



PRESS RELEASE

UN-Habitat and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to advance sustainable urbanization across the Horn and Eastern Africa

Nairobi, 23 July 2026 – The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) formalized a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen regional cooperation and accelerate sustainable urbanization, climate resilience and integrated territorial development across the Horn and Eastern Africa.

The agreement establishes a broad strategic framework for collaboration between the two organizations to support IGAD Member States in addressing the complex challenges of rapid urbanization, climate change, displacement, disaster risks and cross-border development through coordinated regional action, knowledge-sharing and evidence-based planning.

Building on their complementary mandates and longstanding collaboration, UN-Habitat and IGAD will work together to strengthen institutional and human capacities, promote science, data and innovation, mobilize resources for regional programmes, and facilitate the generation and exchange of knowledge that supports informed policymaking and sustainable development across the region.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing sustainable urbanization while strengthening regional integration and resilience in one of Africa's fastest urbanizing and most climate-vulnerable regions.

“By combining UN-Habitat's global technical expertise with IGAD's regional leadership and convening power, we will work with Member States across the Horn and Eastern Africa to translate regional priorities into practical solutions that improve lives and strengthen resilience,” said Oumar Sylla, Director of the Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat.

“IGAD strongly advocates for collaborations and partnerships to advance resilience, stability and regional integration. This partnership with UN-Habitat is yet another endeavour in building synergies, aligning priorities and co-designing solutions with communities to achieve sustainable development across the IGAD region,” said Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of IGAD.

Under the agreement, the two organizations will collaborate to establish regional frameworks, develop and implement joint programmes, and mobilize resources to advance sustainable urbanization and resilience across the Horn and Eastern Africa.



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The primary results of the collaboration will be to support IGAD Member States in:

- Strengthening urban and cross-border resilience through integrated planning
- Improving land governance
- Applying climate-risk-informed approaches to settlements, land use planning and infrastructure development
- Integrating disaster risk reduction into national urban policies
- Strengthening capacities in global housing strategies and enhanced data systems, with a special focus on climate-induced human mobility and cross-border urban systems

To ensure effective implementation, UN-Habitat and IGAD will establish a joint steering committee and a joint technical task team to provide strategic oversight, coordinate implementation, develop annual work plans, monitor progress and identify opportunities for new joint initiatives.

The partnership also reinforces both organizations' commitment to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 11, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the African Union's Agenda 2063 through stronger regional cooperation and coordinated action.

The agreement will remain in force for five years and will provide a platform for developing innovative regional programmes that respond to the evolving needs of countries and communities across the Horn and Eastern Africa.

About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. With programmes in over 90 countries, it supports policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in urban areas through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance and collaborative action. To know more, visit unhabitat.org or follow us on social media @UNHABITAT.

About IGAD

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is the regional economic community with membership of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. IGAD promotes regional integration, peace and security, climate resilience and sustainable development through coordinated policies, partnerships and programmes that improve the lives of people across the region.



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