



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
&
**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON
DEVELOPMENT**



PRESS RELEASE

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**IGAD and ILO sign a Memorandum of Understanding on
Employment for Peace in the Horn of Africa**

ADDIS ABABA (ILO News) – The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the International Labour Organization today committed to deepen their collaboration and cooperation in jointly promoting employment for peace, stability and sustainable development of the Horn of Africa.

In a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed Wednesday the two institutions undertake to intensify their partnership in various areas, including employment creation, extension of social protection, strengthening of employers' and workers' organizations, gender equality mainstreaming, labour migration, conflict prevention and post-conflict peace-building, harmonization of labour legislations, enhancement of work in the informal economy, entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility as well as measures to combat forced labour and trafficking in persons. The signing of the MoU was accompanied by presentations from both institutions of a joint programme framework on Employment for Peace in the Horn of Africa.

Praising the signing of the bilateral agreement, Eng. Mahboub Maalim, Executive Secretary of the IGAD said, "We want to expand our joint efforts to promote lasting peace and development in the countries of the Horn of Africa". He said the IGAD was ready to implement the regional programme designed to promote employment for peace, stability and development in the sub-region.

The IGAD – ILO MoU provides an overall framework for long-term collaboration in these key areas, which are priorities for both the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The ILO Regional Director for Africa, Mr. Charles Dan, stated that the ILO was ready to implement the jointly-agreed Employment for Peace programme based on a "virtuous triangle": creating employment opportunities, extending a social protection floor and improving governance and social dialogue to support real progress in the Horn of Africa.

“We are at a crossroad in our collective efforts to bring peace through job creation in the sub-region; our commitment to jointly implement such activities, our technical expertise and resourceful networking will be key to move from this Agreement to action on the ground, ” Charles Dan said.

In April 2011, the Conference on Employment for Peace, Stability and Development jointly organized by the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the International Labour Organization defined - in the presence of development partners and other regional and international organizations - the major components of a regional approach to tackle the challenges faced by countries in the Horn of Africa. Today’s signing of an MoU between IGAD and the ILO creates an important partnership for realising this approach.

The MOU provides that specific arrangements for individual activities in each substantive area will be set out in jointly-formulated work plans. Collaboration is intended to be results-focused, with the ILO’s technical expertise complementing the IGAD’s political leadership and know-how in areas jointly defined as priority to advance the twin goals of employment and peace in the Horn of Africa. The effectiveness of the collaboration will be periodically assessed by the two institutions. An IGAD-ILO Steering Committee will be established to guide and monitor the process in consultation with national governments and other regional partners.

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