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**Direction de la Protection Civile Department of Civil Protection**

**SPEECH OF THE CAMEROONIAN DELEGATION DURING THE 3RD SESSION OF THE GLOBAL PLATFORM ON DISASTER AND RISK REDUCTION**

***By Dr Jean Pierre NANA, Director of Civil Protection, National Coordinator of National Platform for Disaster and Risk Management***

Mrs President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Cameroonian delegation is delighted to be among you, here at the Geneva International Conference Centre during this third session of the World Platform on Risk and Disaster Reduction.

Permit me, first of all to express our gratitude to Madam Margareta Wallstrôm, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and also to the Secretariat of this Institution for the support they give our Government through the effort deployed with the aim to define priority actions as regards the fight against natural disasters.

Mrs President, and moderator of this session, the massive presence of the delegations from member- states and partners in development in this forum, is vibrant proof of this logic of concerted actions and that of a shared vision.

Conscious of the fact that development and civil defence form an inseparable binomial, Cameroon has made of Risks and Disaster Reduction a main thrust of her policies.

This commitment is not only demonstrated by the presence of our country during all the important UN meetings on the topic (Yokohama 1994, Kobe-Hyogo 2005, Geneva 2007 and 2009, Davos 2008 and 2010), but also the systematic implementation of the recommendations derived from these consultations. That is how Cameroon, following the spirit of the Hyogo framework, in order to curb disasters and their adverse effects, has developed a four stage mechanism: at the prevention stage, the preparatory stage, the response stage and rehabilitation.

1. ***At the prevention stage***

* The setting up at the national level of a National Risks Observatory (NRO) charged with gathering, analyzing and spreading information on risks, on the model of early warning systems
* Setting up since 2010 of the National Platform on Risks and Disaster Reduction as I mentioned earlier.
* The systematic production on an annual basis of a Civil Protection Report

1. ***At the preparatory stage***

* The drawing up at the national scale of the National Contingency Planwith the technical assistance of OCHA, which was recently validated during a workshop organized with the assistance of United Nations System Agencies;
* The organization in the month of February this year, of the Forum of Municipalities on the Management of Disasters (FOMUGEC), which was crowned by a strongly worded declaration by the elected municipal authorities who committed themselves by adopting promptly, the measures aimed at reducing or even eradicating fire disasters in markets and the collapsing of buildings in our cities;
* The regular organization of simulation exercises.

1. ***At the Response to crises Stage***

* The Creation of a Regional Centre of Civil Defense under the auspices of the International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO);
* The organization in the month of September 2010, of a sub-regional workshop on the identification of zones of trans-border high risks of hydro meteorological origin in Central Africa;
* The organization at the same period, under the auspices of the Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS) of a regional workshop on preparation to cope with disasters and the familiarization with the UNDAC system ( Evaluation and Coordination during Emergency Situations) which was followed by the adoption of a priority action plan of Central African States called “Yaoundé Plan of Action”, a veritable granitic base for the activities to be carried henceforth on Risks and Disaster Reduction;
* The organization last month under the auspices of the Regional Office of OCHA in West Africa, of a regional consultation on the fight against floods and the response on natural disasters, all this as a follow up of the effective implementation of the above mentioned action plan.

1. ***At the Rehabilitation phase***

* The starting up of the Programme for the Securisation and Rehabilitation of Lake Nyos with Support from the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Programme for Development (UNDP).

The plan to set up an Observatory in charge of managing climatic problems in our country falls within the same dynamics. This plan is actually the expressed wish of the Head of State, His Excellency Paul Biya, to equip our country with this tool, after his participation in September 2007, at the United Nations Summit on climatic change.

Other moves such as taking charge of pandemics and diseases which are potential epidemics through the creation of the Committee for Fight against AIDS, cholera, malaria and tuberculoses come to graft itself on these different plans.

Today, finding ourselves at the cross- roads, we must continue to exchange ideas and share our experiences on the various strategies adopted to lessen, or even eradicate the adverse effects of natural calamities on our populations and on our environment. We have to draw up an inventory of best practices, but also and above all, facilitate the access, by the developing countries, to the different effective methods of prevention and management of disasters and set for ourselves targets to meet in our vast horizon of expectations.

Mr. President, distinguished invitees, following from the strategic position of Cameroon in the Gulf of Guinea and in the heart of Central Africa, Cameroon would like to reassure you the she is and remains a model ally for the UN strategies on the Prevention and the Reduction of Risks and Disasters whose commitment shall never be found wanting.

Thank you for your patient attention.

Long live International Cooperation.