



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON DESERT LOCUST INVASION AND COORDINATION OF CONTROL OPERATIONS IN THE IGAD REGION

21 MAY 2020

We, the Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Livestock of the 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 virtual ministerial meeting on Desert Locust (DL) Upsurge and Coordination of Control Operations in the IGAD Region on 21 May 2020 with representatives from international and regional organizations involved in Food Security and Nutrition, and Desert Locust Control Operations (DLCO, CRC, ICIPE, FAO and other UN Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations).

Recalling the decision of the 34th Extraordinary Summit of the IGAD Heads of State and Government held on 9 February 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia endorsing three recommendations of the IGAD Council of Ministers on the desert locust invasion, namely:

- a) Calling upon Member States to act collectively through IGAD and join forces with neighbors and relevant agencies including the Desert Locust Control Organization towards the total eradication of this pest and address the broader aspects of climate change in the region;
- b) Urging Member States through the IGAD Secretariat to be proactive in sharing information and best practices to coordinate and build the necessary capacity in combating the locust menace to predict, monitor and control the spread of new swarms; and
- c) Calling on international Development Partners to build the requisite financial, technical and logistical capacities of IGAD Member States, and support ongoing efforts to effectively fight the locust invasion.

Further recalling the communique adopted by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union at its 917th meeting held on 9 April 2020, on the humanitarian situation in the countries affected by desert locust invasion in Africa:

Now, after considering the report of the deliberations of the High-Level Virtual INTER-REGIONAL Meeting on Desert Locust Upsurge, Coordination and Control on 23rd APRIL 2020 and recommendations therein, we hereby solemnly declare:

On Desert Locust impact assessment and development of livelihood support contingency and recovery plans for the worst-case scenario, to:

1. Jointly develop a harmonized methodology for DL impact assessment and an IGAD regional contingency and early recovery plan to inform effective response including livelihood support to the affected communities.

Specifically, task IGAD through the FSNWG-ICPAC to:

2. Coordinate harmonization of methodology and tools for impact assessment with Member States and partners;
3. Immediately implement continuous monitoring of desert locust impacts using harmonized assessment tools to quickly inform early livelihood response across highly impacted areas, and;
4. Plan the development of end of season multi-hazard impact assessment and response analysis to inform the development of IGAD region contingency and early recovery Action Plan.

In addition, task IGAD to:

5. Coordinate the execution of an IGAD regional contingency and early recovery Action Plan for livelihood support post DL and COVID-19 pandemic in collaboration with Member States, UN (FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNOCHA, WFP, UNHCR, etc.), NGOs and other interested partners.

Further urge:

6. All concerned to expedite the operationalization of the IGAD Disaster Response Fund (IDRF);
7. IGAD Member States to quickly facilitate establishment of a DL infestation data sharing protocol;
8. IGAD (ICPAC/ICPALD), DLCO-EA, CRC and FAO to strengthen the existing joint Integrated Regional (and Member State) Pest Early Warning System and immediately implement actual data collection, analysis, modeling and Interpretation, and;
9. All Member States to honor their financial commitments to DLCO-EA in order to strengthen and sustain the capacity of the regional organization to better deliver on its mandate.

On the structure and operational function of a regional and inter-regional DL control plan and coordination framework, task IGAD to:

10. Strengthen regional coordination for effective implementation of the Addis Ababa Summit Declaration by forming an expanded desert locust control

platform in collaboration with DLCO-EA, FAO, CRC and representatives of relevant NGOs bringing together all countries covered by the entire infestation area including IGAD and Central Region states in the Southern Arabian Peninsula.

On a joint inter-regional and IGAD Regional Contingency and Response Action Plan, task the IGAD Secretariat to:

11. Hold an inter-Regional Economic Communities (RECs) High Level Forum including IGAD and GCC on matters of Desert Locusts response, control and eradication, and establish a Regional Action Plan to address ongoing and future Desert Locust menace.
12. Facilitate and expedite exchange of experts between CRC and IGAD regions through South-South Cooperation;

On intensification of desert locust response, in consideration of the challenges that could disrupt desert locust operations due to COVID-19 pandemic:

13. Urge Member States, Regional Partners (DLCO-EA, FAO and CRC), NGOs and other concerned partners to intensify and maintain desert locust operations among top priorities.
14. IGAD to expedite the development of a costed regional Food Security and Livelihoods response strategy for Desert Locust and COVID19

Decide to remain actively seized of this matter.

Done virtually on 21 May 2020