



KENYA

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA**

AT

**THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION**

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GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

My delegation and I are delighted to join you at this Session of the Global Platform.

We are two years away from assessing our achievements on the development agenda. However, we are bombarded daily with news of disaster after disaster. We need to seize the opportunity provided by this Session to urge all stakeholders towards more action on disaster risk reduction.

As risks are multiplying all over the world, so are the multiplier effects of disasters. This means that preparedness must be enhanced at all levels, from the local communities to the global level. Furthermore, preparedness must be cross-cutting, incorporated into every sector of our national planning and development strategies.

Mr. Chairman,

Since our last Session in 2011, Kenya has made considerable progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). A detailed

outline of these efforts is contained in the HFA Monitor Report 2011 – 2013. Nevertheless, I am pleased to take this opportunity to highlight key aspects.

1. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 provides the legal framework that underscores the importance of Disaster Risk Management in the country.
2. The Ministry of State for Special Programmes, under the Office of the President is in-charge of DRM in Kenya, since its creation in 2003.
3. The process of approval of a comprehensive Disaster Management policy is at an advanced level.
4. A Disaster Management strategy is operational and provides guidance on Disaster Risk Management in Kenya.
5. Disaster Risk Management has been stream-lined in all the key pillars of Kenya's National Development Plan, Vision 2030. This seeks to ensure the protection of the development gains achieved thus far and going forward.
6. A National Platform for Disaster Reduction with multi-sectoral membership has been established and is operational.
7. Through the National Platform Focal Points/Desk Officers for DRR have been trained and designated to various line ministries.
8. A National Disaster Loss Database has been established and is hosted by the National Disaster Operation Centre.

Mr. Chairman,

Although we are making gradual progress, many challenges still remain.

They include:

1. A shift in mindset, from response to risk management is yet to be fully realized.
2. Inadequate DRM human resource skills is another hurdle that we are addressing, albeit slowly.
3. DRM governance is yet to be fully devolved to the local communities in Kenya.
4. We lack a standard tool for monitoring and reviewing DRR implementation in Kenya.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya appreciates the efforts of the organizers for creating time to discuss the post HFA-2 Framework. We believe that it is crucial. As stakeholders of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) agenda, we must not shy away from articulating our thoughts for a post-2015 framework.

I want to emphasize that whatever framework we adopt; partnerships, cooperation and innovative resource mobilization strategies must be at the core of our efforts. We must also ensure that climate change and sustainable development are linked to the process.

Finally, my delegation believes that the United Nations should continue to play a central role in providing leadership in disaster risk reduction. Kenya values its partnership with UNISDR and will continue working closely with the Office in the preparations for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in 2015.

I thank you.