

IGAD



MONTHLY DIGEST

PUBLIC AWARENESS

on the Ratification of the IGAD Treaty

“Understanding the IGAD Treaty and Its Regional Significance”

Thursday
April 30, 2026

EAT
8-9:30 PM

Guest
Karen Njallie
Head of Legal Unit, IGAD

Moderator
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Spokesperson, Executive Secretary's Office, IGAD

Live on:
[X @IGADSecretariat](#)





BRIDGE Research & Innovation



BRIDGE Profile

BridgeResearch 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.

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CONTENT

| | |
|--|----|
| Content..... | 1 |
| 1. Peace and Security | 4 |
| Strengthening Regional Engagement for Peace in South Sudan..... | 4 |
| Advancing Peace and Livelihoods in Karamoja | 4 |
| IGAD Strengthens Engagement with UN Office on Genocide Prevention | 5 |
| IGAD delegation led by the IGAD Special Envoy for Sudan, Amb. Korbandy, is participating in the Conference on Sudan..... | 6 |
| IGAD Deputy Executive Secretary Joins High-Level Panel on Mediation in the Horn of Africa. | 7 |
| Ambassador Moussa Djama Ali, IGAD Special Envoy to the Republic of South Sudan, received Maj. Gen. Teshome Anagawe | 8 |
| Ambassador Moussa Djama Ali received Inger Elisabeth Meyer | 8 |
| Strengthening Coordinated Diplomacy for Peace in Sudan | 9 |
| Reimagining Mediation in a Fragmented World | 9 |
| 2. Climate Resilience and Natural Resources | 11 |
| IGAD’s Agriculture and Environment Division Director met with officials from IFRC | 11 |
| IGAD and the UN Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa convened the inaugural meeting of the CoP on Climate, Peace, and Security in the Horn of Africa. | 11 |
| IGAD Rallies Regional Action for Climate Resilience and Recovery | 12 |
| ICPAC Hosts Italian Delegation and Regional Partners for Disaster Risk Management Talks in Nairobi | 14 |
| Joint Planning on Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) Surveillance & Synchronized Vaccination | 15 |
| IGAD & Uganda Collaborate in Developing a Roadmap to Fast Track Signing and Ratification of the IGAD Transhumance Protocol | 15 |
| Writershop to Develop PRM Complementary Tools and Guides | 16 |
| Building Community Capacity to Pilot Risk Narratives for IGAD Cluster 3 (Mandera, Wajir & Garissa) | 17 |
| Implementation Progress Review of Livestock Policies and Strategies | 18 |
| 3. Social and Humanitarian Affairs | 19 |
| IGAD organised a workshop on Enhancing Social Cohesion for Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities | 19 |
| IGAD Urges Coordinated Response to Child Wasting Crisis | 19 |
| A New Journey Toward Stringer Cross-Border Protection for Children on the Move in the IGAD Region..... | 20 |
| IGAD Youth Envoy in the 1 st Expert Group Report prepared by Oxford School of Economics | 21 |



| | |
|--|----|
| Launch of the National TVET Engagement in Arta, Djibouti..... | 21 |
| Human Mobility in the Context of Disaster and Climate Change Monitor of Dialogue and Action in the IGAD Region..... | 23 |
| Advancing Financial Inclusion to Reduce Child Wasting in the IGAD Region..... | 24 |
| Driving Quality Education for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities | 25 |
| Advancing Refugee Inclusion and the Right to Work in Ethiopia..... | 26 |
| IGAD commences the 2nd Cluster of the National Consultation on the Implementation of the Djibouti Declaration between Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia | 27 |
| Migration and Displacement Workshop in Somalia..... | 28 |
| IGAD and South Sudan Strengthen Migration and Displacement Data Systems..... | 29 |
| IGAD and African Development Bank Launch Women’s Land Rights and Peacebuilding Project | 30 |
| Assessing MHPSS Integration in Health Emergencies | 30 |
| IGAD and Partners Advance Regional Action on Irregular Migration along the Eastern Route | 31 |
| High-Level Delegation Conducts Field Visit to Strengthen Migration Response Along the Eastern Route | 32 |
| ICPALD Supports Operationalization of Somalia’s Livestock Export Quarantine Facility in Puntland | 33 |
| 4. Regional Integration | 34 |
| Policy Dialogue on Ratification of IGAD Transhumance Protocol in Ethiopia..... | 34 |
| Policy Dialogue on Signing & Ratification of the IGAD Transhumance Protocol by the Republic of Uganda | 34 |
| IGAD Hosts AfDB Appraisal Mission on Strengthening Regional Statistics | 35 |
| Strengthening Regional Statistics for Informed Decision-Making | 36 |
| Borderlands must be central to development, not left at its margins..... | 36 |
| IGAD Advances Gateway Project to Unlock Borderland Prosperity..... | 37 |
| 5. Organizational Affairs..... | 38 |
| IGAD’s Executive Secretary, paid a courtesy visit to IGAD’s Chair of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti..... | 38 |
| Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary, received Denisa-Elena Ionete..... | 38 |
| IGAD Deploys Election Observation Mission for the 10 April 2026 Presidential Election in Djibouti..... | 39 |
| Preliminary Report of the IGAD Election Observation Mission on the 2026 Presidential Election in the Republic of Djibouti..... | 40 |
| IGAD Executive Secretary Congratulates President Ismaïl Omar Guelleh on Re-election..... | 40 |
| Advancing Regional Resilience and Integration at the 2026 World Bank IMF Spring Meetings..... | 41 |
| Urgent need for bold and coordinated action to strengthen resilience across the region | 41 |
| Strengthening IGAD–Norway Partnership for Regional Peace and Stability..... | 42 |
| 6. Bridge’s Observational Insights | 43 |



6.1 Proceedings Report: Public Awareness on the Ratification of the IGAD Treaty 43
6.2 Proceedings Report: IGAD Mediation Reflection Conference, 28-29 April 2026, Nairobi, Kenya. 46

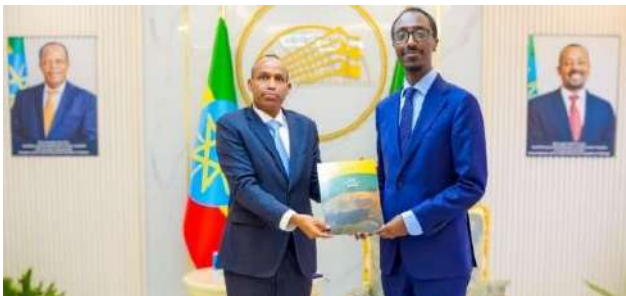




1. PEACE AND SECURITY

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT FOR PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

On April 2, 2026, Ambassador Moussa Djama, IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan, met with Dr. Gedion Timotheos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in Addis Ababa to discuss the evolving situation in South Sudan.¹ The consultations emphasised the critical importance of sustained regional engagement in advancing the implementation of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (2018).²



¹ Strengthening Regional Engagement for Peace in South Sudan. <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/17PmdHH4ce/>

² The Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS, 2018) is a peace accord signed in September 2018 under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). It builds upon earlier agreements to end the civil war in South Sudan and outlines a framework for power-sharing, security

Both sides underscored that the agreement remains a vital pathway toward achieving a peaceful, inclusive, and durable transition in the country. Ambassador Djama also extended his congratulations to Ethiopia on its recent election to the African Union Peace and Security Council, highlighting the strategic opportunity this presents to reinforce collective regional efforts to support peace and stability in South Sudan. The meeting reflected a shared commitment to strengthening cooperation and ensuring that regional mechanisms continue to play a central role in fostering lasting peace.



ADVANCING PEACE AND LIVELIHOODS IN KARAMOJA

On April 9, 2026, IGAD, represented by its Head of Mission to Uganda, Ms. Joselyne Bigirwa, joined forces with the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Operation Wealth Creation to

arrangements, constitutional reforms, and transitional justice. The agreement aims to guide South Sudan through a transitional period toward lasting peace, stability, and democratic governance, with strong emphasis on inclusivity, accountability, and regional support mechanisms. <https://docs.pca-cpa.org/2016/02/South-Sudan-Peace-Agreement-September-2018.pdf>



convene a consultative workshop in Moroto.³ The gathering marked a significant step toward co-designing a Joint Karamoja Programme aimed at addressing insecurity, strengthening livestock systems, and unlocking cross-border economic opportunities.



By bringing together government leaders and regional partners, the initiative seeks to foster peace and resilience in Karamoja, laying the foundation for improved livelihoods and sustainable development. The workshop underscored the importance of collaborative approaches in tackling challenges in the region, highlighting the role of inclusive planning and regional cooperation in advancing both stability and prosperity.



³ Advancing Peace and Livelihoods in Karamoja. <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/17TZmZQV4/>

IGAD STRENGTHENS ENGAGEMENT WITH UN OFFICE ON GENOCIDE PREVENTION

On April 14, 2026, Commander Abebe Muluneh, Director of IGAD's Peace and Security Division, welcomed H.E. Chaloka Beyani, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, for high-level consultations in Addis Ababa.⁴ The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration between IGAD and the UN Office of the Special Adviser, with particular emphasis on information-sharing, relationship-building, and enhancing early warning systems.



Discussions also addressed the growing impact of climate change, transnational security threats, and IGAD's mediation efforts in the ongoing conflict in Sudan. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation in order to bolster regional peace and security, highlighting the importance of joint action in

⁴ IGAD Strengthens Engagement with UN Office on Genocide Prevention <https://x.com/IGADPeace/status/2044031918077858292?s=20>



preventing atrocities and fostering stability across the Horn of Africa.



IGAD DELEGATION LED BY THE IGAD SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SUDAN, AMB. KORBANDY, IS PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE ON SUDAN

On April 15, an IGAD delegation led by Ambassador Korbandy, the IGAD Special Envoy for Sudan, took part in the Conference on Sudan held in Berlin, Germany.⁵ The gathering brought together regional and international partners to deliberate on the urgent need to advance peace, strengthen humanitarian response, and pursue a sustainable political solution to the crisis in Sudan.

IGAD's participation underscored the organization's steadfast commitment to supporting Sudan through dialogue, easing human suffering, and encouraging coordinated action for stability and recovery. Ambassador Korbandy emphasized that IGAD remains unwavering in its efforts to promote a peaceful, inclusive, and durable resolution to the conflict, reinforcing the importance of collective

engagement in addressing the challenges facing Sudan and the wider region.



