



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

## IDDRSI: A Decade of Resilience — Transforming Crisis into Sustainable Regional Strength

Convened by: Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Organized by: IGAD Drought Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) In collaboration with: ICPAC

(IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre)  
African Climate Summit 2 (ACS2) | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | 10 Sept. 2025  
Venue: IGAD Pavilion | Time: 8:30–10:00 EAT

### BACKGROUND

The African Climate Summit 2 (ACS2) is a pivotal moment for Africa to assert its climate leadership, demand climate justice, and catalyze transformative financing for adaptation and resilience. Under the theme “Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World,” ACS2 calls for systemic shifts—from reactive aid to proactive investment, from fragmented projects to integrated systems, and from donor-driven agendas to African-owned solutions.

Nowhere is this transformation more urgent than in the Horn of Africa, where recurrent droughts—fueled by climate change and ecosystem degradation—are becoming the new normal. In 2023 alone, the region experienced six consecutive rainfall failures, leaving 40 million people at risk of acute food insecurity. Despite these escalating shocks, climate finance for adaptation remains inadequate, inequitable, and increasingly debt-creating. Africa receives less than **15% of the**

**estimated USD 50–100 billion needed annually for adaptation** (GCA, 2023), with the most vulnerable countries receiving the least.

The IGAD Drought Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) has been a regional pioneer in operationalizing the very principles championed at ACS2: **localization, resilience by design, green growth, and innovative climate finance**. Since 2011, IDDRSI has demonstrated that long-term, coordinated, and community-driven investments can break the cycle of drought emergencies. It has significantly reduced livestock mortality, improved water and market access for pastoralists, and strengthened regional early warning systems.

This session is framed around the central question: “How do we move from managing droughts to building drought-proof societies—through African-led

innovation, finance, and solidarity?” IDDRSI has proven that resilience by design delivers concrete results, but its scaling is challenged by declining finance and growing reliance on debt instruments. Localization and direct access to funds remain aspirations, as most resources still flow through international intermediaries, limiting the ability of regional and national institutions to drive their own resilience agendas.

A further challenge lies in defining and measuring success—whether through reduced mortality, strengthened institutions, improved economic outcomes, or community ownership and trust. Finally, resilience in the Horn of Africa cannot be achieved within national boundaries alone: cross-border collaboration on rangelands, water management, and early warning systems is essential to transform shared vulnerabilities into regional public goods and drivers of peace, stability, and green growth.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Increase awareness of IDDRSI's cross-border resilience initiatives.
2. Examine drought resilience funding and potential for sustainable cross-border support.
3. Provide policy, program, financing, and partnership insights to inform ACS2 outcomes.
4. Strengthen cross-border partnerships to enhance resilience building.

### TARGET AUDIENCE



African Union  
Commission



Regional  
Economic  
Communities  
(RECs)



Policy leaders  
in IGAD  
Member States



Donors and  
Development  
Partners



UN  
Agencies



Civil Society  
Organizations

### AGENDA (90 MINUTES)

- 0–10 min Keynote Speech by H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, IGAD Executive Secretary. Framing the session around ACS2's core themes: climate justice, green growth, and finance transformation. Highlighting the urgency of drought resilience as a continental priority.
- 10–65 min Panel Discussion: Moderated dialogue with panelists (5 minutes each opening statement, followed by Q&A). The moderator will weave in ACS2 concepts: localization, innovation, and accountability.
- 65–80 min Audience Q&A: Open floor for participants.
- 80–90 min Closing & Call to Action: Summary of key messages and present a “Side Event Outcome Statement”—a collective pledge to expand regional initiatives on resilience.

### PANELISTS

**Resilience Policy Leaders:** Senior officials leading resilience projects in IGAD Member States—on national ownership, project experiences, and alignment with ACS2 outcomes.

**Development Partners:** Senior officials from development partners supporting IDDRSI at the regional level—on the financing landscape and future prospects to enhance resilience.

**IGAD Institutions:** Senior professionals from IGAD specialized institutions—to present achievements and anchor discussions in regional realities on resilience.

**Civil Society / Community Leaders:** Representatives from cross-border initiatives—on localization, equity, and community accountability in resilience programming.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Elevated awareness of IGAD's cross-border resilience initiatives.
- Deeper insights into the financial landscape of cross-border resilience initiatives.
- Policy and programmatic insights documented to inform future resilience initiatives in cross-border areas.
- Enhanced partnerships to strengthen collaborative resilience initiatives.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### Technical Leaders in Resilience:

What lessons have you learned about financing the drought resilience agenda? What support is needed to scale up? How can these agendas be sustained going forward?

#### Development Partners:

What has been the experience of development partners in financing cross-border resilience initiatives in the IGAD region? What are the prospects for sustaining such support under the current financial climate?

#### IGAD Specialized Institutions:

How has IGAD promoted cross-border collaboration for resilience building? What lessons have been learned over the past decade, and how can they inform future strategies?



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