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COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 27 MARCH 2015

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 3rd IDDRSI Platform General Assembly meeting on 27th March 2014 at the Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was opened and chaired by H.E. Hon. Dr. Gebregziabeher Gebreyohannis Minister of State for Livestock, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The meeting was attended by Hon. Eng. Bahaeldin Mohamed Khamis Mohamed, Undersecretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation, Republic of Sudan; Hon. Ecweru Musa Francis, Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness, Republic of Uganda; and representatives of the Minister of Agriculture & Livestock, Republic of Djibouti; Minister of Devolution & Planning, Republic of Kenya; Minister of Environment, Federal Republic of Somalia; and Minister of Livestock & Fisheries Industries, Republic of South Sudan. Also in attendance was H.E. Amb. (Eng.) Mahboub Maalim, Executive Secretary of IGAD; Ms Kyung-Wah Kang, Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator (UN-OCHA); Mr Thoma Staal, Acting Assistant Administrator, USAID, representing the Global Alliance; H.E. Amb. Giuseppe Mistretta, Ambassador of Italy to Ethiopia and Chairman of the IGAD Partners Forum; Mr Naito Yasushi, Executive Advisor to the Director General of JICA, Africa Department; Dr Jimmy Smith, Director General, ILRI; Mr. Collin Bruce, Regional Director, World Bank; Dr Ralph-Matthias Mohs, Director, East Africa, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany; and H.E. Mr. Ali Bahreini, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Ethiopia

The meeting's objective was to review the progress made since the 2nd General Assembly meeting held in Kampala, Uganda on 26 March 2014, discuss the way forward and re-affirm the 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 honour their pledges and resolutions; but also reminding themselves that the IDDRSI Strategy is a 15-year proposition that compels us 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; as well as inclusive engagement of all groups and categories of actors and stakeholders, committed to the sustainable use of natural resources.

Recalling:
1. 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), called for the establishment of a Multi-donor Trust Fund for IDDRSI; and charged IGAD with the responsibility to lead and coordinate the implementation of the decision to end drought emergencies
2. The Communiqué of the Second Platform General Assembly held in Kampala, Uganda in March 2014.

Considering:
1. That it is cheaper to invest in early warning and early action than it is to invest in "emergency programmes" therefore there is need to invest more in preventive measures and early warning, which should be linked to early action;

2. The progress made by the Platform Coordination Unit Team in knowledge management (KM), regional programming (RP) and monitoring and evaluation (M & E) to establish regional systems, processes, procedures, practices and activities;

3. KM and M & E need to be institutionalized in each MS to track progress of implementation of IDDRSI and sharing data and information;

4. The need to facilitate and support communities in the arid and semi-arid areas (ASALs) of IGAD to invest in complimentary livelihood resources;

Appreciating:
1. The critical roles and commitment of Member States, IGAD Secretariat and Development Partners in building drought resilience in the Horn of Africa;

2. The development of the IDDRSI regional strategy, country programming papers (CPPs) and regional programming (RPP); and the establishment of national coordination mechanisms that incorporate relevant sectors and stakeholders, including line ministries, humanitarian and development partners, civil society, private sector actors among others;

3. The efforts made by Member States to integrate Country Programming Papers and other resilience enhancing strategies in their national development plans as this indicates commitment and ensures sustained implementation of IDDRSI;

4. The role played by IGAD Secretariat in the development of the Regional Programming Paper (RPP) and establishment and operationalization of the IDDRSI Platform;

5. The role played by IGAD Secretariat with the support and partnership of FAO, UNDP, UNICEF and WFP in the progress of establishing and operationalizing the Regional Resilience Analysis Unit (RAU);

6. The partnership with and support of IGAD by UN-OCHA in the mapping of *who-is-doing-what-where* in drought resilience and in conducting the regional situation analysis;

7. The drought resilience and livelihoods enhancing projects initiated in several Member States, supported by funding from Partners in Development;

8. The role played by the Global Alliance in convening a technical meeting on key resilience thematic areas which contributed to the deliberations of the 4th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee meeting

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

Knowledge Management
1. **Urge** IGAD in collaboration with Member States to expand the regional coverage of the 3W map including developing a catalogue of on-going and planned projects; validate and adopt the proposed strategy for Unified Knowledge Management System; and regularize a comprehensive analysis report and other regional analytical tools for the IGAD region, on a bi-annual basis.