Additionally, the Quintet, comprising the African Union, IGAD, the League of Arab States, the European Union, and the United Nations, issued a statement welcoming a landmark achievement at the International Sudan Conference in Berlin.⁶ Marking the third year of the conflict in Sudan, a diverse group of Sudanese civilian actors came together, many for the first time in three years, to articulate a unified call for de-escalation and an end to the war.

Despite deep divisions, Sudanese civilians demonstrated the will to overcome differences and present a shared vision for peace. In the context of fragmentation and immense human suffering, this joint civilian call was hailed as a significant step toward rebuilding trust and restoring a national space for dialogue. Participants emphasized the urgent need to reduce violence, protect civilians and critical infrastructure, and ensure unhindered humanitarian access, while laying out aspirations

⁵ IGAD delegation led by the IGAD Special Envoy for Sudan, Amb. Korbandy, is participating in the Conference on Sudan <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1B3VvTqg1f/>

⁶ Quintet Statement on the Sudan Conference Civilian Call for an End to the War and Advancement

of Peace <https://igad.int/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Quintet-Joint-Statement-On-Sudan-Conference-Civilian-Call-for-Peace.pdf>



for a credible, inclusive, and Sudanese-owned political process under civilian leadership.

The Quintet underscored that this milestone represents a clear opening toward a more inclusive Sudanese political dialogue. It reaffirmed its commitment to accompany Sudanese stakeholders in building on this momentum, within a coherent and sequenced framework, with coordinated regional and international support, toward a credible pathway to peace and a civilian-led transition.



IGAD DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JOINS HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON MEDIATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

On April 18, 2026, H.E. Mohamed Abdi Ware, IGAD Deputy Executive Secretary, joined a high-level panel discussion on mediation in the Horn of Africa during the Antalya Diplomacy Forum.⁷ The panel brought together senior regional and international leaders alongside leading scholars in peace and conflict resolution to deliberate on pressing mediation challenges in the region.



The discussion highlighted Türkiye's growing role in mediation efforts, particularly in facilitating dialogue between Ethiopia and Somalia, while also underscoring the urgent need for stronger coordination among competing mediation initiatives in Sudan. IGAD's participation reaffirmed its commitment to advancing collaborative approaches to peacebuilding and ensuring that mediation efforts across the Horn of Africa are harmonized to achieve lasting stability.



⁷ IGAD Deputy Executive Secretary Joins High Level Panel on Mediation in the Horn of Africa. <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1DrL2aceG1/>



AMBASSADOR MOUSSA DJAMA ALI, IGAD SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN, RECEIVED MAJ. GEN. TESHOME ANAGAWE

On April 20, 2026, Ambassador Moussa Djama Ali, IGAD Special Envoy to the Republic of South Sudan, received Maj. Gen. Teshome Anagawe, Chairperson of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism.⁸



Their meeting centered on a briefing by the Mechanism regarding the current political and security situation in South Sudan, with particular attention to the operational challenges it faces. Both sides emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration with partners to enhance the Mechanism's capacity and effectiveness. Ambassador Moussa reaffirmed IGAD's strong commitment to supporting the Mechanism and highlighted ongoing efforts

⁸ Ambassador Moussa Djama Ali, IGAD Special Envoy to the Republic of South Sudan, received Maj. Gen. Teshome Anagawe
<https://x.com/IGADPeace/status/2046181998390128681?s=20>

through the Trilateral Mechanism to help address and resolve the challenges confronting South Sudan. The discussions underscored IGAD's continued dedication to advancing peace and stability in the country.



AMBASSADOR MOUSSA DJAMA ALI RECEIVED INGER ELISABETH MEYER

Ambassador Moussa Djama Ali, IGAD Special Envoy to the Republic of South Sudan, received Inger Elisabeth Meyer, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Norwegian Embassy in Juba on April 23⁹.



Their discussion focused on the current security and political situation in South Sudan. Inger reiterated Norway's continued support for IGAD's efforts to advance the implementation of the Revitalised Peace Agreement, underscoring the importance of an inclusive political dialogue. Ambassador Moussa expressed appreciation for

⁹ Ambassador Moussa Djama Ali received H.E. Ms. Inger Elisabeth Meyer
<https://x.com/IGADPeace/status/2047346240619413590?s=20>



the Kingdom of Norway's sustained support and reaffirmed that IGAD is working closely with the Trilateral Mechanism and relevant stakeholders to help ensure an inclusive and peaceful transition through credible, free, and fair elections



STRENGTHENING COORDINATED DIPLOMACY FOR PEACE IN SUDAN

On the sidelines of the IGAD Mediation Reflection Conference, the Executive Secretary of IGAD, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, met with Amb. Pekka Haavisto, the United Nations Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan, on April 29 to discuss ways of advancing peace efforts in Sudan.¹⁰

The meeting focused on reinforcing the IGAD Quintet architecture, which unites the African Union, IGAD, the United Nations, the League of Arab States, and the European Union as a coordinated platform for diplomacy. This framework is designed to ensure that regional and international partners act in concert to support Sudan's path toward peace.

¹⁰ Strengthening Coordinated Diplomacy for Peace in Sudan.
<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1CysgzTTPQ/>



Discussions underscored the importance of closer diplomatic coordination, the establishment of clear accountability mechanisms, and sustained support for an inclusive, Sudanese-led mediation process. Both leaders emphasized that lasting peace in Sudan requires addressing the root causes of the conflict while ensuring that mediation efforts remain inclusive and locally owned.



REIMAGINING MEDIATION IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD

On April 28, the first IGAD Mediation Reflection Conference convened in Nairobi under the theme "Reimagining Mediation in a Fragmented World: The Challenge to African Multilateral Leadership."¹¹ The event brought together high-level leaders and partners to reflect on the future of mediation in a rapidly changing global order. The Executive Secretary of IGAD, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, joined Musalia W. Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of Kenya, alongside regional and international partners. The

¹¹ Reimagining Mediation in a Fragmented World
<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/18Rw8ww95Q/>



conference comes at a time when conflicts are increasingly shaped by geopolitical tensions, fragmented authority, and declining trust in multilateral institutions.



In his remarks, Dr. Workneh emphasized that for IGAD, mediation is not optional but rather a central political responsibility and a test of the credibility of multilateralism. He called for mediation efforts that are unified, politically anchored, strategically coherent, and above all, centred on the people most affected by conflict. The conference underscored the importance of rethinking mediation approaches to ensure they remain relevant and effective in addressing today's complex conflicts, while reinforcing Africa's leadership in multilateral peacebuilding.¹²

Full summary of IGAD Mediation Reflection Conference will be covered by BRIDGE's Observation Insight Section Page 46.



¹² See BRIDGE's Full Proceedings Report <https://bridge-et.org/proceedings-of-igadmediation-reflectionconference/>





2. CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

IGAD'S AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION DIRECTOR MET WITH OFFICIALS FROM IFRC

On April 2, 2026, IGAD's Agriculture and Environment Division Director, Daher Elmi, convened a strategic coordination meeting with officials from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Djibouti and Ethiopia.¹³



The discussions focused on aligning priorities in the food and water sectors and identifying joint initiatives to better serve communities along the Ethiopia-Djibouti economic corridor. By fostering closer coordination, IGAD and IFRC aim to enhance the impact of their interventions and

¹³ IGAD's Agriculture and Environment Division Director met with officials from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1B1isdzNn/>

ensure that vulnerable communities benefit from sustainable and inclusive development efforts.



IGAD AND THE UN OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA CONVENED THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE COP ON CLIMATE, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

On April 8, IGAD, together with the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, has successfully convened the inaugural meeting of the Community of Practice (CoP) on Climate, Peace, and Security in the Horn of Africa.¹⁴



Hosted at ICPAC IGAD and virtually, this landmark technical platform is now active, bridging the gap between climate action and peacebuilding across the region. By coordinating early warning insights and

¹⁴ IGAD and the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa convened the inaugural meeting of the Community of Practice. <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1GoGXF56Ge/>



fostering joint action, the CoP is tackling climate change as a risk multiplier head-on.



IGAD RALLIES REGIONAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY

IGAD, through its Agriculture and Environment Division (AED) and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), convened a three-day regional consultative meeting with Member States to advance the RECOVER-HORN Regional Climate Resilience Programme from April 21-23.¹⁵



The meeting brought together technical experts from across IGAD Member States to refine and strengthen a bankable regional programme that responds to the growing impacts of climate change in the Horn of Africa.

The region continues to grapple with recurrent droughts, floods, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and increasing food and livelihood insecurity. RECOVER-HORN seeks to promote climate-resilient development through

¹⁵ IGAD Convenes Regional Experts' Consultation to Advance Climate Resilience and Adaption Agenda in the Horn <https://igad.int/igad-convenes-regional->

coordinated regional action and evidence-based solutions.

Five Priority Areas Identified:

- Climate Resilient Agricultural Systems
Climate Information,
- Early Warning, and Anticipatory Action
- Integrated Natural Resources Management
- Livelihood Recovery and Diversification
- Institutional Coordination and Regional Integration

Opening the meeting, Daher Elmi Houssein, Director of IGAD's Agriculture and Environment Division, stressed the urgency of collective action: "The Horn of Africa is facing increasingly complex and interconnected climate challenges that no single country can address alone. RECOVER-HORN is therefore a timely regional response and anticipated action that seeks to translate our shared priorities into practical, bankable actions that strengthen resilience, protect livelihoods, and support sustainable development across our region."

Representing Djibouti's Ministry of Agriculture, Mouktar Mahamoud Waberi, Director of Agriculture and Forestry, reaffirmed the value of solidarity: "Djibouti is pleased to host this important consultation, which reflects our shared commitment as IGAD Member States to confront

[experts-consultation-to-advance-climate-resilience-and-adaption-agenda-in-the-horn/](https://igad.int/igad-convenes-regional-experts-consultation-to-advance-climate-resilience-and-adaption-agenda-in-the-horn/)



climate risks through cooperation, innovation, and joint action.”

Progress over the 3 days:

Day 1 – April 21: The consultation opened with remarks from Daher Elmi Houssein, Director of IGAD’s Agriculture and Environment Division, and Mouktar Mahamoud Waberi, Director of Agriculture and Forestry at Djibouti’s Ministry of Agriculture.¹⁶ Both leaders emphasized the urgency of coordinated regional action to address climate and food security challenges.

