

**Summary Note**  
**Horn of Africa (HoA) VTC, 22 March 2017**

**Chair:** UN (Samba Sane, DPA)

**Agreed Action Points:**

- Finalize the report on the mapping of the financial instruments by 6 April 2017. Any comments to the draft report should be sent to Henriette Keijzers ([henriette.keijzers@undp.org](mailto:henriette.keijzers@undp.org)) by 29 March. [All/UN]
- Circulate information on borderlands event at the WB/IMF Spring Meeting [WBG]
- Update the list of focal points for the VTC. Any changes to the list should be sent to Nao Kawaguchi ([kawaguchi@un.org](mailto:kawaguchi@un.org)) by 7 April 2017. [All/UN]
- Following a discussion on IGAD, reach out to IGAD about Global Alliance and other coordinating mechanisms [EU]
- Hold the next VTC in June/July, with Kenya and IGAD as potential agenda items. [EU]

**Discussions:**

**1. Mapping of the Financial Instruments**

- The UN briefed on the data collection process and the preliminary findings of the mapping exercise, namely a) diverging interpretation of the regional drivers of conflict, b) existence, albeit limited, of synergies and joint programs in certain areas, c) tendency of silo-ed interventions, d) imbalance in financing for the Humanitarian-Development-Peace interventions, and e) heavier reliance on grant. While recognizing the challenges, the draft report recommended to build on the mapping exercise by strengthening joint analysis and planning at the regional level, and deepening the analysis of the financing challenges and solutions.
- The WBG and AfDB said that the disjointed picture reflected in the mapping exercise was not surprising, as the Horn visit lacked an overarching regional strategy/framework that underpinned the joint visit, unlike the case for the visits to the Great Lakes and the Sahel. Hence, the result reflects collection of activities rather than coordinated interventions. WBG also recalled the institutional challenges of development banks in the region, namely inability to lend to certain countries (WBG, AfDB, IsDB) and limited membership (IsDB). It was also noted that a number of projects do not readily fit into the categories used for this exercise. The AfDB added that the final report should project the future of financing, including the impact of the drastic drought. The UN underscored the need to shift the efforts more towards conflict prevention.
- The AfDB expressed surprise at the high level of support going into strengthening of IGAD, as, in their view, IGAD still remained weak. It underscored the need to join up efforts and collectively hold IGAD accountable. EU noted that while making IGAD accountable would be ideal, there also needs to be pragmatism. The UN agreed on the need for coherent approach and suggested to hold a separate discussion on IGAD.

- Overall, there was a consensus on the need to better complement efforts and collectively deliver more jointly, as well as to increase the focus on development. The **UN** will explore opportunities for taking this forward, including through discussions on options for a joint regional framework.

## 2. Update on Borderlands

- The **EU** provided a brief overview of its borderlands project which takes place in four cross-border areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan. Guidelines for making applications for grants under the project are about to be launched on the EU website. The **UN** informed that while a formal agreement is yet to be signed by the Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya for the Marsabit-Borana cluster, the project is progressing through the holding of joint technical meetings; it was unable to update on the proposals for coordination activities in the other clusters. The **WBG** congratulated the EU and UN for taking the borderland issue forward, and indicated that it cannot support borderlands projects unless requested by countries. Should countries request, it could be possible to allocate some IDA 18 funds to borderlands. The **AfDB** informed that it has infrastructure project along Ethiopia-Kenya border and stressed the need to use infrastructure projects as political incentives. There was a discussion over what constitute borderlands projects and it was agreed that borderland projects focus more on community and entails elements of peacebuilding, building resilience and promoting economic development.
- The **EU** also provided brief update on the upcoming IGAD Summit on Solutions for Somali Refugees, including the second preparatory meeting that took place on 21 March.

## 3. Eritrea

- The **UN** briefed on its political engagement in Eritrea, including its recent visit to Asmara. From the political side, some changes in dynamics were observed in the Security Council over continued viability of sanctions on Eritrea. From the development side, the new Strategic Partnership Cooperation Framework (2017-2021) has started and migration/youth as well as human rights program are ongoing. It shared that the UN is now developing “Data for Development” project, which it hopes will unlock the challenges partners face as a result of lack of data.
- Both the **AfDB** and the **WBG** emphasized the importance of the “approach” in Eritrea. The **AfDB** recalled the challenges it faced with Eritrea due to terminology (fragility vs transition) and said its development projects can be used to foster political process, but it does not have the capacity to engage on political issues itself. The **EU** shared the UN's more positive view, and confirmed that it has money set aside for energy projects in Eritrea. The **WBG** shared that it is in contact with Eritrean authorities on a regular basis, but highlighted that conditions have yet to be met, including signing off on a standard letter for concessional borrowing. It indicated that Eritrea's arrears are increasing on an annual basis.

## 4. AOB

- The **EU** sought views on the Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth. The **UNDP** agreed that its function could be improved and suggested, as a

potential entry point the IGAD Summit on Resilience in June. The **WBG** proposed that revision of the role of Global Alliance should be considered together with other coordination mechanisms. It was agreed that, following a discussion on IGAD, the **EU** will approach IGAD Secretariat to seek their views on the various coordination mechanisms.

- The **UN** asked for updates on the list of focal points for the Horn of Africa VTC. It was also suggested that the next VTC take place around June/July, chaired by the EU, with Kenya and IGAD as potential agenda items.

**Participants:**

- AfDB: Sibry Tapsoba (Abidjan); Olufunso Somorin (Nairobi)
- AUC: N/A
- EU: Janet Al-Utaibi
- IsDB: N/A
- UN: Samba Sane, Dmitry Shlapachenko, Jean-Francis Joh Epoko, Vincent Pasquini, Ljiljana Setka, Killa Janda, Nao Kawaguchi, Vivianne Lugulu (DPA); Jutta Hinkkanen (OCHA); Abdullah Alkulaib (UNDP); Henriette Keijzers, Eva Saenz, Veronika Tywuschik (UNDP/MPTF); Sakura Atsumi, Tasha Libanga (UNHCR) Jago Salmon (UN-WB Partnership)
- WBG: Aileen Marshall, Ke Yuan (DC), Anton Barree (Kampala), Juan Espinoza (NY)

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