



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 9TH IGAD DROUGHT DISASTER RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE (IDDRSI) PLATFORM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Lake Victoria Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda

24 November 2023

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, Germany/GIZ, UN Agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNICEF), IGAD NGO Forum, Inter-Agency Working Group, Somali NGO Consortium, the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT, the IGAD Secretariat, held the 9th meeting of the IDDRSI Platform General Assembly on 24 November 2023 in Entebbe, the Republic of Uganda. The theme of the meeting was *Consolidating the Path to Resilience and Sustainability: Lessons Learned from a Journey of Ten Years*.

The 16th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee was officiated by H.E Hon. Esther Anyakun, Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, the Republic of Uganda. It was chaired by Mr Awira Anthony, the Director of Planning, Coordination and Partnership Division, IGAD, representing H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, the IGAD Executive Secretary and Chair of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee.

The 9th General Assembly of IDDRSI was opened and chaired by **H.E Hon. Esther Anyakun, Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, the Republic of Uganda** and was attended by **Hon. Abubakr Omer Elbushra, Minister**, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, the Republic of **Sudan**; **Hon. Minister Adan Mohamed Ali (MP)** of the Federal Ministry of Livestock, Forestry & Range (MoLFR), Federal Republic of **Somalia**; **Mr Peter Chege, Director of Political Affairs**, representing Hon. Peninah Malonza, Cabinet Secretary for EAC, ASALs and Regional Development, the Republic of **Kenya**; **Amb. Margaret Daniel, Chargé d’Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan in Uganda**, representing H.E Ms Josephine Napwon Cosmos; Minister of Environment and Forestry; the Republic of **South Sudan**; **Dr Tabarek Mohamed**, Technical Advisor to the Minister, representing Hon. Mohamed Ahmed Awaleh; Minister of Agriculture, Water, Fishery and Livestock, in charge of Marine Resources, the Republic of **Djibouti**; **Dr Yohannis Girma, Adviser to the State Minister**, representing Dr Fikru Regassa, the State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture of the Federal Democratic Republic of **Ethiopia** and Ms Lucy Daxbacher, IGAD Head of Mission in the Republic of Uganda, representing H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of IGAD and Chairman of the IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee.

Recognising food insecurity and associated challenges people in our region faced due to five consecutive failed seasons, which is still of great concern and aggravated by excess rains due to El Nino, albeit poor preparation.

Commends IGAD for the leadership and coordination role of the IDDRSI Platform for the last ten years and **congratulates** the Member States and Development Partners who not only established the Regional Drought Resilience Initiative well ahead of time but also for the financial and technical support and continued commitments for the regional approach to resilience.

Recalls the IGAD Post-Harvest Loss Management (PHLM) strategy that was endorsed at a virtual ministerial meeting organised by IGAD on 12 August 2021 with the technical support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and further **encourages** Member States and Development Partners to allocate adequate resources for the full implementation of the strategy considering its complementary roles to the food and nutrition strategy and broader resilience agenda of the region.

Recalls the Ministerial meeting of the IGAD region that validated the IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy on 3 November 2023, the first of its kind in the region, and developed by the IGAD Center of Excellence for Climate Adaptation and Environmental Protection (ICECAEP).

Recalls the Nairobi Declaration of September 2011 – Ending Drought Emergencies **renews** our commitment to investing in resilience building in our region for our people.

We, the Ministers, Government representatives, Development Partners and other stakeholders present, do hereby adopt the following communiqué:

1. **Recognizing** the recurrent climate-related disasters and human displacement in the region, Climate Change – Conflict – human mobility nexus in the arid and semi-arid lands of our region should be thoroughly investigated in joint actions by IGAD, more specifically ICPAC, ICPALD, CEWARN and the Health and Social Development Division (HSDD) as a matter of urgency to inform interventions that promote peaceful co-existence of communities living at the borderlands.
2. **Considering** the negative impacts of conflicts on the effective implementation of resilience-strengthening projects, deliberate efforts are required to mainstream conflict sensitivity in the projects, including budgetary allocation from the projects to support national Conflict Early Warning and Response Units (CEWERUs) conflict monitoring, analysis and reporting.
3. **Noting** that the arid and semi-arid lands in the region are facing water scarcity for human beings, livestock and agriculture and recalling recommendation **urges** all stakeholders to intensify large water infrastructure development (Boreholes, Micro dams, and irrigation infrastructures) as an entry point and basis for implementations of all Priority Intervention Areas.