Participants were introduced to the RECOVER-HORN initiative, its objectives, and proposed structure. Initial discussions focused on priority areas such as climate-resilient agriculture, early warning systems, and integrated natural resource management. The day concluded with consensus on the importance of developing a bankable, regionally coordinated programme that is inclusive and evidence-based.

Day 2 – April 22: The second day deepened technical deliberations through thematic working groups. Experts engaged in focused discussions on climate-smart agriculture, early warning systems and anticipatory action, biodiversity and ecosystem management, blue economy opportunities, and transboundary pest

management.¹⁷ These groups worked to sharpen priority interventions, refine the results framework, and strengthen the theory of change underpinning the programme. Governance, accountability, and implementation modalities were also debated, ensuring that the initiative would be both practical and sustainable. The day concluded with group presentations, where participants shared consolidated interventions and reached a shared agreement on the key priorities that would shape the regional programme.

Day 3 – April 23: The final day focused on validating and finalizing the programme framework. Delegates reviewed consolidated priorities, confirmed programme components, and agreed on implementation arrangements and the roles of Member States.¹⁸ Financing and partnership opportunities were also discussed, highlighting the need for strong collaboration to support RECOVER-HORN’s ambitions. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a clear roadmap, including timelines and coordination mechanisms for submission. By the end of the consultation, participants had reached consensus on next steps, ensuring that the proposal was bankable, inclusive, and regionally coordinated.

¹⁶ IGAD Rallies Regional Action for Climate Resilience and Recovery.
<https://web.facebook.com/share/1CaSuZuZ2y/>

¹⁷ IGAD Recover Horn Consultation Advances Regional Priorities on Day.
<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/18NK7DTReD/>

¹⁸ RECOVER-HORN Consultation Advances Toward Finalization and Submission.
<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1KeCPxBjPv/>



The consultation concluded with consensus on next steps, timelines, and coordination mechanisms. RECOVER-HORN builds on IGAD's comparative advantage in regional coordination, resilience programming, and climate services, marking an important step toward a stronger regional response to climate risks and advancing sustainable development across the Horn of Africa.



ICPAC HOSTS ITALIAN DELEGATION AND REGIONAL PARTNERS FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT TALKS IN NAIROBI

On April 29, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) welcomed the Italian Delegation alongside key partners, including UNDRR Africa, EU Echo, NDOC Kenya, NDMA Kenya, and the Kenya Red Cross for high-level discussions on strengthening disaster risk management, early warning systems, and anticipatory action in Eastern Africa.¹⁹ The engagement began with a boardroom session bringing together stakeholders to exchange insights on resilience-building and preparedness. Delegates were then guided through the ICPAC Disaster Operations Centre, where they witnessed a live demonstration of the East Africa Hazards Watch platform. The platform

¹⁹ ICPAC Hosts Italian Delegation and Regional Partners for Disaster Risk Management Talks in

showcased how regional hazard monitoring and forecasting can support timely decision-making and preparedness across the region.



Dr. Abdi Fidar, Director of ICPAC, emphasized the Centre's evolving approach: *"At ICPAC, we are responding by shifting from early warning to early action, and from fragmented interventions to integrated, systems-based approaches. This aligns with global commitments under the Sendai Framework and the Early Warnings for All initiative, while responding to the region's growing need for risk-informed development and resilience planning."*

Luca Rossi, Deputy Chief of the UNDRR Regional Office for Africa, highlighted ICPAC's role in empowering communities: *"ICPAC (through its Disaster Operations Centre) is providing critical tools for decision-making, for the people that live in this region. We're building a sustainable ecosystem that, of course, empowers our own distribution."*



Nairobi.
<https://web.facebook.com/share/1CcJqCNV4s/>



JOINT PLANNING ON TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES (TADS) SURVEILLANCE & SYNCHRONIZED VACCINATION

On 1 -2 April 2026, the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) facilitated the launch of a synchronised cross-border vaccination programme against priority Transboundary Animal Diseases, such as Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), along the Kenya–Tanzania border.²⁰



The launch took place in the Mara-Serengeti cluster. Present were the Kajiado County Commissioner, County Executive Committee Member for livestock, veterinary services & fisheries; ICPALD Director; Chief Veterinary Officer representatives from Kenya and Tanzania.

This milestone reflects strengthened bilateral coordination, harmonized technical approaches & joint resource mobilization, which reinforces

²⁰Joint Planning on Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADS) Surveillance & Synchronized Vaccination. <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1Dkq883Vjn/>

²¹ IGAD & Uganda Collaborate in Developing a Roadmap to Fast Track Signing and Ratification of

trust and confidence between Member States, institutions & cross-border communities.

It lays a solid foundation for resilient Livestock systems, improved Animal Health, reduced public health risk & enhanced SPS compliance, while advancing safe, competitive & expanded Livestock Trade.



IGAD & UGANDA COLLABORATE IN DEVELOPING A ROADMAP TO FAST TRACK SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF THE IGAD TRANSHUMANCE PROTOCOL

A policy dialogue held on April 14–15, 2026, in Entebbe, Uganda, brought together key government officials, legislators, and IGAD representatives to develop a roadmap for fast-tracking the signing and ratification of the IGAD Transhumance Protocol.²¹ Organized under ICPALD's PLACE Project, the meeting included participants from multiple ministries, parliamentary committees, and pastoralist groups. IGAD officials commended Uganda's longstanding involvement in shaping the protocol and emphasized that its adoption would help address challenges such as transboundary animal diseases, livestock theft,

the IGAD Transhumance Protocol. <https://icpald.org/transhumance-protocol-ug-roadmap/>



illegal arms proliferation, and intercommunal conflicts, while improving cross-border trade and resource management.



Speakers highlighted the importance of aligning traditional pastoralist mobility with modern systems. Officials noted the need to protect pastoralists' rights while integrating technology, veterinary surveillance, and sustainable rangeland management into implementation. Parliamentary representatives and policymakers expressed strong support for the protocol, stressing its potential to harmonize policies, enhance access to water and pasture, and promote economic development for pastoral communities. They also underscored the importance of engaging grassroots stakeholders and ensuring national ownership through effective domestication.

Over the two-day session, participants reviewed Uganda's position on the protocol, its benefits and implications, and challenges related to cross-border livestock mobility. At the conclusion, government ministries and parliamentary representatives pledged to accelerate the signing and ratification process,

²² Writeshop to Develop PRM Complementary Tools and Guides. <https://icpald.org/develop-complementary-prm-tools/>

with support from IGAD and the European Union. The protocol, originally adopted in June 2021, aims to provide a legal framework for safe and regulated livestock movement across borders, contributing to climate resilience and improved livelihoods for pastoral communities across the IGAD region.



WRITESHOP TO DEVELOP PRM COMPLEMENTARY TOOLS AND GUIDES

From April 8–11, 2026, ICPALD convened a writeshop in Naivasha, Kenya, bringing together technical experts and practitioners to develop practical tools and guides for the implementation of the Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) manual.²² The session aimed to strengthen the capacity of extension workers across IGAD Member States by providing simplified and user-friendly tools to support resource mapping, institutional development, and conflict-sensitive implementation of PRM approaches. ICPALD leadership emphasized building on outcomes from earlier consultations and deepening collaboration with partners such as ILRI.





Participants, including government experts, civil society actors, and regional stakeholders, worked to identify, prioritize, and refine tools essential for effective PRM application. The workshop focused on characterizing these tools in terms of purpose and practical use, while incorporating feedback from previous engagements. The initiative forms part of broader regional efforts to enhance pastoral resilience and sustainable rangeland management, with support from the European Union under the PLACE programme.

The PRM manual, launched by ICPALD in May 2024, provides a framework for community-led rangeland management and governance aimed at promoting sustainability and biodiversity. Subsequent regional engagements, including a 2025 workshop in Entebbe, highlighted the need for complementary tools and harmonized approaches to strengthen implementation. These efforts align with ongoing regional priorities to improve coordination, avoid fragmented interventions, and support pastoral communities through locally grounded and

technically supported rangeland management practices.



BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO PILOT RISK NARRATIVES FOR IGAD CLUSTER 3 (MANDERA, WAJIR & GARISSA)

A three-day participatory forum held from April 8–10, 2026, in Wajir, Kenya, brought together stakeholders from Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa counties to pilot community-driven drought risk narratives under the PASSAGE Project, implemented by ICPALD in collaboration with NDMA.²³ The initiative focused on integrating scientific forecasts from the Kenya Meteorological Department with indigenous knowledge systems to co-produce locally relevant and actionable early warning information for the March–May 2026 season. Organizers emphasized the importance of combining technical expertise with community insights to support timely anticipatory action and improve resilience in pastoral areas.



²³ Building Community Capacity to Pilot Risk Narratives for IGAD Cluster 3 (Mandera, Wajir &

Garissa) <https://icpald.org/pilot-risk-narratives-igad-cluster3/>



The engagement strengthened the capacity of communities and local institutions to interpret early warning data, develop advisories, and coordinate responses to drought risks. Participants, including government agencies, development partners, and community representatives, produced drought risk narratives, anticipatory action plans, and strategies to enhance collaboration. The forum ultimately improved the translation of early warning information into practical community responses, reinforcing locally led anticipatory action and promoting stronger coordination among stakeholders to better manage climate-related risks.



IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REVIEW OF LIVESTOCK POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

A regional workshop held on April 28–29, 2026, in Naivasha, Kenya, brought together experts from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to review progress in implementing livestock policies and strategies supported by the Regional Livestock Program (RLP).²⁴ Convened by ICPALD and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the forum provided a platform for IGAD Member States and implementing partners to assess achievements, share lessons, and identify gaps. Participants

²⁴ Implementation Progress Review of Livestock Policies and Strategies. <https://icpald.org/review-livestock-policies-strategies/>

presented country-specific priorities and case studies demonstrating the impact of policy implementation at both national and sub-national levels.



The workshop strengthened coordination and harmonization of livestock policies across the region, with a focus on improving livestock trade, animal health, and sustainable rangeland management. It also helped track implementation progress and define priority actions to enhance collaboration along key livestock trade corridors. Overall, the meeting reinforced joint efforts among stakeholders to build more resilient, competitive, and well-coordinated livestock systems in the IGAD region.





3. SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

IGAD ORGANISED A WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING SOCIAL COHESION FOR REFUGEES, IDPS AND HOST COMMUNITIES

On April 2, 2026, IGAD, in partnership with Somalia's National Commission for Refugees and IDPs, launched a three-day workshop in Mogadishu aimed at strengthening social cohesion among refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities.²⁵



The initiative combined dialogue sessions, capacity-building activities, and community engagement, including sports and cultural events, to foster trust, mutual understanding, and peaceful coexistence. IGAD's Head of Mission to Somalia, Mr. Mohamud Abdi Ahmed, highlighted the organization's commitment to supporting inclusive platforms that promote

²⁵ IGAD organised a workshop on Enhancing Social Cohesion for Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities. <https://igad.int/igad-organized-a-workshop-on->

collaboration and resilience among diverse communities.

Participants discussed key themes such as community integration, conflict resolution, and skills development, while engaging in activities designed to build teamwork and solidarity. The workshop concluded with agreements to establish community networks to sustain dialogue and strengthen relationships. Supported by the Government of Sweden, the initiative responds to Somalia's significant displacement challenges, where millions of IDPs and thousands of refugees require durable solutions and stronger social cohesion for long-term stability.



IGAD URGES COORDINATED RESPONSE TO CHILD WASTING CRISIS

On April 1, 2026, IGAD issued a strong call for coordinated action to address the worsening child wasting crisis across the region. Speaking at the Regional Partners Learning & Information Sharing Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, Dr. Fatuma Adan, on behalf of IGAD Executive Secretary Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, highlighted the urgent need

[enhancing-social-cohesion-for-refugees-idps-and-host-communities/](https://igad.int/igad-organized-a-workshop-on-enhancing-social-cohesion-for-refugees-idps-and-host-communities/)



to tackle child wasting, which currently affects 4.8 million children.²⁶



He emphasized the importance of stronger cross-border coordination, integrated multisectoral approaches, and aligned partner support to address the root causes of the crisis, including climate shocks, conflict, food insecurity, and limited access to essential services.

The forum brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including Caitríona Ingoldsby, Ambassador of Ireland to Kenya, Dr. Ali Mohamud, Deputy Governor of Mandera County, representatives from the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Natural Resources of Kenya, as well as Concern Worldwide, UN agencies (FAO, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR), the European Union in Kenya, and other development partners. The event underscored the collective responsibility of governments and partners to act decisively and collaboratively to protect children and build resilience in communities across the region.



²⁶ IGAD Urges Coordinated Response to Child Wasting Crisis.
<https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2039269740523221503?s=20>

A NEW JOURNEY TOWARD STRONGER CROSS-BORDER PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN ON THE MOVE IN THE IGAD REGION

On April 1, IGAD issued a strong call for coordinated regional action to address the worsening child wasting crisis across the Horn of Africa.²⁷ Speaking at the Regional Partners Learning & Information Sharing Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, Dr. Fatuma Adan, on behalf of IGAD Executive Secretary Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, highlighted the urgency of tackling child wasting, which currently affects 4.8 million children in the region. She stressed that the crisis is driven by interconnected challenges including climate shocks, conflict, food insecurity, and limited access to essential services.



Dr. Adan emphasized the importance of stronger cross-border coordination, integrated multisectoral approaches, and aligned partner support to address the root causes of child wasting and strengthen resilience. IGAD

²⁷ A New Journey Toward Stronger Cross-Border Protection for Children on the Move in the IGAD Region.
<https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2039381173667819684?s=20>



reaffirmed its commitment to working with governments, humanitarian agencies, and development partners to scale up life-saving interventions while building long-term systems that protect children and ensure they have the opportunity to survive and thrive.



IGAD YOUTH ENVOY IN THE 1ST EXPERT GROUP REPORT PREPARED BY OXFORD SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

On April 4, the Office of the IGAD Youth Envoy had the distinguished honor of participating in the 1st Expert Group Meeting to validate a special report prepared by the Oxford School of Economics.²⁸ The report assessed the performance of various youth policies within the Horn of Africa and their deliverables. During the meeting, the IGAD Youth Envoy's Office agreed to partner with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on a range of youth convergence issues affecting the region.

²⁸ IGAD Youth Envoy in the 1st Expert Group Report at Oxford School of Economics <https://x.com/IGADYouthEnvoy/status/2040478630438916578?s=20>



In a statement, the Office of the IGAD Special Youth Envoy extended its sincere appreciation to ECA and reaffirmed its commitment to leveraging the over 15-year working relationship between IGAD and ECA for the benefit of regional youth. This collaboration marks a new chapter in advancing youth-centered policies and programs, ensuring that young people across the Horn of Africa are empowered to contribute meaningfully to regional development and integration.



LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL TVET ENGAGEMENT IN ARTA, DJIBOUTI

The launch of the National Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Engagement took place in Arta, Djibouti on April 7, bringing together IGAD Health and Social Development, GIZ, the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training of Djibouti, and key partners.²⁹ The workshop is designed to

²⁹ Launch of the National TVET Engagement in Arta, Djibouti <https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2041462237571821945?s=20>



strengthen skills development, youth employment, and social inclusion across the region.



The Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, through its Directorate General of Vocational Training, officially opened the workshop. Its Director General, Mohamed Abdi Guedi, underscored the challenges of youth unemployment and the mismatch between training supply and labor market demand. He also highlighted ongoing reforms, including the SKILLS project, which aims to train 4,000 young people, half of them women, in high-demand sectors. The programme also promotes inclusion, with 10% of beneficiaries reserved for refugees and persons with disabilities.³⁰

Speaking on behalf of IGAD Executive Secretary Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Ambassador Moussa Ali, Director of IGAD Health and Social Development, underscored the critical role of TVET in addressing demographic and labor market challenges. He emphasized that equipping young people with practical skills is essential for

fostering resilience, reducing unemployment, and promoting inclusive growth.

The initiative is supported through the Strengthening IGAD's Migration Policy Implementation (SIMPI) Project, with funding from GIZ. By aligning education and vocational training with regional labor market needs, the program aims to empower youth and enhance their opportunities for meaningful employment, contributing to sustainable development across Djibouti and the wider IGAD region.

On day two of the National Workshop with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions in Djibouti focused on strengthening partnerships and addressing critical skills gaps.³¹ The engagement brought together stakeholders to develop a partnership framework and establish coordination mechanisms that will enhance the effectiveness of TVET systems.

Participants concentrated on improving coordination among institutions, aligning training programmes with labor market needs, and promoting public-private partnerships to ensure that young people are equipped with relevant and marketable skills. The overall objective of the workshop is to develop a joint roadmap for inclusive skills development,

³⁰ Djibouti launches national drive to strengthen vocational training <https://igad.int/djibouti-launches-national-drive-to-strengthen-vocational-training/>

³¹ Day 2 of the National Workshop with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Institutions in Djibouti <https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2041826784988020883?s=20>



ensuring that TVET contributes meaningfully to youth employment and social inclusion.

Discussions are expected to culminate in operational recommendations and a joint action plan, laying the foundation for stronger, more responsive TVET systems in Djibouti and across the IGAD region. This collaborative effort underscores the importance of regional cooperation in tackling shared demographic and labor market challenges.

The National Workshop to launch the National Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Engagement in Djibouti has officially closed in Arta after three days of intensive discussions and collaboration on April 9.³² Convened by IGAD Education, GIZ, the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training of Djibouti, and partners, the engagement was aimed at strengthening skills, advancing youth employment, and promoting inclusion.

Over the course of the workshop, participants drafted a joint action plan, developed a roadmap for inclusive skills development in Djibouti, and established an effective partnership and coordination framework to guide future efforts. These outcomes mark a significant step toward aligning training systems with labor market needs and ensuring that young people, including

women and vulnerable groups, have access to meaningful opportunities.



HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF DISASTER AND CLIMATE CHANGE MONITOR OF DIALOGUE AND ACTION IN THE IGAD REGION

On April 8, The National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) Meeting on Human Mobility in the Context of Disaster and Climate Change (MoDiac) is underway in Addis Ababa, bringing together government officials, IGAD experts, and partners to strengthen coordination, planning, and response to climate and disaster-induced mobility.³³



The meeting is focusing on deepening understanding of the links between climate change, disasters, and human mobility, while advancing a national roadmap to integrate these dynamics into Ethiopia's migration and development frameworks. Key priorities include

³² National Workshop to Launch the National TVET Engagement in Djibouti, closes in Arta. <https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2042177281724957038?s=20>

³³ Human Mobility in the Context of Disaster and Climate Change Monitor of Dialogue and Action in the IGAD Region. <https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2041821012338106474?s=20>



strengthening institutional coordination, identifying capacity-building needs, and setting cross-border priorities to ensure a comprehensive response.

Participants include members of the NCM, national agencies responsible for disaster management and climate adaptation, IGAD technical experts, and development partners such as IOM Ethiopia, GIZ, and UNHCR Ethiopia. Academia, civil society, and research institutions are also contributing to the discussions, ensuring a broad and inclusive approach. Stakeholders aim to establish actionable recommendations and a coordinated framework that will enhance Ethiopia's preparedness and resilience in the face of climate and disaster-related mobility challenges, while reinforcing regional cooperation across the IGAD region.

On April 10 the meeting was concluded. Participants agreed on concrete outputs, including the identification of priority actions, designation of responsible institutions, and clear timelines to guide implementation and accountability across sectors. As part of the way forward, stakeholders committed to strengthening national climate and mixed migration data systems, while harmonizing migration, disaster risk, and climate policies, strategies, and legislation to ensure a more coordinated and effective response. The meeting marked an important step toward building resilience and preparedness in Ethiopia and

across the IGAD region, reinforcing the need for integrated approaches to address the growing challenges of disaster- and climate-induced mobility.



ADVANCING FINANCIAL INCLUSION TO REDUCE CHILD WASTING IN THE IGAD REGION

On April 10, the IGAD Secretariat, in collaboration with Concern Worldwide, has convened governments from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, alongside partners and the private sector, for the Hanaano Financial Inclusion Learning Event in Mandera.³⁴



The initiative is focused on reducing child wasting by advancing financial inclusion across the IGAD region. The Mandera Triangle remains highly vulnerable to drought, fragile livelihoods, and food insecurity, making financial inclusion a critical tool for resilience. Expanding access to credit, savings, and digital services is seen as key to strengthening livelihoods and preventing child wasting.

