

Horn of Africa Initiative: 12th Meeting of Finance Ministers

April 21st, 2022, Hybrid Meeting During World Bank / IMF Spring Meetings

Proposed Agenda

Context

1. The Horn of Africa (HoA) Initiative has made considerable progress since it was launched in October 2019. Despite the challenges posed by Covid19 pandemic and the political developments in the sub-region, the HoA Initiative has become an important platform for deepening economic integration and promoting regional cooperation in the Horn. Some of the key achievements of the Initiative during the past two years include the following:

- Leadership and direction: Finance Ministers have provided strong leadership, including through quarterly meetings to discuss strategic and implementation priorities.
- Successful rotation of HoA Initiative chairmanship: Djibouti's provided effective leadership for two years and a smooth handover of chairmanship to Kenya in end-2021.
- Attracting financing: Projects worth over \$4.5bn from the \$15bn priority package have either been approved and are being implemented or in advanced stages of preparation.
- Responding to the changing context: Given the multiple climate and other risks, the HoA Initiative has responded by strengthening the support under the Resilience pillar.
- Growing regional cooperation: Several technical workshops have been organized involving countries, IGAD and partners - facilitated by a small but proactive Secretariat.
- Partner outreach: An HoA MDTF is now up and running and a successful outreach meeting with a wider group of partners (14 EU Member States) was organized in Brussels in February.

2. The 12th Ministerial Roundtable meeting will take place on April 21st from 8am to 9.30am Washington time, 3pm to 4.30pm East Africa time. The meeting would be conducted in a hybrid format, with limited in-person participation in Washington (in line with guidance for the World Bank / IMF Spring Meetings) and others participating virtually. Participation in the hybrid meeting would be for Finance Ministers and their delegations from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia as well as for the HoAI Secretariat, African Development Bank, European Union, World Bank and IGAD. As in the past, a short communique agreed by the Ministers would be issued.

Objectives

3. At this Roundtable, the Ministers and partners will review the current development context in the Horn, status of project preparation and implementation, discuss policy actions to promote regional integration and look ahead at the priorities for the coming months. Various

technical meetings involving countries and partners have been organized in preparation for the Ministerial meeting.

Program and Agenda

- 0800 – 0825:
(1500 – 1525)** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Chair invites everyone to the meeting, provides welcome remarks and invites Ministers, DPs and IGAD to provide their brief remarks, including on recent developments.
- 0825 – 0830:
(1525 – 1530)** **Short Video on Evolution of HoA Initiative**
- 0830 – 0840:
(1530 – 1540)** **Drought and Food Security Situation in the Horn**
Review of the current drought and food security situation and possible national and regional-level responses.
- 0840 – 0855:
(1540 – 1555)** **Readout of Technical Workshops on Trade and Energy**
Following guidance provided by Ministers in the December meeting, technical workshops have been held on trade and energy sectors. The outcome of these workshops with agreed recommendations would be presented for guidance by Ministers and participants.
- 0855 – 0900:
(1555 – 1600)** **Recent fire disaster in Somalia** (reference requested by Djibouti)
- 0900 – 0920:
(1600 – 1620)** **Discussion and Looking Ahead at Next Six Months**
Discussion on the presentations and the chair will outline priorities in the HoA work program for the next six months.
- 0920 – 0930:
(1620 – 1630)** **Wrap-up and conclusions**
Review of draft communique
- 0930 – 1000:** **Informal engagement for participants in Washington, DC**