



**OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF
THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
PRESENTED AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL
PLATFORM FOR
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
(19 – 23 May 2013; GENEVA, SWITZERLAND)
BY
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FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA**

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Madame Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity!

As you may all know, Ethiopia is one of the world's fastest growing economies and is well engaged towards reaching its development targets set out by the Government's Growth and Transformation Plan by 2015, the cornerstone of the country's renaissance. Nevertheless, Natural and human induced hazards and associated disasters and emergencies continue posing a serious threat to our country mainly because of widespread vulnerability and climate change. And this phenomenon leads to a higher risk of losing hard-won development gains and growing food insecurity and hindering progress towards eradicating poverty and attaining sustained economic development. Recognizing this situation, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has put Disaster Risk Management and resilience building at the top of its development agenda and has put in place legal and institutional frameworks to fully operationalize them. As part of its continued efforts toward climate change adaptation and mitigating its effects, the government has also developed a Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy and efforts are being made towards its implementation.

Madame Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ethiopia's Disaster Risk Management approach is in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action, the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action, and the IGAD Disaster Risk Management Programme. The programme focuses on managing disaster risks as opposed to our previous reactive approach, which mainly

concentrated on managing disasters and resulting emergencies. The first step that the government has taken to facilitate full operationalization of the new DRM approach was putting in place a strong institutional basis by establishing the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector under the Ministry of Agriculture, which I am currently heading. This action was followed by a decision that the government made to develop the Disaster Risk Management Policy by revising its 1993 National Policy on Disaster Prevention and Management, which will provide the legal basis for the smooth and full operationalization of the new DRM approach. Another building block of our new DRM approach is the Strategic Programme and Investment Framework (SPIF), which we developed with support from and involvement of our partners with the view to providing guidance and ensuring harmonization of processes and approaches and creating synergies among all concerned bodies for effective Disaster Risk Management.

Madame Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Under our DRM programme, we have achieved a broad range of results over the last few years, which we have reflected in the HFA progress report prepared based on the HFA Monitor Template and submitted to UNISDR Regional Office for Africa. To highlight some of the recent key achievements, to strengthen early warning and emergency coordination, we have setup **Early Warning and Emergency Coordination Center**, which will soon be fully operational round-the-clock. We have also recently inaugurated the African Center for Disaster Risk Management, which has successfully run its first International Master Course on DRM in April this year. This center has the vision of growing into a Center of Excellence to serve the whole continent in advancing the DRM agenda. Our disaster risk profiling work, a foundation for designing targeted disaster risk reduction plans and contextualizing early warning and response system for local levels, is also going on well currently covering nearly 300 woredas/districts. As part of our efforts to move away from a bi-seasonal assessment based needs estimate to a continuous monitoring system based approach, we have recently launched the Livelihood Early

Assessment and Protection (LEAP) tool which will allow us to project drought induced needs well ahead of time with sufficient lead time to jump-start early action and response at the right time. Preparedness is the key for effective DRM. In this context, my government has recently enacted a new regulation establishing a national strategic grain reserve of 3 million tons for use in addressing risks associated with food shortages in the country and stimulating sustained increase of food production, especially that of smallholder farmers.

Madame Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking ahead, under the leadership of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Ethiopia has taken part in establishing the IGAD Regional Disaster Response Fund and developing Hazard Maps and Atlas for key regional Hazards. Moreover, based on the review of progress so far in implementing country and IGAD DRM programmes, the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR and its Programme of Action and The Hyogo Framework for Action, we worked with IGAD to identify outstanding actions to be scaled up in the remaining period of the HFA and prioritize key areas for HFA 2, post 2015 HFA. We are hopeful that the identified priority areas would contribute to and form the basis of the formulation of the Post 2015 HFA. My government would remain committed to the implementation of all outstanding actions by 2015 and to collaborate and work with all concerned to formulate and implement the HFA 2.

Madame Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude my statement by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all partners for their continued support towards the advancement of the DRM agenda in Ethiopia as well as across the IGAD region.

I thank you for your kind attention!