



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC PLANNING**

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**THE HORN OF AFRICA INITIATIVE (HOAI)**

**15<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**HELD**

**AT**

**RADISSON BLU HOTEL, NAIROBI,**

**8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023**

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**HANDING OVER REMARKS BY THE HORN OF AFRICA INITIATIVE  
CHAIRPERSON**

**HON. PROF. NJUNGUNA NDUNG’U, CBS,  
CABINET SECRETARY, NATIONAL TREASURY AND ECONOMIC**

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***8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023***

**Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers for Finance from the Horn of Africa Initiative Member States and our Development Partners**

**Distinguished Delegates**

1. Allow me once again to take this opportunity to thank you for taking part in today's 15th Ministerial Meeting.
2. Today, once again marks a watershed moment as Kenya hands over the mantle of chairmanship of the Horn of Africa Initiative to Ethiopia.
3. It has been an honour for Kenya to be among the founding members of the Horn of Africa Initiative since its launch in October 2019 and to Chair this Initiative since taking over from Djibouti in December, 2021.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

4. As I hand over the mantle of chairmanship to my brother **Hon Ahmed Shide**, Minister of Finance for Ethiopia, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity you accorded us for working with you all over the last year. It has truly been a pleasure serving you.

5. I earnestly request that you accord the incoming chair, Hon Ahmed Shide equal support that you extended to me. As my tour of duty comes to an end, I exit with pride knowing that the Initiative is better and stronger.
6. I am glad with the commendable progress in the ongoing initiatives and commitments from the Member States and our Development Partners to ensure that the priorities of the Horn of Africa Initiative are on track.
7. I wish to count on your invaluable contribution that will move forward the agenda of the Horn of Africa. I am optimistic on the continued growth and expansion of its membership. Kenya had the privilege to welcome our newest member, the Republic of South Sudan in May 2022.
8. I wish to appeal to the Member States to focus more and address in a comprehensive manner the issues of resilience and food insecurity in the Horn of Africa region. This has the effect of raising food prices that affects the most poor.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- 9. As I conclude, let me thank you once again for according me the opportunity to serve. I look forward to your continued commitment to this important regional agenda.

**Presentation of the Gavel and Token to the Incoming Chair**

*(Given that H.E. Ahmed Shide is attending the meeting virtually, the gavel and token for the new chair is received on his behalf by the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Kenya, present)*

- 10. It is now my honour and privilege to introduce our new Chair for Horn of Africa Initiative, the Minister of Finance for Ethiopia, H.E. Ahmed Shide, and request the *Ambassador of Ethiopia to Kenya* to accept on your behalf, the Horn of Africa Initiative Gavel /Instrument of power as a sign of formal hand-over of Chairmanship
- 11. I further present to you a token that you may place on your table.
- 12. Congratulations! Hon Ahmed Shide on your assumption of chairmanship of the Horn of Africa Initiative. You may now give your remarks.

\*\*\*\*\* **THANK YOU**\*\*\*\*\*