³⁴ Advancing Financial Inclusion to Reduce Child Wasting in the IGAD Region.

<https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2042556402502099350?s=20>



Participants are exchanging lessons, strengthening partnerships, and driving practical solutions to expand inclusive financial systems across borders. Community-led initiatives, such as the production and sale of energy-saving stoves, were highlighted as examples of how financial inclusion can empower households, reduce vulnerability, and contribute to improved child nutrition outcomes. This learning event underscores the importance of linking financial systems with health and social development goals, ensuring that vulnerable communities are better equipped to withstand shocks and secure sustainable futures for their children.



Representing the IGAD Secretariat, Dr. Duguma Aduugna, Chief of Staff to the Executive Secretary of IGAD, emphasized that the 2017 Djibouti Declaration marks a landmark commitment by IGAD Member States to transform the lives of refugees, returnees, and host communities through inclusive and equitable education systems. The Cluster Two national consultation meeting brings together participants from Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia, including government representatives, education experts, and development partners. Over the course of the consultation, stakeholders will review progress, identify challenges, and propose practical solutions to strengthen education systems that ensure access, equity, and quality for displaced and host populations alike.

DRIVING QUALITY EDUCATION FOR REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

IGAD kicked off the second cluster consultation on the implementation status of the Djibouti Declaration on Quality Education for Refugees, Returnees, and Host Communities in three member states, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia on April 14.³⁵ The meeting aims to strengthen cross-border learning, promote the exchange of best practices, and foster deeper regional cooperation in advancing inclusive education.

³⁵ Driving Quality Education for Refugees, Returnees, and Host Communities.
<https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2044032203395334380?s=20>



ADVANCING REFUGEE INCLUSION AND THE RIGHT TO WORK IN ETHIOPIA

The IGAD Secretariat, in collaboration with the Refugees and Returnees Service of Ethiopia, convened a three-day National Consultation Workshop, from April 14-16, on policy awareness and operationalizing refugees' right to work in Ethiopia.³⁶ The discussions centered on the implementation of Article 26 of Refugee Proclamation No. 1110/2019 (Right to Work)³⁷ and Directive No. 1019/2024,³⁸ which outlines procedures for work permits and business licenses.

Opening the workshop, Tayiba Hassen, Director General of the Refugees and Returnees Service of Ethiopia, reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to advancing refugee economic inclusion and encouraged stronger engagement with the private sector. IGAD's Head of Mission, Abebaw Bihonegn, emphasized the regional displacement challenges and the need for policy reforms and actionable solutions. The

engagement was supported by the World Bank Africa, under the Regional Policy Dialogue on Forced Displacement in the Horn of Africa.



On Day 2, the consultation began with a refugee business owner sharing personal experiences of navigating work permits and licenses, issuing a clear call to boost awareness across government bodies to reduce delays.³⁹ A dynamic panel of officials from the Ministries of Labour, Trade, Revenue, Refugees and Returnees, regional bureaus, and refugee entrepreneurs examined key procedures and challenges related to permits, licenses, and Tax Identification Numbers. The takeaway was the need for clearer roles, stronger coordination, and practical steps to streamline faster access.

³⁶ Advancing Refugee Inclusion and the Right to Work in Ethiopia.
<https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2044037335684133364?s=20>

³⁷ Article 26 of Ethiopia's Refugee Proclamation No. 1110/2019 grants recognized refugees and asylum-seekers the right to work, allowing them to engage in wage-earning employment, self-employment, and business activities. It guarantees treatment similar to the most favorable foreign nationals and supports participation in projects, fostering economic integration.
<https://chilot.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/52e14-proclamation-no.1110.2019.pdf>

³⁸ Directive No. 1019/2024 of Ethiopia is a legal instrument issued to implement Article 26 of the

Refugee Proclamation No. 1110/2019, guaranteeing the right to work for recognized refugees and asylum seekers. It sets out detailed procedures for wage employment, commercial activities, and joint projects, aiming to foster self-sufficiency and integration.
<https://www.refworld.org/legal/decrees/natlegbod/2024/en/148630>

³⁹ Day 2 of the Consultation Workshop on Policy Awareness & Operationalizing Refugees' Right to Work in Ethiopia
<https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2044384674433143286?s=20>



On Day 3, IGAD and the Refugees and Returnees Service facilitated candid group discussions to identify bottlenecks to refugee access to work.⁴⁰ Focus areas included streamlining National ID integration and administrative pathways, linking IDs with digital and financial systems in the private sector, and strengthening recognition of National IDs for refugees. Key recommendations included:

- Increasing awareness of Directive 1019/2024 across government and private sector.
- Decentralizing ID registration to improve refugee access.
- Developing SOPs to guide agencies on work permits and business licensing.

The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to advance refugee inclusion and ensure the right to work is effectively operationalized, paving the way for stronger livelihoods and resilience among refugee communities in Ethiopia.



⁴⁰ Day 3 of the Consultation Workshop on Policy Awareness & Operationalization of Refugees' Right to Work
<https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2044832467203359176?s=20>

⁴¹ The IGAD Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) programme is a regional initiative designed to strengthen education systems, promote science and innovation, and foster integration among IGAD member states, with a strong focus on refugees, returnees, and displaced populations. It

IGAD COMMENCES THE 2ND CLUSTER OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DJIBOUTI DECLARATION BETWEEN DJIBOUTI, ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA

The IGAD Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI)⁴¹ unit has successfully concluded the second cluster meeting of the Regional Consultation on the Implementation of the Djibouti Declaration for three member states, Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia, held from April 14–16, 2026 in Addis Ababa.⁴² The overall objective of the meeting was to showcase clustered members' efforts by presenting their implementation statuses, exchanging feedback, and learning from each other's experiences in tackling obstacles and identifying immediate priorities.



was established under the Djibouti Declaration (2017) and subsequent frameworks <https://igad.int/education/>

⁴² IGAD commences the 2nd Cluster of the National Consultation on the Implementation of the Djibouti Declaration between Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia
<https://igad.int/igad-commences-the-2nd-cluster-of-the-national-consultation-on-the-implementation-of-the-djibouti-declaration-between-djibouti-ethiopia-and-somalia/>



Speaking on behalf of the IGAD Secretariat, Dr. Duguma Adugna, Chief of Staff to the Executive Secretary, emphasized that the region continues to face complex and interlinked challenges, including displacement driven by conflict, climate change, and economic pressures. He urged member states to move from commitment to accelerated action, noting: *“This consultation provides us with a timely and strategic platform to take stock of the progress made, identify persistent challenges, and renew our collective resolve to accelerate implementation.”*

In his opening remarks, Dr. Yohannes Wagaso, Chief Executive Officer for Education Programs and Quality Improvements at Ethiopia’s Ministry of Education, highlighted education as the ultimate tool for self-reliance and stability. He stressed that clustering Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia addresses one of the most dynamic corridors of human movement in the Horn of Africa, shifting the narrative from refugees as a burden to refugees as learners and contributors.

Fisseha Meseret, Education Officer at IGAD’s Health and Social Development Division, reminded participants of the broader programs under the Djibouti Declaration, including the IGAD Regional TVET Strategy, the IGAD Regional Education Policy Framework, the IGAD Universities Forum, the IGAD Council of Higher Education, the IGAD Scholarship Program, and the IGAD Regional Qualifications Framework. He noted that the clustered approach is a new

⁴³ A 3-day Technical Working Group on Migration & Displacement Statistics.

experiment designed to bridge individual country consultations with regional forums.

Participants from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, GIZ, and the IGAD Secretariat provided recommendations and agreed on a way forward, focusing on sharing practical solutions and building a clear, actionable roadmap for the next phase of implementation. The activities were funded under the IGAD–GIZ/SIMPI Financing Agreement. This second cluster meeting follows the first consultation held in 2025 with Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, and Sudan. It builds on the Djibouti Declaration adopted in December 2017, reaffirming IGAD’s commitment to inclusive, equitable, and quality education for refugees, returnees, and host communities across the region.



MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT WORKSHOP IN SOMALIA

The IGAD Secretariat, in collaboration with the Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, has launched a three-day Technical Working Group on Migration and Displacement Statistics in Mogadishu, from April 20-22.⁴³ The workshop supports ongoing national and regional efforts to establish platforms for collaboration and advance data harmonization across the IGAD region. It also provides a forum to reflect on the key findings of the 2nd Migration and

<https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2046191052780863721?s=20>




Displacement Statistics Report,⁴⁴ released on April 13, 2026 major milestone in strengthening Somalia's data landscape.



On Day 2, discussions brought together a wide range of government institutions spanning displacement, migration, durable solutions, social affairs, the Central Bank, foreign affairs, education, and health sectors.⁴⁵ Participants shared progress in data collection, analysis, and inter-agency collaboration, while openly addressing challenges in data production, use, and dissemination. The exchanges highlighted common cross-institutional challenges and informed coordinated solutions to strengthen Somalia's migration and displacement data systems. This Technical Working Group marks an important step toward building stronger national capacities, harmonizing data practices, and reinforcing regional cooperation to ensure evidence-based responses to displacement and migration dynamics in Somalia and across the IGAD region.

⁴⁴ The Djibouti Declaration (December 2017) is a regional commitment by IGAD member states to ensure *quality, inclusive education* for refugees, returnees, and host communities, integrating them into national education systems and promoting lifelong learning. It emphasizes access, equity, and harmonization of standards across the Horn of Africa. https://igad.int/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Djibouti-Declaration_IGAD-flyer_Nov22.pdf



IGAD AND SOUTH SUDAN STRENGTHEN MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT DATA SYSTEMS

IGAD, in partnership with South Sudan's National Bureau of Statistics, convened a four-day multi-stakeholder consultation in Juba to enhance migration and displacement data systems.⁴⁶ The meeting brought together members of the Technical Working Group to improve coordination and build technical capacity for producing timely, reliable, and disaggregated data to inform policy and planning. The IGAD Head of Mission to the Republic of South Sudan, Dr. Victoria Anib, commended the Government of South Sudan's efforts to improve the availability and quality of migration and displacement data.



The consultations aim to deliver key outputs, including a draft Migration Profile for South

⁴⁵ Day 2 of the Technical Working Group Meeting on Migration & Displacement Statistics in Somalia . <https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2046563867141017928?s=20>

⁴⁶ Strengthening Migration & Displacement Data in South Sudan. <https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2048781137363742804?s=20>



Sudan, a standardized glossary of migration terms across ministries, departments, and agencies, and improved survey and administrative processes ahead of upcoming reporting cycles. The initiative reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen evidence-based decision-making and support more effective migration governance in the country.



