

IGAD

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY
ON DEVELOPMENT



AUTORITÉ INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Ref: _____

Date: _____

**STATEMENT OF Eng MAHBOUB M. MAALIM,
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF IGAD AT THE OPENING OF
THE STAKEHOLDERS' AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS
CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT FOR PEACE, STABILITY
AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA IN ADDIS
ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 11-12 OF APRIL 2011**

UN Resident Coordinator in Ethiopia

Representative of African Union from Political Affairs Department

Excellency Mr. Charles Dan, Regional Director for Africa ILO;

**H.E. Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Deputy prime Minister and Minister of
Foreign Affairs, FDRE.**

H.E. Mr. Remedan Ashenafi, State Minister, MOLSA

Excellencies ambassadors and Member of the Diplomatic Corps;

Distinguished Members of the IGAD Partners forum;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I would like at the outset to wish all our invited guests a warm welcome to this august conference which has come at the right time to address employment issues in our Region. Allow me also to laud the productive partnership between the AUC, IGAD and ILO that resulted in convening this Conference successfully. May I also acknowledge the valuable contribution made by the ILO in preparing and facilitating the necessary documents to our participants.

IGAD as a partner in this conference do recognize the vital link between employment creation and peace building and as much as our efforts in peace and security are continuing we are also looking forward to take employment

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efforts with them, hand in hand. To IGAD, the outcomes of this conference would be a key instrument for promoting peace and security in this Region. IGAD's mandate, challenge and commitment has always been and continued to positively contribute to conflict resolution, economic integration and sustainable development. The proposed strategy, if adopted, will lead to common understanding and approach to employment creation and translate emergency employment projects into sustainable programmes that support different population groups in the region. This should be supported by effective dissemination and advocacy to reach out all and to achieve the desired impacts. In this context, we are expecting a meaningful employment creation process that requires adequate resources, and in this respect we shall call upon our partners to effectively support such a process.

I also take this opportunity to refer to our newly adopted strategy which is built around a set of guiding principles and programming guidelines. Our strategy in fact calls for increasing our involvement in issues like good governance and human rights, as well as employment creation and democratic culture in the IGAD region and emphasises their linkages to peace, security and sustainable development. IGAD will focus on developing a regional consensus on such issues and putting in place mechanisms for their implementation. Further, IGAD will adhere to and promote integrity, accountability, cooperation and transparency in its dealings with partners in development, member states and other stakeholders. Accordingly, the IGAD strategy goes in line with the proposed strategy in that it uses employment creation as a vehicle to pave the way for peace, security and sustainable development. In this regard, IGAD shares its partners belief in attacking the root-causes of the problem and not the symptoms- treating causes behind the current crises in the region in a holistic and comprehensive manner. Such a holistic approach that focuses on reasons behind conflict, exodus and none – effective governance is the most appropriate approach to our regional problems.

Taking advantage of this strategy, we need to think of a strategic plan that should shape and concertize our way forward. In drawing such a plan, I would suggest the following to guide our future policy :

- i) Economic Communities such as IGAD should act seriously in promoting regional integration, mobilising regional investments and attracting Foreign Direct Investments in key sectors that generate employment;

- ii) Place employment at the centre of economic policies, including employment targeting, and conducive working conditions;
- iii) Facilitate the promotion of private sector investment for job creation;
- iv) Promote employment creation and enhance employment prospects for youth, such as ensuring access for all youth to appropriate education and training which will be followed by adequate support during the transition to work;
- v) Establish close links between educational institutions and the labour market through encouraging and promoting work-related skills training

With these few remarks, I conclude wishing you very fruitful deliberations.