

**Intergovernmental Authority on Development  
Autorité Intergouvernementale pour le Développement**



## **STATEMENT**

on behalf of

**IGAD SECRETARIAT  
AT  
THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR DISASTER RISK  
REDUCTION  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

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**14<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014**

- **Chairperson**
- **Your Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished Delegates,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of IGAD and its Delegation present here today.

- At the onset let me congratulate the new members of the Bureau for being elected and the UN-ISDR team under the able leadership Mme. Margareta on the work well done in preparing this Meeting.
- IGAD allies itself with the Statement made yesterday by the Distinguished Delegate from the Republic of Egypt on behalf of Africa.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is regional organization with Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda as members. The IGAD region has a population of over 200 Million and an area about 5.2 million Km Square. It was established to combat drought and desertification 1986. The IGAD region has been facing recurrent disasters impacting negatively on thousands of its populations resulting from various natural and human-made hazards such as, among the most common, drought, flood, Landslides, epidemics & pandemic of diseases and notably conflict. Disaster Risk Management has become thus one of IGAD's priority strategic core programme areas and has been implemented since 2004. The DRM programme is realigned with the African Regional Strategy and its Programme for Action and the current Hyogo Framework for Action.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The IGAD region has made a conscious paradigm shift from the traditional reactive humanitarian based disaster management approach to disaster risk management emphasizing the preventive measures and incorporation of disasters in development approach. Its member states have taken decisive move in this direction. All member states have reviewed their respective policies and institutionalized DRM in the respective government structures.

All member states have established DRR National Platform bringing together both government and nongovernmental actors. At regional level Ministerial and Technical Advisory Committee (DRM-TAC) is established and operating actively. However, the legislation part for national policy and strategy for DRM has yet to be realized.

The challenges faced, among others, include the sustenance of political commitment across the member states and transforming the commitment to operational level by integrating in national development plans and allocation of resources/budgets instead of paying dearly in disaster response. Yet policy makers need to internalize that of the economic benefits of mainstreaming DRM far outweigh the costs of disaster response.

#### **Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates**

The future action should be contextual, therefore, consider addressing the strengthening of regional and national DRM institutions in order to sustain what has been accomplished so far under the HFA-1 in order to build a safer environment and realize that DRM is everybody's business.

IGAD would like to further the following priority areas in pursuing DRR agenda which are in line with the outcome of the Africa position for the Post 2015 development agenda in HFA-2.

1. Increasing/sustaining public awareness and political commitment,
2. Establishing sub-regional multi-hazard early warning and response system that is linked to early action;
3. Integrating DRR/DRM and Climate Change Adaptation and mainstreaming into primary, secondary, and tertiary school curricula;
  4. Mainstreaming of DRR/DRM in the relevant sectoral development policies, plans and programmes;
  5. Engagement of private sector, civil society, youth and other relevant actors in DRR/DRM.
  6. Increase and sustain investment in DRR/DRM, especially at the community level with emphasis on building resilience;
  7. Increase investment in research, education, and knowledge management in DRR/DRM;
  8. Increase focus and investment in urban disaster risk management.

### **In Conclusion**

IGAD is committed to continuing working and partnering with UN-ISDR and other development partners in achieving the objectives DRR and the forthcoming Framework of DRR and fully supports the reviewing of the HFA and to come up with new one. IGAD is fully in agreement with the outcome of the Africa Regional Platform meeting in Abuja, Nigeria and the position of Africa at the forthcoming WCDRR Sandal, Japan 2015 which reflects the African context; and will continue to cooperate with the UN-ISDR at the regional and global levels in promoting DRR agenda.

I thank you for your attention