IGAD AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LAUNCH WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS AND PEACEBUILDING PROJECT

On April 21, IGAD, in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), has concluded the launch workshop for the two-year Building Women's Economic Resilience for Sustainable Peace (BWERSP) project, covering Somalia and South Sudan.⁴⁷ The initiative is designed to strengthen women's land rights and advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda, supporting vulnerable and returnee women to access land, improve livelihoods, and actively participate in peacebuilding processes.

⁴⁷ IGAD and African Development Bank Launch Women's Land Rights and Peacebuilding Project <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1BHtue3Ef6/>

⁴⁸ The Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience (HEPRR) Program is a World Bank-financed regional initiative launched in 2024 to



The project underscores IGAD and AfDB's shared commitment to gender equality, women's empowerment, and sustainable peace in the region. By focusing on women's land rights, the program aims to address structural barriers to economic inclusion while promoting resilience and stability in communities affected by conflict and displacement.



ASSESSING MHPSS INTEGRATION IN HEALTH EMERGENCIES

The IGAD Secretariat Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience Program (HEPRR),⁴⁸ supporting a regional situational assessment on Mental Health & Psychosocial

strengthen countries' ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from health emergencies, including pandemics. It covers East and Southern Africa, with Ethiopia as one of the first-phase countries.



Support (MHPSS)⁴⁹ on April 25.⁵⁰ The study will deliver evidence-based insights across 8 countries to guide stronger, equitable, and resilient MHPSS systems, and assess the integration of MHPSS into health emergency preparedness and humanitarian frameworks. Participants are drawn from participating countries, Burundi, DRC, Malawi, Rwanda, São Tomé & Príncipe, Zambia.



IGAD AND PARTNERS ADVANCE REGIONAL ACTION ON IRREGULAR MIGRATION ALONG THE EASTERN ROUTE

On April 27, technical experts met in Tadjourah bringing together IGAD, the Government of Djibouti, IOM, the European Union, Sida , Styrelsen för Internationellt Utvecklingssamarbete, and partners to address

⁴⁹ Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) is a multi-sectoral approach protecting or promoting psychosocial well-being and treating mental health conditions, particularly in emergencies. It merges psychological and social support through a layered, community-based framework to address emotional, social, and cultural needs, often involving health, education, and protection sectors.
<https://emergency.unhcr.org/emergency-assistance/health-and-nutrition/mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-mhpss>

irregular migration, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, and safe migration governance along the Eastern Route.⁵¹



The meeting aims to strengthen regional cooperation, advance migrant protection, enhance border security, and explore safe and regular migration pathways. Through these discussions, IGAD and partners are contributing to the development of the Tadjourah Plan of Action, which will serve as a guiding framework for coordinated responses. This initiative also supports regional preparations for the forthcoming International Migration Review Forum, ensuring that the Horn of Africa's priorities and experiences are well represented in global migration governance dialogues.

High-Level Migration Meeting in Tadjoura Calls for Action

⁵⁰ Assessing MHPSS Integration in Health Emergencies.

<https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2048011545934721129?s=20>

⁵¹ IGAD and Partners Advance Regional Action on Irregular Migration along the Eastern Route

<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/18K8iQ2vm9/>



A high-level meeting held from April 27–30, 2026, in Tadjoura, Djibouti, brought together IGAD Member States, international organizations, and development partners to address the growing crisis of irregular migration along the Eastern (Red Sea) Route.⁵² The forum highlighted the scale and urgency of migration flows, which expose migrants to trafficking, smuggling, violence, and death. Leaders emphasized the need for a coordinated regional and international response to strengthen migrant protection, disrupt criminal networks, and enhance cooperation among origin, transit, and destination countries, including Yemen and Saudi Arabia.



Discussions focused on the legal, humanitarian, security, and socio-economic dimensions of migration, informed by alarming data on increasing movements and fatalities along the route. Participants called for stronger border governance, improved search and rescue capacity, better data systems, and expanded support for voluntary return and reintegration. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the *Tadjourah Call to Action*, reaffirming commitment to safe, orderly, and regular

⁵² High-Level Migration Meeting in Tadjoura Calls for Action. <https://igad.int/high-level-migration-meeting-in-tadjoura-calls-for-action/>

migration based on human dignity, regional solidarity, and shared responsibility, while contributing to global migration policy discussions at the International Migration Review Forum.



HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION CONDUCTS FIELD VISIT TO STRENGTHEN MIGRATION RESPONSE ALONG THE EASTERN ROUTE

A field visit on April 28, 2026, to Obock along the Red Sea migration route brought together a high-level delegation participating in the Tadjourah migration meeting.⁵³ Led by Djibouti's Ministry of Interior and supported by IGAD, IOM, the European Union, Sida, and other partners, the visit aimed to assess migration dynamics on the ground. Regional authorities in Obock received the delegation, providing an opportunity to directly observe migration flows and deepen understanding of the challenges faced along the Eastern Route toward Yemen.



The visit focused on strengthening regional coordination and protection mechanisms for

⁵³ A field visit on April 28, 2026, to Obock along the Red Sea migration route <https://x.com/IGADHealthS/status/2049129297768538501?s=20>



vulnerable migrants. Discussions emphasized the need to enhance cross-border collaboration among IGAD Member States, improve identification and referral systems, and support at-risk groups such as trafficking survivors and unaccompanied children. Participants also explored ways to improve maritime safety, including search and rescue operations, humane disembarkation procedures, and access to essential services, reinforcing efforts to address the humanitarian dimensions of migration along the corridor.



ICPALD SUPPORTS OPERATIONALIZATION OF SOMALIA'S LIVESTOCK EXPORT QUARANTINE FACILITY IN PUNTLAND

ICPALD, in collaboration with the Federal Government of Somalia, conducted a technical support mission to the newly established Somali Livestock Export Quarantine and Inspection Center (Som Quarantine) in Puntland. The mission assessed the facility's infrastructure and operations against harmonized IGAD regional and international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, while providing guidance on quarantine management, certification processes, and compliance with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) market requirements. It also identified key gaps and proposed actionable recommendations for the facility's full operationalization.

With a capacity to hold up to 150,000 animals, the quarantine center is expected to boost Somalia's livestock exports to markets in the Middle East and Southeast Asia once fully approved. ICPALD further facilitated engagement between quarantine management and international partners, leading to a successful inspection by a delegation from the Sultanate of Oman for export approval. The initiative, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) under the Regional Livestock Program (RLP), aims to strengthen livestock trade and enhance compliance with international standards.





4. REGIONAL INTEGRATION

POLICY DIALOGUE ON RATIFICATION OF IGAD TRANSHUMANCE PROTOCOL IN ETHIOPIA

A two-day policy dialogue held in Addis Ababa on March 31–April 1, 2026, brought together parliamentary committees, government ministries, and IGAD partners to advance the ratification of the IGAD Transhumance Protocol.⁵⁴ Organized by ICPALD, the meeting focused on strengthening political commitment and aligning Ethiopia’s legal and policy frameworks with the protocol. Speakers highlighted the importance of pastoralism in the region and emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to move the ratification process forward, noting that the outcomes would help shape the government’s official position.



⁵⁴ Policy Dialogue on Ratification of IGAD Transhumance Protocol in Ethiopia. <https://icpald.org/transhumance-dialogue-et/>

Discussions centered on integrating the protocol into Ethiopia’s national policies before full domestication and implementation. Ethiopia was noted as the only IGAD member state with an existing policy closely aligned with the protocol. Participants reviewed previous recommendations, clarified legal procedures required for ratification, and stressed the inclusion of cross-border communities in consultations. The dialogue was supported by the European Union under a regional program promoting free movement and transhumance in the IGAD region.



POLICY DIALOGUE ON SIGNING & RATIFICATION OF THE IGAD TRANSHUMANCE PROTOCOL BY THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

IGAD, through the PLACE programme, convened key government experts and social partners in Uganda to develop a roadmap for fast-tracking the signing and ratification of the IGAD Transhumance Protocol.⁵⁵



⁵⁵ Policy Dialogue on Signing & Ratification of the IGAD Transhumance Protocol by the Republic of Uganda. <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/196MgECaH7/>



The meeting emphasized the importance of strengthening advocacy and coordination to ensure the protocol is domesticated and effectively implemented. IGAD's Head of Mission to Uganda, Joselyn Bigirwa, commended Uganda's continued engagement in the protocol development process and called for renewed commitment to finalize its adoption.

Officials from the Government of Uganda, including Dr. Edith Namutebi Nsubuga, alongside parliamentary committees and pastoralist representatives, highlighted the protocol's role in enabling safe and orderly cross-border livestock mobility. They stressed its importance in addressing climate change challenges, improving access to pasture and water, and enhancing pastoral livelihoods. Supported by the European Union, the initiative contributes to strengthening resilience and promoting sustainable pastoral development across the IGAD region.



IGAD HOSTS AFDB APPRAISAL MISSION ON STRENGTHENING REGIONAL STATISTICS

On April 13, 2026, IGAD hosted an African Development Bank Group (AfDB) delegation for a four-day appraisal mission focused on

strengthening regional statistics. Representing the IGAD Executive Secretary, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Dr. Anthony Awira, Director of the Planning, Coordination and Partnerships Division (PCPD), welcomed the delegation led by Roza Mamuye Bora, Principal Statistician at AfDB.⁵⁶



The mission aimed to enhance socio-economic statistics across the IGAD region, reaffirming AfDB's support to Member States and Regional Economic Communities through capacity building, data modernization, and improved data production, dissemination, and use for evidence-based decision-making. The AfDB delegation commended IGAD for its ongoing technical and coordination efforts to strengthen national and regional statistical systems, underscoring the importance of reliable data in driving sustainable development and informed policy-making.



⁵⁶ IGAD Hosts AfDB Appraisal Mission on Strengthening Regional Statistics. <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1aoF8J3TJU/>



STRENGTHENING REGIONAL STATISTICS FOR INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

On April 14, an African Development Bank Group (AfDB) delegation led by Roza Mamuye Bora met with Mohamed Abdi Ware, IGAD Deputy Executive Secretary, at the IGAD Secretariat as part of their appraisal mission.⁵⁷ The discussions focused on strengthening socio-economic statistics to advance evidence-based policymaking and regional development. Both sides emphasized the importance of reliable data in shaping effective strategies and fostering sustainable growth across the IGAD region. IGAD reaffirmed the value of this strategic collaboration, noting that enhanced statistical systems are key to building a more data-driven region capable of addressing complex development challenges.



