



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE  
MINISTER OF STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction – Geneva,  
5 – 7 June 2007-06-01**

MR CHAIR;  
EXCELECIAS  
LAYS AND GENTLEMEN

First and foremost I would like to thank you in providing this opportunity to share the Mozambican experience with you and all the participants. I firmly hope that during the next three days we will feel stronger in the process of disaster risk reduction.

The geographic location of Mozambique in the southern Africa Region gives rise to high coefficients of rainfall variability with inherent random behaviour of geophysical systems that bring in hazards of floods and droughts. Nine out of the 15 major river basins are subject to flooding every year in some parts of the country. The long coast line of the country is in the preferred path of tropical cyclones formed in the Indian Ocean. On average, Mozambique is affected by 3 to 4 Cyclones a year. Because about 60% of the population live under a generalized poverty, these hazards usually bring national catastrophes with losses of life, destruction of infrastructure, property and high costs for the economy.

Since 2005 that The Government of Mozambique, recognizing that these hazards are part of a development process has taken a bold step to look at disaster risk reduction as part of the overall development planning process. In doing so, and taking in advantage the guidelines provided by the Hygo Framework Plan of Action as well as NEPAD and UNSDR recommendations,

the Government has laid down a 10 year Master Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction that focus on reduction of vulnerability and prevention. The implementation of this Plan depends heavily on our capacity to build a sense of self-esteem, so that every citizen of Mozambique as individual or as part of a given organization have to believe in himself and have to admit that disasters are not the call of a destiny, but something that we can prevent and in most cases we can seize the development opportunities that may arise with these hazards.

Building self-esteem is not an easy task for a country that is poor and went through many decades of war and of heavy dependency on international community. Capacity building, decentralization and building on traditional knowledge are aspects that The Government of Mozambique has incorporated in its 5 years Plan where reduction of poverty and disasters management are seen as part of the same process. The Government has now established several District Committees for Risk Management, early warning systems and seek and rescue capacity. These actions, while coordinated by the Government are supported by international community led by the UN. We have also established a platform for coordinating mechanisms that include different Government sectors, NGOs, UN Agencies and the Donor Community. We are now in a process of strengthening these mechanism at regional, provincial and district level. The private sector is also taking part in the preparedness process by building and managing buffer stocks of food and seed in partnership with the Government.

These and other actions are starting to show positive results. They were put under test during the 2007 floods and cyclone season and the result was a limited impact of these hazards when compared to previous years.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Government of Mozambique would like through this forum to express its commitment to a long process of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the

overall plan for poverty reduction, acting locally with a global perspective. It is in concerted effort that our people and the people of the world will create conditions in which this and all the future generations will find safe ways and means of living with hazards.

Geneva 05 de June 2007