



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

STATEMENT

BY

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**AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
GENEVA, 5 – 7 JUNE, 2007**

Check against Delivery

**Honourable Chairperson,
Workshop Organizers – UN International Strategy
for Disaster Risk Reduction,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In the recent past, Tanzania has experienced a variety of natural and man made disasters. These disasters have seriously disrupted development gains made over the years. Experience has shown that drought, floods, epidemics, fire, strong winds, accidents, earthquakes, pest infestations and influx of refugees are the major types of hazards in Tanzania.

The Government is strongly concerned over the country's vulnerability to these disasters. Equally important, it is also the Government's concern that lack of mechanisms to reduce such vulnerabilities, lack of preparedness and inability to respond to the people's needs in an effective way compound the problem even more, hence compromising the efforts to mitigate the same.

Chairperson,

Tanzania aligns with the statement that countries that develop and support risk reduction policies and administrative capacities are most likely to manage their risks as well as achieve widespread engagement in risk reduction so as to secure necessary compliance with risk management measures.

To this end, we, in Tanzania have taken some significant measures towards disaster risk reduction. These include, *inter alia*:-

- Enacted of the 1990 Disaster Relief Act (currently under review).

- Established of the National body for multi-sectoral coordination known as Tanzania Disaster Relief Committee under the Prime Minister's Office in 1990.
- Developed the National Disaster Management Guidelines in 2003.
- Established the National Disaster Training Centre in 2003.
- Approved the National Disaster Management Policy in 2004.
- Established the National Disaster Risk Reduction Platform in 2005.
- Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into National Development Programmes effectively in 2006.

In the same token, other national policies have placed emphasis on disaster risk reduction. They include: The National Human Settlement Development Policy of 2000, and the Environmental Management Policy of 2004, among others. All these policies are backed up by legislations.

Chairperson,

For effective realization of disaster risk reduction in Tanzania, the responsibilities are decentralized to sub-national authorities and communities. To this end, we have established several Committees at both Regional, District and Community levels. We have also incorporated disaster risk reduction initiatives in various national programmes as emphasized by the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Some of these initiatives include the following: National Malaria Programme, National Reproductive and Child Health Services, National AIDS Control, and National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP).

Chairperson,

At this juncture, let me share with this august gathering some specific challenges being experienced by Tanzania in implementing Disaster Risk Reduction, to mention but a few:

- Mainstreaming DRM into development plans/programmes (Sectoral, Regional and Districts).
- Data collection on various types of disasters, analysis and dissemination of information.
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- Mainstreaming DRM into the PRS.
- Funds at national level but no fund at the lower levels.
- Equipment for response activities not enough-communication (radio), rescue/evacuation equipment etc.
- National strategy to implement the national policy.
- Community sensitization on civil protection.
- The use of indigenous knowledge including traditional Coping mechanisms in disaster related practices or training programmes.
- Incorporating DEM issues in public school's curriculum for primary and secondary Schools.
- Harmonisation of other laws and regulations on disaster related issues.
- Coordination of various mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

In conclusion, Chairperson, it would be opportune for me, on behalf of my delegation, to offer some specific recommendation being addressed by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania on the way forward, namely:

- Sensitize policy makers to assure budget for disaster risk reduction activities.
- Institutionalize regular disaster drills at sectoral, regional and district levels.
- Maintain active support of National Disaster Training Centre.
- Develop centralized communication procedures and protocols to hand all forms of disaster.
- Institute more formal agreement with public and private sectors to ensure appropriate cooperation and response activities.
- Strengthen Disaster Management Committees at all levels through training.

I thank you