

NIGERIA STATEMENT AT THE PRECON MEETING ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



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(NEMA)**

Nigerian delegation wishes to thank the chairman for the opportunity to give our statement

Chairman, distinguished participants ladies and gentle men, please permit me to start by reaffirming the commitment of Nigeria to the on-going global effort at framing a successor protocol to the Hyogo Framework for Action adopted last ten years.

Let me also avail myself of this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General, Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom in particular, the ISDR Africa regional office and indeed the entire UNISDR family, the African Union, ECOWAS and the delegates to the 5th Africa Regional Platform held in Abuja, May from 13-16, 2014 for their immense support and contribution to the successful conduct and outcome of the conference.

Nigeria has made steady progress in disaster risk reduction over the years, strengthening the disaster management system first by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into our disaster management agency through the establishment of a DRR Department and by incorporating a DRR perspective into the National Development Agenda, policies, strategies and plans of government in all sectors and at all levels focusing especially on strengthening capacities of local communities and the integration of traditional knowledge in risk identification, mitigation and response. These efforts have contributed significantly to the attainment of the primary objective of alleviating poverty, building community resilience and improved standard of living for the people.

Nigeria, like most countries in the world today is increasingly being affected by natural, environmental and human-induced disasters and conflicts which have the potentials of undermining the attainment of the country's development aspirations. The 2012 flood disaster marked a turning point in our emergency preparedness and response plans, early warning and early action mechanism on floods and other disasters and strengthening synergy between the different actors.

The challenges of disaster management in a developing economy such as ours and in most other African nations cannot be overemphasized. Most countries in Africa and indeed other developing countries are more vulnerable to climate change and other disasters than developed countries and this is further exacerbated by weak coping capacity resulting from weak economy and in some cases, lack of political will.

These are some of the imbalances that the post-2015 protocol should address. Lack of performance and accountability is still seen as a major setback for the development and implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action in most of the countries and their sub-regions.

The Africa Post 2015 framework Monitoring and Review consultations proposed that Africa contribution to the Post 2015 framework on disaster risk reduction should build on the experiences gained from the last nine (9) years of the HFA implementation, be practical and action oriented, strengthen accountability, relatively short and capable of addressing future natural hazards and technological risks. It is as a result of this consultative process, that the HFA – 2 will be reaffirmed and enhanced to buttress the outcomes of HFA.

As we approach the end of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005- 2015. We wish to state that, we have noticed some gaps between principles and practice of DRR at the country level. Consultation on Post 2015 in six geopolitical

zones and the Federal Capital in Nigeria gave us the indication that participation of women and children will be critical to the successful implementation of any framework on DRR beyond 2015.

We also will want to see more participation of the people at the local level and the inclusion of conflict resolution as major area of risk reduction. The global community has indeed benefited a lot from the Hyogo framework for action 2005- 2015 as blue print for disaster risk reduction. We propose that the gaps identified in the implementation of the framework in different nations should be addressed to take the benefits of the HFA beyond 2015. The country will want more participation of the private sector in DRR activities while taking into consideration the Peculiarities of Africa and other developing countries in setting the HFA priorities beyond 2015. We also recommend the need to strengthen leadership and enhance DRR mainstreaming and investment in Africa

In conclusion, Nigeria is delighted to have hosted the 5th African Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (AfRP) and the 3rd Ministerial meeting of African Ministers for DRR convened at Transcorp Hilton Hotel in Abuja, Nigeria from 13th – 16th May, 2014 . The conference which was attended by over 900 participants from 44 countries and 70 nationalities presented an opportunity for the country to contribute her quota towards forging an African position on post 2015 DRR framework and to learn from other international partners' best practices in DRR, all these are adequately appreciated by the country.

Thank you.