



Communiqué of the 37th Extra-Ordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers

The 37th session of the IGAD Council of Ministers was held on the 22 September 2010, in New York on the margins of the 65th UN General Assembly. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Seyoum Mesfin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Current Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers. Present at the meeting were H.E. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. Moses Wetang'ula, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Yussuf Hassan Ibrahim, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, H.E. Ali Ahmed Karti, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sudan, H.E. Sam Kutesa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda,

The Council received briefs on the political and security situation in Somalia by H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Hon. Kipruto Arap Kirwa, IGAD Facilitator for Somalia, H.E. Augustine Mahiga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN, and H.E. Yusuf Hassan Ibrahim, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia.

Council was briefed on the political developments in the Sudan and on the status of implementation of the CPA by Mr. Lissane Yohannes, IGAD Special Envoy to Sudan and H.E. Ali Ahmed Karti, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic the Sudan.

After an exchange of views and considering in depth the challenges posed by the situation in Somalia;

The Council:

1. **Notes** with regret the internal differences within the leadership of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia which have persisted despite the repeated calls by IGAD and the international community and have finally led to the resignation of the Prime Minister; and **calls upon** the leadership of Somalia to demonstrate its commitment to the people of Somalia,

- expeditiously appoint a new Prime Minister, strengthen its cohesion and work together to address the multiple challenges that the country is currently facing.
2. **Underlines** that the status quo within the Transitional Federal Institutions should be maintained to the end of the transitional period for the sake of peace and stability and sustain trust of critical partners on Somalia.
 3. **Reiterates** the Djibouti peace process remains the sole basis for the achievement of peace and national reconciliation in Somalia and commits to keep the process alive; and **calls upon** the TFG to redouble its efforts and work tirelessly to bring on board all forces that reject violence.
 4. **Underscores** the importance of building the security institutions of Somalia in line with the decisions of the Chiefs of Defense Staff of IGAD Member States and the need to render for the TFG security forces the requisite military equipment and technical support as well as financial assistance and training to enable them effectively take control of the territory and protect their people.
 5. **Condemns** the continued attacks by the Al-Shabab and Hizbul Islam against the civilian population, the TFG and AMISOM peace keepers.
 6. **Expresses concern** about the multiplicity of conferences and proliferation of initiatives that undermine the Djibouti peace process of Somalia and the efforts of the region and **urges** the UN and any other stakeholders to engage within the region and with IGAD and the African Union in their effort to bring peace, security and stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa Region.
 7. **Expresses** once again its appreciation to the troop contributing countries to AMISOM namely; Uganda and Burundi for their contribution to peace in Somalia and for the sacrifices made; and **appeals** to AU Member States that have pledged troops, equipment and other logistical support to do so in order to attain the necessary AMISOM troop levels of 20,000 and enable it to fulfill its mandate.
 8. **Calls upon** the United Nations Security Council to formally approve the 20,000 troop level as well as make funds available to sustain the elevated level of AMISOM; and **appeals** to the Member States of the UN to mobilize the necessary resources for AMISOM to sustain an enlarged deployment of forces pending its transformation into a UN peacekeeping operation.
 9. **Stresses** the urgency and the need on the part of the TFG to complete the Constitution drafting and validation processes, the establishment of the regional administration and building of the institutions as envisaged in the Transitional Federal Charter before the end of transition period.

10. **Regrets** the fact that the State of Eritrea, in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, continues to be the spoiler and the main conduit of arms to the Al-Shabab and Hizbul Islam, training of the insurgents of these terrorist groups and infiltrating them into Somalia; and in this regard **Calls Upon** the United Nations Security Council to implement all pertinent resolutions that it adopted on Somalia and Eritrea, and in particular resolution 1907(2009) that imposes sanctions on Eritrea for destabilizing Somalia and the region and resolution 1916 (2010) establishing the Monitoring Group to follow up the implementation of the sanctions.
11. **Further Calls upon** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to expedite the appointment of an eminent person for Somalia as decided by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at the last African Union Summit meeting held in Kampala, Uganda in July 2010.
12. **Expresses** deep concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia and affirms the readiness of IGAD member States to provide corridors of safe passage for vulnerable groups to access services in certain parts of Somalia; and **appeals** to the international community to provide adequate resources towards humanitarian assistance.

After an exchange of views and having considered the situation in the Sudan;

The Council:

13. **Appreciates** the efforts of the Government of National Unity of the Sudan, the Government of South Sudan, the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to fully implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).
14. **Welcomes** the establishment of the South Sudan Referendum Commission and the appointment of the Secretary-General of the Secretariat of the South Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC).
15. **Encourages the parties** to expedite the establishment of the Abyei Referendum Commission and the final demarcation of the Abyei area administration and North-South border.
16. **Further encourages** the parties to redouble their effort to realize the post referendum arrangements.

17. **Appreciates** the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) led by former President Tabo Mbeki for its effort in assisting the parties to fully implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and assures them of the support and solidarity of IGAD.
18. **Decides** to remain seized with the implementation of the CPA and hold regular high level consultation until January 2011.

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22 September 2010