



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND  
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

## COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF IGAD MEMBER STATES ON THE CURRENT DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE REGION

31<sup>ST</sup>MARCH 2017, NAIROBI - KENYA

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### PREAMBLE

Ministers and Commissioners responsible for Disaster Risk Management and Humanitarian Affairs drawn from Member States of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) namely; Republic of Djibouti, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Kenya, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of the Sudan, and Republic of Uganda held a Consultative Meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya with their humanitarian and development partners to discuss measures to deal with the current drought situation, as well as prepare for the planned Resilience Investment Summit in June/July 2017.

### Recalling:

- The strong appeal for the reform of the system of emergency humanitarian response in the region, made during the Joint East Africa Summit held in September 2011 in Nairobi that resolved to enhance resilience, promote long-term solutions and boost disaster risk management capacities in the region;
- The establishment of the IGAD Disaster Response Fund (IDRF) following a decision of an IGAD ministerial meeting held in April 2013 in Khartoum that is yet to be operationalized;
- The resolution made by the international community during the World Humanitarian Summit held in May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey to live up to the pledge of not leaving anyone behind in the quest for sustainable development for all, and;
- The predicted consecutive seasonal rain failure made during 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums (GHACOF44 and GHACOF45) held in August 2016 and February 2017 in Kampala and Addis Ababa respectively, of which part of the prediction has materialized exposing a large population in many parts of the region ravaging livelihoods and causing major food insecurity and nutrition crisis;

**Appreciating:**

- The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) for the provision of improved, timely and actionable climate early warning information;
- The efforts of IGAD Member States, as well as humanitarian and development partners in implementing the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI);
- The efforts that the Governments of Somalia and South Sudan have made with the assistance of humanitarian and development partners to scale-up response despite the complexity of their situations, and;
- Efforts of IGAD Member States (particularly Sudan and Uganda) in providing humanitarian assistance to neighbouring countries, and in hosting displaced populations in the region, and;
- The commitments made in the Mogadishu and Nairobi Declarations to provide life-saving assistance, as well as strengthen protection of Somali refugees and respond effectively to the drought in the region to prevent new forced displacement respectively;

**Mindful of:**

- The persistent drought conditions and unfolding humanitarian crisis that continues to worsen in most parts of the region, being in an extremely precarious state as malnutrition and child mortality are exceptionally high, pastoral conditions are very poor, food prices continue to rise and harvests from the last season failed, exacerbated by an array of security challenges;
- The negative role that violent conflicts including terrorism have played to exacerbate food insecurity and human suffering in the region, especially Somalia and South Sudan;
- The increasing trend of drought-induced population movement within and across national borders posing protection risks including family separation, resource-based conflicts, and sexual and gender-based violence, and;
- The specific vulnerability of groups such as children, women, pregnant and lactating mothers, elderly and disabled to morbidity and mortality due to on-going disease outbreaks and risk factors linked to the high prevalence rate of acute malnutrition;

**Building on:**

- Lessons learnt from the preparedness and response to the 2010/11 drought and 2015/16 El-Nino events, and;
- The success of the Woreda/District level early warning system and management in Ethiopia and the scalable, shock-responsive social protection mechanisms like the Productive Safety Net Programme in Ethiopia and Kenya that prevents the distress sale of assets and loss of livelihoods, making it easier for drought-affected families to bounce back.

**Now the Ministers and Commissioners, as well as the partners do hereby:**

**Agree to:**

1. Scale-up immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance to drought-affected populations in order to save lives, protect livelihoods and livestock-based assets, whilst enhancing access and removing all impediments to response and recovery efforts;
2. Develop policies and strategies that mainstream drought response, recovery and resilience into development programmes through their annual budget allocation to mitigate drought emergencies and other disasters as well as to strengthen institutional capacities;
3. Strengthen regional, national and sub-national drought response coordination, as well as support integrated cross-border management across the region;
4. Adopt a New Way of working to address the underlying causes of vulnerabilities of the populations to recurrent shocks and stresses that focus on building resilience of communities and seeking durable solutions, and;
5. Harmonise data and information management platforms on drought to improve responsive planning and investment

**Call upon:**

1. IGAD Member States to facilitate humanitarian assistance to reach those most affected, particularly in remote rural locations, by removing bureaucratic hurdles, ensuring safe, unimpeded and regular humanitarian access, as well as guaranteeing safety of aid workers;
2. IGAD Member States to update and operationalize their drought contingency plans that is linked to effective response fund at the regional and national level, as well as establish/and or expand social safety net programmes;
3. IGAD Member States and partners to embrace vertical and horizontal coordination at national and regional levels, promote cross border coordination (Moroto model) as well as track cross border population movement and enhance information sharing among the neighbouring countries
4. The IGAD Secretariat with the support of the Member States and partners to strengthen the linkage between early warning and early action through operationalizing an effective integrated regional early warning system.
5. IGAD Member States and partners to scale up recovery, resilience, and disaster risk reduction interventions through innovative approaches at regional, national and community levels.

6. **Welcome** multi-year pledges announced by several development partners that would provide greater predictability, enable a more efficient response and demonstrate a commitment to a new and comprehensive approach that addresses both immediate, medium- and long-term humanitarian and development needs;
7. **Express** gratitude to the Government and the people of Kenya for hosting this important meeting, and;
8. **Decide** to remain seized of this matter.

**Done on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya**