

IGAD

Resolutions of the 25th Council of Ministers held on March 17-18, 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya:

Resolution on the Drought and Famine Situation in the IGAD Region

The IGAD Council of Ministers Meeting at its 25 th Session on 17-18 March, 2006, in Nairobi, Kenya:

1. **Alarmed** by the gravity of impact of the current drought in the region, which has become recurrent;
2. **Noting** with concern that our natural resources such as land and forests are dwindling as a result of inappropriate usage and widespread land degradation, which is a threat to our sustainable development.
3. **Aware** that livelihood systems, particularly in the Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALs), have collapsed to the extent that pastoral communities are increasingly dependent on relief hand-outs ;
4. **Appreciating** the importance of the livestock sub-sector, not only towards the GDPs of member countries, but also to the livelihoods of a significant portion of its population.
5. **Appeals** to the international donor community to provide the necessary relief assistance, in order to save lives and livestock.
6. **Calls** for establishment of an emergency fund, in line with the IGAD Charter, and with the participation of the private sector;
7. **Calls** upon member countries to increase funding to the agricultural sector to 10% of the respective national budgets, as agreed by Heads of State and Government at the AU Maputo Summit, in order to implement long-term intervention measures such as water-harvesting (for human, livestock and small-scale irrigation), dry land management and livestock development, in particular, livestock feed security, disease control and marketing.
8. **Calls** upon the international community to support the long-term regional food security

initiatives, as outlined in the IGAD food security Strategy.