

ISSUE 001

NOVEMBER 2025

IGAD 4P MONTHLY DIGEST





BRIDGE Research & Innovation



BRIDGE Profile

Bridge Research and Innovation for Democratic Governance and Enhanced Peace (BRIDGE) is an independent, non-profit think tank based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Registered under the FDRE Civil Society Organization Proclamation No. 1113/2019, which specializes in parliamentary affairs, peace, and development in the IGAD region.



Mission

To advance democratic governance and enhance peace through evidence-based research and innovative policy analysis.



Vision

To be a leading research hub and trusted source of analysis on parliamentary affairs, peace, governance, and development in the IGAD region.



Core Values

Rigor: Delivering high-quality, evidence-driven research.

Innovation: Pioneering creative and adaptive solutions for governance and peace challenges.

Trust: Upholding credibility through transparent and reliable analysis.



Objectives

It aims to be a knowledge hub on the affairs of IGAD and strengthen peace and socio-economic development throughout the Horn of Africa by:

- Conducting rigorous, evidence-based research that informs policy and practice on the IGAD subregional organization and on the Horn of Africa.

- Delivering specialized training programs on the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and regional dynamics in the Horn of Africa.

- Monitoring IGAD's activities for knowledge dissemination and engagement with academicians, the diplomatic community, and pertinent stakeholders, to amplify IGAD's impact and reinforce its commitment in the region.

+251 911 86 12 34

+251 115 57 74 96

research@bridge-et.org

<https://bridge-et.org/>

150096, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Kazanchis, across the main gate of
UNECA, SA Building, 9th Floor, Office
No. 5, Addis Ababa.

Contents

1. Peace & Security	2
IGAD–FBA Special Envoys’ Retreat on Exchange and Collaboration for Effective Peace Processes	2
3 rd IGAD Governance Forum: under the theme “The Role of National Democratic Institutions in Promoting Peace and Security.”	2
Ethiopia–Uganda Bilateral Workshop Advances Joint Action Against Human Trafficking and Smuggling	3
2 nd Forum of Special Envoys/Representatives Harmonizing Regional and International Mediation Efforts for the Sudan Peace Process	4
Regional Forum on Women, Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence.....	4
IGAD and Japan Strengthen Cooperation to Support Peace Efforts in Sudan	5
2. Climate Resilience & Natural Resources	6
Regional Consultation Meeting to validate the draft IGAD Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management Strategy (2024–2035)	6
Second Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP)	7
IGAD Welcomes Ethiopia’s Selection as Host of COP32 and Reaffirms Support for Africa’s Climate Leadership	7
2.4 IGAD Regional Focus of the 2025 Global Report on Food Crises.....	8
Strengthening Somalia’s Blue Economy Governance for Regional Resilience.....	9
Regional Dialogues on Women’s Land Rights, Climate Resilience and Youth Empowerment	9
IGAD and AfDB Launch BE-Prosper Project to Boost Blue Economy Resilience in the Horn of Africa	11
IGAD Ministerial Conference on Transhumance and Livestock Development	12
3. Social & Humanitarian Affairs.....	14
IGAD Convenes a Regional Emergency Meeting on Confirmed Marburg Virus Outbreak in Southern Ethiopia	14
3 rd Ministerial Stock-take Meeting of the IGAD Support Platform	14
Youth Engagement and Governance.....	15
IGAD Launches Regional Journalism and Influencer Training to Strengthen Food Systems Resilience Communication	16



IGAD Concludes IGAD Anthem Member States Consultations Meeting in Kampala.	16
IGAD Executive Secretary Presides Over the 5th Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Migration Fund.....	17
IGAD and Member States strengthen coordination and management refugee protection and durable solutions in the region.....	17
4. Regional Integration.....	19
IGAD launches cross border education, health and informal women traders support groups in Moyale Ethiopia-Kenya cross-border area	19
5. IGAD Media Awards 2025: Celebrating Excellence in Climate Storytelling in Addis Ababa.....	20





1. Peace & Security

IGAD–FBA Special Envoys’ Retreat on Exchange and Collaboration for Effective Peace Processes

From November 3–5, 2025, IGAD, in partnership with Sweden’s Folke Bernadotte Academy, held a Special Envoys’ Retreat in Bishoftu, Ethiopia under the theme “Exchange, Collaboration, and Strategies for Effective Peace Processes.”¹ The retreat brought together IGAD Special Envoys, senior officials, and experts to review ongoing mediation efforts, refine collaborative approaches, and strengthen strategic coherence in peace facilitation across the Horn of Africa.



Opening remarks highlighted the importance of reflection and joint learning in advancing IGAD’s peace architecture. Over three days, participants examined mediation practices including facilitation techniques, dialogue frameworks, inter-agency coordination, stakeholder engagement, inclusivity, and strategic partnerships. They shared experiences from different peace processes, identified opportunities to improve coordination and trust-building, and reinforced collective action for regional stability. The retreat concluded with a shared vision to enhance IGAD’s mediation capacity, making it more connected,

¹ IGAD–FBA Special Envoys’ Retreat on Exchange and Collaboration for Effective Peace Processes. <https://igad.int/igad-fba-special-envoys-retreat-on-exchange-and-collaboration-for-effective-peace-processes/>

responsive, and strategic in addressing peace and security challenges.



3rd IGAD Governance Forum: under the theme “The Role of National Democratic Institutions in Promoting Peace and Security.”

On November 12–13, 2025, IGAD’s Peace and Security Division concluded the 3rd IGAD Governance Forum in Addis Ababa under the theme “The Role of National Democratic Institutions in Promoting Peace and Security.”² The two-day event brought together policymakers, legislators, judiciaries, election bodies, human rights institutions, anti-corruption agencies, civil society, youth, women, academia, and media from across IGAD Member States.



The forum provided a platform to exchange experiences and chart pathways for strengthening democratic governance as a foundation for peace and stability in a region facing institutional fragility, governance deficits, climate risks, and cross-border threats. Opening remarks on behalf of H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Commander Abebe Muluneh, Director of the IGAD Peace and Security Division, emphasized the importance of inclusive and resilient democratic institutions in preventing conflict and fostering trust, while Representing the Government of Ethiopia, the host country, H.E. Bikila Hurissa (PhD), Coordinator of Democracy System Building

² The 3rd IGAD Governance Forum. <https://igad.int/the-3rd-igad-governance-forum-strengthening-democratic-institutions-for-peace-and-security-in-the-region/>



Coordination Centre, Office of the Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, highlighted its ongoing reforms to revitalize governance structures. Sweden reaffirmed its support, stressing that democratic governance delivers tangible dividends such as stability, resilience, and prevention of extremism.

