

## **Opening Speech FDRE**

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### **Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> IDDRSI platform steering committee**

**20 July, 2022**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Your Excellency Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of IGAD & the  
Chairperson of IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee,**

**Honorable IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiatives  
Steering Committee Members,**

**Respected Representative of Development Partners,**

**Invited guests, ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and on my own behalf, it is a great honour and pleasure to welcome you all to your second home country, Ethiopia, for this 14th Meeting of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to IGAD for choosing Ethiopia to host this very important sub-regional meeting.

As you all know, the IGAD region faces diverse challenges that increase the vulnerability of communities and households to different shocks and stresses, of

which recurrent droughts, floods and other climate-related disasters, resulted in chronic food insecurity, and unwarranted loss of human life.

The IGAD member countries including Ethiopia have made a considerable effort to build resilience capacities by designing comprehensive resilience building projects through the support of different development partners.

With this respect, the Ethiopian government recognises that drought prone communities in our sub-region share the same ecosystem, are interconnected through shared natural resources, socio-cultural values through interactions and socioeconomic transactions for cross border trade and trans-boundary human and animal movements. It was learnt that such practices along the cross-border areas have demanded a strong coordination, harmonization and integrated development efforts in dealing with drought and its resultant effects in the Horn of Africa.

In particular, water development, rangeland rehabilitation, forage development, establishment of livestock market and health facilities are some of the important socio-economic infrastructures and services demanded by the community to be dealt with by designing a more comprehensive development programs to be implemented in a better coordinated and harmonized manner along the cross-border areas.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

In Ethiopia, there are various development projects that are being implemented, among which some are already completed in the pastoral and agropastoral areas of the country. Most of these projects are located at the cross-border areas of the neighbouring countries. Among these development initiatives, the Drought Resilience Livelihood Sustainable Project, Sustainable Land Management, Productive Safety-Net Program, Low Land Resilience Project, and different Climate Resilience and Green Economy initiatives in the dryland areas of the country. It is my belief that all these initiatives are important to enhance development, peace and stability, not only for Ethiopia but also for the neighbouring countries` communities along the border.

However, the frequent drought incidences and other natural calamities in these areas are making the efforts of attaining household food security and sustaining livelihoods still a challenge. Moreover, intermittent conflict incidences among the communities bordering the neighbouring countries are another challenges yet to be resolved in an integrated manner to ensuring peace and security across the border areas.

## **Excellencies**

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Empirical studies show that poverty is closely connected with lack of access to basic social services and infrastructure such as public health, water and sanitation, education, roads and electricity, among others, which are the most common scarcities along the cross-border areas of the IGAD region.

Cross-border cooperation within a shared geographic area and other economic interactions creates opportunities (1) for trade, investment and tourism; (2) for effective management and use of natural resources; (3) to improve infrastructure; and (4) to facilitate cross-border movement of people. These necessitate the cooperation of IGAD countries to frame integrated area-based development strategies and make concrete efforts to address the ever-increasing competition for, and conflict over the use and management of resources in bordering areas, so as to bring about sustainable peace and development in the horn of Africa.

In conclusion, let me once again reiterate the commitment of the Ethiopian government to share and support the initiative of IGAD to enhance resilience

building through a comprehensive development intervention among IGAD regional countries.

Finally, I wish you successful deliberations.

I thank you!!