

**STATEMENT BY H.E. PRESIDENT MWAI KIBAKI, C.G.H., M.P.,
DURING THE 20TH EXTRA-ORDINARY IGAD SUMMIT OF HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENT, ADDIS ABABA, 27TH JANUARY, 2012**

Your Excellency, Chair of IGAD,

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this early opportunity to thank His Excellency Meles Zenawi and the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for their warm welcome and hospitality, and for hosting this Extra-Ordinary IGAD Summit. This meeting comes at a time when there are several critical issues affecting our region. These include the situation in Somalia, the rising tension between the two Sudans, as well as the continued menace of piracy in the Indian Ocean.

Excellencies,

The failure to move forward towards the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between Sudan and South Sudan, is a matter of serious concern. Similarly, the renewed inter-communal violence in Jonglei State has worsened the already fragile security situation and has forced thousands of families to flee from their homes, resulting in a humanitarian crisis in South Sudan.

These developments will continue to remain as a set back to peace and stability, not only in the Sudan and South Sudan but the entire Horn of Africa region. I therefore call upon the leaders of the two countries, my brothers, President Omar Al-Bashir and President Salva Kiir, to cooperate and reach an amicable agreement on the pending issues. The recent dispute over oil revenues and deliveries is a big threat to the CPA and it should be resolved urgently in order to avoid adverse economic consequences.

I urge Sudan and South Sudan to nurture the peaceful coexistence they have maintained since the conclusion of the CPA in July, 2011. Kenya as the IGAD Sub-Chair on Sudan will continue to support them in finding amicable solutions that will ensure peaceful coexistence between the two States, and which will guarantee peace in the entire Horn of Africa region.

Excellencies,

There has been tremendous progress made by the joint TFG and AMISOM operation in Somalia. This has resulted in the defeat of Al-Shabaab in Mogadishu and Southern Somalia. Forces allied to the TFG with the assistance of Ethiopia and Kenya has made important gains against Al-Shabaab thus creating a unique opportunity to establish stability across the country.

To this end, I have no doubt that the decision by the African Union's Peace and Security Council approving the merger of Kenyan troops in Somalia with AMISOM will further improve the security situation. Moreover, the AU's decision to have more troops from Uganda and Burundi to beef up the AMISOM force and Djibouti's decision to deploy its first contingent of 100 soldiers to Somalia is a major boost to the security situation in the country.

Though we have a collective responsibility to help restore peace, security and stability in Somalia, the destiny of Somalia lies in the hands of the Somali people themselves. It is therefore disturbing that wrangles have emerged within one of key Transitional Federal Institutions, the Parliament. I call on the Somali leaders to reciprocate the efforts being made at the regional and international levels by avoiding unnecessary disputes and remaining faithful to the roadmap laid out for the transition.

Excellencies,

Piracy off the coast of Somalia is an offshoot of insecurity and the lack of state control over Somali waters and ports. Illegal cargo bearing weapons, contraband goods, narcotics and laundered money has found its way into the region through the coast of Somalia. The international community should therefore extend funding and capacity building support to AMISOM and frontline states engaged in security operations in South-Central Somalia. These efforts should include the training of the Somali National Army, Coast Guard, Prison Services, Tax Collection Agents, as well as local and regional administration officials. Furthermore, social services such as health, provision of water, entrepreneurship training should be supported.

In this regard, I am very pleased by the recent decision by the United Nations to relocate the United Nations Political Office for Somalia to Mogadishu. This is a major milestone in the Somali Peace Process. It will lead to significant progress in the implementation of the priority tasks in the roadmap to restore peace and stability in Somalia. Furthermore, the UN Office would enable effective coordination between the Transitional Federal Institutions, UN agencies and NGOs.

Excellencies,

The importance of Economic Integration in our sub-region cannot be overemphasized. The IGAD Minimum Integration Plan is a major drive for IGAD Member States to have financial integration and common cross-border infrastructure. The realization of this objective calls for regional cooperation and coordination of sectoral policies.

I urge IGAD Member States to focus their energies on strengthening and deepening existing Free Trade Areas and encourage non-EAC IGAD Member States to become full members of existing Free Trade Areas like COMESA.

The IGAD infrastructure Conference which will be hosted by Kenya in March 2012, as part of the IGAD Horn of Africa Initiative will develop necessary policy frameworks to support our regional infrastructure projects. This calls for our commitment to ensure that the IGAD Region is prosperous and economically reliant on its own resources which are immense and diverse in nature.

Excellencies,

As I conclude my remarks, I am confident that the outcome of our deliberations today will increase the commitments made by IGAD Member States to support the region's peace, security and development.

Thank you.