Five interactive panels explored oversight institutions as conflict prevention tools, election management for peaceful transitions, the role of legislatures and judiciaries in safeguarding rule of law, civic and political space, and the media's role in reinforcing transparency and accountability. The forum underscored priorities including credible elections, independent judiciaries, expanded civic space, gender equality, youth inclusion, professional media, and stronger regional cooperation.

In closing, IGAD reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Member States in building democratic institutions that deliver peace, rights, and inclusive development. The event concluded with a call for determination and continued progress, marking another milestone in IGAD's efforts to strengthen governance and stability across the region, with appreciation extended to Sweden for its partnership.



Ethiopia–Uganda Bilateral Workshop Advances Joint Action Against Human Trafficking and Smuggling

From November 18–20, 2025, IGAD's Security Sector Program (SSP)³ convened a bilateral workshop in Entebbe, Uganda, bringing together senior officials from Ethiopia and Uganda to strengthen cooperation against human trafficking, migrant smuggling, illicit financial flows, and related transnational threats. The three-day meeting gathered

intelligence officers, prosecutors, border agencies, financial units, and justice officials to examine trafficking networks, share case studies, and address links to organized crime, terrorism financing, and cybercrime.



Discussions focused on enhancing criminal, financial, and legal intelligence cooperation, harmonizing national procedures, and conducting a hands-on simulation to identify operational gaps in cross-border responses. The workshop culminated in the development of a bilateral operational framework and joint action plan outlining priority recommendations to disrupt trafficking networks and illicit flows.

The event achieved its objectives by strengthening collaboration among law enforcement and judicial institutions, aligning national efforts with IGAD's regional frameworks, and advancing intelligence-led strategies to combat transnational crime. Ethiopia and Uganda reaffirmed their commitment to closer coordination, with outcomes feeding into IGAD's broader regional initiatives. The workshop was supported by the European Union through the African Union Peace and Security Architecture.



³ Security Sector Program (SSP) is under the Peace and security division in IGAD. It is mandated to deal with peace & security issues in the IGAD region. (<https://igad.int/peace-security/security-sector-program/>)



2nd Forum of Special Envoys/Representatives Harmonizing Regional and International Mediation Efforts for the Sudan Peace Process

IGAD Executive Secretary H.E. Workneh Gebeyehu convened the 2nd Forum of Special Envoys on Sudan,⁴ bringing together key regional and international actors to strengthen a unified response to the crisis. In his address, the Executive Secretary underscored that peace in Sudan must be Sudanese-led, regionally coordinated, and backed by a single, united international voice. He called for urgent alignment to end the violence, protect civilians, and stabilise the IGAD region.



H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary, opened the 2nd Forum of Special Envoys and Representatives on the Sudan Peace Process in Djibouti on 18 November 2025 with a stark reflection on the fall of al-Fasher, describing it as a symbol of Sudan's ongoing tragedy and the failure of collective response. He emphasized that the war, now in its third year, has devastated Sudan's institutions, displaced millions, and is increasingly driven by external forces. Dr Workneh noted that despite numerous statements and commitments, there is still no credible peace effort matching the scale of the crisis, and Sudan risks de facto disintegration if left unchecked.

⁴ The First Forum of Special Envoys on Sudan, convened by IGAD in Addis Ababa in March 2025, aimed to harmonize mediation efforts and establish a unified approach to resolve the conflict in Sudan, focusing on Sudanese-led peace, coordination, and humanitarian diplomacy. ([https://igad.int/igad-strengthens-](https://igad.int/igad-strengthens-coordination-among-special-envoys-to-advance-sudan-peace-process/)

He highlighted emerging consensus among Sudanese civic and political actors, regional institutions, and international partners around key principles: there is no military solution; Sudan's unity and territorial integrity must be preserved; an inclusive political process is essential; humanitarian access and civilian protection must be secured; and stopping the war is the entry point to Sudan's future. He stressed the importance of the Quad Statement of September in guiding humanitarian truce efforts, while calling for stronger coordination among IGAD, the AU, EU, and League of Arab States to advance the political track.



Dr Workneh announced IGAD's partnership with the AU to convene a Preparatory Consultation in Luanda, Angola, aimed at harmonizing international positions, promoting a civilian-led political platform, and supporting a sequenced process aligned with the Quad's roadmap—humanitarian cooperation, de-escalation, and inclusive dialogue. He concluded by urging participants to reenergize and recommit to coordinated action, warning that Sudan's survival, regional stability, and Africa's credibility depend on urgent, united efforts.



Regional Forum on Women, Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence

From November 24–26, 2025, IGAD held a Regional Forum on Women, Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence in Machakos, Kenya, bringing

[coordination-among-special-envoys-to-advance-sudan-peace-process/](https://igad.int/igad-strengthens-coordination-among-special-envoys-to-advance-sudan-peace-process/)



together women leaders, peacebuilders, technologists, civil society, and digital innovators.⁵ Organized by the IGAD Gender Unit and Peace and Security Division, the three-day event addressed both the opportunities and risks of digital technologies and AI in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The forum aligned with regional and international frameworks, including the IGAD Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2023–2030),⁶ the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy (2020–2030),⁷ and the Women, Peace and Security resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.⁸



The forum began with sessions on women's digital safety, tackling issues such as cyber harassment, online gender-based violence, data breaches, and surveillance, while exploring strategies for secure online engagement. The second day focused on AI, examining gender bias in digital systems and highlighting the importance of women's leadership in emerging technologies, with discussions on how AI can support inclusive governance, early warning, and peacebuilding. The final day featured panels on women's leadership in digital transformation, cybersecurity, and AI's role in governance, emphasizing ethical digital practices, regional cooperation, and gender integration in technology development.

⁵ Regional Forum on Women, Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence. <https://igad.int/regional-forum-on-women-digital-security-and-artificial-intelligence/>

⁶ Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security for the IGAD Region from commitment to actions! 2023 – 2030 (https://igad.int/download/regional-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-for-the-igad-region-from-commitment-to-actions-2023-2030/?ind=16459&filename=IGAD_RAP_WPS.pdf&wpdmdl=16457&refresh=696c5a27027e81768708647)

Participants underscored the growing threats of misinformation, shrinking civic space, and women's underrepresentation in AI and cybersecurity leadership. By the conclusion, attendees had strengthened their digital security skills, expanded regional networks, and developed recommendations to guide IGAD's ongoing work on digital inclusion, security, and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.



IGAD and Japan Strengthen Cooperation to Support Peace Efforts in Sudan

On November 23, 2025, in Djibouti City, IGAD and the Government of Japan signed a second grant agreement worth USD 800,000 to support peace and stability efforts in Sudan.⁹ This follows Japan's earlier contribution of USD 500,000, reinforcing IGAD's initiatives to facilitate dialogue, promote peace, and advance conflict resolution amid Sudan's ongoing crisis, which has displaced over 12 million people. The partnership highlights the importance of international cooperation in addressing humanitarian emergencies and fostering long-term stability. IGAD reaffirmed its commitment to working with Japan and other global partners toward a peaceful and sustainable resolution to the conflict.



⁷ The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030). ([https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-DTS for Africa 2020-2030 English.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38507-doc-DTS%20for%20Africa%2020-2030%20English.pdf))

⁸ United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. <https://www.un.org/shestandsforspeace/content/united-nations-security-council-resolutions-women-peace-and-security>

⁹ IGAD and Japan Strengthen Cooperation to Support Peace Efforts in Sudan. <https://igad.int/igad-and-japan-deepen-collaboration-to-advance-peacebuilding-in-sudan/>





2. Climate Resilience & Natural Resources

Regional Consultation Meeting to validate the draft IGAD Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management Strategy (2024–2035)

IGAD, through its Food Systems Resilience Programme¹⁰ under the Agriculture and Environment Division¹¹, convened a two-day Regional Consultation Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3–4 November 2025 to validate the draft IGAD Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management Strategy (2024–2035).¹² The meeting brought together technical experts, sector specialists, and food systems focal persons from Member States to refine the strategy's

framework, implementation plan, delivery mechanisms, and monitoring tools.



Speaking on behalf of IGAD's Executive Secretary, the Director of the Economic Cooperation and Regional Integration Division reaffirmed the organization's commitment to advancing food security and climate resilience, emphasizing that sustainable irrigation and water management are central to IGAD's Vision 2050.¹³

The strategy aims to harmonize regional approaches and scale up climate-smart irrigation practices that directly support the Sustainable Development Goals¹⁴, the Malabo Declaration¹⁵, and Agenda 2063¹⁶. By addressing challenges such as recurrent droughts, low water productivity, and declining yields, the strategy provides a comprehensive framework for efficient water use and inclusive investment in irrigation

¹⁰ The FSRP is a seven-year regional initiative funded by the World Bank to enhance resilience to food system shocks through investments in agricultural water management, climate-smart agriculture, and market integration. The Programme aims to strengthen preparedness for food insecurity and ensure sustainable livelihoods across the IGAD region.

¹¹ The division is in charge of IGAD's work on agriculture, environment protection, natural resource management, blue economy, and land governance. It leads the efforts of the Authority in building resilience and sustainable development. (<https://igad.int/agriculture-environment/>)

¹² IGAD Member States Consult on Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management Strategy in Addis Ababa. <https://igad.int/igad-member-states-consult-on-irrigation-development-and-agricultural-water-management-strategy-in-addis-ababa/>

¹³ The IGAD Vision 2050 will be the region's development blueprint for the five years' period. The Vision 2050 will seek to transform the IGAD region into upper middle-income economy and an industrialized region to serve as a continental beacon of regional peace, stability, and security by 2050. It is anchored on regional peace and security; macroeconomic stability; equitable distribution of resources and wealth creation for all citizens; infrastructure; energy; science, technology, and innovation (STI);

climate change mitigation; and efficient utilization of environment and natural resources. (<https://igad.int/about/>)

¹⁴ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

¹⁵ The Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared

Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods is a set of new goals showing a more targeted approach to

achieve the agricultural vision for the continent which is shared prosperity and improved livelihoods. Adopted at the 23rd AU Assembly in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014.

¹⁶ Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, is Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future. It is the continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance. (<https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview>)



infrastructure. The consultation concluded with a call for Member States and partners to jointly adopt and implement the strategy, driving collective action for food security, climate resilience, and economic transformation across the region.



Second Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP)

IGAD convened the Second Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting, held back-to-back with the Regional Validation Meeting for the IGAD Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management Strategy (2024–2035), brought together Steering Committee Members, FSRP Focal Points, and Project Coordinators from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, alongside IGAD experts and development partners.¹⁷



¹⁷ IGAD Convenes Steering Committee Meeting of the Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP). <https://igad.int/igad-convenes-steering-committee-meeting-of-the-food-systems-resilience-programme-fsrp/>

Opening the session on behalf of IGAD's Executive Secretary, Mr Abebaw Bihonegn underscored the importance of regular coordination and dialogue to ensure effective implementation of the Programme. The meeting provided an opportunity to deliberate on the 2026 Work Plan, the upcoming mid-term review, and the approval of the **Agricultural Trade and Market Policies Assessment Report** validated earlier in July 2025.

Participants reviewed progress since the first RSC meeting in May 2025 and set strategic priorities for the coming year, focusing on strengthening coordination between regional and national components, aligning policy frameworks, and enhancing preparedness for food insecurity shocks. Dr Senait Regassa, IGAD FSRP Coordinator, reiterated the Programme's role as a critical platform for harmonising national and regional actions to advance food security and resilience in the face of climate change.

IGAD Welcomes Ethiopia's Selection as Host of COP32 and Reaffirms Support for Africa's Climate Leadership

IGAD has congratulated Ethiopia on being selected to host the 32nd Conference of the Parties (COP32)¹⁸ to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)¹⁹, describing the achievement as a recognition of Ethiopia's growing leadership in climate and development priorities.²⁰

¹⁸ Ethiopia: Press Briefing on hosting COP 32 in Ethiopia. <https://unfccc.int/event/ethiopia-press-briefing-on-hosting-cop-32-in-ethiopia>

¹⁹ <https://unfccc.int/>

²⁰ IGAD Welcomes Ethiopia's Selection as Host of COP32 and Reaffirms Support for Africa's Climate Leadership





IGAD Executive Secretary, H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, highlighted Ethiopia's strong national commitment to environmental restoration and resilience, citing flagship initiatives such as the **Green Legacy Initiative**²¹, which mobilises millions in reforestation efforts, and the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam**,²² which expands clean energy access and supports climate-resilient development. He emphasized that hosting COP32 provides the IGAD region with a vital platform to spotlight challenges such as recurrent droughts, climate-induced displacement, and pressures on food and water systems, while advancing innovative and collective solutions.

IGAD reaffirmed its readiness to collaborate with Ethiopia, the African Union, the UNFCCC Secretariat, and international partners to ensure COP32 is inclusive, impactful, and aligned with African priorities. The organisation stressed its commitment to strengthening climate finance, deepening regional cooperation, and accelerating resilience-building,

<https://igad.int/igad-congratulates-ethiopia-on-hosting-cop32-and-commends-its-ambitious-climate-and-development-initiatives/>

²¹ The Green Legacy Initiative was launched in June 2019. A target of planting 20 billion seedlings within a period of four years was set. By the fourth year, Ethiopia has succeeded in planting 25 billion seedlings by mobilizing more than 20 million citizens throughout the nation. (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/green-legacy-initiative>) and <https://ethio-greenlegacy.et/>

²² The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is a 6,450 MW hydropower project nearing completion on the Blue Nile in Ethiopia, located about 30 km upstream of the border with Sudan. It will be the largest hydropower project in Africa. Owned and operated by the Ethiopian Electric Power company, the 145-m-tall roller-compacted concrete gravity dam will flood 1,874 km² at a normal pool elevation of 640 m, and will have a tributary catchment of 172,250 km².

affirming that COP32 will showcase Africa's ambition and reinforce global solidarity in addressing the climate crisis.



2.4 IGAD Regional Focus of the 2025 Global Report on Food Crises

According to IGAD Climate Predication and Applications Center (ICPAC)²³ November report of IGAD Regional Focus²⁴ of the 2025 Global Report on Food Crises report Since 2016, food insecurity across five IGAD countries, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda—has sharply worsened, with the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3+) tripling from 13.9 million to 41.7 million by 2025. Sudan faces the most severe crisis, with famine conditions (IPC Phase 5) in multiple areas and 24.6 million people—over half its population—projected in IPC Phase 3+ between December 2024 and May 2025 due to conflict.²⁵

South Sudan has the highest proportion of its population affected, with 57 percent in IPC Phase 3+ from April to July 2025. Acute malnutrition remains critical, with 8.7 million children under five affected across six IGAD states, including 2.2 million suffering the most severe form. The region also leads globally in

(<https://www.mowe.gov.et/en/project/grand-ethiopian-renaissance-dam-1>)

²³ ICPAC is a climate center accredited by the World Meteorological Organization that provides climate services to 11 East African countries. Our services aim at creating resilience in a region deeply affected by climate change and extreme weather. (<https://www.icpac.net/about-us/>)

²⁴ The IGAD Regional Focus is a by-product of the annual Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) – an initiative of the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC), facilitated by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) and its partners.

²⁵ IGAD Regional Focus of the 2025 Global Report on Food Crises. Nov. 14, 2025. <https://www.icpac.net/publications/igad-regional-focus-of-the-2025-global-report-on-food-crises/>



forced displacement, with 22.3 million people uprooted as of July 2025, including 16.9 million internally displaced persons and 5.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers. Sudan alone accounts for more than half of the region's IDPs, making it the world's largest internal displacement crisis.



Strengthening Somalia's Blue Economy Governance for Regional Resilience

On 7–8 November 2025, IGAD, in partnership with Somalia's Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy and with financial support from the Government of Sweden (Sida), convened a national consultation workshop in Mogadishu to strengthen Blue Economy²⁶ governance and coordination mechanisms. The two-day meeting brought together government officials, coastal community representatives, academia, private sector, and civil society to discuss enhancing national capacity, institutionalizing the Blue Economy, and advancing Somalia's National Blue Economy Strategy²⁷ in alignment with IGAD's regional framework.²⁸



²⁶ The Blue Economy describes the sustainable use and conservation of aquatic resources in both marine and freshwater environments. This includes oceans and seas, coastlines and banks, lakes, rivers and groundwater. It comprises activities that exploit aquatic resources (fisheries, mining, petroleum, biotechnologies, etc.) or use aquatic environments (maritime transport, coastal tourism, etc.), once they are done in an integrated, fair and circular manner. These activities help to improve the health of aquatic ecosystems by establishing protective and restorative measures. (<https://www.uneca.org/eastern-africa/blue-economy>)

²⁷ Establishment of a Somali blue economy framework for Somalia <https://nec.gov.so/wp->

Mr. Mohamud Kaarshe, IGAD Head of Mission to Somalia, in his Opening remarks underscored IGAD's commitment to supporting Somalia's efforts to harness its marine and coastal resources for inclusive growth and resilience, while Somalia's Ms. Raisa Mohamed, Director of the Blue Economy Department at the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, emphasized integrated governance and local ownership as key to delivering tangible benefits. Participants examined institutional frameworks and explored linkages between the Blue Economy and fisheries management, maritime security, climate resilience, and community livelihoods. The outcomes will feed into IGAD's regional assessment on Blue Economy governance and contribute to a harmonized framework for Member States, reinforcing IGAD's broader efforts to build sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient Blue Economy development across the region.



Regional Dialogues on Women's Land Rights, Climate Resilience and Youth Empowerment

At the Africa Land Policy Conference²⁹ 2025 in Addis Ababa, which was held from 10 to 13 November 2025, IGAD, through its Land Governance Unit, championed people-centred land governance through regional dialogues on women's land rights, climate resilience, and youth empowerment. Organized in collaboration with the African Union Commission, AfDB, and UNECA, the biennial forum focused on the

<content/uploads/2023/04/Establishment-of-a-Somali-blue-economy-framework-for-Somalia.pdf>

²⁸ IGAD Regional Strategy: The Framework (<https://igad.int/download/igad-regional-strategy-the-framework/>) The IGAD Strategy 2021-2025 is anchored on the overarching aim and objective of building and accelerating regional integration and cross border cooperation among Member States. This is aimed at ensuring food security and environmental protection and management of the climate change variability; economic cooperation, regional integration, and social development; and peace, security, and humanitarian affairs.

²⁹ The Conference on Land Policy in Africa is organized by the AUC, ECA and AfDB under the auspices of the African Land



theme “Land Governance, Justice and Reparations for Africans and Descendants of the African Diaspora.” IGAD highlighted its progress in harmonizing land policies and promoting equitable access, showcasing initiatives in the Somali and Karamoja clusters that have strengthened conflict-sensitive land use planning and tenure security for pastoral communities.



Key sessions organized by IGAD on “Women’s Land Rights: Faith-Based Engagement for Gender Justice in Land Governance in the IGAD Region” emphasized the role of faith-based institutions in advancing women’s land rights, with religious leaders and activists sharing experiences of challenging discriminatory norms and improving women’s access to land. Another session on “Enhancing Women’s Tenure Security for Climate Resilience” organised by IGAD underscored the importance of secure land tenure for women in building climate resilience, linking land rights to sustainable practices such as agroforestry and water conservation. AfDB reaffirmed its commitment to integrating land tenure security into climate resilience

Policy Centre, in close collaboration with its key partners including inter-governmental organizations, government agencies, academia, regional economic communities, and African centres of excellence, CSOs, African private sector associations and development partners. The African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), formerly called the Land Policy Initiative (LPI), is a joint programme of the tripartite consortium consisting of the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Its purpose is to enable the use of land to lend impetus to the process of African development. (<https://africandconference.org/>)

³⁰ Youth at the Forefront of Land Justice and Climate Resilience. <https://igad.int/youth-at-the-forefront-of-land-justice-and-climate-resilience/>

³¹ Enhancing gender equality in access to land resources for transformative climate-change adaptation in the IGAD Region is a project by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), funded by the African Development Bank, aiming to boost women’s land rights for better climate adaptation in

programs, citing successful partnerships with IGAD in Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan.

