



CONCEPT NOTE

HORN OF AFRICA INITIATIVE MINISTERIAL MEETING PLANNED ON THE MARGINS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S ANNUAL MEETINGS

Room DAHAB, Sharm El Sheikh International Convention Centre

24 MAY 2023, 17H30-19H30*

Purpose: *In the context of its 2023 Annual Meetings, the African Bank Development Bank Group (AfDB) plans to organize the 17th Horn of Africa Initiative (HoAI) Ministers of Finance Roundtable. The participants will include Governors of the Bank from the HoA countries, high-level officials of the World Bank and European Union represented at the Vice President and Commissioner levels respectively, the IGAD Secretary General, the Horn of Africa Initiative (HoAI) Secretariat, and other invited guests representing donors who may attend as observers. The AfDB's Vice President (Regional Development, Integration and Business delivery-RDVP) Ms. Marie-Laure AKIN-OLUGBADE, will co-chair the meeting with Ethiopia's Minister of Finance and Planning, Hon. Ahmed Shide, the Chairperson of the Initiative since March 2023.*

The objectives of the Meeting will be to:

- a. Review progress in the implementation of the HoAI package and highlight any implementation challenges for Ministers' attention*
- b. Discuss the integration of South Sudan's priority projects and programs in the HoAI package, following in-country consultations held in March 2023*
- c. Advance the discussion on harnessing private sector participation in the Horn of Africa Initiative*

Invitation Letters will be sent to the Ministers and DPs soon after the 16th HoAI Ministerial Meeting.

Useful links for the Annual Meetings:

Registration: <https://am.afdb.org/en/2023-annual-meetings/registration>

Accommodation: <https://am.afdb.org/en/2023-annual-meetings/your-stay/hotels>

* The date and time have been allocated by the organizers of the Ministerial Meeting. It considers the structure of the Annual Meetings, where the Governors have fewer statutory meetings on Wednesday and venue availability

I. Context

1) The Ministers of Finance of the participating countries of the Horn of Africa Initiative (HoAI) agreed to hold ministerial meetings based on a predictable quarterly timetable. The World Bank (WB) has been hosting two of the meetings on the side-lines of their Spring and Annual meetings with additional meetings hosted by the HoA countries, and on one occasion by the EU (in February 2022). During a recent Ministerial Meeting hosted by the WB during its October 2022 Annual Meetings, the AfDB proposed to host the next Ministerial meeting and the Ministers resolved that the Bank should host the meeting during its Annual Meetings in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in May 2023. The Sharm El Sheikh Meeting will be the first time the AfDB will host a HoAI Ministerial Roundtable.

II. Objective of the meeting

2) The objectives of the Meeting will be to:

- a. Review progress in the implementation of the HoAI package and highlight any implementation challenges for Ministers' attention
- b. Discuss the integration of South Sudan's priority projects and programs in the HoAI package, following in-country consultations held in March 2023
- c. Advance the discussion on harnessing private sector participation in the Horn of Africa Initiative, as a special theme.

3) The special theme is in line with the theme of the AfDB's 2023 Annual Meetings and will build on the discussion started at the 15th HoAI Ministerial Meeting that was held in Nairobi on 8 March 2023. Ministers will share their perspectives and offer recommendations on private sector engagement in the HoAI in the context of financing gaps and growing debt distress of countries in the region; opportunities for private sector participation in the pillars; what needs to be done to mobilize more private investment to accelerate implementation of the HoAI priority projects and programs; cross-cutting model of how to better engage the private sector in the HoAI, and an actionable roadmap. A briefing note and PowerPoint presentation will be developed by the DPs to guide the discussions.

4) The Meeting will also advance discussions on the integration of South Sudan priorities in the HoA package, and any matters that may arise from the 16th Ministerial Meeting (to be held in April during the WB/IMF Spring Meetings) and/or from the Chair's workplan.

Tentative Agenda of the meeting

5) The meeting agenda will include brief remarks by the co-Chairs, followed by technical presentations on harnessing private sector participation in the Horn of Africa Initiative; focused discussions on the thematic issue (interventions by the Ministers and DPs); and presentation of updates on the integration of South Sudan in the HoA package by the Secretariat. The agenda will be further elaborated in consultation with the Secretariat, DPs and HoA Focal points. The meeting duration will be about two (2) hours from 17h30 to 19h30 (with refreshments), followed by a dinner to be offered by the Bank.