

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear representatives of distinguished organizations

I am pleased to deliver this opening speech to this new DREAM Hybrid Event.

As you may know the DREAM process supports the coordinated development of the lowlands of Ethiopia. This Hybrid Event discusses the mapping of our development efforts in the lowlands, in particular at woreda level. What is necessary is not only that we exert all our capacities to enhance the drought resilience of the lowlands but also that we do this together in a coordinated way. Considerable development efforts take place to make use of the unique development potential of the lowlands and to work on the resilience of the lowlands. The amounts that are spent are substantial, but to achieve lasting impact more is needed than finance. There is a general feeling that more progress could be made, if efforts were better coordinated, if there would be more planning and direction at woreda level and if development systems were systematically built up. The current drought emergency is testimony that we need to do a lot better.

It is here that the mapping of all our different development interventions can make a very useful contribution. Mapping of all ongoing activities will tell us who is active where and what is being done in different places. With mapping we do not lose track of all the important efforts being done under different programs. This helps to connect the ongoing programs to the overall development vision of the woreda. It also help to see how different activities can complement one another and come to better results. Mapping also allows us to see where activities are concentrated and which woredas are relatively left out. Given our still high vulnerability of droughts in the lowlands this is very important.

This hybrid event follows up from the recent DREAM 2 Conference, organized from 15-18 March 2022 in Adama. This meeting brought 180 participants together to discuss and galvanized coordination and cooperation around the lowland programs and work on integrated capacity building. During this DREAM2 event the mapping of development programs in the lowlands was started as well, using the inputs of representatives from many organizations active in the lowlands. In the dedicated sessions all participants worked to

highlight their programs in the different lowland woredas. Today we will present the full results of this work. The aim is to see what is where, who is where and whether the overview is reliable and parts are missing.

This hybrid events take place in both Semera, Jigjiga and on-line. I hope that during this DREAM event we can come to a joint opinion and plan on a number of questions. From my side there are five issues in particular that are important:

- 1) How can mapping improved the coordination of development activities under different lowland programs?
- 2) How best to link mapping of development interventions with planning at woreda level?
- 3) How to organize and improve mapping of development interventions?
- 4) Would additional data sets be useful or should we keep it basic?
- 5) How can we further strengthen the coordination and planning at woreda level?

I hope we can get these questions discussed and make contribution to the coordination and better programming to create prosperity and lowland development. Finally, I am speaking to you as a person of the field, as seasoned pastoralist advocate and as the representative of the Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE). PFE is dedicated to bring positive changes in the livelihoods of pastoralist through capacity building, networking and partnership, good governance and climate change adaptation. At the same time I speak as a Secretary of Core Advisory Team (major donors' consortium for lowland development) under the Ministry for Irrigation and Lowland Development. In all these capacities I see that the critical mass of joint effort is so important – that we need each other to reinforce the impact of the development efforts and to move from aid dependency to strong resilient pastoralist livelihoods.

I wish you a productive DREAM session!

Tezera Getahun

Executive Director, Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia, June 21<sup>st</sup> 2022