

**IGAD Resilience Platform
8th IDDRSI General Assembly Meeting
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
22/07/2022**

**The statement of the minister of Agriculture and Forests,
Sudan**

Dear Colleagues honorable ministers, representatives of sisters' countries H.E. --- The IGAD Executive Secretary

Honorable representatives of Donors

Honorable representatives of development partners

Honorable representatives of organizations.

Honorable members of the drought resilience platform

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

It is my pleasure and honor to address this important event of the fourteenth General Assembly honored by your excellences, honorable partners and respected delegates.

I take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of Ethiopia for hosting this important meeting and for the hospitality rendered to us since our arrival in Addis Ababa.

Chairperson

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very grateful for the regular and sustainable meetings of the IDDRSI Platform and General Assembly that successfully provide enabling conditions to review the progress made in IDDRSI implementation looking at opportunities, constraints, and exchange of ideas on the way forward. The meetings show the political and technical commitment to implement IDDRSI in the IGAD region, at IGAD secretariat, member states, development partners and NGOs.

Major achievements settled around strengthening the drought strategy to enhance “building drought resilience, ending drought emergencies, creating development platform and ending the need for relief. I believe that since the first meeting and up to the present one, huge achievements made but droughts and floods sometimes surprise us and resulted in destruction and losses in human and other resources. Part of our reasoning for drought is climate change. The second part is related to human behavior towards the resources.

Chairperson

Ladies and Gentlemen

As known to you all, our countries are challenged by recurrent droughts, which poses various levels and extent of impacts on MSs and communities. Drought incidents are increasing in frequencies, severity and geographical coverage causing human and animal losses without differentiation between infants, children, gender and elders. Recent reports show that 14 states, 180 localities and 18.0M persons in Sudan are facing alarming consequences of drought, which need urgent interventions. MSs need to revise the CPPs and develop new strategies for enhancing drought resilience, improving food security and expected risks.

However, I may be able to state some opportunities that Sudan can possibly promote and manage with the assistance of IGAD, MSs and partners in order to create enabling environment to assist in reducing drought disaster risks. Sudan possesses huge resources of land, animal resources and water that can help

IGAD Ms. In addition to seasonal, the rivers and underground water constitute a key platform in development of the resources even in the desert land. I can state here some examples that we need to promote for development:

A. Change from using limited types of food through diversification of food and nutrition types and developing underutilized ones as:

1. Developing all grains for food and not limited to (sorghum, millet and wheat),
2. Increase utilization of sea and fresh water food
3. Promoting dates for food and nutrition
4. Promotion of Forests food (fruits and wild animals)

B. Adoption of technologies for increasing productivity and production within the agricultural sector (Agriculture, animal resources, marine and fresh water.

Sudan faces challenges to develop these resources.

We urge IGAD to encourage MSs to enter into bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements to develop joint investment in agriculture sector

and marine resources and enhance related industries. We expect support from Partners.

Sudan is committed to support dryland research and knowledge through its research institutions. Here Sudan exerted effort to establish a center to provide services in this direction. It is the “IGAD Centre for Agriculture and Forest Land Development” ICAFLD to complement the role of development of agriculture and forests. Sudan possess huge lands and need support for sustainable development of agriculture, forests and other natural resources. This center will service both drought resilience as well as sustainable development for natural resources in Sudan.

I here request that IGAD and partners consider the suggested-proposed ICAFLD (Dry land Centre) as an important center for development and drought resilience pass-way in the region.