

## Opening speech - Dr. Elisabeth van den Akker (GIZ SDR-ASAL)

Dr. van den Akker opened the Third DREAM II Pre-Conference, emphasizing that: This time the focus is on capacitation in the Pre-Conference: focusing on what is needed to capacitate an effective coordination and cooperation between all stakeholders and their activities, for the benefit of the lowland areas with their pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. She explained that all stakeholders would need to work together as in an orchestra, the music band and the dancers. For a performance to become a real performance, all the different dancers and musicians have to practice and keep practicing. They musicians and dancers also need the space and to have the physical condition to go through a whole dance and deliver a performance without losing breath. She made the point that whilst we are in a good mood working here, we need to discuss how to get the necessary tools for really good coordination.

“The last two Pre-Conferences we heard a lot about extremely interesting initiatives, through governmental projects, through NGOs, through platforms, representing pastoral issues for the national development partners, even for the German Development Cooperation. In the meantime, an overview was created about what we can find on the ground. And, very astonishing, we found platforms, platforms and again platforms, at least following their names, with the mandate to coordinate. What is important now is to take critical stock of these and see how all is directed. Is it delivering a joint and good future, that helps to raise the treasures that the lowlands have to offer?”

She asked: “How could we come to a coordinated cooperation between all stakeholders and beneficiary where it is necessary? What is needed for that? What tools, perhaps tools are missing, to allow the regional government to be strong directors of the concert, dance performance? We will not be able to finalize the topic today, but we will start diving strongly into it. And there comes the condition, the performance condition, we have to work that we can go on after this Pre-Conference. I think that, like me, you will also be overwhelmed when seeing, in a few minutes, the multitudes of coordination already existing, at least in theory. To ensure a real outcome of the Pre-Conferences, we need to go one step further, not only discussing and taking together what we have, but also coming into an action to overcome the questions and the bottlenecks we are all feeling.”