**AFRICA POSITION FOR THE 4TH GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**Geneva May 19-23, 2013**

**Excellency’s**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Greetings from The Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, on whose behalf I read this statement. We take this opportunity to thank the organisers of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and for the funding extended by UNISDR to many delegates from Africa to attend this meeting. 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity and the 10th year since birth of the African Union. The theme to celebrate this occasion is Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. We take this celebratory moment to deepen our resolve to advance the disaster risk reduction agenda in the continent.

The Africa position statement is a result of an intensive and participatory consultation process, including the 4th Africa Regional Platform organized in February this year together with the 5th Africa Drought Adaptation Forum, meetings of the Africa Working Group on DRR and a series of consultations on the future configuration of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

**MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FOURTH GLOBAL PLATFORM**

Recognizing the need for deeper integration and increased investments in DRR/MDGs and poverty reduction programmes for enhanced resilience, we:

* Emphasize the need to address emerging challenges like growing urbanization in a changing climate, and increased socio-economic vulnerability of communities, by ensuring accessible and user-friendly climate information, as well as promoting additional infrastructural investments into robust drainage systems to prevent floods and health hazards in cities.
* Take note of ratification of the Kampala Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa that acknowledges the responsibilities of governments to protect people displaced by natural disasters and climate change and take measures to mitigate such displacement.
* Appreciate the ongoing efforts to establish a continent-wide monitoring, evaluation and reporting system for the Africa Regional Strategy with a view to empowering policy makers with evidence-based information for effective decision making.
* Call for increased funding for local governments, and commending IGAD, one of the Regional Economic Communities, for establishing a Disaster Response Fund and developing Hazard Maps for the sub-region.
* Recognise the need to address risks facing the Small Island Developing States.
* Emphasize the need to mobilize growing capacities of academic and research institutions in Africa for building resilience, and addressing sectorial specificities so that timely and appropriate interventions are made in the context of early warning information.
* Call upon the private sector to build on the sustainable development agenda, strongly reorient itself to evolving green economies, and enhance the use of technological innovations that sustain the biophysical foundations of nature.

Africa has developed an Africa Status Report for DRR, which is a detailed analysis of the state of disaster risk reduction in the region, based on national and sub-regional reports, summarizing achievements as well as emerging trends and challenges. Further, as part of the process for proactive risk reduction, the African Union Commission has established a specialized agency, the African Risk Capacity, to address DRR through risk insurance.

**RECOMMENDATIONS ON A POST-2015 FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (HFA2)**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Re-affirming that the HFA has proved its value as a nodal framework for DRR in Africa, alongside the Africa Regional Strategy and Programme of Action; the Platform and consultation have agreed on the following main recommendations for HFA2:

* The HFA should reinforce improvements related to mechanisms for coordination and dialogue, definition of indicators and ways to monitor and report.
* There is need for increased accountability and transparency in implementing disaster risk reduction, including through strengthening anti-corruption institutions for building effective and resilient economies.
* There is a need to focus on national and international information systems on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, including strong early warning systems and national disaster loss databases.
* Strengthen and deepen coordination between national platforms and the Regional Platform thereby enhance prospects for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.
* Partners to support Regional Economic Communities and the African Union Commission to build relevant capacities to address disaster risk reduction.
* Sensitize line ministries about the contents of the Hyogo Framework for Action, therefore enhancing dissemination and guidance through media or other on the current and future benefits of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
* All actors and stakeholders, including parliamentarians, academic and research institutions, private sector and communities, including women, children and youth, need to be strongly involved in disaster risk reduction planning, to establish trust and confidence with disaster risk reduction practitioners.
* A congenial DRR planning system that takes into account issues concerning migration and land regulations.
* There is need to address the conflict dimension, as there is strong evidence that natural disasters can increase the risk of conflict and that conditions of conflict can increase the vulnerability to natural disasters, hence undermining resilience.
* There is a need to develop strong regional and national cooperation of stakeholders to achieve long-term resilience, hence enabling an environment in which early warning leads to early action.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I would conclude by asserting that a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction needs to ensure that disaster risk reduction is fully recognized as a development issue; including the possibility for development funding to ensure the evolution of resilient economies and eco-systems. Finally, we salute the fruitful relationship and the collaborative vivacity between the African Union Commission and the UNISDR, and the continued support of the European Union in enabling the Commission to address disaster risk reduction challenges in Africa.

**I Thank You for your kind attention.**