



**COMMUNIQUE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IGAD PLATFORM FOR DROUGHT DISASTER RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN
THE HORN OF AFRICA**

Recalling:

1. The Declaration of the Initiative at a Joint Horn of Africa and East Africa Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Nairobi, Kenya on 9th September 2011 and the Summit Directive for IGAD to convene a ministerial progress review after 6 months of the Declaration of the Initiative;
2. The endorsement of the IGAD Regional Platform for Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability (Hereafter referred to as the “Platform”) by the IGAD Summit of Heads of State and Government of 25 November 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
3. The Communique of the Joint IGAD Ministerial and High Level Development Partners Meeting on Drought Resilience and Growth in HoA held in Nairobi, Kenya on 4th April 2012.

Considering:

1. African Union Policy Framework on Pastoralism in Africa and the UN Systems response to address the special needs of the drylands recently published as Global Drylands (2011)
2. The IGAD objectives and Areas of Cooperation as stipulated in the Agreement Establishing IGAD (Article 13A) and existing IGAD Policies on Livestock, Environment and Natural Resources, Gender, Food Security etc;
3. That IGAD Member States are developing strategies and programs aligned with Country Programming Papers (CPPs) and are creating national coordination mechanisms for harmonization, alignment and coordination of interventions with respect to building drought resilience.
4. The establishment of the Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth as named by the meeting of IGAD Ministers and High-level Minister of Development Partners on 4th April 2012 at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.
5. The IGAD Secretariat 10-month progress report on the Initiative as well as a report on the progress made in establishing an IGAD regional CAADP compact.

Appreciating:

1. The critical role of IGAD Secretariat, and member states have played in building drought resilience actions in the Horn of Africa.
2. The Member States commitment to the development of comprehensive CPPs and establishing national coordination mechanism that incorporate relevant line ministries, humanitarian and development assistance actors, civil society, private sector and among others.
3. The establishment of the IGAD Platform and the work of the Interim Steering Committee for Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI).
4. The role played by IGAD Secretariat in the development of the Regional Programming Paper and establishing a Regional Drought Resilience and Sustainability Platform and its organs;
5. The role the Global Alliance to mobilize and maintain headquarter level political commitment, enhance coordination among humanitarian and development assistance actors and encourage alignment of investments.
6. The contribution of development partners including AfDB, EU, BMZ, WB, USAID, IPF, Denmark and ISAP partners (Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland) for the continued support to institutional development and coordination capacity at the IGAD Secretariat.

Now the Ministers and the Partners do hereby:

1. **Take note of:** the progress made in the operationalization of the IGAD Regional Platform for Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability.
2. **Take note of:** the approval by the AfDB of phase 1 of the Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihood Programme in the HOA for an amount of USD 140.52 million for Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and the IGAD Secretariat.
3. **Constitute:** the Platform Steering Committee, as composed in the interim steering committee, to serve for the next two years.
4. **Commit:** To the participation and integration of women, youth and vulnerable groups into national and regional drought resilience initiative.
5. **Commit:** IGAD Secretariat to coordinate and monitor drought disaster resilience interventions and report back to relevant ministers, SC and General Assembly.
6. **Commit:** All IDDRSI stakeholders including MS, IGAD, development partners and NSAs to be held accountable for result
7. **Endorse:** the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) Strategy documents with amendments proposed by the Interim Steering Committee.
8. **Reaffirm:** our commitment as Member States to execute the full implementation of IDDRSI in order to end drought emergencies in Horn of Africa.

9. **Reaffirm:** the commitment by development partners to coordinate, harmonize and align support with the country and regional programming papers, including the utilization of the established institutional arrangements at the IGAD and MS levels.
10. **Reaffirm:** development and humanitarian assistance partners' commitment to align their programmes and policies to the RPP and CPPs which are an integral part of the overall country development strategies.
11. **Engagement:** Of the NSAs including NGOs, private sector and community groups to encourage their participation in the implementation of IDDRSI
12. **Urge:** the IGAD Secretariat and member states to mobilize resources to operationalize the CPPs/RPP and development partners to support the said programmes; in this context the General Assembly welcomed the integration of Kenya's budgeted CPP into its Mid-Term Plan (MTP) - 2013 to 2017.
13. **Urge:** The member states and development partners to support the implementation of the Regional Drought Resilience and Sustainability Platform.
14. **Urge:** The Regional Platform Steering Committee to implement the 2013 road map with the five work streams.
15. **Urge:** IGAD to collaborate with other RECs to ensure that there are no duplications.
16. **Encourage:** IGAD Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, to undertake the validation of the IGAD Regional CAADP compact while ensuring complementarities with IDDRSI.
17. **Support:** IGAD Secretariat and member states in establishing a unified Information, Knowledge Management system and Result Based M&E system.
18. **Facilitate:** Mapping by IGAD of investments and activities by humanitarian and development assistance actors across the IGAD region to enhance decision making.
19. **Agree:** to hold the second meeting of the IGAD Platform General Assembly during last week of March 2014 in Kampala, Uganda and hold the 1st SC meeting in September of 2013 at a place to be determined.
20. **Agree:** that the recommendations of the 3rd ISC meeting are adopted by the 1st IGAD Platform General Assembly and urge the incoming SC to implement the recommendations.
21. **Thank:** the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting the IGAD General Assembly and for their warm hospitality at the same time thank the Africa Union Commission for availing the excellent conference facilities.

Done at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 23rd February 2013