



**STATEMENT BY THE ZAMBIA DELEGATION AT THE FIRST PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE 3RD WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER
RISK REDUCTION**

GENEVA, 14 – 15 JULY, 2014

Distinguished Co – Chairs,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Zambian delegation, let me, like others who have spoken before me congratulate you on your election and also extend my gratitude for the good work that the bureau has done in preparing the first Preparatory Committee meeting for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in March 2015. The preparatory meetings give all stakeholders an opportunity to contribute towards the desired outcomes of the Third World conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Co-Chairs

Zambia would like to align itself with the sentiments echoed by Egypt on behalf of the African Group on the importance of Disaster Risk Reduction in the quest for achieving sustainable development.

Zambia suffers from hydro-meteorological hazards such as floods and droughts which with the advent of climate change have intensified both in magnitude and frequency. Owing to the fact that most of the Zambians have livelihoods in the agriculture sector, these hazards directly impact them. Although the impacts of most of these hazards may not be global headline news, their repeated occurrence erodes the resilience of these communities. Therefore, the issues of disaster risk reduction are of utmost importance to the nation and we look forward to an HFA-2 that will deliver resilience for all.

Zambia would like to appreciate the role of regional platforms on disaster risk reduction as an effective coordination forum that brings governments, intergovernmental organisations and stakeholders together and call for its continuity on a regular basis.

We are gravely concerned at the magnitude and intensity of natural disasters, aggravated by armed conflicts, and their increasing impact in recent years in Africa, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic, environmental and humanitarian consequences for vulnerable societies which hamper the achievement of sustainable development.

Co-Chairs

In line with the African statement that has reiterated the need to strengthen implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction policies and strategies to contribute to sustainable development especially in developing countries as well as ensure the Third World Conference commits to supporting these countries in their quest to achieve the desired DRR outcomes, we would like to echo the following sentiments:

Firstly, extra attention be paid to developing countries' implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction taking cognisance of the huge gap in financial and human capacity and capabilities between them and developed countries in order to close the gap.

Secondly, there is need for financing, technology transfer and capacity building mechanism to enhance the implementation of HFA-2, and

Thirdly, there is need to carry forward lessons learnt in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005 - 2015 so as to foster the gains from the process as well as inform the design of the successor framework.

I thank you.