Moreover, IGAD is elevating youth voices in land governance through a dedicated session on “Youth at the Forefront of Land Justice and Climate Resilience,”³⁰ positioning young people as drivers of reform and resilience. This was made possible at a high-level side event entitled “Voices for a Just Future”, jointly organized by the IGAD, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and YILAA and RECONCILE. The Event served as a dynamic platform for the youth from the IGAD region and beyond to share their experiences and engage in meaningful dialogue on land justice and climate resilience.

2.7 Kotido Gets Green: IGAD Launches Climate-Smart Greening Initiative

On 17 November 2025, IGAD launched a community-led climate-smart greening initiative in Kotido District, Uganda, under the project “Enhancing gender equality in access to land resources for transformative climate-change adaptation in the IGAD Region.”³¹ Funded by the Africa Climate Change Fund³² of the AfDB and implemented with Uganda’s ministries and local communities, the initiative aligns with national policies and commitments under the Paris Agreement.³³ The programme will plant 5,500 multi-

Djibouti, Kenya, and Uganda by tackling discriminatory norms, building skills, and promoting inclusive policies, ultimately empowering women as agents of change in land governance and climate resilience through training and dialogue. (<https://accf.afdb.org/en/projects/ongoing/multinational-enhancing-gender-equality-access-land-resources-transformative>)

³² The Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF or the Fund) is a multi-donor trust fund that complements the African Development Bank’s target of tripling its climate financing and advancing Africa’s climate resilience. (<https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/africa-climate-change-fund>)

³³ The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 195 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its overarching goal is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial



purpose tree seedlings across schools, public spaces, and community woodlots to create green buffers, regenerate land, and strengthen resilience in a drought-prone region.³⁴



At the launch, IGAD's Dr Addis Teshome, representing IGAD's Land Governance Unit and district leaders, emphasized community ownership, highlighting the role of women and youth in protecting trees to secure water sources, improve nutrition, and reduce disaster risks. Local officials welcomed the project as a model of partnership for sustainable development and called for its expansion across Kotido. The three-day programme includes consultations, sensitization, and tree-planting at key community sites, with priority given to locations that ensure long-term stewardship. IGAD reaffirmed its commitment to participatory and inclusive approaches that empower vulnerable groups, address climate challenges, and support social and economic needs through sustainable land management.



levels." (<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>)

³⁴ Kotido Gets Green: IGAD Launches Climate-Smart Greening Initiative. <https://igad.int/kotido-gets-green-igad-launches-climate%e2%80%91smart-greening-initiative/>

³⁵ The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) is a multilateral financial institution established to foster economic development and social progress in African countries by financing projects, providing technical assistance, promoting investment, and

IGAD and AfDB Launch BE-Prosper Project to Boost Blue Economy Resilience in the Horn of Africa

On 17 November 2025, IGAD and the African Development Bank (AfDB)³⁵ launched the Building Blue Economy Resilience and Prosperity in IGAD & the Horn of Africa (BE-Prosper) project³⁶ at IGAD Headquarters in Djibouti. Funded through a UA 4 million AfDB grant, the initiative supports Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, and South Sudan in partnership with FAO, UNIDO, and the University of British Columbia. The three-day launch brought together government officials, experts, and development partners to accelerate coordinated Blue Economy action across the region.

IGAD leaders emphasized the importance of moving from strategy to implementation, highlighting harmonized fish standards, stronger value chains, and expanded intra-regional trade as key drivers of transformation. AfDB reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening aquatic food systems, sustainable fisheries, and regional value chains, noting the Blue Economy's role in economic growth, climate resilience, and integration.



coordinating development policies, aiming to reduce poverty and improve living conditions across the continent. Founded in 1963, it comprises the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund, and the Nigeria Trust Fund, working to mobilize resources for Africa's sustainable growth.

³⁶ Multinational - Building blue economy resilience and prosperity in IGAD & Horn of Africa (BE-Prosper) <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/multinational-building-blue-economy-resilience-and-prosperity-igad-horn-africa-be-prosper>



BE-Prosper will deliver joint fisheries assessments, vessel monitoring, training, policy harmonization, climate resilience tools, and insurance mechanisms, supported by a robust coordination framework. The project is expected to enhance food security, stimulate local economies, strengthen community resilience, and promote inclusive Blue Economy development, positioning the Horn of Africa for long-term prosperity through stronger governance, collaboration, and investment.



IGAD Ministerial Conference on Transhumance and Livestock Development

On 21 November 2025, IGAD, through its Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), convened the Ministerial Conference on Transhumance and Livestock Development in Addis Ababa, following two days of technical discussions. The event brought together ministers, directors, donor partners, civil society, and international organizations to strengthen pastoral livelihoods and livestock productivity through transboundary cooperation. Technical sessions addressed key regional policy issues, including the operationalization of the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance,³⁷ rangeland management, control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), and livestock markets and trade.

H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary, opened the Ministerial Meeting on by

commending Ethiopia's leadership in hosting and Djibouti's chairmanship in guiding regional cooperation. He highlighted the central role of pastoralism in the IGAD region, noting that over half a billion livestock sustain 250 million people and contribute significantly to agricultural GDP, exports, and rural employment. However, he warned that drought, rangeland degradation, feed scarcity, transboundary animal diseases, and trade barriers continue to undermine pastoral potential.³⁸

Dr Workneh emphasized that transhumance remains a sophisticated, nature-based response to climate variability and that the IGAD Transhumance Protocol is vital to ensuring safe, dignified, and orderly cross-border mobility. He outlined four pillars of collective action: strengthening rangeland governance and feed security, advancing One Health and disease control to eradicate PPR (Sheep and goat plague) by 2030, modernizing livestock trade through digital traceability and harmonized standards, and empowering women and youth as key drivers of resilience and innovation.

He called on Member States and partners to seize the opportunity of the upcoming **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (2026)**³⁹ to lead global transformation in pastoral systems. Acknowledging the support of partners, he urged ministers to make decisions that elevate pastoralism from vulnerability to a driver of stability, growth, and prosperity. He concluded by affirming that pastoralism is a resilient socio-economic system that, with the right policies, can anchor the region's future.

