

IGAD

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY
ON DEVELOPMENT



AUTORITE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT

COMMUNIQUE

1st IGAD Water Dialogue Forum and Expo

**Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi
8th to 10th December, 2014**

1. We, the participants of the 1st IGAD Water Dialogue Forum and Expo, working under the theme "**Water for Regional Cooperation**" having deliberated on various sub themes in the Forum:

- a) Thank the Government and the people of the Republic of Kenya for hosting the 1st IGAD Water Dialogue Forum and Expo and for their hospitality and warm welcome.
- b) Commend the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kenya for officially opening the Forum and expressing satisfaction with the fact that IGAD has shifted from managing emergencies to development and management of water resources for social and economic development and for inviting development partners to join hands towards reducing poverty and support food security plans in the region.
- c) Are grateful for the financial support received from the European Union for supporting the IGAD Inland Water Resources Programme.
- d) Note with satisfaction the efforts of the IGAD Executive Secretary and the progress made in enhancing cooperation between member states to jointly develop and manage transboundary water resources for sustainable development, peace and food security in the region.
- e) Thank the bilateral and multilateral development partners, the United Nations agencies and intergovernmental agencies for their support and participation in this Forum.
- f) Recognise that rapid population growth, increased water demand and climate change phenomena present huge challenges for food security, peace and economic growth but also provide opportunities for joint planning and cooperation.
- g) Note that 2015 has been designated the Year of Water and Development by the UN General Assembly and acknowledge the importance of equitable and sustainable use of water for socioeconomic development as captured by the Africa Water Vision for 2025.

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- h) Acknowledge the valuable intellectual and practical contributions by policy makers and technical experts in the following areas:
- i. Holistic and participatory water resources management.
 - ii. Regional policies and legal and strategic instruments to ensure effective cooperation in water, food and energy security in the region.
 - iii. Women and youth involvement in water management and environmental conservation.
 - iv. Political and financial commitment in water sector from the member states and development partners.
 - v. Investments in knowledge management and capacity building in the region.
 - vi. Support to the pastoralist and agro-pastoralist production system in the region.
 - vii. Nexus between researchers, policy makers and end users.
 - viii. Role of media in addressing water and water related issues.
 - ix. Partnership with the civil society in water development and management.

2. Now resolve as follows:

- i. Member states and partners to enhance support to IGAD in the preparation of IGAD Region Water Master Plan;
- ii. Through a structured mechanism share suitable technologies and application of planning tools to enhance community livelihoods.
- iii. Promote community participation to promote ownership and sustainability of the programmes;
- iv. IGAD to prepare an Action plan for the implementation of the IGAD Water Agenda and the recommendations of this Forum.
- v. Mainstream gender in the IGAD Water Agenda and water management processes for sustainability;
- vi. Strengthen hydrometeorological research, data collection and data sharing at national and regional level.

3. In order to realize the above resolutions, now urge IGAD Secretariat to:

- i. Convene the IGAD Water Dialogue and Forum every 2 years;
- ii. Mobilize additional resources from member states, partners and private sector to support capacity building of member states on transboundary water management and implementation of the resolutions of this Forum;
- iii. Promote and support climate change adaptation, drought resilience, and improve Early Warning Response to ensure that the next drought will never cause so much havoc in the region;
- iv. Assess and develop regional water policies, legal and institutional frameworks and partnerships including civil society;
- v. Ensure development of effective integrated regional water information system to support sustainable development in the region.

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