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Shaping Somalia's Climate Future: Roundtable on the Role of Climate Knowledge in Policy, Participation, and Partnerships

Mogadishu, Somalia – 23rd October 2024: The IGAD Center of Excellence for Climate Adaptation & Environmental Protection (ICECAEP) in partnership with Asal Consulting hosted a high-level roundtable meeting in Mogadishu focusing on Somalia's climate future. The event, titled *"Shaping Somalia's Climate Future: Strengthening Policies and Partnerships on the Road to COP-29,"* took place at Decale Hotel, Mogadishu.

This roundtable brought together climate leaders, decision-makers, and key stakeholders from Somalia's Federal Government, member states, the international community, and academia. The event provided a crucial platform for discussing how climate knowledge, both international and indigenous, shape adaptive governance, enhance policy development, and build strong partnerships that promote Somalia's climate resilience.

"The IGAD Center of Excellence in Climate Adaptation and Environmental Protection (IGAD CAEP) and the regional climate adaptation knowledge management hub with affiliations with UNFCCC's Nairobi Work Programme Adaptation Knowledge Management team fostering collaborative locally led innovations in climate adaptation and resilience building," said Ambassador Gamal M. Hassan, IGAD CAEP Director. "Drawing adaptation best practices from the region and beyond, IGAD CAEP's Adaptation Knowledge management portal is envisioned to be a one stop shop for best practices, knowledge sharing and empowering communities and governments to effectively adapt to changing climate in the region".

Ambassador Gamal further stated: As we head to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, we hope to champion climate action and the need to address runaway greenhouse gases, climate adaptation, and loss & damage agenda. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance is not just a goal, it is a normal imperative. Therefore, there is a need to support Somalia and the IGAD region in implementing key climate adaptation policies such as the IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy, Somalia NDC, and NAP."

In November 2023, Asal Consulting received a prestigious research grant from the inaugural GEM Incubation Fund through Harvard's Center for International Development (CID), in collaboration with Columbia University's Professor Harry Verhoeven. This support allows Asal to advance critical research on how Somalia, one of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations, is

adapting to the increasing threats posed by climate change. The research focuses on inclusive dialogue between government and communities, highlighting the role of local and indigenous knowledge in shaping Somalia's national climate adaptation strategies.

With prolonged droughts and devastating floods in 2023 threatening over six million people, Somalia's climate crisis has never been more urgent. Asal's *Climate Knowledge Programme* is dedicated to generating evidence-based, multidisciplinary insights that inform policy decisions and empower communities to contribute to climate action. By working with local researchers and vulnerable communities, Asal aims to bridge the gap between policymakers and those most affected by climate change.

Event Highlights:

- **Focus on Partnerships:** Key discussions revolved around the importance of partnerships, both between international development actors and Somali government institutions, as well as between national agencies and local communities. These partnerships are essential to driving Somalia's climate action forward.
- **Policy alignment:** The roundtable discussions were aligned with Somalia's NDP9 and the subsequent Draft National Transformation Plan 2025-2029.
- **COP-29 Alignment:** The event's themes aligned closely with the priorities of COP-29, set to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024. Discussions emphasised enhancing ambition, enabling climate action, maximising the impact of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and advancing Somalia's National Adaptation Plans.
- **Inclusive Dialogue:** The roundtable emphasised the critical need for a whole-of-society approach that promotes inclusive dialogue. This approach supports inclusive local and indigenous knowledge to be shared and integrated with global scientific data to ensure that Somalia's climate policies are both comprehensive and effective.

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About ICECAEP:

The IGAD Centre of Excellence for Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Protection (IGAD CAEP) in Mogadishu, Somalia, was established on 23 December 2021. CAEP is an IGAD-specialized institution mandated to coordinate Climate Change Adaptation, Loss and damage, and Environmental Protection efforts in the eight IGAD countries comprising Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

About Asal Consulting:

Asal Consulting is a leading advisory firm specializing in climate adaptation governance, policy development, and inclusive research in the Horn of Africa. Through its *Climate Knowledge Programme*, Asal delivers tailored research, training, and advisory services designed to support policymakers, practitioners, and partners working towards a climate-resilient future in Somalia.