2. **Call for** the application and use of existing products such as the Disaster Loss Database and the IGAD Hazard Maps and Atlas to inform and improve programming of IDDRSI;

Capacity Building and Institutional Development
3. **Call upon** Member States to invest in innovative strategies and technologies to respond to the challenges of climate variability and change in ASALs

Programming and Monitoring and Evaluation
4. **Call for** the finalization and harmonization of IDDRSI M&E Framework with that of the MS M&E frameworks and promotion of relevant M&E systems, including Di Monitoring

5. **Urge** IGAD to promote the involvement of the private sector and NGO/CSOs in the programming and implementation of IDDRSI; and encourage the IGAD NGO/CSO forum to build robust partnerships with dry land communities.

6. **Call upon** IGAD to ensure that National IDDRSI Coordinators for all the IGAD Countries are appointed

7. **Urge** Member States to expedite the preparation of investment proposals to be submitted for the next SC meeting for subsequent consolidation and use in the preparations for the IDDRSI Partners Investment Conference

8. **Call for** evidence-based learning events on selected themes of relevance to drought resilience to be held in order to identify specific actions to guide the implementation of IDDRSI.

9. **Call for** the regularization of technical reviews and discussions of plans, progress & challenges in the programming and implementation of IDDRSI as a means of advisory support for IDDRSI

10. **Urge** IGAD to systematically and comprehensively identify areas in all Member States where cross-border communities exist and design appropriate frameworks of cooperation for cross-border development.

11. **Call upon** IGAD to provide regular and systematic Progress Reports on the implementation of Steering Committee recommendations including progress of Member States

12. **Call upon** IGAD to produce a consolidated report on the implementation of IDDRSI by Member States and Partners since the 2011 Nairobi Declaration

13. **Urge** IGAD and Member States to conduct a joint assessment and secondary data review of chronic and acute needs in order to scale up and enhance linkages between humanitarian and development action
14. **Recalling** the recommendation of the 3rd IDDRSI Steering Committee meeting, **urge** IGAD to explore the possibility of opening working lines to address the challenge of refugees, internally displaced, mixed migrations and human trafficking in the region

Resources Mobilization
15. **Call for** the Organization of an IDDRSI Partners Investment Conference to coincide with the next meeting of the IDDRSI Platform General Assembly

16. **Call for** the expeditious establishment of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) for IDDRSI to be launched on the occasion of the IDDRSI Partners Investment Conference

17. **Urge** Member States and Development Partners to increase funding support to all priority intervention areas (PIAs), with special emphasis on the under-funded PIAs

Coordination
18. **Call for** the establishment of the Gender and Resilience Working Group and Communities of Practice to strengthen gender mainstreaming in IDDRSI

19. **Recalling** the recommendation from the 3rd IDDRSI Steering Committee meeting, **urge** IGAD to initiate a process for determining acceptable names for clusters, taking consideration the sensitivity of the affected communities.

20. **Urge** Member States to strengthen national IDDRSI coordination mechanisms and ensure that all sectors are covered and all stakeholders are included.

21. **Urge** IGAD to ensure continued engagement of its' Member States in the review of the extended programme of action for the implementation of the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); and **call upon** IGAD and Member States to review national and regional DRR plans to facilitate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 across the continent.

22. **Urge** Member States to intensify early warning / early action mechanisms in light of the 2015 FS&NWG Regional Alert.

23. **Urge** IGAD and Member States to increase attention to populations in acute humanitarian need and those who are chronically vulnerable, investing in more efficient and durable solutions, e.g. establishing fiscal and technical capacities to respond by expanding social safety net programmes.

Conclusion
24. **Agree** to hold the fourth meeting of the IGAD Platform General Assembly during last week of March 2016 at a place to be determined and hold the 5th Steering Committee in 6 months at a place to be determined.

25. **Agree** that the recommendations of the 4th Platform Steering Committee meeting are adopted by the 3rd meeting of the IGAD Platform General Assembly.

26. **Thank** the Government and people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for hosting the meetings the IGAD Platform Steering Committee and General Assembly and for their warm hospitality and excellent conference facilities.

27. **Remain** committed and mobilized for the implementation of IDDRSI.

Done at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27 March 2015