



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

COMMUNIQUE OF THE IGAD REGIONAL MINISTERIAL MEETING ON RISK TRANSFER AND TRANSBOUNDARY PEST MANAGEMENT

09 AUGUST 2023, NAIROBI, KENYA

We, the Ministers, Heads of Delegations and representatives of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) member states, comprised of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda, convened in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya, on 9th August 2023 to chart a path towards sustainable development, having deliberated on issues pertaining to the foregoing theme;

Appreciate the warm welcome and hospitality extended by the Government and the people of the Republic of Kenya, as well as the efforts being made by IGAD member states and partners to enhance risk transfer mechanisms and transboundary pest management in the region;

Further appreciate the initiative by IGAD through its Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and the support provided by the Government of the United States of America and the World Bank to bring together delegates from the IGAD member states and partners to discuss and share our collective understanding of the region's state of risk transfer mechanisms and transboundary pest management and affirm our shared commitment to promote proactive risk management;

Acknowledge that the IGAD region is endowed with a considerable range of resources, with a huge potential for a variety of possibilities in wealth and progress;

Express concern over the region's increased vulnerability to climate change, and the observed intensification of extreme climate events including droughts and floods, and the impacts on food security and livelihoods;

Recognize the high levels of acute food insecurity in the region, driven by multifaceted drivers including climate-related shocks, conflict and insecurity, and economic shocks;

Recall the IGAD Regional Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening, Adapting and Accelerating National and Regional Efforts to Address Food Crises in the Region held on 7th October 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya, and the strategies agreed upon and outlined in the subsequent Communiqué to enhance, modify and expedite both national and regional initiatives aimed at addressing food crises;

Acknowledge the role of risk transfer and microinsurance mechanisms in building the resilience of societies against various risks, including natural disasters and economic shocks;

Recognize that many risks, such as climate-related disasters and disease outbreaks transcend national boundaries and, therefore, there is a need to explore opportunities for cross-border collaboration in risk transfer and microinsurance initiatives in order to effectively address shared challenges;

Recall the outcomes and recommendations of the first and second Regional Conferences on Risk Transfer and Micro Insurance for Resilience Building in the IGAD region, held in Kampala in September 2016 and in Khartoum in May 2017, respectively;

Emphasize the importance of member states in creating conducive regulatory environments for the growth of risk transfer and microinsurance, including simplified licensing procedures and clear guidelines;

Recognize the crucial role of technology and data to enhance the efficiency of risk transfer and microinsurance operations.

Further recognize the need for awareness campaigns and educational programs to promote the benefits of risk transfer and microinsurance mechanisms;

Acknowledge the substantial economic and agricultural challenges presented by the transboundary pests;

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

1. Call upon member states to act collectively through IGAD and join forces with neighbors and relevant agencies including the Desert Locust Control Organization of Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) towards the total eradication of this pest and address the broader aspects of climate change in the region;
2. Urge 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
3. Call on 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.

Recognize the critical role of robust collaboration among IGAD member states and partners in promoting information exchange to bolster the effectiveness of early warning systems, surveillance, and monitoring mechanisms;

Acknowledge the need for harmonizing policies and regulations related to transboundary pest management;

Commend the efforts of our development partners, including the Africa Development Bank, the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union and its member states, among others;

Commend the efforts of the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) in scaling up resilience investments in the region in the face of multiple hazards;

Acknowledge that we all have a role to play to ensure sustainable development, and hereby affirm and resolve as follows:

1. **Declare** our joint commitments to develop a comprehensive 'roadmap' that prioritizes the strengthening of the region's food systems, and enhancing of resilience to the multidimensional risks and shocks that impact upon food security across the region to promote community, national and regional well-being and sustainable development across the region that contributes to peace;
2. **Urge** IGAD to devise mechanisms that improve the role of risk transfer and risk financing approaches in enhancing communities' resilience and livelihoods;
3. **Further urge** the adoption of innovative technologies, such as satellite monitoring systems and digital data collection tools for pests' surveillance, monitoring and control operations and for better risk assessment to support the development of appropriate micro-insurance products;
4. **Recommend** the IGAD governments and secretariat to develop supportive and synchronized policies and legal frameworks that recognize and promote the role of cooperatives in pastoral and agro-pastoral sectors;
5. **Appeal to** IGAD member states and partners to accelerate investments in improving the resilience of the region's food systems, recalling the previous commitment to strengthen the linkages between regional coordination mechanisms and the

implementation of food systems national pathways, developed as a critical outcome from the Food Systems Summit;

6. **Encourage** IGAD member states, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing to promote cross-border risk transfer mechanisms and facilitate the exchange of best practices in microinsurance;
7. **Commit** IGAD Member States and Secretariat, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, to develop measures to strengthen the capacity for multi-hazard early warning early action mechanisms at national and regional levels, that break the cycle of recurrent food crises, and transform food systems as a critical element to support sustainable development and peace;
8. **Resolve** to encourage continuous innovation in micro insurance product development to address the specific risks faced by different communities and sectors in the region;
9. **Commit** to establish, develop and harmonize regulatory frameworks for risk transfer and microinsurance across IGAD member states, and create an enabling environment for the growth and sustainability of microinsurance initiatives, ensuring consumer protection and financial stability;
10. **Reaffirm** our commitment to collaborative efforts in addressing transboundary pest-related challenges and emphasize the importance of information sharing, capacity building, and joint research initiatives for effective pest management and control;
11. **Recommend**, recalling the communique of the IGAD ministerial meeting in October, 2022 in Nairobi Kenya, IGAD and Member States to prioritize the strengthening of transboundary pest management mechanisms – including establishing coordinated Early Warning-Early Action systems and data generation and sharing;
12. **Declare** our support to establish robust transboundary pest-related information-sharing mechanisms among IGAD member states and propose the development of a central database that facilitates real-time exchange of pest-related data, including pest outbreaks, distribution patterns, and control measures;
13. **Urge** the adoption of Integrated Pest Management approaches that are environmentally sustainable and economically viable;
14. **Further urge** the IGAD Transboundary Pest Platform to develop regional harmonized guidelines and regulations to facilitate the adoption of biopesticide and biological control to support an effective response to desert locusts and other transboundary pests at national and regional (cross-border) level;
15. **Support** the role of DLCO-EA through modernization and restructuring to strengthen early warning response for effective pest management. The support should cover the assessed technical, institutional and financial sustainability (reviewing roles and mandates, capacity gaps, identifying overlaps and synergies, among others);
16. **Commit** to work with DLCO-EA and research institutions at national, regional and international levels to conduct fundamental assessments and research on topics related to surveillance and management of desert locusts and other transboundary pests.
17. **Recommend** IGAD, DLCO-EA and FAO to collaborate, synergize their activities in combating desert locust and other transboundary pests and provide technical support to member states to enhance their early warning systems.
18. **Encourage** strengthening of public-private partnerships to ensure availability of inputs and services needed to manage transboundary pests, and risk transfer and micro-insurance products

Done on this 9th day of August 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya