

PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK
for NEW DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (DPs)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Horn of Africa initiative was created in 2019 to promote **regional economic integration** as a way to foster peace, stability and sustainable development in the region. The initiative has a twofold ambition: i) **political**: it provides an **open and frank political forum** for the region at Finance Minister’s level to discuss and agree collective action to promote economic integration, ii) **development**: it is anchored on a solid **development package** along 4 pillars - regional infrastructures, trade facilitation, resilience and human capital.

To date, **Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan have joined the initiative in partnership** with international multilateral partners, the **African Development Bank (AfDB)**, the **World Bank (WB)** and the **European Union (EU)**.

II. VISION

“Work together to build a prosperous, integrated, and peaceful Horn of Africa”.

The HoA Initiative is unique in three ways:

- i) Countries lead the process and the DPs support;
- ii) The forum of Finance Ministers is the only such forum in the region, and the Ministers need to use it for discussion on issues they prioritise
- iii) Important to keep the bureaucracy and transaction costs of managing the HoAI to the minimum so that the focus remains on substance and implementation.

III. FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

- i) National ownership and regional cooperation;
- ii) Trust and flexibility;
- iii) Focus on regional priorities while strengthening synergies with national efforts;
- iv) Political commitment, policy alignment and effective implementation;
- v) Demonstrate results of closer integration and effective monitoring of the impact on the people of the Horn

IV. DEEPENING COUNTRY LEADERSHIP AND ASSOCIATING NEW DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (DPs)

The HoA Initiative has over the past three years recorded some very unique achievements: (i) creating a solid platform for Finance Ministers to steer the Initiative (it is the only known regional platform of Finance Ministers in Africa representing a ‘coalition of the willing’); (ii) nimble and pragmatic coordination among existing core DPs which recognizes the need for strengthening country leadership of the Initiative; and (iii) three partners having so far

contributed almost one-third of the overall cost of the priority package of \$15bn for projects with strong regional benefits.

During Kenya's chairmanship, the HoA countries are committed to further deepening the above strengths of the Initiative, while focusing on expanding the group of stakeholders supporting the Initiative, mainly development partners and private sector. This note sets out a proposed framework for expanding the DP support. Another note would spell out the proposed arrangement for involving the private sector engagement in HoAI.

In view of high degree of interest expressed by other donors, participation in the Initiative may be extended to new partners based on their level of interest and commitment to finance priority HoAI projects and programs. The participation of new DPs is essential to meet the financing needs to implement the HoAI package of priority projects and programs valued at USD15 billion and set to rise with the joining of new members (Sudan and South Sudan).

CRITERIA FOR FULL-FLEDGE PARTNERSHIP

- i) **At least 1 project or program with strong regional scope** in the region and aligned to at least one of the 4 pillars covered by the HoAI.
- ii) A **minimum of USD 100 million ongoing program** under the HoAI package of priority projects and programs and continued commitment to fund new interventions under the package¹.
- iii) **Align support within the HoAI to the identified priority package** (and any possible adjustments or enlargement to it).
- iv) Expressed commitment to **continue being financially and politically engaged** in the region and in a manner consistent with at least one of the 4 pillars covered by the HoAI and ensuring that actions are conducive to further promoting country ownership of the Initiative.
- v) Availability to **participate in relevant technical and Ministerial meetings**.
- vi) On Ministerial meetings, **capacity to mobilise high-level representation** (physically): Minister level, Permanent Secretary or at least Director General.

OFFICIAL PROCEDURE TO BE INTEGRATED

- i) New development partners may be inducted into the Initiative by **invitation only**. The Chair will invite a development partner based on a unanimous recommendation of HoAI members and development partners.
- ii) In order to reinforce collective responsibility and ownership, the Initiative will follow **unanimity** as the means of affirmation, and not voting among members and development partners.

¹ This will be calculated as a rolling average of three-years portfolio of active projects with regional scope in the Horn of Africa Initiative countries / region.

OPPORTUNITIES GIVEN TO FULL-FLEDGED PARTNERS

- i) **To be included in existing networks** with partners.
- ii) **To be involved, based on interest, in technical meetings**, including meetings identifying new actions and funding opportunities.
- iii) **To be involved, based on interest, in various workshops** on the four pillars
- iv) **To be involved in Ministerial meetings**, including in restricted format.
- v) Possibility to **co-organise HoAI Ministerial meetings**, if interested.
- vi) Participate in the MDTF Partnership Council meetings, if the DP has made a contribution to the Trust Fund

FACILITATION PROVIDED TO OBSERVER MEMBERS

To note that if some partners do not meet the above-mentioned criteria but are still interested to be associated to the HoAI, it is possible to become an observer member. This status would allow to be:

- i) **kept informed** about the work of the HoAI.
- ii) **invited to** open Ministerial meetings **once a year** with an opportunity to make statement (if represented at high level).
- iii) Participate in the MDTF Partnership Council meetings, if the DP has made a contribution to the Trust Fund.

NEXT STEPS

This proposed participation framework would be further consulted upon with HoA countries and wider group of prospective DPs, including EU member states, Japan, UK, US, Arab donors etc before being revised for consideration at a HoA Ministerial meeting.