



COMMUNIQUE OF THE 31st EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE IGAD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON THE PREVAILING POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION IN SOMALIA ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 21st DECEMBER 2008

The 31st Extraordinary Meeting of the IGAD Council of Ministers was convened at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 21st December 2008 to discuss the situation in Somalia. The Council was chaired by **H.E. Seyoum Mesfin**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the current Chairperson of the IGAD Council of Ministers. The meeting was attended by **H.E. Mahmoud Ali Yusuf**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti; **H.E. Ahmed Mohamud Goala**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia; **H.E. Deng Alor Kual**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan; **H.E. Moses Wetangula**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya; **H.E. Sam Kutesa**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, and **H.E. Mahboub M. Maalim**, Executive Secretary of IGAD.

The meeting was also attended by **H.E. Jean Ping**, Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, and representatives of the **United Nations (UN)** and **IGAD Partners Forum (IPF)**.

After deliberating at length on the prevailing political and security situation in Somalia, the **Council**:

1. **Recalls** its earlier decisions as contained in the Communiqués of its 28th meeting held on 24th September 2008 at New York, and 30th meeting held on 18th November 2008 at Addis Ababa.

2. **Further recalls** its decisions as contained in the Declaration of the 13th Extraordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government held on 29th October 2008 at Nairobi, Kenya.
3. **Reaffirms** support for Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein and the approved new members of cabinet by the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP) and calls upon the new appointees to assume their role with a high level of commitment and dedication, and to stand united in the face of multiple political, security and humanitarian challenges currently facing the country.
4. **Regrets** the attempts by President Abdullahi Yusuf to unconstitutionally appoint a new Prime Minister which IGAD does not recognize, and decides to impose sanctions on him and his associates immediately.
5. **Welcomes** the establishment of the Benadir Administration as stipulated in the Addis Ababa Roadmap of 25th August 2008 and the Nairobi IGAD Summit Declaration, and **calls upon** the TFIs to take all appropriate measures to make it functional.
6. **Notes** with serious concern the continued lack of unity and working at cross-purposes among the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institution (TFIs) and **underlines** that this failure continues to be the main stumbling block in achieving progress in national reconciliation, as well as creating fertile ground for the extremist and terrorist forces to pose serious security threats to Somalia, the region and the international community at large.
7. **Expresses** its indignation at the flagrant violation by some individuals within the TFG of the provisions of the 13th Extraordinary Session of the IGAD Summit and the Communiqué of 30th IGAD Council, particularly paragraph 9.

8. **Underlines** once again, the decision of the Council on paragraph 7 of the Communiqué of 30th IGAD Council that no one should be allowed, both inside and outside Somalia, to create obstacles to the implementation of the Djibouti Agreements between the TFG and the ARS.
9. **Supports** the intention by the government of Kenya to take action against Somali leaders, including the President of the TFG, in compliance with the Council decision as contained in the Communiqué of the 30th Extraordinary Council meeting that decided to impose targeted sanctions against all those who have become obstacles to the achievement of peace in Somalia, and in this connection calls upon other member states and AU and the UN to take similar measures.
10. **Expresses** its full support and commits to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1844 (2008) of 20th November 2008 that decides on a comprehensive sanction measures against those who seek to prevent, block or threaten the TFIs of Somalia or AMISOM by force, or take action that undermines stability in Somalia or the region.
11. **Welcomes** the progress made by the Djibouti peace process especially the proposals of the High Level Committee (HLC) reached on 25th November 2008 to expand the TFP and establish a government of national unity as well as extend by two years the transitional period.
12. **Condemns** the continued escalation of acts of piracy along the coastlines of Somalia and **takes note** of the action plan adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Piracy around the Somali Waters held on 11th December 2008 in Nairobi.
13. **Welcomes** UN Security Council Resolution 1851 (2008) of 16th December 2008 which *inter alia* **calls upon** states and international organizations to take an active part in

the fight against piracy and armed robbery in a coordinated manner.

14. **Reiterates** its previous positions that the escalation of acts of piracy along the Somali territorial waters is a symptom of the overall economic, political, security and social problem afflicting Somalia in the last 18 years, and that sustainable solution can only be achieved through addressing the root causes, in particular through the establishment of institutions of governance and protection of the people of Somalia.
15. **Takes note** of the decision by the government of Ethiopia to withdraw its troops from Somalia as communicated in a letter dated 25th November 2008 addressed to the Secretary General of the UN and the President of the AU Commission.
16. **Expresses** its appreciation to the people and government of Ethiopia for the sacrifices they have made by deploying troops in Somalia to promote peace and stability.
17. **Calls** upon the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the UN Security Council to take expeditious measures to avoid a security vacuum.
18. **Expresses** appreciation to the troop contributing countries namely Uganda and Burundi of AMISOM for the sacrifices they continue to make to advance the cause of peace and stability in Somalia.
19. **Thanks** the government and people of Djibouti for the on-going efforts to seek peaceful solution for the Somali crisis by hosting the process of political negotiations.
20. **Reiterates** its previous calls and appeals to the European Union (EU) and the European Commission (EC); the UN, the League of Arab States (LAS), the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and other

potential partners to provide the resources necessary to strengthen the AMISOM deployment, and the 10,000 Joint Somali Security forces.

21. **Endorses** the appointment of Hon. Kipruto arap Kirwa by the government of Kenya as the IGAD Facilitator for the Somalia Peace and Reconciliation, and **calls upon** IGAD member states, partner countries and organizations, and the Somali parties in particular the leadership of the TFIs and the leadership of the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS) to render him full support in the discharge of his responsibilities.
22. **Recalls** its decision as contained in the Communiqué issued on 18th November 2008 and **recommends** that an urgent IGAD Summit be convened in the first part of January 2009.
23. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

Issued at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 21st December 2008.