomes the recent decision by the Government of Belgium to recognise diplomatic and service passports issued by the Federal Government of Somalia.

IGAD Executive Secretary Ambassador Mahboub Maalim notes that the move will significantly boost bilateral relations between Somalia and Belgium and facilitate Somalia government officials to engage with European Union institutions based in Brussels.

Ambassador Maalim further noted that this is a positive step and is a demonstration of a growing confidence by the international community in the Government of Somalia and its institutions.

In this regard, Ambassador Maalim hopes that Belgium will extend this recognition to the ordinary passport of Somalia.

He also encourages other remaining countries to recognise passport issued by the Federal Government of Somalia and facilitate favourable visa processing for Somali nationals.

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