



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The FAO statement is delivered on behalf of Dr David Phiri, Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and FAO Representative to the African Union (AU) and to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Excellences,

IGAD representatives,

IGAD Member States representatives,

Development partners representatives,

Representatives of United Nations agencies, NGOs and civil society,

Ladies and gentlemen,

All protocol observed.

It is a great pleasure to meet again under the umbrella of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) and I apologise for not being able to be with you all physically.

The 13th meeting of the IDDRSI platform steering committee takes place soon after the Food System Summit and COP26

From The Food system summit process Five action areas to help inform the transitions needed to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda have emerged. These include:

- (1) Nourish All People;
- (2) Boost Nature-based Solutions;
- (3) Advance Equitable Livelihoods, Decent Work and Empowered Communities;
- (4) Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses; and
- (5) Accelerating the Means of Implementation.

Progress will require local and global communities of practice and stakeholders coming together with national governments under the umbrella of these action areas. In particular, support to enhance implementation through financing, data, science and innovation, governance and trade.

With regards to COP26, let me quote the FAO Director General who said:

If we want to meet our global commitments to end world hunger by 2030, we need to accelerate the transformation to greener, more inclusive, resilient, efficient and sustainable agri-food systems.

Zooming into the IGAD region, FAO will continue to advocate for and promote sustainable, efficient and resilient agri-food systems as part of the solution to the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

Over the past 2 years, FAO continued to save livelihoods of people and communities affected by shocks and you know that FAO is at the fire front with Member States to address the Desert Locust upsurge, to respond to the current drought in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia and to the unprecedented covid-19 crisis.

Simultaneously, FAO continues transform livelihoods through its resilience strategy and programme of work in the IGAD region. This is done through a range of action organised around 4 blocks as follows:

- Block 1: Institutional policies and institutional systems (This include the support to IDDRSI and IFRAH in particular but also ICPALD – Animal Feed Action Plan)

- Block 2: Information and Early warning, including through IPC, FSNWG, Resilience measurement and conflict analysis funded by the European Union Global Network Against Food Crisis as well as Sweden (Pastoral Early Warning Systems)
- Block 3: Reduced risks and vulnerability (Partnership programme with ICPALD funded by Switzerland in the Mandera Cluster; Agricultural Climate Resilience Enhancement Initiative (ACREI) in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda in partnerships with WMO and ICPAC with funding from Adaptation Fund; FNS-REPRO in Somalia, The Sudan and South Sudan funded by the Government of The Netherlands, The IKEA Foundation's support will boost efforts by FAO, in partnership with UNHCR, to help 17 000 refugees and local residents earn a decent income by growing high-quality crops, using regenerative farming methods that protect the environment.
- Block 4: Preparedness and response where FAO maintains capacity to respond to crises through simulation exercises, readiness actions and context review and partnerships.

Ladies and gentlemen, improving the resilience of agri-food systems requires combining supply-side actions with demand-side interventions where innovative practices such as climate-smart agriculture, biotechnology, sustainable forestry, fisheries and soil management, and disaster risk management are part of the solutions.

FAO reiterates its commitment to IGAD and member states to work side by side for a better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life even in some of the most challenging environments.

Thank you.