



**COMMUNIQUE FOR THE JOINT IGAD MINISTERIAL AND HIGH LEVEL UNITED NATIONS
AGENCIES MEETING ON DROUGHT RESILIENCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA
17 MAY 2012**

IGAD Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Livestock and Arid Lands held a joint meeting with High Level United Nations Agencies Representation committed to the Initiative to End Drought Emergencies in the Horn of Africa (“the Initiative”) on 17th May 2012 at the Kempinski Palace Hotel, Djibouti. The meeting was chaired by the Honorable Wondirad Mandefro the State Minister for Agriculture of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. In attendance were: H.E. Mohamed Ahmed Awaleh - Minister for Agriculture, Djibouti; H.E. Japhet Kareke Mbiuki Assistant Minister in Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya, Hon. Hirsi Adan Roble State Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Range; Somalia, H.E. Dr. Martin Elia Lomuro Minister for Animal Resources and Fisheries in Republic of South Sudan, H.E. Dr. Hassan E. El Talib Ambassador Sudan to IGAD, H.E. Bright Rwamirama, Minister of State for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries/Animal Industry, Uganda. The World Bank, the African Development Bank, Chair of the IGAD Partners Forum and the Inter-Agency Working Group were represented. The objective of the meeting was how to engage the UN agencies to support the ongoing IGAD and Member States’ drought resilience initiatives.

Recalling:

1. The Declaration of the Initiative at a Joint IGAD and EAC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Nairobi, Kenya on 9th September 2011 and the Summit Directive for IGAD to lead and coordinate the implementation of the Initiative;
2. The endorsement of the IGAD Regional Drought Resilience 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.
3. The outcome of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), East Southern Africa/Middle East and North Africa (hereafter “ESA/MENA”) meeting on the Horn of Africa crisis held on 13th – 14th December 2011 in Nairobi.
4. The outcome of the IGAD joint ministerial and high-level Development Partners meeting held in Nairobi on 3rd and 4th April 2012.
5. The membership of the UN Agencies and development partners on the Steering Committee of the Regional Drought Resilience and Sustainability Platform.

Considering:

1. The African Union Policy Framework on Pastoralism in Africa and the UN System response to address the special needs of the drylands recently published as Global Drylands (2011)
2. The IGAD Secretariat five years strategic plan and sectoral strategies such as the DRR strategy, and the 6-month progress report on the Drought Resilience Initiative
3. That many UN Agencies have engaged with IGAD and its Member States in developing programs pertaining to drought resilience;
4. The vision and principles of the UN Horn of Africa Plan of Action, the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the multi-stakeholder support strategies to implement country-led plans deriving from it.

Appreciating:

1. The critical role of IGAD, its Member States and the international community are playing in building drought resilience in the Horn of Africa;
2. The vital role UN Agencies and other development partners played in addressing the drought emergency of 2010-2011 that left 13 million people in the Horn of Africa in need of humanitarian and development assistance.

Now the Ministers and the High-level UN Agency Representatives do hereby:

1. **Reaffirm** the commitment of the IGAD, Member States and the UN Agencies to the implementation of the Horn of Africa Drought Resilience Initiative over the medium and long term on a sustainable basis;
2. **Strongly urge** IGAD Secretariat to expedite the operationalisation of the Regional Drought Resilience Platform;
3. **Commit** to strengthen coordination, harmonization and alignment of national, regional and international resilience-related assistance using a common programming framework initiated by IGAD as well as other agreed frameworks including the Regional CAADP;
4. **Call upon** UN Agencies to support Member States to incorporate drought resilience into national programmes; enhance and harmonize existing national coordination mechanisms;
5. **Urge** UN Agencies, IGAD and Member States to institutionalize best practices and lessons learned needed for prioritizing long-term multi-sectoral and holistic investments including productive sectors, communication, health, education, youth employment and other social services for building drought resilience in the Horn of Africa;
6. **Urge** Member states, UN agencies, development partners and private sectors to promote investments for sustainable social economic development;
7. **Commit** to the right to food approach;
8. **Commit** to the adoption of gender, environment and conflict sensitive and responsive programming and the purposeful integration of women, youth and vulnerable groups into national and regional programming and social protection and safety nets;

9. **Call upon** UN Agencies to support IGAD to establish a regional early warning system linked to mechanisms for early response to drought emergencies that afflict the region.
10. **Call upon** the UN to enhance the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of UN-IGAD partnerships in support of the regional resiliency agenda by according IGAD an observer status in the Regional Directors' Teams (RDT) of both the Africa region and the Middle East and North Africa region on discussions related to the Horn of Africa.
11. **Call upon** the UN to initiate cross-border programmes in support of the IGAD regional agenda in accordance and compliance with existing regional and national policy frameworks on cross-border cooperation.
12. **Thank** the Government and people of the Republic of Djibouti for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegates; and
13. **Decide** to remain seized of the matter.

Done at Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 17th May 2012