



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

**IGAD Stakeholder Meeting on COVID-19
Digitalization Project Initiation
Technical Experts Meeting
9th – 11th of November; 2021, in Entebbe, Uganda.**

We, members of the technical working group for IGAD Digitalization comprising of the IGAD Member States (from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda); the IGAD Secretariat, and GIZ having attended the **1st Expert technical working group on the IGAD COVID-19 Digitalization Project** held on November 11th, 2021, Entebbe, Uganda. Hereby:

1. **Recognize** the need for a regional surveillance platform for priority diseases that will be agreed upon by MS;
2. **Endorse** the recommendations of the technical working group (TWG) meeting of the 1st Expert technical working group meeting on COVID-19 Digitalization held on 9th – 11th November 2021, Entebbe, Uganda;
3. **Recommend** the creation, piloting and testing of a Regional Disease Surveillance Platform integrated with existing national systems;
4. **Recommend** that all IGAD Member States endorse the cross-border data sharing policy framework and support its implementation guide that will be applicable in-country context;
5. **Call upon** all relevant stakeholders to support the operationalization of the 1st TWG recommendations;
6. **Call upon** IGAD Member States, EU, BMZ, GIZ and other Agencies to allocate adequate resources for the implementation of IGAD Regional Health Data Sharing and Protection Policy at national and regional levels; and support the digitalization initiative that has begun;
7. **Encourage** IGAD Secretariat with the collaboration of member states, EU, BMZ, GIZ and other partners to establish a joint technical steering committee for the follow-up of the implementation of IGAD Regional Cross-border Health Data Sharing and Protection Policy Framework;

8. **Encourage** IGAD Secretariat to facilitate information sharing practices and develop a platform to support the same;
9. **Recommend** IGAD Secretariat and partners to collaborate in building the capacity of surveillance systems for those countries with data and surveillance systems gaps;
10. **Support** research, innovations and documentation related to data quality, sharing and protection.

Done on November 11, 2021 in Entebbe, Uganda