Thank you chair.

My name is Abdullahi Ibrahim, representing the Somali NGO Consortium - a coordination and an advocacy forum representing 100 NGOs - the smallest and of the largest - both national and international, **and with a core mission of alleviating** suffering of the Somali people.

This is the story of Nuriyo Mohamed – **a -38-year-old mother of eight, and this is what she said.** “I had to evacuate my eight children in the middle of the night. The water level was increasing. It was the scariest night of my life. This camp is my second home, but everything is gone. The floods washed away even the **little food we had”.**

Nuriyo is among thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by the floods in Baidoa.

During the drought in 2022, at an IDP camp in Kismayo, we heard of Ubah……. a four-year-old daughter of Jowhara Ali. Ubah could not keep food down and was constantly ill. Her eyes were sunken, her bones protruding, and her skin was pale. **The next morning, she died.**

Her mother Jowhara said........she will always remember her daughter **as a happy girl who used to laugh.**

What happened to both Nuriyo and Jowhara, is evidence of swing of two extreme weather patterns in Somalia – droughts and floods. And they are now coming, more frequently.

As the Somali people were coming to terms with the impact of the 2021 – 2023 drought, **comes the El Niño.**

From the positive perspective, the rains have provided water abundantly. **But as we speak today,** there are towns in Somalia that are sub-merged by floods and infrastructures destroyed. Baardhere is an example where the bridge on River Juba was washed away by the floods.

According to the UN OCHA, at least 32 people have died following the heavy downpour and over a half a million displaced. The total number of people affected **by the floods in Somalia is 1.17 million.**

And when displacement happens, **women and girls are the most affected** – they are exposed to the risk of gender-based violence.

While we appreciate the engagements of IGAD **with governments**, the Somali NGO Consortium calls on IGAD to pro-actively use its influence, in supporting the Somali NGO Consortium by taking **the advocacy for durable solutions for Somalia to higher levels**…………..**so that,** mothers like Nuriyo, Jowhara and millions of other Somalis, would be able to absorb future shocks.