



COMMUNIQUE OF 40th EXTRA-ORDINARY IGAD SESSION OF THE IGAD COUNCIL OF MINSITERS ON THE DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOMALIA

The 40th Extra-Ordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers was held in Addis Ababa on 24th August, 2011, to deliberate on the drought situation in the Horn of Africa and recent political developments in Somalia. The Council was chaired by **H.E. Haile Mariam Desalegn**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the current Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers.

In attendance were **H.E. Dr. Jean Ping**, Chairperson of the AU Commission; **H.E. Mohamed Mahmoud Ibrahim**, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia; **H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssef**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti; **H.E. Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos**, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; **H.E. Richard Onyonka**, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya **H.E. Ambassador Mull S. Katende**, Uganda's Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on behalf of **H.E Hon.**

Sam Kutesa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Uganda ; **H.E. Ambassador Elsadiq Omer**, Deputy Head of Mission of the Republic of Sudan to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on behalf of **H.E Ali Ahmed Karti**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, **H.E. Mahboub M. Maalim**, Executive Secretary of IGAD and **Hon. Kipruto arap Kirwa**, IGAD Facilitator for Somalia Peace and Reconciliation

The Council;

Noting the seriousness of the current drought in the region in general, and Somalia in particular;

Considering the impact of the drought on the livelihoods of the peoples of the region as well as in accelerating the degradation of the environment;

Reaffirming IGAD's commitment to enhance existing national and regional strategies to protect natural resources, improve food security and strengthen rapid response and effective disaster management;

Commending the efforts of IGAD member states in the particular the attention they have given to Somalia in mitigating the effects of the drought; in this regard expressing gratitude to the government of Djibouti, Sudan and Uganda for their continued humanitarian and other assistance;

Realizing the need to encourage enhanced burden sharing and coordinated initiatives in response to the situation, the region is bearing a disproportionate burden of the crisis **commends** the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Republic of Kenya for receiving, hosting and assisting large numbers of refugees;

Welcoming with gratitude the generous response of the international community to the drought that has been unfolding in the Horn of Africa and Somalia in particular;

Lauding the on-going discussion between IGAD Secretariat, the African Development Bank and the World Bank to develop a long-term strategy to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience;

Having deliberated at length on the drought situation and current political development in the Horn, **the Council:**

1. **Decides** that the IGAD Secretariat should enhance its early warning and response mechanism to ensure rapid response to similar crisis in the future.
2. **Appeals** to Member States and the international community to increase and sustain their humanitarian assistance.
3. **Supports** the lead taken by the African Development Bank in the development of the regional long term projects to mitigate the effects of drought.

4. **Urges** the support of all actors in the creation of humanitarian assistance corridors particularly in the 12 liberated areas to reduce refugee outflows and stabilize populations within Somalia.
5. **Further urges** all IGAD member states to continue supporting the political process and all efforts towards the full realization of the Kampala Accord.
6. **Calls** upon IGAD Member States to promote contingent measures of emergency aid and put in place medium and long term investments for sustainable agricultural growth and rural development in order to prevent future famines.
7. **Decides** that all efforts be exerted to enhance security in Somalia, particularly in Mogadishu and other key areas in South Central Somalia; and in this regard, calls on the international community to support the operations by TFG, AMISOM and other forces of peace.
8. **Commends** the African Union for organizing the pledging conference on the drought situation in the Horn of Africa; and calls upon the participants to contribute generously and translate their pledges into tangible assistance for the affected populations in the Horn of Africa.
9. **Directs** the Executive Secretary of IGAD to constitute a team to undertake an assessment of the implications of Al-Shabaab's withdrawal from Mogadishu, on the

humanitarian, political and security situations in Somalia, and to recommend further action.

10. **Reaffirms** the credibility of IGAD as a regional organization governed by established rules and procedure, and urges that these be followed in the conduct of its business; further underscores that the application of Eritrea for re-admission to IGAD should follow appropriate rules and procedures including consideration of the summit of the IGAD heads of state and Government.
11. **Reaffirms** the decision of the 18th extra-ordinary summit of Heads of States and Governments of IGAD of 4th July 2011 on Eritrea and calls on the United Nations Security Council to bring the matter to a speedy conclusion.
12. **Directs** the Executive Secretary to share this communiqué with all relevant organizations in particular the African Union and the United Nations Security Council
13. **Decides** to remain seized of these matters.

DONE IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA ON 24TH DAY OF AUGUST 2011