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STATEMENT ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SOMALIA

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is closely following with a keen interest the political developments in Somalia particularly with respect to the political transition in that Country.

IGAD has received with satisfaction the successful election and subsequent swearing in of the 230 Members of Parliament. IGAD therefore congratulates the elected Parliamentarians and the entire Somali stakeholders for the implementation of the transition process thus far.

IGAD notes that the successful completion of the remaining tasks are critical for the completion of the transition process, and more importantly in launching Somalia into a new phase of peace and development. While these tasks are huge, IGAD believes they are achievable. In this regard, IGAD encourages the Somali stakeholders to pursue these tasks with the patriotism, commitment and sense of responsibility that they have demonstrated since the commencement of the implementation of the Roadmap.

IGAD is waiting with great anticipation for the convening of the ordinary session of parliament on August 25 and 26, 2012 and the election of the speaker of parliament. This shall be a test for the commitment of the new Parliament and all political actors to end the transition and bring about lasting peace in Somalia. IGAD assures the political actors and the Somali people at large of the region's solidarity and support as they pursue those commitments.

Recognizing, that the challenges ahead are daunting, IGAD calls upon the entire Somali political leadership to remain on course, urges the international Community to remain vigilant and supportive of the Somali efforts, and hopes that Somalia will soon begin to play its rightful role among the community of nations.

August 23rd, 2012

