



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

IGAD Media Awards 2024: Celebrating Excellence in Journalism on World Press Freedom Day

May 3, 2024 (Djibouti Djibouti): On this World Press Freedom Day, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) proudly announces the launch of the 2nd edition of the IGAD Media Awards 2024. Recognising the indispensable role of the media in fostering peace, stability, and development across the region, this initiative aims to honour outstanding journalism that sheds light on issues vital to our communities.

The IGAD Media Awards 2024 seek to celebrate and reward excellence in reporting within the IGAD region, spanning eight member states including Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda. From investigative journalism to compelling storytelling, these awards aim to inspire and elevate the voices of journalists who are committed to accuracy and promoting accountability.

"At IGAD, we understand the power of the media as a force for positive change," remarked Patience Nyange, Spokesperson of the IGAD Executive Secretary. "Through the IGAD Media Awards, we aim to recognise and honour the tireless efforts of journalists who work tirelessly to inform, educate, and empower our communities. By shining a spotlight on their work, we hope to encourage the pursuit of excellence in journalism and foster a culture of integrity, transparency, and accountability."

The IGAD Media Awards 2024 spotlight shines on peace and security with the overarching theme, "Narratives of Hope: Inspiring Peaceful, Secure, and Inclusive Futures."

The awards will encompass the following categories:

- **Print**

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- Radio
- TV
- Photography
- Digital Media
- Influencers
- National Languages
- Lifetime Achievement Award

All journalists within the IGAD region are invited to submit their entries for consideration. Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of distinguished judges comprised of media experts, academics, and civil society representatives.

"We call upon all journalists in the IGAD region to seize this opportunity to showcase their talent and dedication to the noble profession of journalism," urged Austin Opata, Ag. Head of Communications at IGAD. "By participating in the IGAD Media Awards, you contribute not only to the advancement of your career but also to the collective goal of promoting press freedom, accountability, and transparency in our region."

The launch of the IGAD Media Awards 2024 coincides with World Press Freedom Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the fundamental principles of press freedom and defending the rights of journalists worldwide. As we mark this occasion, IGAD reaffirms its commitment to upholding the principles of press freedom and supporting the vital work of journalists in the IGAD region and beyond.

For more information about the IGAD Media Awards 2024, including submission guidelines and deadlines, please visit <https://mediaawards.igad.int/> or contact mediaawards@igad.int.

Together, let us continue to champion the cause of press freedom and work towards a brighter future for our region.

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