



IGAD-MSU

(9th Feb 2023) The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Mediation Support Unit (MSU) in collaboration with friends of the American service Committee, successfully concluded a 2-day Dialogue on Conflict Prevention and Mediation Roles Creating an Interface between Different Stakeholders. The dialogue convened personalities from government institutions, Faith-based (FBOs), Civil society organizations (CSOs), and youth Mediators.

In an effort to institutionalize IGAD's affluence of experience in leading mediation processes and complementing it with mechanisms for track II diplomacy, the Regional Mediation Support Unit (MSU) now serves to utilize a regional group of high-profile public servants, former diplomats, eminent persons and traditional leaders who can be equipped to mediate conflicts at both state and community levels.

The Mediation Support Unit has developed structures that provided for increased opportunities to work with both tracks I, track II, and track III mechanisms. As it has engaged local actors as well as government institutions in an effort to support peacebuilding and contribute to the efforts of member states.

Similarly, the American Friends Service Committee as a Quaker organization has worked closely with track II & II I mechanisms in an effort to foster peace and security in the greater horn of Africa while promoting lasting peace with justice as a practical expression of faith in action.

Just like MSU, AFSC works with CSOS, FBOs, Think Tanks, and policymakers among others to bring about the desired change to constituencies that have suffered exclusion and marginalization.

The MSU director Dr. Aleu Garang in his address pointed out that there have been several mediation, negotiation, reconciliation, and dialogue efforts realized in the IGAD region such as South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Kenya.



They are an essential building block of development and national cohesion. CSOs, FBOs, and sister organizations provide room for discussion of critical issues that are of concern to people, thereby linking them together, and creating shared values. As he thanked the IGAD MSU partners European Union and The Austrian Development Agency for the financial support, to the participants, “let’s take advantage of these platforms to share experience and knowledge with one another” Aleu said.

Pauline Kamau of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) thanked the participants for active contributions and appreciated the collaboration with MSU and welcomed future opportunities. “this is not the first time for us to work with IGAD and probably not the last” Pauline.

During the dialogue, groups were created, bringing the various tracks in Conflict Prevention and Mediation. The groups discussed challenges; sighting a lack of will to synergize, limitation of funding, and lack of real or perceived experience. Opportunities; Platforms to link tracks 1 to 3 and youth with policymakers. Recommendations; Create an accessible information center for each to learn about everyone else and map out all initiatives across tracks of diplomacy so that linking them would be easy while being vocal.



This workshop was organized by the IGAD Mediation Support Unit (MSU) in collaboration with the American friends' service committee (AFSC) with financial support from the European Union coordinated by the Austrian Development Agency through Promoting Peace and security in the horn of Africa (IPPSHAR) Programme.