

Your Excellency, Mr President:
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like first of all to congratulate you, personally and in the name of the Angolan government, for your election as the chairman of this first session of Global Platform for disaster Risk Reduction, which we do consider vital presently, when the threats of natural catastrophes have increased worldwide.

It too is a subject of appreciation on our side, the presence of the honourable entities as representatives of many nations and organizations, as we believe that have brought along, experiences to enrich the debates before the crucial challenge we face in the implementation of the Hyogo framework of action.

Your Excellency,
Ladies and gentlemen,

My government has carried out a number of actions towards making disaster risk reduction a national priority; by working to identify the risks, assessing them and updating risk maps. As we believe that in tropical regions with heavy rains, the emergence of disasters such as floods and diseases of the nature water related are inevitable.

In the Benguela region, with assistance from UNDP and NORAD, we are installing the first flood Early Warning System since Angola is independent, to help vulnerable people to deal with the risks. We are planning to extend this experience to four others provinces targeting Namibe, Bengo, Kwanza Norte and Moxico by the Zambezi River.

UNDP and NORAD have also helped us with stepping into a national plan for educational and training ,that we do consider important for the actions we intend to develop in different sectors regarding Disaster Risk Reduction. We are making efforts to introduce in our education system, subjects related to disaster Management.

Angola is also looking seriously to setting up a prevention system to unpredictable outbreaks. Equally, we have taken steps toward strengthening our national capacity of response, due to the fact that only this capacity of response in case of disaster can enhance the credibility of our disaster management system. This countrywide program will also include training to local communities to equip them to handle with disaster risk reduction.

In the last two years my country was forced to deal with two national disasters being floods countrywide and the Marburg hemorrhagic fever outbreak in the Northern Province of Uige. We can say that the strengthening of the National Civil Protection Service, was and will be crucial to face those catastrophes.

It is also a matter of great concern that due to climate change in our planet, Angola was no exception in the last rain season where damages and life lost were caused by heavy rains.

Mr. President,

It is with sincere heart and a sense of responsibility that my president and the government of Angola are fully committed to cooperate with the forum and international organizations in exploring and improving experiences to impact the disaster management in our planet.

Thank you very much.

VICE MINISTRE DE L'INTERIEUR D'ANGOLA

Mr. JUNIOR WANDICK KAVANACK