



JOINT DECLARATION

HORN OF AFRICA INITIATIVE

Strengthening regional integration in the Horn of Africa through facilitation of trade

We, the Ministers of Finance of the Republic of Kenya, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Djibouti and the Federal Republic of Somalia, virtually met on June 30, 2022 for the 13th Ministerial Meeting of the Horn of Africa Initiative in the presence of the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Union ("the Developing Partners"), the IGAD Executive Secretary, and the Trade Ministers of our countries.

ACKNOWLEDGING the commitment of the Development Partners in advancing the Horn of Africa Initiative (HoAI) and their continuous support in sustaining our efforts towards sustainable development in our respective countries;

RECALLING our guidance given during the 11th Ministerial Meeting held in Kenya on 16 December 2021, that complementary "soft" interventions are needed both at the national and regional levels in order to maximize the impact of investments in hard infrastructure and other complementary sectors, and as a necessary condition for deepening integration in the HoA region;

APPRECIATING the efforts made by the delegations of Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia during the Workshop on Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration held in Nairobi on April 6-7, 2022 for developing a matrix of priority actions needed for addressing main barriers to cross-border trade in the HoA region;

RECALLING that during the 12th Meeting of the HoAI Finance Ministers held on April 21st, 2022 in Washington DC, we endorsed the matrix of priority actions, emphasizing the importance of further detailing the activities described in such document within a coherent Regional Trade Facilitation Roadmap designing a strategy for guiding our countries to advance the economic integration of our region and identify objectives, timelines, responsibilities and technical assistance needed for its implementation;

WELCOMING the finalization by the HoAI Secretariat, with the support of the Development Partners and the delegations of Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia of a HoAI Regional Trade Facilitation Roadmap;

WE HEREBY DECLARE:

The adoption of the Regional Trade Facilitation Roadmap for the Horn of Africa Initiative as a framework of action for strengthening trade facilitation in the HoA region;

Our highest commitment to continue the work for implementing the Roadmap with the support of Developing Partners and within the existing regional, multilateral and bilateral agreements to which our States are signatories;


Ahmed Shide
Minister



Nairobi

August, 8th 2022

The appointment a Regional Trade Facilitation Task Force comprising the HoAI national thematic leaders for Trade and representatives from other authorities in our respective States who will be responsible for the preparation of specific concept notes to be submitted to the Developing Partners for launch of programmes and projects aimed at supporting the implementation of the activities described in the Roadmap;

TO THIS END, WE FURTHER:

Encourage cooperation among our Ministries and other government authorities of the HoAI Member States responsible for trade-, customs- and transport-related matters, by putting in place the necessary policy coordination actions needed for the implementation of the Roadmap by leveraging on the support of the Development Partners through the HoAI Secretariat;

Mandate the HoAI Secretariat to assist the Trade Facilitation Task Force in the implementation of this Joint Declaration and the HoAI Trade Facilitation Roadmap, including through the facilitation of the organization of meetings, workshops and the support in the elaboration of projects with the assistance of Developing Partners.

Call upon the Development Partners to support the implementation of the HoAI Regional Trade Facilitation roadmap through the mobilization of the financial and technical assistance needed for undertaking the soft policy improvements needed to optimize trade facilitation and strengthen regional integration in the Horn of Africa.



H.E. Ukur Kanacho Yatani
Cabinet Secretary of Treasury and National
Planning,
Republic of Kenya



H.E. Ilyas Moussa Dawaleh
Minister of Finance,
Republic of Djibouti



Ahmed Shide
Minister

H.E. Ahmed Shide
Minister of Finance,
Federal Republic of Ethiopia



H.E. Elmi Mohamud Nur
Minister of Finance,
Federal Republic of Somalia

