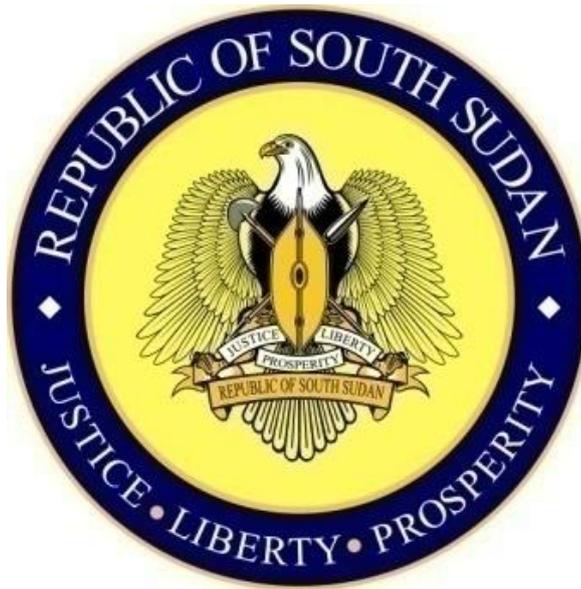


Revised version



**Official Statement of the Republic of South Sudan
At United Nations Third World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction**

Sendai, Japan, 14th -18th March 2015

Delivered by

**H.E. James Wani Igga, Vice-President,
Government of the Republic of South Sudan**

Your Excellency the Chair,

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the people and Government of South Sudan please accept my very warm greetings to you all. I am very much privileged to be part of this dignified assembly of Global Leaders and National Government Representatives on the very important subject of Disaster Risk Reduction. We, in South Sudan are grateful to recognize and acknowledge the invitation to our President, H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit by H.E Ban Ki Moon, the UN Secretary General, for this occasion.

The Republic of South Sudan is a new nation in the heart of Africa, which celebrated its 3rd Independence Day on 9th July 2014.

Earthquake, floods and drought cause the most common disasters experienced in South Sudan.

We have also experienced devastating human-made disasters caused by civil conflicts, subjecting the socially disadvantaged communities into inhuman sufferings and humiliation.

An attempted coup, which later developed into a fully-fledged rebellion that dragged the country into a civil strife, occurred on the 15th Dec 2014, and generated an additional misery.

This senseless civil war is more devastative. It rolled us back. This has been our greatest obstacle to preparedness to reducing disasters. In this regard, the President and his government had committed themselves to restoring peace by embracing an IGAD led peace negotiations in Addis Ababa, from the outset of the conflict. We have made gigantic concessions, signed many agreements with the rebels, simply because we want to prevent more loss of lives and property of our people as peace is restored. Our government is extremely concerned and mindful of the welfare and safety of our people.

Our appeal to our friends, partners and well-wishers, is that they should exert their additional effort on making us attain a just and long-lasting resolution of the conflict to end this man-made disaster.

Your Excellencies,

The government of the Republic of South Sudan has set up two primary institutions that deal with issues of the environment and disaster management, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management. These institutions are tasked with setting up of policies, legal and regulatory frameworks that manage disasters in the country.

In this regard, I would like to highlight here that South Sudan, through the Ministry of Environment, has acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is in the process of developing its first initial communication report. It is building technical and institutional capacities to implement the Convention and the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) to address the most urgent and immediate climate related risks. Furthermore, South Sudan is also a party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the national Ministry of Agriculture is the focal point.

South Sudan has been a part of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) since 2013 and thus, follows the Disaster Risk Management approach outlined in this body, the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action, and the IGAD Disaster Risk Management Programme.

In view of the above, the government's vision is to 'build a Nation able to predict, manage and reduce impacts of disasters'. It has drafted the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy, which is aligned with all humanitarian laws, protocols, and treaties rooted in the United Nations and Regional Charters. The draft DRM Policy focuses on saving lives and livelihoods, restoring dignity and sustaining hope for the vulnerable. Indeed, the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) served as an instrument in strengthening disaster risk reduction activities/programs, however as a new country, the strategic goals and the full operationalization of the five priorities for action are yet to be achieved.

Your Excellencies,

In spite of the precarious humanitarian challenges experienced, we have achieved a substantial progress:

1. A National Platform for DRR has been established to coordinate all DRR activities in the country.
2. A National Early Warning Working Group has been established to strengthen early warning and emergency preparedness.

3. Set up a functional National Crisis Management Committee to strengthen emergency response and coordination programs/activities.
4. A functional National Food Security Council (NFSC) has been established in the Office of the President
5. Strengthening local capacity on Community- Based DRR activities to ensure communities are aware of their risks.

Furthermore, in line with the DRM draft policy, a National Disaster Management Council (NDMC) and State Disaster Management Councils (SDMCs) will soon be established for greater coordination tasks at National and State Levels. Similar structures will be established in all local government levels.

Distinguished Participants,

Our challenges embody: Poor humanitarian access (road and infrastructure), which impede relief aid to the flood affected areas with the increased cost of airlifting the relief. Communication networks including ICT linkages to State institutions and humanitarian organizations are very limited. Disaster risk management expertise, practitioners & human resource capacity at all levels are limited. Resources are also very limited to kick off implementation of the Strategic Plan (2015 -2018) on disaster risk management. Hence development and humanitarian partners' support is welcome.

Our **vision** is to have in place modern tools and techniques on DRR and updated meteorological and climate services. We therefore, welcome bi-lateral and multilateral collaboration on the advanced technologies on DRR services. South Sudan would like to move forward with the rest of World in sustaining economic growth and reducing poverty; mitigating the negative impact of disasters and building a stable peaceful nation.

In most parts of the country life is coming back to normal. With profuse gratitude of our people, Juba Bridge project by JICA is taking off. Many of our investors are coming back and development projects are taking off again. The atmosphere in South Sudan is very attractive for investment, now. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to invite all investors to South Sudan.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all partners and organizers of this great Conference, especially the people and Government of Japan for their hospitality.

Thank you.