



**HORN OF AFRICA INITIATIVE (HoAI):
VIRTUAL MEETING OF FINANCE MINISTERS
2.00 - 5:00pm, Friday 26th June 2021**

About the Meeting

The Djibouti Government, as chair of the Horn of Africa Initiative (launched by the EU, World Bank and African Development Bank in 2018), is organising a meeting for Finance Ministers from Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan **to take stock of the changed context as a result of the pandemic and economic crisis and discuss and agree how best to take forward the next phase of HoA Initiative, both in terms of content and process.**

- IGAD attends in an observer capacity.
- We should include **Floods** in the issues to be discussed

Topics for discussion

The meeting will focus on 4 areas:

1. Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on funding, priorities and sequencing - *the health, social and economic effects of the pandemic and locust outbreak on the sub-region and the nature of response so far*
2. Process of outreach to other partners and financiers
3. Coordination Issues - *How to strengthen the level of engagement with HoA Initiative at the official and technical levels of participating countries*

Thematic Issues

In October 2019 a package of priorities was prepared by the World Bank on a 4-pillar framework to strengthen regional integration. IGAD submitted information on all the areas in which it is active namely;

Pillar 1: Regional infrastructure

- Economic corridors
- Energy
- Digital infrastructure

Pillar 2: Trade and Economic Integration

- Regional trade facilitation
- Regional value chain development
- Investment climate

Pillar 3: Resilience

- Pastoralism – including pastoralist insurance
- Tackling the desert locust outbreak - *NEW*
- Better groundwater management – *NEW*
- Strengthening resilience in the borderlands – *NEW*
- Other interventions that spur economic development

Pillar 4: Human capital development

- Strengthening human capital delivery systems and networks
- Disease surveillance and epidemic preparedness and response – *TO BE SCALED UP*
- Regulatory systems for pharmaceuticals and medical commodities – *TO BE SCALED UP*
- Addressing the human capital needs of displaced and vulnerable populations
- Addressing the needs of vulnerable women and girls
- Addressing skills development of youth
- Provision of universal IDs under an ID4D programme

Intervention Points

- **Welcome Sudan** to the Horn of Africa Initiative
- **Support the suggestion from Sudan for inclusion of Food Security as an additional intervention area** in the Horn of Africa Initiative.
- **IGAD welcomes the opportunity to continue working with the partners supporting the HOAI** - World Bank, EU, and African Development Bank are 3 of our most treasured partners, who have been with IGAD since inception and have greatly supported the work of IGAD and IGAD Member States.
- The HOAI is fully harmonized with the work and mandate of IGAD, both are aimed at achieving, peace, prosperity and regional integration
- The Initiative is broad and all-encompassing covering trade and economic activities, infrastructure, resilience, agriculture, environment and natural resources, as well as health as a key component of human capital development in the time of COVID-19. It also has a bearing on peace and security.
- **These themes all fall under IGAD's mandate and IGAD has a wealth of relevant expertise** in all of these areas.
 - Our professional and technical staff are a resource for the region.
- IGAD is in partnership with the European Union on the **EUR 60 million action that responds to the health and socio-economic impact of COVID-19**

in the IGAD region, and so our involvement in pillar 4 activities is already being intensified.

- **IGAD is building on its regional response strategy to COVID-19** that will address all emerging strategic concerns as comprehensively as possible: health, the socio-economic impact, peace and security, and food security.

- To inform discussion and follow up, **IGAD has prepared a Portfolio of 15 Priority Projects in current and planned activities** and how we believe the work should be taken forward.

- IGAD's on-going activities that are inter-facing with the 4 pillars of the HOAI include;
 - IGAD Regional Infrastructure Master Plan (**IRIMP**),
 - IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience & Sustainability Initiative (**IDDRSI**),
 - implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (**AfCTA**),

- In conclusion, **IGAD applauds the efforts being made through the HOAI and highly appreciate the opportunity to work together and re-enforce** each other's contribution to the wellbeing of our communities