³⁷ The IGAD Protocol on Transhumance is a landmark regional framework adopted on June 24, 2021, by the Council of Ministers of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). It is designed to facilitate the free, safe, and orderly cross-border movement of herders and their livestock in search of water and pasture across the IGAD region. (See the full Protocol: <https://icpald.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/IGAD-PROTOCOL-ON-TRANSHUMANCE-Final-Endorsed-Version.pdf>)

³⁸ Opening statement H.E. Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary on the IGAD Ministerial Meeting on "Unlocking Pastoral Livelihoods and Livestock Development through Transboundary Cooperation" <https://igad.int/opening-statement-h-e-workneh-gebeyehu-igad-executive-secretary-on-the-igad-ministerial-meeting-on-unlocking-pastoral-livelihoods-and-livestock-development-through-transboundary-cooperation/>

[meeting-on-unlocking-pastoral-livelihoods-and-livestock-development-through-transboundary-cooperation/](https://www.igad.int/opening-statement-h-e-workneh-gebeyehu-igad-executive-secretary-on-the-igad-ministerial-meeting-on-unlocking-pastoral-livelihoods-and-livestock-development-through-transboundary-cooperation/)

³⁹ The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026, declared by the UN and led by FAO, is a global initiative to raise awareness about the critical role of rangelands (vast grazing lands) and pastoralists (mobile livestock herders) in food security, climate action, biodiversity, and sustainable livelihoods, promoting policies for their support, investment in ecosystem health, and recognition of pastoralist knowledge for achieving Sustainable Development Goals. (<https://www.fao.org/rangelands-pastoralists-2026/en>)





Co-hosted by IGAD's Executive Secretary and Ethiopia's Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, the conference emphasized reframing policies to reflect pastoral communities' resilience amid drought, insecurity, and climate change. IGAD's Deputy Executive Secretary, H.E. Mohamed Ware, highlighted transhumance as a sophisticated, nature-based response to climate variability, underscoring the importance of safe and dignified cross-border mobility supported by harmonized standards and surveillance systems. The meeting concluded with IGAD Member States signing the first **Ministerial Communiqué**⁴⁰ on Transhumance and Livestock Development, marking a significant milestone in implementing the IGAD Transhumance Protocol.

The communiqué recognized the challenges posed by drought, rangeland degradation, animal diseases, poor market access, and climate pressures, while commending progress made through IGAD's regional instruments such as the Transhumance Protocol and livestock health frameworks.

Ministers committed to accelerating the ratification and implementation of the Transhumance Protocol, strengthening cross-border coordination, mapping and gazettement transhumance corridors, and investing in social services for mobile populations. They also pledged to expand participatory rangeland management, develop certified forage seed systems, harmonize feed standards, and implement land restoration programs.

On animal health, Member States recommitted to eradicating PPR by 2030, enhancing surveillance, diagnostics, vaccination, and veterinary services, while reinforcing the IGAD One Health Platform. In terms of trade, the communiqué emphasized harmonizing sanitary standards, scaling up traceability systems, investing in market and transport infrastructure, and empowering producer organizations.

Gender equality, youth empowerment, and social inclusion were highlighted as cross-cutting priorities, alongside promoting youth-led innovations in livestock and climate-smart technologies.

Finally, ministers agreed to strengthen data and early warning systems, enhance partnerships with regional and international actors, and mobilize resources to advance pastoralism and livestock development.

The communiqué was endorsed as a collective vision to transform transhumance and livestock into pillars of resilience, stability, and regional integration, with IGAD tasked to coordinate implementation and reporting.



⁴⁰ See the full Communiqué: Communiqué, IGAD Ministerial Conference on Transhumance and Livestock Development,

<https://icpald.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/English-Version.pdf>





3. Social & Humanitarian Affairs

IGAD Convenes a Regional Emergency Meeting on Confirmed Marburg Virus Outbreak in Southern Ethiopia

On 17 November 2025, IGAD convened an emergency high-level virtual meeting under its Regional Preparedness for Pandemic Response (PREPARE) Project,⁴¹ following Ethiopia's confirmation of a Marburg virus outbreak in South Omo Zone⁴² with nine confirmed and 25 suspected cases.⁴³ Representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Djibouti, and Red Cross partners highlighted the outbreak's cross-border risks, particularly near Kenya and South Sudan. Ethiopia was commended for rapid detection and transparent communication, while the Ethiopian Red Cross deployed volunteers, strengthened risk messaging, and supplied infection-prevention materials.

Member States outlined preparedness measures including heightened border surveillance, activation of emergency operations centers, cross-border risk assessments, and community awareness campaigns. Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Djibouti, and South Sudan issued advisories and

strengthened monitoring, with Djibouti stressing the need for stronger laboratory capacity. IGAD committed to coordinating regional preparedness through rapid information-sharing, harmonizing country actions, and adapting PREPARE activities to reinforce early warning, laboratory systems, infection prevention, and risk communication. Collaboration with WHO, Africa CDC, and the Pandemic Fund will accelerate immediate response while building long-term resilience against future outbreaks.



3rd Ministerial Stock-take Meeting of the IGAD Support Platform

The 3rd Ministerial Stock-take Meeting of the IGAD Support Platform was convened on November 27, 2025, in Nairobi, Kenya. This meeting serves as a high-level review of regional progress in addressing displacement and implementing the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action.⁴⁴



IGAD Executive Secretary H.E. Workneh Gebeyehu delivered the opening statement at the 3rd

⁴¹ PREPARE is a multi-country, multi-sectoral initiative designed to address transboundary health threats. (<https://igad.int/igad-launches-the-prepare-project-to-safeguard-regional-health-security/>)

⁴² Ethiopia confirms first outbreak of Marburg virus disease. <https://www.afro.who.int/countries/ethiopia/news/ethiopia-confirms-first-outbreak-marburg-virus-disease>

⁴³ IGAD Convenes a Regional Emergency Meeting on Confirmed Marburg Virus Outbreak in Southern Ethiopia. <https://igad.int/igad-convenes-a-regional-emergency-meeting-on-confirmed-marburg-virus-outbreak-in-southern-ethiopia/>

⁴⁴ IGAD Heads of State and Government met in Nairobi on March 25, 2017 at a Special Summit on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia. The Summit agreed the Nairobi Declaration and the accompanying Plan of Action. These decisions set out a comprehensive regional approach and commitments at four levels: accelerating solutions in Somalia by creating an environment conducive for voluntary and sustainable return of refugees; delivering durable solutions, whilst maintaining the protection space and promoting the self-reliance and inclusion of refugees in countries of asylum; strengthening sub-regional co-operation; and, increasing international responsibility sharing. (See the full declaration: <https://igad.int/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Roadmap-and-Results-Framework-of-the-Nairobi-Action-Plan.pdf>)



Ministerial Stock-take Meeting of the IGAD Support Platform in Nairobi.⁴⁵ He underscored the scale of displacement in the region, noting that IGAD hosts 5.1 million refugees, one in five globally, with women and children making up 70%. He stressed that displacement is not temporary but a structural challenge requiring long-term, development-oriented solutions.

Dr. Workneh highlighted progress since the 2017 Nairobi Declaration, with Member States integrating refugees into national systems in education, health, and livelihoods, supported by partners such as the EU, World Bank, Germany, Sweden, UNHCR, and UNDP. He emphasized the importance of the IGAD Support Platform, launched in 2019, and the regional pledges made in 2023 on comprehensive solutions and climate action, which reflect Africa's leadership in progressive protection norms.

