



COMMUNIQUE OF THE 45th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE IGAD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

ADDIS ABABA, 11 JULY 2012

The 45th Ordinary Meeting of the IGAD Council of Ministers was held in Addis Ababa on 11 July 2012. The Council was chaired by **H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Deputy Prime Minister and 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. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti; **Hon. Richard Onyonka**, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya; **H.E Abdullahi Haji Hassan** Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia; **Hon. Grace Grace Dairo**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan, **H.E Dr. Hassan Eisa El Talib** Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Djibouti and Permanent Representative to IGAD; **H.E. Asuman Kiynigi**, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Uganda and **H.E. Mahboub M. Maalim**, Executive Secretary of IGAD. Invited guests to the Council meeting were H.E Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC); H.E Amb. Renzo Rosso Co-Chairman of the Joint IGAD Partners Forum and Mr. Nick Wescott, European Union Managing Director for Africa-European External Action Service (EEAS).

We, members of the IGAD Council of Ministers attending the 45th Ordinary session:

ON SOMALIA

1. **Welcomed** the announcement by the Republic of Djibouti on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union and on the deployment of its troops. It also noted that the troops will be in post by 20 July 2012.
2. **Expressed** concern on the possible proliferation of reports on Somalia and called upon all entities to hold in abeyance any action/ report/meeting or utterances until the finalization of the current political process.

3. **Commended** the achievements made in the operationalization of the grand stabilization plan for Somalia and called for the expeditious conclusion of pending issues. It also encouraged the consultation process to be more inclusive.
4. Recalling its earlier bid on action against spoilers, the Council **welcomed** the recent call on spoilers where five individuals from the region have been named. The Council also expressed hope that similar action will continue.
5. **Welcomed** the progress made on political and security aspects of the peace process, and reaffirmed its full support towards the successful conclusion of the transition period on 20th August 2012.
6. **Expressed** its appreciation to the troop-contributing countries – Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda as well as AMISOM and its allies including Ethiopia.

ON THE PEACE PROCESS BETWEEN SOUTH SUDAN AND SUDAN

7. **Saluted** the contribution of Ethiopia to the peace process and called upon the leaders of the two countries to pursue dialogue.
8. **Commended** the new strategic approach that the Republic of Sudan and South Sudan have reached to establish a common understanding of how to deal with outstanding issues of the CPA and PIA as per the road map of the AU PSC and the UNSC resolutions.
9. **Commended** the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) for facilitating the ongoing negotiation between South Sudan and Sudan
10. **Congratulated** the Republic of South Sudan on its first anniversary of independence and pronounced its full support to the young state.

ON ERITREA

11. **Noted** that Eritrea has not released information on the Djiboutian prisoners of war in its custody and called on Eritrea to abide by international humanitarian law on the treatment of prisoners of war.

ON THE AFRICAN UNION

12. **Called on** African leaders to conclude the election of the Chairperson of the Commission and expressed its collective support for its own candidate Mr. Erastus Mwencha for the position of Deputy Chairperson of the Commission.

ON IGAD SECRETARIAT MATTERS

13. **Adopted** the report of the 45th meeting of the IGAD Committee of Experts on 4-6 July 2012 in Djibouti
14. **Commended** H.E Eng. Mahboub Maalim for an exemplary performance and a successful four-year term. The Council unanimously endorsed the renewal of his second four-year term.
15. **Decided** to establish an inter-ministerial committee to speed-up the implementation of the Minimum Integration Plan (MIP);
16. **Resolved** Member States to champion various thematic areas in IGAD. Accordingly, Djibouti would take the lead in issues of Maritime Security, Ethiopia in regional infrastructure, Kenya in Drought Resilience and other natural disasters, Sudan in issues of trade harmonization, and Uganda in issues of peace and security.
17. **Directed** the Chair of the Committee of Experts and the Executive Secretary to consult the Republic of South Sudan to consider a programmatic area they can lead. At the same time, undertake similar consultations with Somalia after 20 August 2012.
18. **Urged** the Secretariat to expedite the finalization of the new Treaty Establishing IGAD and submit to the next Council of Ministers meeting; and the Council directed the Secretariat to develop a budget for 2013 based a new structure that will be adopted after the new Treaty;
19. **Urged** the IGAD Secretariat to maintain the momentum on the roll-out of the Drought Resilience initiative while appreciating its leadership thus far and the strong support from development partners;
20. **Adopted** the peace and security strategy as a comprehensive framework that guides IGAD's initiatives in maintaining and promoting peace and security in the region;
21. **Expressed** concern on the status of arrears of contributions and called up on Member states to meet their obligations;
22. **Acknowledged** and appreciated support by all development partners to IGAD and called for continued strong support in regional and national priority areas;
23. **Appreciated** the Government and the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting the 45th Ordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers.

Done at Addis Ababa on 11 July 2012