



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

STATEMENT BY PROF. MARGARET KOBIA, PHD, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, GENDER, SENIOR CITIZENS AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES DURING THE 8TH IDDRSI PLATFORM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers here present *(to be confirmed)*

IGAD Executive Secretary, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I wish to thank the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the warm welcome and the wonderful hospitality extended to me and the entire Kenyan delegation since we arrived.
2. This meeting has come at a time when drought is devastating the entire Horn of Africa. In Kenya, we have had four consecutive failed rains seasons that have resulted in 19 of our 23 arid and semi-arid counties sliding into either ALERT or ALARM drought phase. The trend in majority of these counties is worsening.
3. The prolonged drought has left 4.1 million Kenyans facing acute food insecurity as at June 2022. Out of this number, 1.1 million are classified in Emergency phase of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification or IPC 4, while 3 million are in Crisis phase (IPC 3). Sadly, 942,000 children below five years are acutely malnourished and in need of treatment.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

4. The negative impacts of drought are also manifesting in other sectors. For instance, poor access to water and forage has resulted in worsening livestock body condition. Several counties have recorded livestock mortalities, with the most affected being Samburu with estimated 16.9%, 11.3% in Mandera, 8% in Isiolo, 7.6% in Lamu, 7.4% in Marsabit, 6.8% in Garissa and 5.3% in Wajir County.
5. Livestock concentration areas in Laikipia, Baringo, Isiolo, Samburu and Marsabit counties are experiencing increased conflicts over diminishing natural resources.
6. The Kenya Government has spent more than **KShs 11 billion** on drought response since August 2021 to cushion lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities. Of this, **KShs 8.3 billion** went to relief food and cash transfers, while over **KShs 3.1 billion** supported interventions in water, livestock, health and nutrition, education as well as peace and security sectors.

Ladies and Gentlemen

7. We are aware that the worsening drought situation requires us to scale-up and scale-out response interventions. The most urgent requirements include food and safety nets, and provision of livestock feeds, offtake and supportive veterinary services. Other interventions are required in health and nutrition; education; agriculture; peace and security as well as drought response coordination sectors. Our response budget and resource gap for July to October 2022 stands at **KShs 15.3 billion**.

8. Our partners including bilateral agencies, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations, and community and faith-based organisations have been supporting our efforts. We are working closely with them to bridge the funding gap.
9. We recognise that the impacts of the current drought would have been much worse without our collective commitment and resolve to end drought emergencies. In Kenya, our Ending Drought Emergencies or EDE initiative has resulted in:
 - i) Increased investment in resilience building across all sectors of the economy.
 - ii) Improved and modernised early warning system.
 - iii) Participatory development of drought contingency and response plans.
 - iv) Establishment of dedicated funds for drought response such as the common basket National Drought Emergency Fund or NDEF.
 - v) Adoption of cash transfers to ease and reduce the cost of response.
 - vi) Strengthening coordination structures for drought risk management at all levels.
10. As a country, we reaffirm our commitment to the ending drought emergencies initiative. As part of this, we have ensured that the initiative remains one of the foundations for development in the five-year national development plan – the **4th Medium Term Plan for the Vision 2030** for the period 2023-27.
11. At the same time, we have undertaken a mid-term review of the common programme framework for Ending Drought Emergencies. We are now in the process of developing a roadmap for the implementation of recommendations that will accelerate the pace towards our ultimate goal of ending drought emergencies.

12. We are also mobilising resources to ensure we achieve the IDDRSI goal and will appreciate support from our development partners in all sectors of the EDE.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen

13. We appreciate and welcome efforts by the IGAD Secretariat to mobilise resources for regional and cross-border initiatives. These efforts are already bearing fruit. A good example is the newly signed **Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security** (BREFONS) Project that covers four countries in the region. We plan to officially launch the project in Kenya in August 2022.

14. The importance of regional collaboration cannot be overstated. It is now very clear that we will not achieve the goal of ending drought emergencies by working in isolation. Now more than ever, we require cross-border cooperation in joint planning and programme implementation. It's only then that, together, we will end drought emergencies.

Thank You