He pointed to tangible progress across the region: Djibouti strengthening asylum systems, Ethiopia and Kenya integrating refugees into development strategies, Uganda advancing self-reliance models, Somalia driving reintegration, and South Sudan and Sudan coordinating despite challenges. However, he warned of intensifying pressures from climate change, fiscal constraints, and conflict, calling for sustained political support, predictable financing, and stronger regional coherence.



⁴⁵ Opening Statement from H.E. Workneh Gebeyehu for the 3rd Ministerial Stock-take Meeting of the IGAD Support Platform. <https://igad.int/opening-statement-from-h-e-workneh-gebeyehu-for-the-ministerial-stock-take-meeting-of-the-igad-support-platform/>

Dr. Workneh urged Member States to unite around three priorities: sustained political leadership, stronger regional coordination through a common monitoring framework, and enhanced partnerships with multi-year investments in education, livelihoods, services, and climate resilience. He concluded by affirming that effective displacement management strengthens stability, resilience, and integration, and called for a legacy of shared solutions and well-governed mobility across the IGAD region.



Youth Engagement and Governance

IGAD's November 2025 agenda reflected youth engagement as imperative in countering violent extremism in the region. The Executive Secretary of IGAD asserted that empowering youth and employing strategic communication are pivotal in addressing challenges posed by violent extremism, which disproportionately affects young people. Young leaders from IGAD countries during the Africa Land Policy Conference 2025, called for the inclusion of youth in matters related to land justice and climate resilience⁴⁶. Moreover, at the conference, IGAD advanced people-centered land governance, emphasized women's land rights, and prioritized climate resilience and security for pastoralists in the Horn of Africa. November 2025 witnessed IGAD placing youth empowerment as a fundamental strategy to combat violent extremism, advocate for a people-centered land governance, and ensure youth inclusion in land justice and climate resilience.



⁴⁶ IGAD Champions People-Centred Land Governance at the Africa Land Policy Conference 2025: November 10, 2025 (IGAD)



IGAD Launches Regional Journalism and Influencer Training to Strengthen Food Systems Resilience Communication

On 28 November 2025, IGAD launched a two-day regional Journalism and Influencer Training in Addis Ababa under its Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP), supported by the World Bank. The workshop brought together journalists, editors, influencers, and food security focal persons from IGAD Member States to strengthen communication on food systems resilience and climate action at a time when the region faces climate shocks, food insecurity, and environmental stress.⁴⁷



Opening remarks emphasized the importance of empowering communicators to raise public awareness, hold institutions accountable, and amplify resilience initiatives. The training focused on building capacity in accurate reporting, compelling storytelling, and ethical journalism, while fostering collaboration between media actors and IGAD technical teams. Participants engaged in presentations, discussions, and hands-on workshops to improve their ability to communicate climate and food security issues effectively. The event also marked the establishment of the **IGAD Food Systems Journalists and Influencers Network**, a platform for cross-border collaboration, knowledge exchange, and enhanced visibility of resilience efforts, reinforcing IGAD's commitment to sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation, and food security across the Horn of Africa.

⁴⁷ IGAD Launches Regional Journalism and Influencer Training to Strengthen Food Systems Resilience Communication: <https://igad.int/igad-launches-regional-journalism-and-influencer-training-to-strengthen-food-systems-resilience-communication/>

IGAD Concludes IGAD Anthem Member States Consultations Meeting in Kampala.

On 18–19 November 2025, IGAD held a two-day Member States Consultations Meeting in Kampala, Uganda, to advance the creation of its first-ever Regional Anthem.⁴⁸ The meeting brought together technical experts from ministries of foreign affairs, culture, and heritage across IGAD Member States, who collaborated with the Secretariat to shape ideas for a unifying anthem. Opening remarks emphasized the need for the anthem to reflect the collective voice, shared history, and aspirations of the IGAD family.



Delegates examined thematic directions, cultural insights, and linguistic perspectives to ensure inclusivity and representation of peace, unity, resilience, and prosperity. By the end of the consultations, IGAD consolidated Member States' contributions into the first draft of the anthem lyrics, marking a key milestone in the process. Closing remarks commended Member States for their collaboration and commitment to shaping a cultural symbol that will represent the region globally. With the draft completed, IGAD now moves toward validation and formal adoption, aiming to establish a unifying anthem that embodies its mission and collective identity.

⁴⁸ IGAD Concludes IGAD Anthem Member States Consultations Meeting in Kampala. <https://igad.int/igad-concludes-igad-anthem-member-states-consultations-meeting-in-kampala/>



IGAD Executive Secretary Presides Over the 5th Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Migration Fund

On November 20, 2025, IGAD Executive Secretary H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu presided over the 5th Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Migration Fund (RMF)⁴⁹ in Ali Sabieh, Djibouti. In his remarks, he highlighted the RMF as a practical tool for turning policy into impact by delivering services, opportunities, and infrastructure directly to communities along migration routes.⁵⁰ He emphasized Member States' ownership as the foundation of the Fund's sustainability and expressed gratitude to Germany for its strategic partnership.



Representatives from Djibouti noted the Fund's growing momentum, citing successful projects such as the Lycée Technique rehabilitation, the Community Development Centre, and the Migrant Orientation Centre. They reaffirmed commitment to completing ongoing initiatives, including new market centers in Ali Sabieh and Ali Addeh. The Steering Committee also visited the Ali Sabieh market site, which will feature shops, stalls, sanitation facilities, and

management offices, as well as the upgraded Lycée Technique, now able to host 200 additional students, mainly refugees.

Launched in 2019 with German support through KfW, the RMF builds on feasibility studies from 2016–2017 and continues to strengthen migration corridors, promote local economic development, and foster social cohesion between host communities, refugees, and migrants across the IGAD region.



IGAD and Member States strengthen coordination and management refugee protection and durable solutions in the region.

On November 19, 2025, IGAD convened the second Project Steering Committee Meeting for the Protection and Solutions for Displaced Persons Project in Djibouti City to review progress, strengthen coordination, and provide strategic direction for implementing the Regional Refugee Protection Policy Framework.⁵¹ The two-day meeting brought together Member States, refugee agencies, commissions, and partners to align efforts with regional priorities and national needs.⁵²

Speaking on behalf of IGAD's Executive Secretary, Amb. Moussa Meigague, Director Health and Social Development Division, emphasized the

⁴⁹ The Regional Migration Fund (RMF) is an IGAD initiative in the Horn of Africa, established in 2019, to boost economic opportunities, improve living conditions, and foster social cohesion for refugees, migrants, and host communities through two main investment windows: one for border areas/migration corridors and another for protracted refugee situations. Managed by a Fund Management Unit (FMU) with support from partners like Germany, the RMF funds infrastructure and development projects to address root causes of migration and promote positive mobility, focusing on inclusive, area-based development.