⁵⁷ Strengthening Regional Statistics for Informed Decision-Making.

<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/17DuFoiA2f/>

BORDERLANDS MUST BE CENTRAL TO DEVELOPMENT, NOT LEFT AT ITS MARGINS.

On April 15, 2026, at the 28th Horn of Africa Initiative meeting on prioritizing corridors to strengthen trade and connectivity, IGAD Executive Secretary Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu emphasized the central role of borderlands in sustainable development.⁵⁸ He underscored that corridor investments must extend beyond physical infrastructure to meaningfully involve local communities, strengthen livelihoods, and expand opportunities. Dr. Gebeyehu stressed that borderlands should not be left at the margins of development but placed at its heart, ensuring that integration efforts deliver tangible benefits to the people living in these critical cross-border areas. His remarks highlighted IGAD's commitment to advancing inclusive, people-centered approaches to regional trade and connectivity.



⁵⁸ Borderlands must be central to development, not left at its margins.

<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1L9FDUp8Lp/>



IGAD ADVANCES GATEWAY PROJECT TO UNLOCK BORDERLAND PROSPERITY

On April 25, IGAD has taken a significant step toward strengthening cross-border cooperation and economic growth with the advancement of the Gateway Project. At IGAD headquarters in Addis Ababa, Executive Secretary Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu welcomed Mandera County Governor Mohamed Adan Khalif and the Ambassador of Kenya to Ethiopia, Galma Boru, for high-level consultations on the Ethiopia–Kenya segment of the Horn of Africa Gateway Project. The discussions centered on how the initiative can connect communities, expand trade, and create opportunities in borderland areas. Both Ethiopian and Kenyan representatives emphasized the importance of inclusive development, ensuring that infrastructure corridors not only facilitate the movement of goods but also deliver tangible benefits to the people living along them.



This meeting followed Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu's renewed call at the 28th Horn of Africa Initiative meeting in Washington, D.C., where he urged regional and international partners to place borderlands at the heart of sustainable development strategies. He highlighted that the Gateway Project is more than a transport

corridor it is a lifeline for communities, designed to foster prosperity, resilience, and peace in historically marginalized regions.





5. ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS

IGAD’S EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, PAID A COURTESY VISIT TO IGAD’S CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

On April 6, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary, paid a courtesy visit to Abdoukader Houssein Omar, IGAD Chair of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti, at his office in Djibouti.⁵⁹



The two leaders discussed the prevailing regional situation and IGAD’s strategic priorities, reaffirming their shared commitment to advancing peace, stability, and resilience across the region. They agreed on key steps forward

⁵⁹ IGAD’s Executive Secretary, paid a courtesy visit to IGAD’s Chair of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Djibouti
<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1B2UN9HEgy/>

and emphasized the importance of strengthening coordination to ensure that IGAD’s collective efforts continue to deliver meaningful impact for Member States and their people.



DR. WORKNEH GEBEYEHU, IGAD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, RECEIVED DENISA-ELENA IONETE

On April 6, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary, received Denisa-Elena Ionete, European Union Ambassador to Djibouti and IGAD, for a constructive exchange on matters of mutual interest.⁶⁰



Their discussions underscored the growing urgency of evolving regional and global dynamics and the importance of coordinated forward-looking responses. Both sides reaffirmed the value of the IGAD–EU partnership and expressed commitment to advancing

⁶⁰ Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary, received Denisa-Elena Ionete
<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1TfB8tdnCy/>



sustainable solutions that strengthen resilience and improve stability across the region.



IGAD DEPLOYS ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION FOR THE 10 APRIL 2026 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN DJIBOUTI

On April 7, IGAD has announced the arrival of its Election Observation Mission (IGAD EOM) in Djibouti ahead of the Presidential Election scheduled for April 10, 2026.⁶¹ The Mission was deployed at the invitation of the Government and the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) of Djibouti.



The IGAD EOM is led by Dr. Mulatu Teshome, former President of the Federal Democratic

Republic of Ethiopia, and includes 17 Short-Term Observers (STOs) drawn from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda. These observers represent national election management bodies, civil society organizations, and youth groups.

Observers will be deployed across all regions of Djibouti to monitor election day procedures, including the opening of polls, voting, closing, and counting at polling stations. Their assessment will be guided by Djibouti's legal framework, the IGAD Draft Protocol on Democracy, Governance and Elections,⁶² the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG)⁶³, and the International Declaration of Principles (DoP) for International Election Observation.

The Mission will engage with state authorities, political parties, civil society, the media, the diplomatic community, and other election observation missions. A Preliminary Statement of findings and assessment will be released on April 12, 2026, at a press conference at the Mission's Secretariat located at the Kempinski

⁶¹ IGAD Deploys Election Observation Mission for the 10 April 2026 Presidential Election in Djibouti <https://igad.int/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/IGAD-Deploys-Election-Observation-Mission-for-the-10-April-2026-Presidential-Election-in-Djibouti.pdf>

⁶² The IGAD Draft Protocol on Democracy, Governance and Elections is a key policy instrument developed by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to harmonize legal frameworks, promote good governance, and manage election processes across member states. Validated in 2012–2014, it aims to prevent conflict and ensure political stability, guiding election observation and strengthening democratic institutions in the region.

⁶³ The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), adopted in 2007 and in force since 2012, is the AU's primary binding treaty for upholding democratic standards, rejecting unconstitutional changes of government, and promoting human rights. It provides a continental framework that guides member states on strengthening governance institutions and ensuring transparent, regular elections. http://archive.ipu.org/idd-e/afr_charter.pdf



Hotel, Djibouti. A final report will follow within one month of the announcement of the official election results.



PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE IGAD ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION ON THE 2026 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI.

The IGAD Election Observation Mission (EOM) deployed to monitor Djibouti's presidential election held on April 10, 2026, found that the process was conducted in a peaceful and orderly environment, reflecting stability and effective electoral administration.⁶⁴ Led by former Ethiopian President H.E. Mulatu Teshome, the mission observed all stages of the electoral process, including pre-election preparations, voting, counting, and tabulation. The election featured two candidates, with incumbent President Ismaïl Omar Guelleh re-elected with 97.8% of the vote. Observers noted that electoral institutions were generally well-prepared, voting procedures were followed, and security arrangements were adequate, allowing for a calm and organized election day across polling stations.

⁶⁴ <https://igad.int/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Preliminary-Report-IGAD-Election-Observation-Mission-For-the-10-April-2026-Presidential-Election-in-the-Republic-of-Djibouti.pdf>

⁶⁵ H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development

However, the mission also highlighted areas for improvement, particularly regarding limited political competition, reduced opposition participation, and the need for greater inclusivity in future elections. While women and youth were actively involved as voters and election officials, their representation in political leadership remains low. The report recommended strengthened voter education, improved ballot secrecy, enhanced participation of civil society and marginalized groups, and adoption of better electoral tools and procedures. Overall, IGAD concluded that the peaceful conduct of the election provides a basis for credible democratic processes, while emphasizing the importance of continued reforms to strengthen transparency, inclusiveness, and public trust.



IGAD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT ISMAÏL OMAR GUELLEH ON RE-ELECTION

H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of IGAD, congratulated President Ismaïl Omar Guelleh on his re-election following Djibouti's presidential elections held on April 10, 2026.⁶⁵ He commended the people of Djibouti for conducting peaceful elections and demonstrating their commitment to stability, democracy, and national development. He also

(IGAD), congratulates H.E. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh on his re-election as President of the Republic of Djibouti. <https://igad.int/h-e-dr-workneh-gebeyehu-executive-secretary-of-igad-congratulates-h-e-ismail-omar-guelleh-on-his-re-election-as-president-of-the-republic-of-djibouti/>



highlighted Djibouti's continued role as a key pillar in advancing regional diplomacy, cooperation, and peace in the Horn of Africa.

Dr. Workneh further recognized the efforts of the IGAD Election Observation Mission, led by former Ethiopian President H.E. Mulatu Teshome, praising their professionalism in monitoring the electoral process. He reaffirmed IGAD's commitment to strengthening collaboration with Djibouti in promoting regional peace, stability, and shared prosperity.

ADVANCING REGIONAL RESILIENCE AND INTEGRATION AT THE 2026 WORLD BANK IMF SPRING MEETINGS

On April 15, 2026, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary, led the organization's delegation to the 2026 World Bank–IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, D.C., with a focus on advancing regional integration and infrastructure development in cross-border areas.⁶⁶ The initiative aims to strengthen trade, deepen cooperation, and build resilience across IGAD Member States at a time when global instability continues to disrupt markets and place growing pressure on livelihoods.

⁶⁶ Advancing Regional Resilience and Integration at the 2026 World Bank IMF Spring Meetings
<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/18Khg5zheU/>



On the margins of the meetings, Dr. Gebeyehu held discussions with Ndiame Diop, World Bank Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, and Nathan Belete, the newly appointed World Bank Regional Director for Eastern Africa. The talks reviewed the IGAD–World Bank development portfolio and emphasized the need for more strategic coordination to enhance efficiency and maximize impact.



URGENT NEED FOR BOLD AND COORDINATED ACTION TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE ACROSS THE REGION

On April 17, 2026, IGAD Executive Secretary Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, underscored the urgent need for bold and coordinated action to strengthen resilience across the region in the face of persistent food insecurity and climate challenges.⁶⁷

⁶⁷ Urgent need for bold and coordinated action to Strengthen Resilience across the region
<https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1UUvai8pDm/>





Speaking on the margins of the World Bank Spring Meetings, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, leadership met with Mikko Ollikainen, Head of the Adaptation Fund, and Dr. Charles Owubah, Chief Executive Officer of Action Against Hunger, to explore stronger partnerships in resilience-building. The discussions highlighted the importance of integrated approaches to food safety, food security, and climate adaptation, stressing that fragmented efforts are no longer sufficient. IGAD emphasized that the collective response must be unified and focused on one overarching goal: reducing fragility and strengthening resilience for the people of the region.



