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STATEMENT AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – GENEVA 13TH-14TH JULY 2014

First of all on behalf of the Ugandan delegation and on my own behalf I wish to commend you madam Co- chair for ably chairing this meeting, I should also thank UNISDR for organizing this very important meeting and indeed for extending invitation to Uganda

I must also appreciate the efforts of all distinguished participants present here for their efforts in making the next HFA a more pragmatic document with immense ideas aimed at addressing key challenges we all face with disasters, particularly those triggered naturally.

Colleagues I wish to re-affirm the commitment of Uganda in collaborating with other nations in order to come up with indelible actions in the reviewed framework on DRR and we pledge our total support to all preparatory plans for the world conference in Sendai.

Madam chair as a country we have not been spared by climate change and its associated effects, we are faced with such hazards as floods, drought, landslides, mudslides and hailstorms among others which have caused untold suffering and displacement to our people.

Madam Chair, at the review meeting held in Kampala in 2013, we came up with a number of recommendations that we feel should be looked at in the new framework on DRR, these included the following;

- There is need to raise nationwide understanding of DRR issues, the best way to achieve this is to integrating DRR in the school curriculum at all levels of education' primary, post primary and university.

- There is need to enhance research capacity and products on disaster risk trends, patterns, and responses.
- To strengthen local understanding of disaster risks, there is need to build capacity of local governments through both training and technological enhancement. In Uganda we have established disaster management committees in every district, these are very handy in spear heading early warning, monitoring disaster trends, building community resilience and for ensuring contingency plans are in place to address disaster risks
- There is need to strengthen early warning and early action systems in order to reduce the impact of disasters. I am glad to mention that as a country we have now established a national emergence and operations center (NECOC) to facilitate our early warning and response capabilities
- Displacement as a result of disasters has become common in most countries; Governments should therefore come up with pragmatic plans aimed at providing livelihood for those displaced and above all to facilitate their resettlement in new places. I am happy to note that a number of communities displaced by landslides in the Elgon region have now been fully resettled
- In pursuit of good governance, we advocate for the frame work that establishes clear goals, standards, targets and indicators to enhance accountability.
- Co chair, we need to advocate for special consideration of special vulnerable groups in the new framework particularly the women, disabled and the children as they are usually hard hit by disasters

Thank you for your kind attention.

Hon. Alex Bakunda Byarugaba (MP)

CHAIRPERSON OF UGANDA PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON DRR