



## **STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD) ON THE ONGOING POLITICAL TENSION IN SOMALIA**

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**Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018:** The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development reaffirms its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia.

IGAD is concerned and closely following the evolving new political tension in Somalia which threatens to derail the significant progress registered in the past year. In particular, the standoff within the country's legislature that threatens to impede efforts by the current Government's efforts towards reforming security and justice institutions, increasing opportunities for economic growth as well as providing basic services to its citizenry.

Over the past year, Somalia has made steadfast progress towards a robust reform agenda thanks to the commitment shown by Somalia's current leadership – the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in close collaboration with its Federal Member States (FMS). IGAD welcomes the progress made towards operationalization of the National Security Council and the implementation of the National Security Architecture, in particular the political agreement at the recent National Security Council of 6-10 February 2018, to recognize the regional forces and proceed with their integration within the National Security Architecture.

IGAD also welcomes the development of a condition-based Transition Plan with a view to conduct a conditions-based, gradual handover of security from AMISOM to the Somali Security Forces, and looks forward to its swift finalization and implementation.

IGAD commends the great progress made by the Federal Government of Somalia in meeting the requirements of the ongoing IMF Staff Monitored Programme (SMP) as part of its broader reform agenda in re-engaging with the International Financial Institutions.

IGAD cautions that recurring political instability threatens the fragile gains made by Federal Government of Somalia over the last 12 months, which portends serious risks to stabilization process. To this end, IGAD calls upon the Executive and Federal Parliament to join hands to facilitate the delivery of the critical milestones under the 2020 Road map, aid the implementation of the national security architecture, and further develop the Roadmap to the debt relief.

We also urge all Somali Federal institutions to maintain their unity and cohesion, in the spirit of separation of power and also use constitutional and peaceful means to resolve political disputes. **END.**