STRENGTHENING IGAD–NORWAY PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY

On behalf of the IGAD Executive Secretary, Mohamed Abdi Ware, Deputy Executive Secretary of IGAD, welcomed Stian Christensen, Ambassador of Norway to Ethiopia and

Permanent Representative to the African Union and IGAD on April 28.⁶⁸



The meeting provided a platform for extensive discussions on the evolving situation in the region, with a particular focus on the impact of recent geopolitical developments on security and livelihoods across IGAD Member States. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of coordinated responses to emerging challenges and the need to strengthen regional mechanisms for peace and stability. Norway remains a key partner to IGAD and its Member States, supporting efforts to advance peace, stability, and sustainable development. The engagement underscored the value of sustained collaboration and highlighted the shared commitment to building resilience and fostering inclusive growth across the region.



⁶⁸ Strengthening IGAD–Norway Partnership for Regional Peace and Stability. <https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1EAn6G1uUx/>





6. BRIDGE'S OBSERVATIONAL INSIGHTS



6.1 Proceedings Report: Public Awareness on the Ratification of the IGAD Treaty⁶⁹

The Public Awareness Session on the Ratification of the IGAD Treaty, held on April 30, 2026, via X Spaces, served as a historic platform to discuss the transformation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development into a modernized, legally binding entity. The session was moderated by Patience Nyang'e, the Spokesperson for the Office of the Executive Secretary, and featured expert insights from Karen Njalale, IGAD's Head of Legal Affairs, and Mubarak Mabuya, the Coordinator of the IGAD

Drought Disaster Resilience Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI).

The primary objective of the dialogue was to engage regional stakeholders and citizens on the profound legal and socio-economic shifts represented by the new IGAD treaty, which has now been ratified by five member states, officially meeting the necessary two-thirds legislative threshold for its eventual entry into force.



A central theme of the discussion was the strategic necessity of transitioning from the legacy 1996 Agreement to a formal Treaty framework to address critical institutional gaps. Karen Njalale explained that the 1996 framework lacked robust dispute resolution mechanisms, clear enforcement tools to ensure member state compliance, and the legal weight

⁶⁹ See BRIDGE's Full Proceedings Report: <https://bridge-et.org/public-awareness-on-the-ratification-of-the-igad-treaty/>



required to match other African Regional Economic Communities like ECOWAS or the EAC.

The 2023 Treaty corrects these deficiencies by establishing a stronger legal foundation under international law, introducing a governance and sanctions system, and creating an independent Audit Committee to ensure financial accountability. Additionally, the treaty reflects the region's linguistic and administrative evolution by adding Arabic as an official language and formally introducing the offices of Deputy Executive Secretaries to enhance institutional continuity.



The speakers also highlighted the expansion of IGAD's mandate beyond its original focus on drought and security to include comprehensive economic cooperation and regional integration. Mubarak Mabuya detailed how the removal of "brackets" during treaty negotiations allowed for binding commitments to the free movement of goods, services, labor, and capital.

The treaty outlines a roadmap for establishing a common market and integrates a Regional Infrastructure Master Plan covering transport, energy, and water. This integration is designed to start at the borderlands, turning them from "barriers into bridges" through the accompanying Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, which aims to eventually establish a visa-free regime across the region.

For ordinary citizens and the region's large youth population, the treaty promises tangible "peace dividends" and enhanced opportunities. One major highlight was the establishment of a Regional Qualifications Framework, which will harmonize educational standards so that degrees and certifications are recognized across all member states, thereby unlocking cross-border employment.

In terms of security, the treaty formalizes IGAD's role in preventive diplomacy and mediation, with Mabuya noting that the institution's success should be measured by the conflicts it successfully prevents. Furthermore, the treaty strengthens climate resilience by providing a legal basis for regional early-warning systems that help pastoralists and farmers protect their livelihoods from transboundary threats like droughts and floods.

Finally, the session addressed the practical steps for implementation and national domestication. While the five-member ratification threshold has been met, the treaty will formally enter into force 60 days after the final required instrument of ratification is deposited



with the Executive Secretary, at the time of the session, four of the five necessary deposits had been secured.



The Secretariat is currently focused on internal capacity building and assisting member states with their respective constitutional procedures for domestication. The Legal Unit is also tasked with developing operational rules for the new sanctions system and updating the rules of procedure for IGAD's policy organs to ensure a smooth transition into this new era of regional governance.





6.2 Proceedings Report: IGAD Mediation Reflection Conference, 28-29 April 2026, Nairobi, Kenya.⁷⁰

The IGAD Mediation Reflection Conference, held in Nairobi in April 2026, convened 35 global and regional experts to address a perceived "systemic rupture" in international peace efforts, specifically within the Horn of Africa.



Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu

“ For IGAD, mediation is not optional. ”

The gathering, titled "Re-Imagining Mediation in a Fragmented World," was framed by H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, the IGAD Executive Secretary, as a response to an era of "global disorder" where traditional mediation models

are being outpaced by fragmented, regionalized wars sustained by war economies.



Dr. Musalia Mudavadi

“ Peace has been privatised, perhaps even commercialised. ”

H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Kenya's Foreign Secretary, set a critical tone by denouncing the "privatization of peace," where external actors treat human crises like transactional business negotiations, often failing to reach consensus on basic humanitarian issues while local populations suffer. This sentiment was echoed by Abdul Mohammed, who argued that the "liberal order templates", the linear move from ceasefires to power-sharing, are now obsolete because modern warfare has rendered these methodologies ineffective.



Abdul Muhammad

“ Multilateral institutions were not created to take us to heaven—they were created to prevent us from going to hell. ”

⁷⁰ See BRIDGE's Full Proceedings Report <https://bridge-et.org/proceedings-of-igadmediation-reflectionconference/>



A significant portion of the discourse focused on Sudan as the "epicenter" of this mediation crisis. Ambassador Mohamed Belaiche emphasized the necessity of African agency, asserting that African voices must lead in providing solutions to continental problems despite the complexity of external interference.



Ambassador Mohamed Belaiche

“ It is not too late to build trust among the Sudanese people, nor to create a unified national identity that transcends polarization and the desire for dominance. ”

Dr. Abdalla Hamdok, the former Prime Minister of Sudan, provided a scathing critique of "forum shopping," noting how parallel, uncoordinated tracks like Jeddah and Manama have diluted diplomatic messaging and allowed the war to persist. He introduced the principle of "sufficient inclusivity," arguing that while participation is vital, the pursuit of 100% inclusion is a functional impossibility that often empowers "spoilers" who have no genuine interest in peace.



Dr. Dawit Toga



“ Re-engineering the contemporary mediation architecture does not require the invention of new diplomatic mechanisms; rather, practitioners must draw from established, successful case studies within the continental toolkit. ”

Dr. Dawit Toga went further, accusing the African Union of "institutional abdication," arguing that by surrendering leadership to external capitals like Washington or Doha, African institutions have marginalized themselves from their own security responsibilities. The conference also explored a fundamental shift in the "ontologies" or guiding philosophies of mediation.



Dr. Vasu Gounden



“ The shift is from peace through dialogue to peace through strength. What we practiced all of us or most of us in this room for the last three decades was peace through dialogue. ”

Dr. Vasu Gounden described a move from "peace through dialogue" toward an ascendant era of "peace through strength," where hard power, military might, and national self-interest have replaced moral authority and international norms as the primary currencies of negotiation.



Martin Griffiths

“ If you want to end the fighting, don't stop at a ceasefire—be more ambitious and build peace. ”

Martin Griffiths reflected on the "political prize" of ending wars, warning that when states reclaim mediation for prestige



rather than humanitarian aspirations, they often exclude the "emergency rooms", the civil society actors actually leading action on the ground.

Dr. Jan Pospisil provided an empirical critique, stating that the "ideal type" of a linear peace process has never actually occurred in the 170 processes analyzed since 1990. He specifically challenged the mechanical use of "women and youth tables," labeling them as paternalistic "side tables" that offer inclusion without substantive influence.

Geopolitical realities concerning the Red Sea and the influence of Gulf States were another core theme. Hafsa Halawa argued for dismantling the false "external-internal" dichotomy, noting that the Red Sea basin is a unified security architecture where African states and Gulf autocracies are transactionally and economically interdependent. Alex Rondos criticized European engagement as being "asleep at the wheel," focused on abstract rhetoric while the region navigates a series of "conflict portfolios" managed by actors who treat localized instability as a strategic asset. To counter this, Dr. Mohamed Ali Guyo called for IGAD to rebuild its internal cohesion and "geographic destiny," bringing alienated actors like Eritrea back into a coordinated regional fold to prevent unilateral mercantilism from plunging the Horn into further war.



In the closing reflections, speakers like Dr. Semir Yusuf and Dr. Majak D'Agoot Atem highlighted the paradox that while African agency is most needed now, it is at its weakest point since the post-colonial era. They advocated for a model of "pragmatic idealism," where mediation focuses on localized "conflict disruption" and the building of agency from the ground up rather than solely through elite bargains. Felicita Wangechi Keiru reminded the participants that the "situation room" is defined by rapid acceleration, requiring IGAD to move beyond rigid bureaucracies toward flexible crisis-response operations.

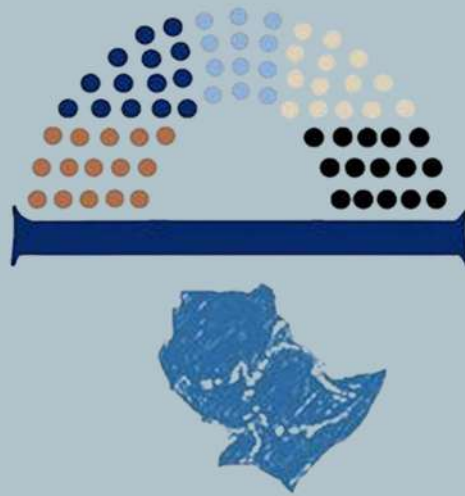


Ultimately, the conference concluded with a vision to institutionalize this gathering as an annual peace platform, ensuring



continuous learning and the systemic renewal of African mediation doctrines.

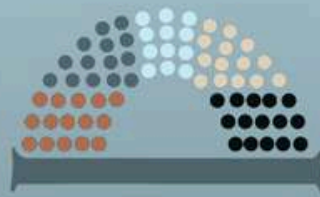




IGAD MONTHLY DIGEST

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IGAD MONTHLY DIGEST
ISSUED BY BRIDGE RESEARCH AND
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