

DECLARATION OF 1st CONFERENCE OF IGAD MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF YOUTH ON ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF IGAD YOUTH POLICY FRAMEWORK

Nairobi on 27th September 2023

The IGAD Ministers in Charge of Youth held its First Conference on Youth on the 27th of September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, under the chairpersonship of **H.E Dr. Hibo Moumin Assoweh**, Minister of Youth and Culture of the Republic of the Djibouti and Chairperson of the IGAD Ministers of Youth, to adopt The IGAD Youth Policy Framework.

The meeting was attended by **Hon. Ababu Namwamba**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and The Arts of the Republic of Kenya; **H.E. Mohamed Bare Mohamud**, Minister for Youth and Sports of the Federal Republic of Somalia; **Hon. Dr. Abilno Bol Dhieu Bol**, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of South Sudan; **Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi**, Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs of the Republic of Uganda; **H.E. Rahma Saleh Al-Obeid** Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Djibouti, representing Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Sudan and **Mrs. Banchu Mulgeta**, Chief Executive Officer of Youth Participation in the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, representing the Minister of Women and Social Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Also in attendance were **Fathia Alwan**, Director of Health and Social Development Division representing **H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu**, the Executive Secretary of IGAD; and representatives from the core partners supporting the development of the IGAD Youth Policy: Save the Children International and Horn of Africa Youth Network as well as the youth-led organisations.

The Ministers:

Recalling relevant national, regional and international youth strategies, frameworks and initiatives, notably the Continental Framework for Youth, Peace, and Security; Africa Agenda 2063; the African Youth Charter; Youth 2030; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the UN Youth Strategy; United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace, and Security, as well as other relevant initiatives.

1. **Guided** by the African Youth Charter, which entered into force on 8th August 2009;

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2. **Noting** the importance of the youth, who comprise more than 60% of the IGAD region's population and who require *inter alia*, access to education, skills training and professional development;
3. **Reaffirming** our collective responsibility to ensure that youth are at the centre of all policy formulations, get the necessary attention, and are provided with opportunities to participate in leadership in their respective countries and the region;
4. **Recognising** the value of meaningful youth engagement and inclusion in the political processes, peace and security and socio-economic development in their respective countries and the region;
5. **Deeply concerned** by the unprecedented high youth unemployment rates and underscoring the need to have youth-friendly policies that promote economic development for youth and address the root causes of irregular migration;
6. **Alarmed** by the continuing displacement due to the impact of conflict and climate change on the youth in the IGAD region and the implications this has on their aspirations and their contributions to the development of their societies and the countries;
7. **Commend** the four member states that have developed national youth policies and **urge** remaining countries to accelerate the development of the national youth policies;
8. **Further commend** the three member states that have developed national youth councils and **urge** remaining countries to accelerate the establishment of national youth councils;
9. **Recognising** the importance of the engagement of the private sector in capacity development and skilling of the youth population, addressing the gender dynamics and youth living with disabilities and enhancing their role in providing employment opportunities;
10. **Recognise** the contribution of youth-led organisations, civil society organisations and regional youth networks;

We hereby solemnly declare as follows:

11. **Adopt** the IGAD Youth Policy Framework, taking into consideration the inputs and recommendations of the technical experts meeting and **commit** to domestication and operationalisation of the IGAD youth policy at regional and national levels;
12. **Endorse** the recommendations of the High-Level Technical Experts Meeting on the development of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework held from 25th to 26th



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September 2023 in Nairobi and **commit** to accelerate the implementation of those recommendations;

13. **Establish** IGAD Technical Experts and Ministerial Committees on Youth Affairs as a platform to oversee, follow up, and periodically take stock of the progress of the implementation of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework;

A. On the development of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework

14. **Welcome** the development of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework and **Recognize** the strategic partnership between the IGAD Secretariat, Save the Children International and Horn of Africa Youth Network;
15. **Task** IGAD Secretariat and its partners to develop a Roadmap and Action Plan for the implementation of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework for tabling at the next annual Ministerial Meeting;
16. **Further task** IGAD Secretariat to develop a Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) framework for tracking the progress of the implementation of the IGAD Youth Policy with clear roles and responsibilities for the IGAD Secretariat, member states and other partners;
17. **Appreciate** The multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement in the development of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework, including Meaningful Engagement of Youth and Youth-Led Organizations;

B. On the implementation of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework

18. **Commit** to accelerate the implementation of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework at the national and sub-national level in complete synergy with the relevant national, regional and global frameworks;
19. **Task** the IGAD Secretariat to develop a strategy for resource mobilisation for countries to fast-track the implementation of the IGAD Youth Policy;
20. **Request** IGAD Secretariat to facilitate coordination, capacity building, knowledge sharing and learning among IGAD member states towards the implementation of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework;
21. **Commit** to engage youth in budgeting and increase domestic resources for the implementation of the IGAD Youth Policy and the respective national policies;
22. **Nominate** a national focal person from the Ministry in Charge of Youth Affairs from each member state to coordinate with the IGAD Secretariat for the implementation of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework;

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23. **Urge** IGAD Secretariat to activate the Youth Unit structured under the Social Development Division to coordinate youth affairs internally with IGAD Divisions and Specialised Institutions as well as externally with member states, youth-led organisations and relevant partners;

C. On Partnerships

24. **Call upon** development partners, including the International Financial Institutions, to provide support to the IGAD Secretariat and its member states for operationalisation of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework;
25. **Task** IGAD Secretariat to coordinate and foster international cooperation and partnerships for operationalisation and implementation of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework;

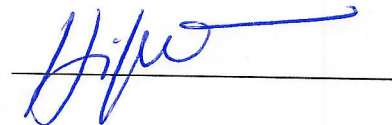
Finally

1. **Thank** the People and the Government of the Republic of Kenya for hosting this important Ministerial Meeting;

We commit to remain actively seized of this matter

Done on this 27th Day of September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya

H.E Dr. Hibo Moumin Assoweh,
Minister of Youth and Culture of the Republic of Djibouti



Hon. Ababu Namwamba
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and The Arts of the Republic of Kenya



H.E. Mohamed Bare Mohamud
Minister for Youth and Sports of the Federal Republic of Somalia

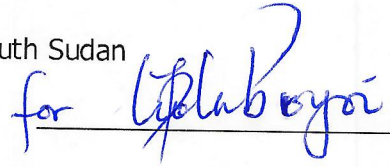


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H.E. Hon. Dr. Abilno Bol Dhieu Bol,
Minister for Youth and Sports of the Republic of South Sudan

for 

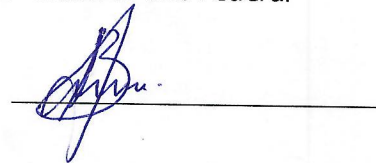
H.E. Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi,
Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs of the Republic of Uganda



H.E. Amb. Rahama Salih Alobeid,
Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Djibouti **representing** Minister of Youth
and Sports of the Republic of Sudan



Banchu Mulgeta
Chief Executive Officer of Youth Participation in the Ministry of Women and Social
Affairs, **representing** the Minister of Women and Social Affairs of the Federal
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



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