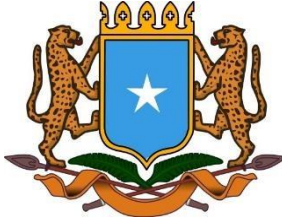


**Statement by the Hon. Minister Adan Mohamed Ali (MP) of the Federal Ministry of
Livestock, Forestry & Range (MoLFR)
IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiatives (IDDRSI)
The 9th meeting of General Assembly (Ministerial)
24 November, 2023, Entebbe, Uganda**



Honorable Chief Guest, Excellencies, distinguished guests, brothers and sisters, All Protocols Observed

It is a great pleasure and an honour to join you in the 9th meeting of General Assembly in this beautiful city of Entebbe, Uganda.

On behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia, I would like to thank the Republic of Uganda, and the people of Uganda for hosting in this IDDRSI Platform meeting.

I also truly appreciate the time, outstanding efforts and contributions made by the IGAD Staff and Delegates of IGAD member countries and development partners in the theme of consolidating the path to resilience and sustainability while scaling up humanitarian action and resilience.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen;

Droughts have been more severe and frequent in Somalia over the years, creating chronic vulnerability with continuous food shortages, widespread economic challenges, displacement, and untold human suffering, particularly among pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities.

70% of the population in Somalia are dependent on livestock for their livelihoods. It provides food, employment and incomes and contributes 60% of the GDP and 80% of the foreign currency earnings excluding cash remittances from Somalis in the Diaspora

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen;

Somalia is one of the most vulnerable countries in the horn of Africa to climate change because the major livelihood sources of the country are directly dependent on livestock, agriculture, forestry and fisheries which are very vulnerable to climate change and climate variability.

The main drivers of food insecurity in Somalia include violent conflict and insecurity, climatic shocks (floods, cyclones and droughts), desert locust and land degradation by human activities. These challenges have been recognized by not only in Somalia, but many countries in our IGAD region.

To adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change, investment of climate smart technology is needed. It is also essential to integrate the sustainable land management, and delivering ecosystem services across productive sectors. Somalia remains committed to do everything possible to contribute to the climate smart agriculture and food systems; as well as building resilient communities and a flourishing country.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen;

I am very confident that our great efforts here in Entebbe, will rise to the key challenges, strengthen the resilience of our people in overcoming the emerging crisis facing our communities in the Horn of Africa and hence become prosperous in near future.

The strategic objective of IDDRSI is to “Build the resilience of Drought-prone individuals, communities, Institutions & Ecosystems in the IGAD region, through investing in Sustainable Development by 2027”, and beyond that time. This will positively instil the value of a flourishing society into strong and self-reliant, peaceful communities and I assure you Somali people will come out of this as victorious.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank you very much for your attention!

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