



COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING, NAIROBI, KENYA, 29 APRIL 2016

IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI)

The partners of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), including Member States, IGAD, Development Partners, UN agencies, non-state actors (NSAs) and members of the private sector actors, committed to ending drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa, held the 4th IDDRSI Platform General Assembly meeting on 29th April 2016 at the Laico Regency Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was opened by **Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri**, MGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning of the Republic of Kenya, and was chaired by **H.E. Dr. G/Egziabher Gebre Yohannes**, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Livestock, in charge of Halieutic Resources of the Republic of Djibouti, the Ministry of Livestock, Planning and Forestry of the Federal Government of Somalia, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of South Sudan, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Sudan; and the Ministry for Relief, Disaster Preparedness of the Republic of Uganda. Also in attendance were representatives of the African Development Bank, the World Bank, Germany, Switzerland, European Union, USAID, Global Alliance, Global Resilience Partnership, UN Agencies and Civil Society Organisations; as well as Amb. (Eng) Mahboub M. Maalim Executive Secretary of IGAD and Governors of the counties of Garissa, Mandera, Makueni, Lamu and Taita Taveta; and Deputy Governor of Baringo; and Members of the IGAD Committee of Ambassadors.

The meeting's objective was to review the progress made since the 3rd General Assembly meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 27 March 2015, discuss the way forward and re-affirm commitment to end drought emergencies in the IGAD region. The meeting was an opportunity for Member States, Development Partners and other stakeholders present to assess what is different in their thinking or action; and what has changed since the decision to end drought emergencies was made, taking stock of the evidence of their individual and collective responsibility to honor their pledges and resolutions; but also reminding themselves that the IDDRSI Strategy is a 15-year proposition that compels them to figure out how to make the process of the drought resilience initiative irreversible, through increased investments, linking humanitarian interventions with development assistance, with better coordination and deeper cooperation; and inclusive engagement of all groups and categories of actors and stakeholders, committed to the sustainable use of natural resources.

Recalling

The Declaration of the first Resilience Summit on "ending drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa" held in Nairobi in September 2011, which made the decision to embark on the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI); and charged IGAD with the

responsibility to lead and coordinate the implementation of the decision to end drought emergencies.

Recalling

The previous recommendations on strengthening gender mainstreaming in the regional resilience agenda

Recognizing

That IDDRSI forms an effective vehicle for delivery of a series of global frameworks and agreements adopted in 2015, including the Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and Paris Agreement.

Appreciating

The roles and commitment of Member States, IGAD Secretariat and Development Partners; and their respective contributions to building drought resilience in the Horn of Africa; and recognizing the efforts of governments in Member States, especially in Ethiopia, of coping with the adverse impacts of extreme climatic phenomena, including El Nino

Recognizing and appreciating

The efforts made by the IGAD Secretariat and the support provided by UNDP, FAO and USAID to conduct a mid-term review (MTR) of the implementation of the first phase of the IDDRSI Strategy (2013 – 2017).

Now the Ministers, Development Partners and other stakeholders here present, do hereby adopt the following Communiqué:

Urge IGAD to, as soon as possible, establish Cross-border Development Facilitation and Coordination Units, one based in Moroto, Uganda to serve as a pilot in the Karamoja Cluster; and others to be sited in other locations (to be decided by IGAD in consultation with the affected countries), with each unit having the following functions:

- (a) Liaise with the affected national and local governments in the planning and implementation of activities related to the implementation of IDDRSI
- (b) Coordinate the formulation of cross-border integrated development plans
- (c) Provide harmonized and coordinated support in KM, programming and capacity building activities and other technical support to affected local and national governments and non-state actors
- (d) Provide the coordination and linkage of the regional, national and cross-border area coordination centers.
- (e) Through IGAD (IDDRSI Platform Coordination Unit) report to the affected countries and the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee.

Urge IGAD to approach Member States and Development Partners with the request to put in place the necessary resources required for the functioning and sustainability of the Unit.

Call upon IGAD, in consultation with the affected countries, to identify cross-border areas targeted for the implementation of IDDRSI.

Call upon IGAD, Member States and Development Partners to ensure that the results of the gender analysis of IDDRSI Strategy, CPPs and RPP are integrated in programming, implementation and monitoring.

Urge IGAD, in collaboration with Member States, Development partners and other stakeholders, to establish a fund to support the recognition of the merit and achievements of individuals, organizations and Member States in building resilience.

Take note that the mid-term review (MTR) of the implementation of the first phase (2013 – 2017) of the IDDRSI Strategy has been carried out; and appreciate the progress so far achieved; and Urge IGAD to sift through the recommendations made by the MTR group of consultants, to identify the actionable recommendations and refine the MTR report in response to the comments made by the Steering Committee.

Recalling previous recommendations, call upon IGAD to put further emphasis on the role of CSOs and NGOs in the implementation of resilience building on regional, national and local levels.

Urge IGAD, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders to establish a common learning and planning programme where multi-sectoral learning initiatives are designed to benefit the communities across the borders

Call upon IGAD, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders to develop a comprehensive joint regional analysis framework that can describe the humanitarian and development situation in relation to the implementation of IDDRSI and its impact; **and urge** PCU and RAU to lead and coordinate the development of the regional analysis framework ready for presentation and operationalization by the time of the next meeting of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee.

Urge IGAD, in consultation with Member States and Development Partners to establish mechanisms, including improved inter-sector information flow, to increase funds absorption and application, eliminate delays in project execution at national level in order to expedite project implementation for resilience building.

Conclusion

Agree to hold the fifth meeting of the IGAD Platform General Assembly during last week of April 2017 at a place to be determined by IGAD, in consultation with Member States and Development Partners; and hold the 7th meeting of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee in 6 months in Juba, South Sudan or such other place as IGAD, in consultation with Member States and Development partners may determine.

Agree that the recommendations of the 6th Platform Steering Committee meeting are adopted by the 4th meeting of the IGAD Platform General Assembly.

Thank the Government and people of the Republic of Kenya for hosting the meetings the IGAD Platform Steering Committee and General Assembly and for their warm hospitality and excellent conference facilities.

Remain committed and mobilized for the implementation of IDDRSI.

Done at Nairobi, Kenya, 29 April 2016