
Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

IGAD Secretariat

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Chairperson: Hailemariam Dessalegn, Ethiopia (elected by the IGAD Assembly in January 2013)¹

Head of Secretariat: Mahboub Maalim, Kenya (appointed by the IGAD Assembly on 14 June 2008 for a four-year term; reappointed in July 2012 for a second four-year term)

Purpose

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was established in 1996 to

represent the interests of states in the Eastern Africa region. Under article 7 of the Agreement establishing IGAD, its aims and objectives include promoting joint development strategies; harmonizing Member States' policies; achieving regional food security; initiating sustainable development of natural resources; promoting peace and stability in the sub-region; and mobilizing resources for the implementation of programmes within the framework of sub-regional cooperation.

Evolution

IGAD is the successor to the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), which was founded in 1986 to address the recurring droughts and other natural disasters that had caused severe hardship in the region. The revitalized Authority's mandate increased to include promoting greater regional political and economic cooperation as well as addressing peace and security issues. It also implemented a new organizational structure.

Structure

The IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government is the organization's supreme

policy-making organ, determining its objectives, guidelines and programmes. IGAD's structure also includes the Council of Ministers, which formulates policy, approves the work programme and the Secretariat's annual budget, and the Committee of Ambassadors, which facilitates the Council's work and guides the Executive Secretary (head of the Secretariat). The Council is composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and one other minister designated by each Member State. The Executive Secretary is appointed by the Assembly to run the organization's day-to-day affairs.

Note

1 Ethiopia was initially elected for a one-year term but as of 1 September 2014 remained as Chair.

Other bodies include the:

- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU-IGAD), which came into existence after its establishing Protocol, came into force in November 2007. It is composed of IGAD Member States' Speakers of Parliament.
- Civil Society Forum, which was established in 2003 to resuscitate the interface between the IGAD Secretariat and non-governmental and civil society organizations in the region.
- Partners Forum (IPF), which was formed in January 1997 to replace and formalize IGAD's relationships with the 'Friends of IGAD', a group of partners working closely with the Secretariat.

Meetings

The Assembly Summit meets at least once a year and may hold extraordinary meetings at the request of any of its members. Summit decisions are reached by consensus. The office of Chairperson is usually held for one year in rotation among the Member States. The Summit discusses business submitted to it by the Council (which meets twice each year) and any other matter that may have a bearing on IGAD. The Committee of Ambassadors convenes as often as the need arises.

Members (8)

Djibouti, Eritrea¹, Ethiopia, Kenya Somalia South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda