



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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For immediate release

### **IGAD CONCLUDES THE 4<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE RED SEA AND THE GULF OF ADEN**

**MOGADISHU (18th February 2020):** The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) successfully concluded the 4<sup>th</sup> National Consultations on the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden in Mogadishu from 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The consultation was convened in line with the resolution of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the IGAD Task Force<sup>1</sup> on the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden which was held in Djibouti from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The official opening of the national consultation was presided over by H.E Ambassador Balal Mohamed, Special Presidential Envoy for Horn of Africa, Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Ambassador Balal lauded the IGAD initiative and in particular the ongoing national consultation in the member states. While acknowledging the opportunities, threats, risks and challenges in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, Ambassador Balal, called on IGAD to adopt a collective approach, formulate shared norms, common goals and coordination by strengthening regional cooperation.

The national consultation will be held in all the IGAD member states with a goal of enriching a regional plan of action and build a momentum towards a common IGAD position on the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

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<sup>1</sup> An IGAD Task Force was established in line with the 46<sup>th</sup> IGAD Council of Ministers Resolution made on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2019. The Task Force is mandated to harmonize and develop an IGAD Common Position and Chart out a Regional Plan of Action to protect the security and economic interest of the region.