



OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE **ECOWAS COMMISSION**

Presented by Dr. Daniel EKLU
Director, Humanitarian and Social Affairs
Abuja, Nigeria

First Preparatory Committee Meeting for the
World Conference on DRR
July 14-15 2014
Geneva

Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The ECOWAS Commission is very much happy to actively participate at this very important gathering of stakeholders committed to promoting disaster risk reduction and building resilience of communities and nations.

There is general acknowledgement of the increasing severity of disasters which continue to occur in various part of ECOWAS region, compounded by human-induced difficulties such as conflicts that have led to humanitarian crises which has kept the ECOWAS Commission on constant alert.

Since the adoption of the ECOWAS Policies respectively on Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Affairs by West African Heads of States and Government, a number of major efforts have been undertaken to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people affected by man-made and natural disasters including preventable diseases at the regional and national levels.

As the 2015 deadline for the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) draws nearer, attention is now being paid to what should happen after this date. ECOWAS is strongly committed to supporting various debates and initiatives that are emerging towards identifying the key challenges and opportunities beyond 2015.

The ECOWAS Commission will continue in its effort to fulfill its role as a key part of the International Disaster Risk

Reduction and Management system by maximizing the full usage of existing frameworks, policies and mechanisms at the global, continental and regional levels.

While we acknowledge with thanks the support of our collaborating partners, (the UN, national governments and other international organizations) in assisting ECOWAS in carrying out range of initiatives in disaster risk reduction and development issues, we reiterate the need for more effort in the area of technical and financial assistance to mitigate disasters, impact of climate change and reducing vulnerability of West African people.

ECOWAS also expresses its gratitude to the Africa Regional Platform for their contribution in formulating Africa position adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, on 16th Mai 2014. ECOWAS reiterates its commitments made at that occasion.

In conclusion, as we look ahead to post HFA 2015, we urge all stakeholders to generally support Africa Continent in the course of implementing the Africa position and agenda to the post HFA and specifically support West Africa in Capacity Building, Mobilisation of Resources, Use of Knowledge, Technology Transfer, and Mainstreaming of DRR into various policies and sectors including Gender and involvement of the Private sector.

We thank you, Chairman, for the opportunity given to us to make this statement and for your kind attention.