

Destruction of society through warfare and decimation of people and animals by drought have been the trademarks of the region...a fragile ecological environment whose occupants have had more than their share of disaster, drought, disease and famine.... The presence of small arms in the region whether these are residual from superpower rivalry or through internal cleansing of the military or para-military forces or whether acquired by elements interested in taking over power, or by poachers, gangsters, run-away soldiers or refugees, there are enough arms in the region to sustain regional conflicts for a long time....³

According to John W. Harbeson,⁴ conflicts, particularly identity struggles in the Horn of Africa, have largely been responsible for drawing resources away from development and the fight against poverty. Harbeson further suggests that these struggles have made the Horn the "most militarised region on the continent." The Greater Horn of Africa Sub-region, which is the focus of this paper, is thus quite clearly conflict-prone and has been so for the last 30 years or more.

All countries of the Greater Horn of Africa region are classified as low-income (see **Appendix 2** on economic crises).⁵ Although the share of agriculture in GDP averages about 30 per cent or more, the sub-region is noted for persistent drought and famine. It is not surprising, therefore, that the UN saw fit in 1985, through the Economic Social Council, to encourage the establishment of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development, a body to focus specifically on drought and development. In March 1996 it was re-named Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and continues to pursue development in a broader context while still addressing the issues of drought, desertification and, additionally, conflict management. The portfolio of IGAD thus basically expands to include a role that it had

³Atieno Adhiambo, "The Economics of Conflict among Marginalised Peoples of Eastern Africa" in Francis M. Deng and I. William Zartman, eds., *Conflict Resolution in Africa* (Washington: Brookings Institutions, 1991), pp. 293.

⁴John W. Harbeson, "International Politics of Identity in the Horn of Africa," in Harbeson and Rotchild, *Africa in World Politics* (Boulder, CO.: Westview Press, 1991).

⁵World Bank, World Development Report, 1995.