



Statement by H. E. Ambassador Pedro Comissário, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to United Nations and Others International Organization in Geneva to the First Session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

(Geneva, 14-15 July 2014)

Mr Chairperson,

Mozambique aligns herself with the statement delivered by Egypt, on behalf of the African Group.

I would like to express my delegation's deep appreciation to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for the excellent initiative of organizing the First Session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

I commend wholeheartedly the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction for her impressive engagement in steering the negotiation process in the search for a common ground, conducive to a successful conclusion of the post - 2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, on the occasion of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Disaster Risk Reduction is a top priority strategy for Mozambique. Our country has been severely and systematically affected by natural disasters, especially those related to climate changes. Indeed Africa, at large, has been hit by such extreme weather events, with challenging impacts on the livelihood of the people, who largely depend on agriculture for their survival. Such natural disasters lead to environmental and soil degradation, bringing about food insecurity, in some instance on standing basis.

Mozambique had strengthened the climate change and Disaster Risk Management coordination with the establishment, in June 2013, of the

Climate Change Unit, at the National Sustainable Development Council Secretariat, under the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs. This is a national coordination unit put in place to ensure a cross-sector and institutional reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the sector and national climate change indicators drawn from the National Climate Change Strategy, approved by the Council of Ministers in November 2012.

In this context, my delegation wishes to reiterate its unwavering support to the outcome of the Fifth African Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Abuja from 13-14 May 2014, as contained in the Ministerial Declaration and the Summary Statement on Africa's Contribution to the post - 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

It is Mozambique's conviction that such outcomes should be taken on board by our partners, in the spirit of openness and transparency in the negotiation process, as we seek ownership of all member states, in this process. Studies on climate and weather forecast indicate potential occurrence in Africa of floods, droughts, sea level rise, storms, desertification and other natural disasters.

It is against this backdrop that my country is of the view that international cooperation and assistance, in particular, financial assistance and technology and know-how transfer should be one of the main pillars of the post - 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Such international cooperation and assistance should enable African countries to be up to the challenges of reporting on their performances on disaster risk reduction, in the light of the targets and indicators to be agreed upon.

In concluding, my delegation would like to stress the need for and importance of gender and disability perspectives mainstreaming, in disaster risk management. This was stressed by the UN General Assembly, given the evidence-based indication that more than 50% of the African population are women and girls living in rural areas and playing a pivotal role in the strengthening of communities' resilience and livelihood.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson!

Geneva, 14th July 2014