

I G A D



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Communiqué **Issued by the 26th Session** **of IGAD Council of Ministers** **13 April, 2007, Nairobi, Kenya**

The 26th Ordinary Session of the IGAD Council of Ministers convened on April 13, 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya considered among others the prevailing situation in Somalia and the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of Sudan.

A. On Somalia

The Council received briefing from H.E. Ismael Hurreh, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Transitional Government of Somalia. The Council deliberated on the evolving political and security Situation inside Somalia and reviewed the Diplomatic efforts being deployed by IGAD and AU member states as well as the international community at large to address the multiple challenges facing Somalia. After a thorough exchange of views the Council resolved as follows:

1. **Expresses** its serious concern over the prevailing security situation in Somalia and in particular the escalation of hostilities in Mogadishu resulting from the continued presence and action of the extremist armed militia elements causing huge loss of lives and displacement of people.
2. **Reaffirms** its confidence on the TFG as the legitimate authority in Somalia and condemns all forces the undermine this Government and attempt to prevent it from carrying out its responsibilities in accordance with the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC), and notes that any action that undermines these efforts will not only jeopardize peace and stability in Somalia but also poses serious threat to IGAD's efforts to develop conflict prevention and resolution strategy.

3. **Welcomes** the deployment of African Union Peace Support Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and **Expresses** its profound appreciation to the Government of Uganda for Contributing two battalion troops to AMISOM.
4. **Expresses** its appreciation to the Ethiopian Government for all the sacrifices it has made to promote the common position of IGAD Member States, which is fully consistent with the commitment of the organization to the success of the TFG and to the interest of the people of the IGAD region to achieve peace and stability and to protect the region from terrorist and extremist.
5. **Takes note** with appreciation the pledges made by the African countries namely, Burundi, Benin, Ghana and Nigeria to deploy troops to AMISOM, and in this respect and in light of the prevailing security challenges strongly urges those countries that have pledged troops to deploy them without further delay.
6. **Expresses** its appreciation the IGAD Partners countries and organizations including the Government of Algeria that have availed resources for the deployment of AMISOM as well as to support the Transitional Federal Institutions.
7. **Underlines** that the Prevailing security situation in Somalia affects not only the peace, security and stability of the Horn of Africa but also possess a threat to global peace and Security. The Council called upon the international community to stand ready to fulfill its obligation under the UN Charter by rendering inter alia the requisite material, financial and logistical support for the deployment of AMISOM.
8. **Reiterates** the resolving of the IGAD member States to continue rendering collective and individual support and assistance to the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and the Transitional Federal Institutions so as to enable Somalia stabilize. In this regard, Council affirms its resolve to continue playing a lead and coordinating role in ensuring that Somalia remains under active consideration by the international community.
9. **Reiterates** that lasting solution to the conflict in Somalia can only be achieved through an all inclusive intra Somalia political dialogue. In this regard, Council **Expresses** its full support to the plan of the TFG of Somalia to convene a National Reconciliation Congress and appeals to the IGAD partners to render financial and political support to realize the objectives of the Congress.

10. **Mandates** the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya as the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of IGAD to enhance his shuttle diplomacy in the sub-region and beyond in order to achieve complete deployment of AMISON and assist in facilitating the all-inclusive national reconciliation and dialogue in Somalia;
11. **Welcomes** the initiative by His Highness King Abdallah Ben Abdelaziz of Saudi Arabia to boost the national reconciliation process in Somalia in accordance with the reconciliation congress as envisaged by the TFG;
12. **Calls upon** the Government of Sweden and Italy to start, as a matter of urgency, the preparation to convene and international pledging conference for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia.

The delegation of Eritrea entered reservations on items in paragraphs 1 and 4.

B. On Sudan

The implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)

Council was briefed by H.E. Tom Vraalsen, Chairman of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). After exchanging views on the progress made and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the CPA, Council resolved as follows:

1. **Welcomes** the Progress made in the implementation of the CPA and encourages the parties to the Agreement to pursue the implementation process with enhanced dedication and commitment;
2. **Notes** that the implementation of the CPA in some important areas is lagging behind the schedule as stipulated in the CPA and therefore causing loss of momentum. In this regard Council underlined the need to accelerate the implementation and set specific timelines;
3. **Underscores** the need for IGAD to remain Seized with the monitoring of the CPA implementation process and render appropriate support to the parties as they forge ahead with the implementation challenges. The council also decided to keep the CPA implementation on its agenda, directed the IGAD Secretariat to participate at the AEC plenary meetings and submit reports to the Council;

4. **Expresses** its commitment to support the implementation of the CPA and encouraged the international community to re-engaged politically and financially in order to fulfill their pledges;
5. **Recommends** an urgent extraordinary meeting of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government. In this regard, Council instructed the Executive Secretary of IGAD to undertake the necessary consultation and make preparation for the Summit meeting

Done In Nairobi, On 13th April, 2007