

PRESS STATEMENT
THE LAUNCH OF THE NETWORK OF IGAD NATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (NHRIs)
(For Immediate Release)

Mombasa, Kenya, 23rd June 2023:

We, the representatives of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from the IGAD member States of **Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda**, with the facilitation of the **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** - Political Affairs Program of the Peace Security Division, have held a three-day validation workshop here in Mombasa, Kenya to deliberate on a draft mandate that seeks to establish a joint network of NHRIs from the IGAD Member States.

Recognizing that the countries in the IGAD region face similarities in challenges with regard to human rights issues, we believe a common platform will provide the synergy required to effectively promote and protect human rights. This reinforces the need for National Human Rights Institutions to strategically position themselves and ensure the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by bridging the gap between the State and the people.

We, therefore, believe that such a Network will enhance the promotion and protection of human rights across the sub-region of IGAD. At this meeting, we have deliberated on how we can achieve this culmination in the establishment and launch of the **Network of IGAD National Human Rights Institutions** today, the 23rd of June 2023.

The launch of this Network is a new dawn in the realization of human rights in the IGAD region. This Network of IGAD NHRIs aims at providing a platform that shall foster cooperation, collaboration, and communication among the NHRIs of IGAD Member States toward the execution of their respective mandates in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Members of this network have further resolved to strengthen information sharing and develop intervention strategies that effectively address cross-border pertinent human rights violations in the IGAD region.

Moving forward, the Network commits to strengthening the early warning and prevention mechanisms and timely address of human rights violations in the IGAD region. The Members of this Network further commit to facilitating experience sharing, peer learning, and best practices on monitoring, promotion, and protection of human and people's rights.

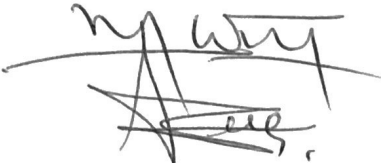




This Network shall also be a platform for joint communication on human rights issues within the IGAD region. In this regard, the members of the IGAD NHRIs Network express our grave concerns regarding the situation in Sudan. The Network particularly notes and condemns the human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law being perpetuated with the vulnerable groups including women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly persons bearing the brunt of the war.

To this end, the **Network of IGAD NHRIs** calls upon all actors in the Sudan conflict to desist from violence and instead embrace dialogue as a mode of achieving sustainable solutions. We, the members of the Network of IGAD NHRIs stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan and their aspiration for a peaceful nation where human rights are respected and dignity is upheld. We support the efforts of the IGAD Quadrilateral mechanism in seeking to resolve the conflict in Sudan.

In conclusion, therefore, we call upon our respective Heads of States and Government in the IGAD region to support this Network of National Human Rights Institutions, prioritize human rights issues in each Member State, and mainstream a human rights-based approach to peace and development.

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SIGNED BY:

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