

Distinguished chair, excellences, distinguished delegates

- The European Union greatly values the long-standing partnership with IGAD and appreciates this opportunity to participate in the 14th meeting of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee.
- We welcome IGAD's efforts towards regional integration in the area of drought and climate resilience, which is a priority area in the EU-IGAD partnership.
- We have strongly supported IDDRSI in the recent past through the Trust Fund. Consultations are ongoing with the Secretariat on how to move forward. A team of experts, who are also present in this meeting as observers, is also supporting the EU in formulating new initiatives in this area.
- We also appreciate the high participation of IGAD's Member States as they are key to contribute to the regional integration process as well as the domestication of regional policies and strategies into the respective national framework.
- Thank you very much.