

**Kenya and Ethiopia Present their Cross-Border Peace Initiative to Prevent Violent
Extremism and Conflict in the Horn of Africa**

New York, 1 October 2018

The IGAD Executive Secretary, Mr. Mahboub Maalim stressed that “cohesive linkage through collaboration among all stakeholders enhances cross-border cooperation, ensures that we deny space to extremists and undermines their violent ideology.”

“Borders have traditionally been hubs of commercial activity and, at times, flashpoints for conflict. Cross border movement, including for those seeking a better livelihood or escaping terrorism, are all affecting the world,” said Michele Coninx, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). Referring to the joint CTED-UNOCT visit to Kenya in July 2018, she commended how the drafting and implementation of county action plans increased ownership among communities and their overall effectiveness.

The keynote addresses were followed by a panel discussion entitled the “Ethiopia-Kenya Cross-Border Initiative: A Regional Strategy for Preventing Violent Conflict and Extremism”.

The Panel was moderated by Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, the UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya. Participants included: **Hon. Micah Pkopus Powon**, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, State Department for Devolution; **Ambassador Martin Kimani**, Director, National Counter Terrorism Centre; **Mr. Josphat Nanok**, Chair of Council of Governors; **Dr. Simon Nyambura**, Director, IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali**, Governor of Marsabit County.

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