



COMMUNIQUE OF THE 33RD ORDINARY SESSION OF IGAD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HELD FROM 7TH- 8TH DECEMBER, 2009 IN DJIBOUTI

The 33rd Ordinary Meeting of the IGAD Council of Ministers was held at Djibouti on December 7 and 8, 2009. The Council was chaired by **H.E. Seyoum Mesfin**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the current Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers.

Present at the Council meeting were **H.E. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti; **H.E. Moses Wetang'ula**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya; **H.E. Ali Ahmed Jama**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, **H.E. Isaac Isanga Musumba**, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Uganda, **H.E. Dr. Tekeda Alemu**, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, **H.E. Bright Rwamirama**, Minister of State for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda, **H.E. Hassan Eisa El Talib** Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Djibouti; and **H.E. Mahboub M. Maalim**, Executive Secretary of IGAD.

Invited guests to the Council meeting were **H.E. Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the TFG of Somalia, **H.E. Karl Wycoff**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central African and East African Affairs (USA), **H.E. Ahmadou Ould Abdallah**, United Nations Secretary General Special Representative to Somalia, **H.E. Dr. Maxwell M. Makwezalamba** Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission, **Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi**, Deputy Special Representative of the AU to Somalia, **H.E. Raffaele de Lutio**, Italian Ambassador to Ethiopia and the Co- Chair of IPF and **H.E. Ambassador Salim Alkussaibi**, Special Envoy of the League of Arab States to Somalia.

H.E Mahboub M. Maalim, Executive Secretary of IGAD presented his Report to the Council.

The Council also received a briefing on the Situation in Somalia and the proposed Strategic Plan on Re-establishing Effective Government Institutions in Somalia by **Hon. Kipruto Arap Kirwa**, IGAD Facilitator of the Somalia Peace and Reconciliation.

The Council adopted and issued separate communiqués on Somalia and Sudan.

ON THE BORDER PROBLEM BETWEEN DJIBOUTI AND ERITREA

The Council:

Deplores that Eritrea has not yet positively responded to the call of IGAD, AU and the international community to withdraw its troops from the territory of Djibouti.

Deeply concerned by the unlawful behavior of Eritrea in its continued acts of destabilization of Djibouti and the region at large.

Calls upon the UNSC to urgently adopt the draft resolution tabled to it which calls for, among other actions, imposition of sanctions on Eritrea.

THE HORN OF AFRICA INITIATIVE

Endorses the projects and programs identified under the Horn of Africa Initiative and Joint Assessment Mission (JAM 11) on water, energy and transport with the support of EU in the IGAD region and **directs** the IGAD Secretariat to speed up implementation and further **urges** EC partners to commit funds and call a donors pledging conference for the implementation of the Initiative's programs and projects.

MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROTOCOLS

Adopts the Mutual Legal Assistance Protocol and the IGAD wide Convention on Extradition

IGAD PEACE AND SECURITY STRATEGY

The Council **directed** that each member state nominates experts to review and finalize the Peace and Security Strategy within three months. These experts should consult with the African Union on the same.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Council:

Recalls the 12th Summit of Heads of State and government of IGAD that was held on 14th June 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which directed the IGAD Secretariat to develop and implement regional integration policies and programs to make IGAD relevant as a building block of the African Economic Community (AEC) as stipulated in the Abuja Treaty.

Directed that each member state nominates experts to meet and review and finalise the Minimum Integration Plan within three months. The experts should consult with the African Union on the matter.

Appreciates the Secretariat's efforts to revive the IGAD Business Forum (IBF) in order to use it as a catalyst for private public partnership and trade promotion. Further **appreciates** the keen interest and support of the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI) to host the IGAD Business Forum Secretariat in Kampala, Uganda.

Further Notes the Secretariat's efforts to market the IGAD region as a single tourism destination by developing an IGAD Tourism Master Plan.

Appreciates the support given by the World Bank and CIDA Canada's contribution of US \$15m and CAN \$ 8m respectively to the IGAD Regional HIV & AIDS partnership program. **Notes** the desire of the IGAD member states to expand the IGAD Regional Aids & HIV Partnership Program (IRRAP) to include other communicable diseases such as TB, Malaria, and Reproductive Health.

Acknowledges the progress made on migration policy by the IGAD Secretariat, and **further recommends** the establishment of the IGAD Regional Consultative Process on Migration (IGAD-RCP) to promote

both the common position of IGAD member states and the AU as provided for in the AU Migration Policy Framework.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

On climate change

Council issued a Declaration on the Challenges of Climate Change in the IGAD Region which supports and reinforces African Common Position on the matter. Further **directed** the IGAD Secretariat to develop a regional program on climate change and urged the international community to support IGAD in this endeavour.

ON ARID AND SEMI ARID REGIONS

Endorses the report and the recommendations of the IGAD Parliamentarians and journalists on the economic potential and the need to conserve arid and semi arid eco-systems in the region and **urges** the Secretariat and Member States to adopt and implement the recommendations. The Council **directs** the Secretariat to explore the possibility of establishing a multi disciplinary and strategic institution to focus on management of natural resources and governance of ASALs.

FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN THE REGION

Notes with deep concern the prevailing food situation in the region and issued a separate declaration on the matter, building on the Rome principles of the World Food Security Summit of November 2009.

FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

Notes the financial situation of the Authority and calls upon the member states to expeditiously pay their assessed annual contributions and arrears in order to enable the Secretariat carry out its planned activities.

Commends the IGAD partners for their continued financial and technical support and urges them to expedite timely release of their pledged financial support to enable IGAD fulfill its objectives.

Council endorses the establishment of 16th January as an IGAD day and **urges** the Secretariat and Member States to annually commemorate it and, in particular, to start commemorating its Silver Jubilee celebrations through cultural, sports and other engagements as a way of boosting the image and public awareness of IGAD.

Notes efforts being undertaken on Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Process of the Secretariat (ISSAP) and calls upon the Secretariat to implement the recommendations of the seminar held on the matter in Addis Ababa on 12-16 October 2009.

Commends the signing of the Joint Financing Agreement (JFA) with IGAD partners and calls on all partners to join with a view to supporting the IGAD Secretariat to implement its programmes.

Done in Djibouti on 8 December 2009