



COMMUNIQUE FOR THE JOINT IGAD MINISTERIAL AND HIGH LEVEL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS ON DROUGHT RESILIENCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

IGAD Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Livestock, Water Resource, Environment, Arid Lands and Drought Disaster Management held a joint meeting with High Level Development Partners committed to the Initiative to End Drought Emergencies in the Horn of Africa (“the Initiative”) on 4 April 2012 at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was chaired by the Honorable Shileshi Getahun the Minister for Agriculture of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chair of the IGAD Council of Ministers. The objectives of the meeting were to review the progress made since the Joint Horn of Africa and East Africa Summit of Heads of State and Government held in September 2011, in Nairobi and to secure the commitment of the global community to build drought resilience and growth.

Recalling:

1. The Declaration of the Initiative at a Joint Horn of Africa and East Africa Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Nairobi, Kenya on 9th September 2011 and the Summit Directive for IGAD to convene a ministerial progress review after 6 months of the Declaration of the Initiative;
2. The endorsement of the IGAD Regional Platform (Hereafter referred to as the “Platform”) by the IGAD Summit of Heads of State and Government of 25 November 2011 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

Considering:

1. African Union Policy Framework on Pastoralism in Africa and the UN Systems response to address the special needs of the drylands recently published as Global Drylands (2011)
2. The IGAD Secretariat 6-month progress report on the Initiative and the progress made in establishing a regional CAADP;
3. That Partners have engaged with countries in developing programs pertaining to drought resilience;
4. The Platform serves as a mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Initiative.

Appreciating:

1. All partners for remaining committed to the noble objective of the Initiative -- this being well reflected by the very high level participation in the meeting and the amount of resources mobilized by the Partners;
2. The critical role of IGAD and member states have played in building drought resilience in the horn of Africa;
3. The effectiveness with which the IGAD Secretariat has handled the initial phase of the Initiative.

Now the Ministers and the Partners do hereby:

1. **Reaffirm** the commitment of the IGAD Member States and the Development Partners to the implementation of the Horn of Africa Resilience Initiative (here in after referred to as the “Initiative” over the long term;
2. **Take note of** the progress being made in the formation of the IGAD Regional Platform for Drought Resilience and Sustainability;
3. **Direct** the Secretariat to convene a meeting of Member States to increase the buy-in, agree on an action plan will fast track the operationalization of the Platform;
4. **Commit Member States** to the establishment of a fund in support of the Platform activities, and call upon on development partners to support the establishment of the fund
5. **Encourage** development partners to support national governments to incorporate drought resilience into national programme and enhance existing coordination mechanisms;
6. **Commit** to strengthen coordination, harmonization and alignment of national, regional and international humanitarian and development resilience-related assistance in support of the common program framework;
7. **Encourage** Member States to engage the research and training institutions and networks in the region alongside Technical Consortium in order to undertake studies needed for planning long term investments;
8. **Commit** to new and proactive approaches by all stakeholders including (Member States and Governments, IGAD Secretariat, partners, civil society, and local communities) to end drought emergencies in the region;

9. **Urge** all partners to further strengthen their coordination, harmonization and alignment of their interventions with the countries' national priorities and strategies;
10. **Advance** the ongoing efforts, led by IGAD, to create a common program framework that can be used by governments, Development Partners and other stakeholders to coordinate their humanitarian and development resilience-oriented efforts around the common agenda;
11. **Commit** to coordinate, harmonize and align country and regional policy, strategies and program actions with the common program framework and strengthen national systems – central and local government, civil society and private sector and regional actors to manage and implement the initiative;
12. **Agree** to develop and scale up successful policies and practices that effectively link and balance humanitarian and development initiatives.
13. **Commit** to the integration of women, youth and vulnerable groups into national and regional programming and social services;
14. **Create** a common mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of results to strengthen knowledge management mutual accountability, transparency and ownership of the process within the framework of the IGAD Platform;
15. **Agree** to the establishment of a Regional Development Partners' Group for Drought Resilience and Growth, in collaboration with IPF and IGAD, to allow Development Partners to better coordinate, harmonize and align programme investments and policy reforms in support of the IGAD platform in the Horn of Africa;
16. **Agree** to the establishment of a Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth to allow Development Partners to better coordinate, harmonize and align programme investments and policy;
17. **Thank** the Government and people of the Republic of Kenya for hosting the meeting and for their warm hospitality; and
18. **Decide** to remain seized of the matter.

Done at Nairobi, Kenya, on 4th April 2012