



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 15TH IGAD DROUGHT DISASTER RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE (IDDRSI) PLATFORM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Khartoum, Sudan

1 December 2022

The partners of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) - the IGAD Member States (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda), Development Partners (Sweden, USAID, AfDB), UN Agencies (FAO, UNOCHA, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF), Non-State Actors and the IGAD Secretariat, held the 15th meeting of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee on 30 November – 1 December 2022 in Khartoum, Sudan with an option for online participation. The theme of the meeting was *Consolidating the Path to Resilience and Sustainability: Scaling up Humanitarian Actions and Resilience Investments*.

General Isam Karar, Deputy Chair of the National Mechanism for supporting IGAD, officiated the meeting, representing General Ibrahim Gabir, member of the Sovereign Council and Chair of the National Mechanism for supporting IGAD, the Republic of Sudan and was chaired by Mr Josephat Onyari, Director of Administration and Finance, IGAD, representing H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, the IGAD Executive Secretary and Chair of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee.

Acknowledging that the worst drought in forty years is ongoing in the region and coping with the damages caused by flooding since 2019, noting that the impacts of drought and flood are compounded by other factors such as political instability at the global and regional level, high fuel prices, and consequent rise in the cost of essential goods and transboundary plant pests and animal diseases; further noting that IDDRSI Platform General Assembly meeting of 22 July 2022 with 8 points communique and acknowledging ministerial meeting on food security situation that took place on 7 October 2022 in Kenya with 13 points communique and acknowledging the progress made in pursuit of the IDDRSI's goal:

The Platform Steering Committee:

1. **Recalling** recommendation 13.5 to support Member States in establishing a national architecture for climate financing and **acknowledging** continued threats of Climate Change on the lives and livelihoods of our people, **calls upon** IGAD to support Member States to tap into opportunities created under the climate change regime facilitated by UNFCCC, especially the outcomes of COP27, in climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage, resilience building, technology transfer and capacity building.

2. **Noting** recommendation 14.8 and further acknowledging that livestock production is the backbone of economies of the communities in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands of the IGAD region that covers 70% of the land mass, **calls upon** Member States, IGAD and Development Partners to mobilise resources in a sustainable manner to enhance cross-border border interaction and cooperation that addresses Vaccination of livestock, pests and diseases control, conflict prevention and resolution through supporting local peace and development.
3. **Recognizing** resilience as a multi-sectoral and multi-agency undertaking **urges** the Member States to step up their coordination efforts to cover projects implemented by various ministries and agencies to represent the status of resilience at the country level. **Further urges** the Member States to set up relevant stakeholder coordination mechanisms for proper planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning of resilience projects to improve resilience programming for optimum prioritisation and synergy.
4. **Recognizing** the central role of peace for development and resilience building in our region which is known for its instability, call upon IGAD to develop a regional policy framework on disarmament that is instrumental in controlling cattle rustling and ending cross-border conflicts.
5. **Noting** that the arid and semi-arid lands in the region are facing water scarcity for human beings, livestock and agriculture and recalling recommendation 14.4, **call upon** all stakeholders to intensify investment in water development to ensure that communities in the ASALs have sustainable access to safe water through bringing “water to the people” approach that would also address their needs for water for livestock, crop and fruit production.
6. **Recognizing** the pivotal role of access to basic social services, **urge** Member States and Development Partners to improve the infrastructure (roads, markets, energy, health, education and ICT) to create a conducive environment for the ASALs.
7. IDDRSI Stakeholders remain **deeply concerned** about the disproportionately low level of funding to protect livelihoods in the region challenged by multiple crises, and this, unfortunately, is resulting in a multi-faceted humanitarian crisis (including water and sanitation, health, food, displacement, protection GBV, etc.) in our region. Member States, Partners and the private sector are therefore **urged** to enhance investment in safeguarding livelihoods and prevent hazards from turning into humanitarian crises.
8. While addressing the immediate needs of vulnerable people and saving lives is a top priority, all stakeholders are **urged** to give livelihood adaptation and the building of resilient food systems that would reduce poverty, food insecurity, displacement, and ultimately, conflict over natural resources through increased budgetary allocation for investment in resilience.
9. **Recognizing** men, women, boys and girls are differently exposed and have different preferences and capacities to respond to shocks and stressors, call upon IGAD, Member States and Development Partners to commit to developing and promoting transformative gender-responsive national and regional livelihoods and food security programmes.

10. Recalling recommendation 14.3, Member States and partners are **urged** to continue investing in Post-Harvest Loss Management and associated capacity development to the Member State institutions. Further urges the Member States to domesticate the regional post-harvest loss and management strategy.
11. **Pursuant** to the IGAD policy framework on informal cross-border trade aimed at boosting cross-border security governance, calls for the IGAD Member States to remove barriers and strengthen trade between member states to facilitate the movement of foodstuff from the food surplus to deficit regions.
12. **Appreciating** the role of science, technology and innovation in driving resilience, all stakeholders, especially the Member States, are **urged** to bolster the roles of research and extension systems in promoting resilient agriculture to bridge the current gaps in pastoral and agro-pastoral production systems.
13. **Recalling** recommendations 14.6 and 14.7 on early warning and anticipatory actions, calls upon IGAD, Member States, and Development partners to take further action, including investment to strengthen early warning systems, contingency plans, and capacity building training.

Done on 1 December 2022, Khartoum Sudan