4. **Recognising** the multi-sectoral nature of resilience building, Member States and Development Partners are urged to scale up investments to expand good practices in water resource management, blue economy, sustainable land management, post-harvest storage systems, forage and feedstuffs, markets, and livelihood diversifications.
5. **Noting** the availability of modern satellite data, the exponential growth in computing power, and increased expertise in the field, climate prediction has become more accurate and reliable. Hence, we **urge** Member States to strengthen their capacity for timely communication to end-users and early action using evidence from modern early warning systems and **call upon** the Development Partners to increase resilience investment.
6. **Appreciating** the advances in the early warning systems at regional and national levels, we **call upon** the IGAD Institutions to work closely with Member States, local authorities, and Development Partners to expand the provision of cluster-level (downscaled) climate information services.
7. **Recognizing** the newly validated IGAD Migration Action Plan (MAP) with priority areas directly related to eight IDDRSI Priority Areas, **call upon** IGAD and GIZ to create a Technical Working Group to harmonise implementation in the region.
8. **Acknowledging** the region's recent experience with the substantial loss of 13 million livestock resulting in considerable economic and social losses, largely attributed to inadequate livestock feed, IGAD is **urged** to work with countries towards feed security by redirecting the regional and country initiatives toward attaining animal feed security, recognising it as a pivotal factor in ensuring comprehensive food security.
9. **Recognizing** the benefits of regional thinking that guided the two phases of IDDRSI, **calls upon** IGAD to lead the planning of the third phase of Country Programming Papers as well as the Regional Programming Paper to incorporate new developments in drought resilience building in the region, such as the climate change impacts.
10. There is a **need** to develop a database of people in the Arid and Semi-Arid lands (ASAL) to manage the beneficiaries of livelihood interventions better and effectively monitor and measure the performance of resilience projects and programmes in the region.
11. **Call upon** IGAD, Member States and Development Partners to equally address resource allocation to all IDDRSI Priority Intervention Areas and cross-border clusters to ensure coordination, institutional and policy reforms that accelerate investment in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas to manage disaster risks through dynamic and innovative approaches.
12. **Considering** IGAD's roles in leading and coordinating IDDRSI and where strong coordination at regional, national and sub-national levels are critical for the success of the regional resilience agenda, IGAD is **urged** to establish fund allocation mechanisms from

projects coordinated and implemented by IGAD to support coordination and capacity development functions at regional and national levels.

13. **Recognising** limited economic and social position of women, the youth and people with disabilities in our region, **calls upon** all stakeholders to prioritise women, youth and people with disabilities in wider economic settings and cross-border trade.
14. **Noting** that different stakeholders in the region (Development partners, NGOs, UN Agencies, etc.) and Government agencies continue to work in silos (e.g., in developing early warning systems, water development, etc.) **calls upon** all stakeholders of IDDRSI for a stronger coordination effort towards a joint impact monitoring framework.
15. **Appreciating** the leadership and coordination role of IGAD in the development of Resilience Measurement in the region that will serve evidence-based policymaking in the region, **urges** IGAD to expand the IGAD Resilience Index (IRI) to address other shocks, such as floods and conduct a thorough capacity needs assessment in the Member States to enhance the quality and availability of the data required for the effective application of IRI in Member States.
16. **Learning** from the current El Nino effects widely manifested in heavy floods in our region due to excess rains, **call upon** all stakeholders to use this as a wake-up call to double our efforts in building resilience that targets multiple hazards to effectively address flood in our resilience programming.
17. **Welcomes** a UN-NGO Joint Advocacy Document, “A Call to Resilience-Building and System Strengthening in the Horn of Africa,” presented by the Inter-Agency Working Group as input to the overall regional resilience initiative.
18. **Considering** increasing vulnerability in the IGAD region due to climate change, social, economic and political environments, including negative international shocks, **urges** IGAD to organise the third Resilience Submit next year to seek guidance from Heads of State and International Development Partners.
19. Thank the Government and people of the Republic of Uganda for hosting the 16th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee and the 9th IDDRSI Platform General Assembly and for the warm hospitality and facilitation of the meeting.

Done on 24 November 2023, Entebbe, Uganda