



LESOTHO

Chaiperson Ladies and Gentlemen

The Hyogo Framework for Action, which is currently under review, has provided us with invaluable guide for implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction programs for the past ten years and we are grateful for the guidance and effective coordination by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for constant follow up and monitoring of the implementation process.

Indeed the Hyogo Framework for Action has not been a waste of time. We in Lesotho have benefited from its guidance. During its implementation, together with our partners, we have been able to achieved the following:

- Strengthened legal framework for DRR.
- Mainstreamed DRR into the medium term National Strategic Development Plan which is already under implementation in the country.
- Integrated DRR into the school curriculum for basic education and continue to facilitate integration into curriculum of higher education.

- We have also begun the process of conducting Community Owned Vulnerability Assessment and Capacity Analysis which also includes establishment of Community Centered Early Warning Systems.

However, the process has not been an easy one. we have observed an increasing trend of disasters losses despite the existence of the framework and the intention to implement it by all those concerned.

Persitent existence of risk drivers such as poverty, HIV and AIDS and unemployment to name but a few, have prevented us from achieving optimum results. This is especially evident during the current advent of climate change.

Rural communities in Lesotho, are constantly at risk of highly frequent small scale extreme weather occurrences which result in destruction of houses, property and the environment. The cumulative effect of these events comprises of loss of livelihoods and erosion of economic advancement or gains of the affected households, resulting in an increase in poverty levels which in turn renders the affected population highly vulnerable to shocks.

We have also realized that Information management and dissemination are key to effective DRR. Working together with the private sector and cooperating partners to establish an information management system is proving to be beneficial in addressing the need for timely early warning information that enables communities to better prepare and put in place, mitigation and response strategies.

Your Excellencies

It is therefore our strong belief that the Post 2015 Framework for DRR will assist us in targeting and addressing these drivers of risk so that we can effectively strengthen the capacity of Basotho to prevent disasters and/or withstand thier effects when they occur.

However, we also believe that the answer should lie in the manner in which we implemented the framework, individually or collectively and the capacity of nations to effectively manage the implementation process. A strong and well coordinated approach by both the Government and partners with a

strong monitoring system are just some of the important strategies which have been recommended, in order to enforce accountability of both the implementers of the framework as well as the producers of risk.

A change of mindset and direct involvement and participation of communities are very important if we aim to reduce disaster losses by any substantial margin. This will empower communities to become drivers of their own DRR agenda which will suit their own specific needs and situations.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is also important that we do not discard the provisions of the Hyogo Framework for Action completely, but we would rather use it as a baseline on which we can build the new Post 2015 framework.

Important themes such as "Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow" must still be maintained as cornerstones for DRR going forward.

In the Post 2015 Framework, it would be better for nations to improve and invest on the following:

- Strengthening partnerships with the private sector;
- Strengthening provision of early warning and developing people centered early warning systems;
- Strengthening mainstreaming of DRR into national and sectoral planning;
- Strengthening and protecting communities livelihoods against the effects of disasters.
- Strong monitoring and use of technology in DRR.

In preparation for this meeting, African leaders meeting in Addis Ababa in January 2015 adopted the report on the 5th Africa Platform and the Third High-level, meeting held in May 2014 in Abuja as well as its declaration. The recommendations contained in these two documents must form part of the outcomes of this important meeting.

These strategies and many others which I have not mentioned will form a basis for adaptation to variations and changes in weather patterns which are brought about by climate change and provide a conducive environment for sustainable development. But above all else, these strategies will contribute towards strengthening of the resilience of nations and their people against disasters.

In conclusion we wish to thank the international community for their relentless contributions and assistance to countries like Lesotho to cope with adverse effects of disasters in time of need.



KHOTSO!!

PULA!!

NALA

