



IGAD statement at United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021 COP 26/CMP 16/CMA 3  
Glasgow, United Kingdom, 31 October – 12 November 2021

**By Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of IGAD**

**Mr. President, Excellencies; Distinguished Delegates:**

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) which is one of regional economic blocks in Africa constituted by 8 member states.

I thank the Government and the people of the United Kingdom for hosting the UN Climate Change Conference and for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation.

The IGAD region which is home to over 250 million people is one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change. It is one of regions in the world where extreme climatic impacts have resulted into loss of lives and damage to properties. Frequent and intense drought and floods, unpredictable rainfall patterns, high temperature variability, food insecurity and water scarcity have become common in the region.

The recent IPCC report and its findings are welcomed especially on rising global temperature and impacts that is already felt in the IGAD region. It is our collective responsibility to save the planet. Taking into account the scale and gravity of the climate challenge, we all need to do more and act on now.

We therefore join in the call for the widest possible cooperation by all actors and their commitment in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions.

**Mr. President;**

IGAD has developed a regional climate change strategy that would provide a framework for integrated and coordinated mechanisms that will guide the Member States in addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities associated with climate change in the IGAD region. This strategy will require international support to be fully implemented.

IGAD through its specialized climate institution plays key role to address climate change challenge more so in the provision of high-quality data, scientific information, knowledge, decision support tools, early warning, capacity building and policy advice. There is need for such institutions to be supported to have access to funding so as to realize its role of strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of the IGAD region to climate change and extreme weather events through the promotion of integrated and sustainable development across a wide-range of sectors of the economy and society.

In conclusion IGAD calls for urgent action at all levels be it individual, local, national regional and global to avoid dangerous climate change.

I thank you all