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Minister of Foreign Affairs

Asmara 25 July 2011

H.E. Eng. Mahboub M. Maalim  
Executive Secretary of IGAD

I have the honour to inform you and through you the member states of IGAD that the State of Eritrea has decided to reactivate its membership in IGAD with immediate effect. As you will recall Eritrea felt compelled to freeze its activities in IGAD in protest of the regrettable blessing that the organization gave to the military invasion by the Ethiopian government against a fellow member state, Somalia, in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1725 of December 6, 2006, which was adopted only two weeks before the invasion.

Many changes have taken place in the IGAD region since Eritrea's decision over four and half years ago. The emergence of South Sudan as an independent Republic is a momentous one, with positive but intricate ramifications. The current acute humanitarian situation has accentuated the urgency of prioritizing food security and environmental protection and more broadly economic development and cooperation. The need for comprehensive regional peace and stability is today more crucial than ever.

Maintenance of regional peace and security, development of regional economic cooperation and enhancement of the environment were the three pillars that the IGAD Heads of State agreed upon when they launched the "new initiative of revitalizing IGAD" in 1995. Fifteen years on, it is clear that we have a long way to go to make significant progress on any of these three objectives.

As Eritrea recommences its activities in IGAD, it is determined to make its contribution, in cooperation with member states, to the achievement of peace and development as well as the revitalization of IGAD.

Sincerely,

Osman Saleh Mohammed  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea