



**IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience & Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI)
14th Meeting of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee**

OCHA STATEMENT

The Chair of the session, distinguished guests, Member States representatives, partners, ladies and gentlemen, all protocols observed, good afternoon.

UN-OCHA Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa is privileged to be part of this important meeting convened by IGAD on the occasion of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) 14th meeting of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee under the theme: ***'Consolidating the Path to Resilience and Sustainability: Scaling up humanitarian actions and resilience investments.'*** OCHA has been a long-standing partner of IGAD and has engaged and cooperated in the area of disaster preparedness, tracking and advocacy for scaled-up investment to support resilience activities.

As we meet today, communities across the Horn of Africa are facing the longest and most severe drought in recent history. In the face of this life-threatening crisis, OCHA in collaboration with partners has developed a [Regional Humanitarian Overview and made a Call to Action](#) for scaled-up humanitarian response and increased financial resources to respond to the severe drought conditions affecting 19.4 million people across Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. Regrettably, the situation is expected to deteriorate in the months ahead, with the upcoming October-December 2022 rains also forecasted to be below-average. It is therefore imperative that we act now. In parallel to reviewing the progress being made in the implementation of IDDRSI in the IGAD region, we therefore strongly call for increased resources to support life-saving response for drought affected populations in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

OCHA is committed to continued engagement with IGAD and we look forward to a fruitful collaboration.

Thank you.

**20th July, 2022
Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia**