

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mitiku Kassa, State Minister of Agriculture of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia at the First Preparatory Committee Meeting at the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction 14-15 July 2014, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Madam Chairperson,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

As you all know, Ethiopia is one of the world's fastest growing economies. However, natural and human induced hazards and associated disasters continue posing a serious threat to our country mainly because of wide spread vulnerability and climate change. This phenomenon leads to higher risk of losing hard won development gains and growing food insecurity as well as hindering progress towards eradicating of poverty and attaining sustainable economic development. Recognizing this situation, the Government of Ethiopia has put disaster risk reduction and resilience building at the top of its development agenda. As a result, Ethiopia has endorsed the new Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy in July 2013 which is followed by Strategic Planning and Investment framework for its implementation (as an implementation strategy).

Ethiopia's disaster risk management approach is in line with the Hugo Framework of Action, the African Union Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) Disaster Risk Management Programme. Under this Disaster Risk Programme, we have achieved a broad range of results over the past years, which we have reflected in the Hyogo Framework for Action progress report prepared based on the HFA monitor template and submitted to UNISDR Regional Office for Africa. Ethiopia believes that our governance has led to a more successful implementation of the HFA and the post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Ethiopia fully supports Africa's

contribution to the post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction with the following issues taken into consideration to have due attention again in the post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

1. Special emphasis should be given to agriculture research on crop pests and diseases introducing measures which are currently aggravated by climate change. Tropical climate change have created conducive environment for breeding of pests and multiplication of pathogens. Therefore, in order to maintain hard won gains, ensure food and nutrition security and achieve sustainable development research in the framework of science and technology should be emphasized at the national, regional and international levels.
2. Social safety nets as part of disaster risk reduction should be linked to and integrated with livelihood enhancement programme so as to ensure resilience to shocks at the household and community levels.
3. There has to be proper land use planning and administration at rural and urban areas in order to prevent and mitigate adverse effects of flash floods land degradation, deforestation and related disaster.
4. Effective disaster risk reduction can only be achieved if disaster risk management is mainstreamed into every sectoral development plan. As disaster risk reduction is a cross cutting issue and the responsibility of multiple sectoral institutions and thus concerned bodies must implement it by integrating it into their regular development activities. Therefore, disaster risk reduction should be mainstreamed into development plans of government institutions and non-governmental and private sector organizations.
5. Effective disaster risk reduction requires strong cooperation and collaboration with relevant sub-regional, regional and global organizations and States. The cooperation should concentrate in particular on establishing string working relationship around capacity building and facilitating conditions for regular exchange of information required for undertaking multi-hazard disaster risk monitoring and providing timely and comprehensive response. Therefore,

international cooperation should be strengthened in accordance with the disaster risk reduction overall direction, relevant international, regional and national laws, directives and agreements.

Finally, let me conclude my statement by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all partners for their continued support towards the advancement of the disaster risk reduction agenda in Ethiopia.

I thank you.