



Remarks by

His Excellency, President GoodluckEbele Jonathan,

GCFR

At the

3rd United Nations Conference for Disaster Reduction,

Sendai, Japan

Saturday, 14th March, 2015

PROTOCOLS

1. I bring you warm greetings from the government and good people of Nigeria on this occasion of the **3rd United Nations Conference for disaster reduction.**
2. Nigeria like many other countries in the world is vulnerable to disasters, including natural and humanly - induced. This informs our readiness to come together with the rest of the world in

developing a post 2015 framework, for disaster risk reduction.

3. Lessons and experience garnered from our devastating flood disaster of 2012 have prompted us as a government, to put in place disaster risk reduction measures that have significantly improved our coping capacity. Improved levels of preparedness and proactive measures have helped in mitigating the effects of major hydro-metrological events, to date.
4. Recently, our great country - Nigeria, has been experiencing a devastating insurgency by Boko Haram extremists which has led to many deaths and massive destruction of public and private property. Many of our people have also been displaced from their communities, causing serious humanitarian crises.

5. Some of our innocent daughters, seeking education to better their lives, were abducted from their school in Chibok by the insurgents, causing international outrage. School systems as well as health and other critical facilities have been severely damaged. The Government of Nigeria is making every effort and taking every care, to rescue our daughters alive.

6. We have also in partnership with some international agencies and the private sector, put in place a **Safe School Initiative Programme** to restore educational facilities in the affected communities. In this programme, we will rebuild our schools to offer greater protection to our children.

7. In order to ensure that our children who are affected by the activities of the insurgents continue with their education, 2,400 of them have been transferred, in the interim, from the high risk areas to safer schools in other parts of our country. This was achieved under the Safe Schools Initiative Programme.

8. Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, based on our recent experiences and global trends, we firmly believe that conflict prevention, management and resolution, should feature prominently in the **Post 2015 Framework**. In this regard, we align ourselves with the position of the African Union (AU), and thank, most graciously, the **United Nations Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)** and the AU, for the Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Reduction (AFRP), which held successfully in Abuja from 13-18 May, 2014.

9. Finally, I would like to assure you of the commitment of Nigeria to implement, within its best possible capabilities, the outcome of this conference.

10. I thank you all.