



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 66TH EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF IGAD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON SOMALIA AND SOUTH SUDAN

16TH NOVEMBER 2018, ADDIS ABABA - ETHIOPIA

The IGAD Council of Ministers held its 66th Extra-Ordinary Session on 16th November 2018 under the chairmanship of **H.E. Workneh Gebeyehu**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the IGAD Council.

The session was attended by **H.E. Mahamoud Ali Youssef**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti; **H.E. Monica Juma**, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya; **H.E. Ahmed Isse Awad**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia; **H.E. Nhial Deng Nhial**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan; **H.E. Al-Dirdiery Mohamed Ahmed**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan; **H.E. Sam Kutesa**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda; **H.E. Hirut Zemene**, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; and **Amb Tom Amolo**, Political and Diplomatic Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya.

H.E. Mahboub Maalim, IGAD Executive Secretary; **H.E. Lt. Gen. Augustino Njoroge**, Interim Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC); **H.E. Ismail Wais**, IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan; and **H.E. Mohamed Ali Guyo**, IGAD Special Envoy for Somalia were also in attendance.

H.E. Lt. Gen. Augustino Njoroge and H.E. Ismail Wais briefed the Council on the situation in South Sudan and H.E. Mohamed Ali Guyo on the situation in Somalia.

Representatives of the United Nations Secretary General, the European Union, the IGAD Partners Forum, the Troika and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission also made statements during the open session.

After extensive deliberations, taking into account the various reports submitted and considering the matters on the agenda, the Council issues the following communique:

On the Implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS):

1. **Recalls** the communique of the 33rd Extra-Ordinary Summit of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government held on 12th September 2018 in Addis Ababa during which time the R-ARCSS was signed;
2. **Notes with appreciation** the reports made by the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan and the Interim Chairperson of JMEC on the status of the implementation of the R-ARCSS and **encourages** their continued engagement in supporting the process;
3. **Also Notes with appreciation** the progress made in the implementation of the R-ARCSS since its signing two months ago and the establishment of the implementation institutions and mechanisms and **calls** upon the IGAD Secretariat and the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan to ensure that all the remaining implementation mechanisms and institutions are set up as soon as possible within the prescribed timelines under the Agreement;
4. **Acknowledges** the celebration of the historic Peace Day that President Salva Kiir Mayardit hosted in Juba on 31st October 2018 and attended by leaders of the Parties to the R-ARCSS and IGAD Heads of State and Government and also that the implementation meetings are now taking place in Juba;
5. **Notes** the need to mobilize resources for the implementation of the R-ARCSS and **commits** to use its leadership to leverage more resources – political, human and financial for the implementation of the Agreement, maintaining the peace and spurring development in South Sudan;

6. **Further Notes** the financial commitments already made by the Government of South Sudan and **urges** the Government to allocate more resources for the implementation of the R-ARCSS;
7. **Appreciates** the continuing support of the AU, UN, EU, China, Japan, the Troika (USA, UK and Norway) and all regional and international partners to the South Sudan peace process and **appeals** to them for their technical and financial support necessary for the implementation of the R-ARCSS;
8. **Urges** all parties and stakeholders to observe and adhere to the 35% quota of women representation in all committees and to apply the same representation across the board in order to guarantee ownership and ensure the success of the peace and nation building process in the Republic of South Sudan;
9. **Further Urges** the AU Ad-hoc Committee on South Sudan and the Troika to make their nominations to the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC) and the Technical Boundaries Committee (TBC) to enable these institutions to execute their mandate;
10. **Directs** the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan to reach out to the South Sudanese stakeholders and any warring groups who are not signatories to the R-ARCSS to join in its implementation; Otherwise, they shall be labeled spoilers of the peace process;
11. **Further Directs** the IGAD Secretariat to translate the Agreement into as many South Sudanese languages as possible to encourage ownership and participation by the communities in its implementation;
12. **Urges** the Chiefs of Defense Staff/Forces to expedite the process of assessment of the operational needs and elaborate the necessary tasks of the Regional Protection Force (RPF) in light of the current situation on the ground to facilitate the submission of a report by the Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers to the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) and the UN Security Council on concrete proposals to revise the mandate and structure of the RPF to allow the participation of all IGAD Member States;

On the Situation in Somalia:

13. **Notes with appreciation** the report made by the IGAD Special Envoy on Somalia and expresses confidence in the Government's efforts at stabilizing the country;
14. **Acknowledges** the economic recovery in Somalia as confirmed by the recent report of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the confidence demonstrated by various commercial entities;
15. **Notes** the need to mobilize resources in support of institutional building in Somalia and urges the international community to extend support to these efforts;
16. **Commits** itself to continuously and actively stay engaged in the peace processes in the region in general and in South Sudan and Somalia in particular;

On the matter of Organizational Structure of IGAD,

17. **Decides** to deliberate on the matter at an Ordinary Session to be held in Djibouti during the month of December 2018 and **directs** the IGAD Secretariat to make all the necessary arrangements for the session;
18. **Expresses** its profound appreciation to the Government and the People of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the warm reception and hospitality;
19. **Also decides** to convene a Session of IGAD Council of Ministers dedicated to the analysis of the geostrategic situation and trends in the Horn of Africa, in the light of the ongoing developments; and,
20. **Decides** to remain seized of the matters.

**Done on the 16th day of November 2018
in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**