



**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**COUNTRY STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HONOURABLE Dr. TEREZYA HUVISA (MP), MINISTER OF  
STATE, VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

**PRESENTED AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL  
PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**19<sup>TH</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY, 2013  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

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**Check against Delivery**

**Chairperson,**

First and foremost allow me to take this opportunity to convey warm regards from the Government and People of the United Republic of Tanzania on the occasion of the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and to register my sincere gratitude for the invitation extended to me and my delegation to participate in this crucial meeting. We believe that the session provides yet another opportunity to renew our collective commitments to tackle together disaster related issues.

**Chairperson,**

The United Republic of Tanzania has continued to experience a number of disasters which depict a growing proneness of the country to both natural and man-made disasters. The recent events include drought, floods, epidemics, fire, road and marine accidents as well as collapse of buildings. All these led to loss of lives and disruption of livelihoods and economic activities in our country.

We are very much concerned about the increased magnitude, frequency, impact, severity and country's vulnerability to disasters. We are also concerned about the lack of mechanisms to reduce vulnerability, to prepare for the events that may occur, and to respond to the people's needs in an effective and timely manner once the disaster has occurred.

**Chairperson,**

The United of Republic of Tanzania has benefited a lot from the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005 – 2015. The framework has served our country as main point of reference in devising and reviewing plans, policy program and strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction.

In the process of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action, the Government has undertaken rigorous capacity development for Ministries, Departments, Agencies Disaster Focal Points and Regional and Districts Disaster Management Committees.

The country has also made Disaster Risk Reduction a priority in disaster management policy and strategy by integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation into the Second National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP II or MKUKUTA II), the Five Year Development Plan and Zanzibar Strategy for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction (ZSGRP or “MKUZA II”).

In collaboration with various stakeholders we have developed the National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (NEPRP) and National Disaster Communication Strategy (NDCS) which put in place standards and procedures to be adopted by all stakeholders before and during the time of emergency. The Government has also reviewed the National Avian and Pandemic Influenza Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (NAPIP) and developed the Rift Valley Fever Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (RVF – EPRP).

We are now in the process to revitalize the institutional capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction by formulating a new Act that will provide more mandated and effective disaster management agency. In addition, we have also established Disaster Risk Reduction platform at national level with the aim of having the same forum at local level.

**Chairperson,**

Tanzania is actively strengthening international, regional and bilateral partnerships to develop Disaster Risk Reduction capacity in various terms in realization of Hyogo Framework for Action. Tanzania collaborates with regional bodies like AU, SADC, EAC and Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) on various issues related to disasters. Tanzania has been among the member states involved in the process of establishing the EAC sub-regional platforms and sub-regional Disaster Risk Reduction coordination mechanisms. The country has also participated in the development of the draft EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy.

The Government of United Republic of Tanzania attaches high priority to local capacity building and with the support from our development partners, we have started to conduct Risk, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments and develop Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans at districts level. The aim is to roll out the plans to grass root level so that we can have disaster resilient communities.

**Chairperson,**

In spite of our efforts and commitment to achieve the Hyogo Framework for Action goals, Tanzania faces a number of challenges that we believe need collective responsibilities and strong partnership to address. Some of these challenges are:

- a. Inadequate skilled personnel and modern technology to address Disaster Risk Management issues.
- b. Inadequate research on Disaster Risk Reduction and poor Disaster Risk Reduction information packaging and flow to low levels.
- c. Funds constrain to address all issues along the Disaster Management Cycle and Disaster Risk Reduction Framework especially at local level.
- d. Challenges posed by rapid urbanization due to rural- urban migration coupled with increased population.
- e. Lack of full time National Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) to monitor and coordinate the disaster operations in the country.
- f. Increasing effects of Climate Change and
- g. Lack of expertise and modern equipment of search and rescue during emergencies.

**In conclusion Chairperson,**

Please allow me to commend the good work of UNISDR Secretariat for technical support to the National Platform in our country.

We appeal for a great deal of global efforts to mitigate the negative effects from disaster through international cooperation. We believe supporting our efforts to strengthen capacity of local community in terms of policies, plans, procedures, systems, training of people and inter-operability of mechanisms is of paramount importance. Let us all work together for building our capacities to deal with disasters.

**I thank you all for your kind attention!**