⁵⁰ IGAD Executive Secretary Presides Over the 5th Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Migration Fund. [https://igad.int/igad-executive-secretary-presides-over-the-5th-](https://igad.int/igad-executive-secretary-presides-over-the-5th-annual-steering-committee-meeting-of-the-regional-migration-fund/)

[annual-steering-committee-meeting-of-the-regional-migration-fund/](https://igad.int/igad-executive-secretary-presides-over-the-5th-annual-steering-committee-meeting-of-the-regional-migration-fund/)

⁵¹ This Policy Framework on Refugee Protection is a consolidation of the key findings and recommendations that reflect the IGAD Member States' commitment to providing a safe haven for refugees, ensuring their access to essential services and promoting their socioeconomic integration and reintegration into host communities while recognising their contributions. (<https://igad.int/download/igad-policy-framework-on-refugee-protection/>)

⁵² IGAD and Member States strengthen coordination and management refugee protection and durable solutions in the region.



urgency of collective action amid escalating forced displacement, noting that Member States continue to show solidarity despite limited resources. He highlighted progress made with Sweden's support in strengthening protection mechanisms, improving coordination, and advancing durable solutions. Djibouti's representative, Mr. Houssein Mohamed Chardi, underscored the heavy burden borne by host countries and stressed the importance of regional platforms in harmonizing policies, mobilizing resources, and fostering integration, repatriation, or resettlement.

Sweden's representative, Ms. Agnes Geijer-Farah, outlined achievements including validation of refugee protection indicators, the launch of the Regional Refugee Engagement Forum, mapping of refugee-led organizations, capacity assessments, dialogues, advocacy on statelessness, and publication of a Gender Analysis Report. She reaffirmed Sweden's strong partnership and commitment to reinforcing IGAD's institutional leadership.

The meeting endorsed the 2026 Action Plan, setting priorities for the year ahead, and confirmed that the Steering Committee will continue to meet annually to review progress, address challenges, and ensure sustainable implementation of refugee protection and durable solutions across the region.





support IGAD's broader cross-border development agenda.



4. Regional Integration

IGAD launches cross border education, health and informal women traders support groups in Moyale Ethiopia-Kenya cross-border area

On November 1, 2025, IGAD launched cross-border technical working groups on health, education, and informal women traders in Moyale, along the Ethiopia-Kenya border, under the **Strengthening IGAD Migration Policy Implementation (SIMPI) project**. The initiative, supported by Germany's BMZ through GIZ, establishes formal platforms for cooperation between the two countries, moving beyond ad hoc responses to structured and sustainable systems.⁵³



These groups aim to address shared challenges by improving public health services, strengthening education delivery, and empowering women traders economically. The effort reflects a strong commitment by local authorities and IGAD to enhance coordinated leadership and cross-border collaboration. Long-term success will depend on integrating best practices into local government structures and budgets, ensuring sustainability beyond external assistance, with GIZ contributing its expertise in building effective local administrative systems to

⁵³ IGAD launches cross border education, health and informal women traders support groups in Moyale Ethiopia-Kenya cross-border area. [https://igad.int/igad-launches-cross-border-](https://igad.int/igad-launches-cross-border-education-health-and-informal-women-traders-support-groups-in-moyale-ethiopia-kenya-cross-border-area/)

[education-health-and-informal-women-traders-support-groups-in-moyale-ethiopia-kenya-cross-border-area/](https://igad.int/igad-launches-cross-border-education-health-and-informal-women-traders-support-groups-in-moyale-ethiopia-kenya-cross-border-area/)



5. IGAD Media Awards 2025: Celebrating Excellence in Climate Storytelling in Addis Ababa

The IGAD Media Awards 2025 concluded on November 30 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, celebrating journalism that advances climate action and strengthens public understanding across the Horn of Africa.⁵⁴ The ceremony gathered journalists, creators, government officials, and partners to honor stories that inspire resilience and elevate community voices. Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, H.E. Gedion Timothewos, opened the event by stressing the urgency of climate challenges, while IGAD Executive Secretary H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu praised journalists as “frontline guardians of truth” whose work supports regional stability and resilience.



Awards were presented across diverse categories including print, radio, television, digital, photography, influencer, gender, indigenous languages, and lifetime achievement, recognizing media professionals from Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan, and Sudan. The winning works showcased creativity and courage through investigative reporting, films, audio storytelling, digital innovation, and climate data

narratives.



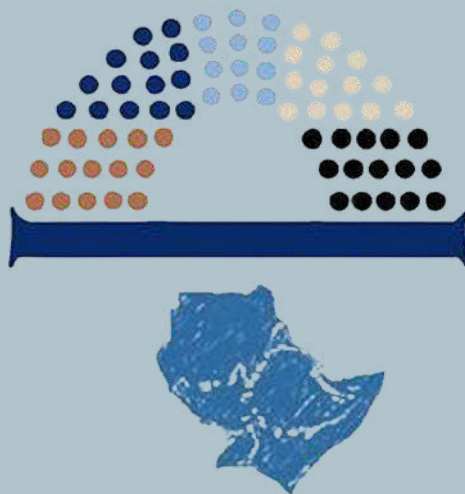
IGAD announced that the 2026 Media Awards will be hosted in Uganda, with a theme focusing on migration, human mobility, and climate. Since its launch in 2023, the Awards have become a premier regional platform for celebrating excellence in reporting, amplifying diverse voices, and promoting responsible communication. The 2025 ceremony reaffirmed IGAD's commitment to empowering media as partners in resilience, integration, and development across the region.



⁵⁴ IGAD Media Awards 2025: Celebrating Excellence in Climate Storytelling in Addis Ababa. [https://igad.int/igad-media-awards-](https://igad.int/igad-media-awards-2025-celebrating-excellence-in-climate-storytelling-in-addis-ababa/)

[2025-celebrating-excellence-in-climate-storytelling-in-addis-ababa/](https://igad.int/igad-media-awards-2025-celebrating-excellence-in-climate-storytelling-in-addis-ababa/)

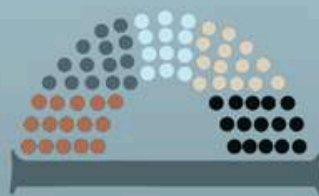




IGAD MONTHLY DIGEST

Disclaimer note;

"All pictures whether of personalities or typographies featured in these monthly digests are sourced from the official pages of the Intergovernmental Authority of Development (IGAD). Likewise, all data presented are drawn from this same source. BRIDGE assumes responsibility for the insightful observations, summaries and any interpretations thereof."



IGAD MONTHLY DIGEST

ISSUED BY BRIDGE RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION.



BRIDGE Research & Innovation for Democratic Governance and Enhanced Peace



+251 115 57 74 96



+251 911 86 12 34



research@bridge-et.org



150096, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Kazanchis, across the main gate of UNECA,
SA Building, 9th Floor, Office No. 5, Addis
Ababa.