

**ZIMBABWE STATEMENT TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE THIRD UNITED
NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION :
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND ; 17-18 NOVEMBER 2014**

Thank you Mr Co-Chair

At the outset, Zimbabwe would like to commend both of you Co-Chairs and the members of your Bureau for the strenuous efforts you have deployed towards the preparations for a successful Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan from 14-18 March 2015. We look forward to a robust and effective Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction-Hyogo Framework for Action-2 (HFA2). HFA 2 should build on the strengths, challenges and gaps identified in HFA1.

Zimbabwe fully endorses the statement delivered by Namibia on behalf of the African Group. However, let me take this opportunity to reiterate a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr Co-Chair

Disaster economic losses continue to escalate, estimated at US\$1.3 trillion, with grave consequences for the lives, livelihoods and dignity of people at the same time reversing the hard-won developmental gains. Disasters are thus entrenching people in Africa in a vicious circle of poverty. Disaster risks have been on the increase culminating from factors such as population growth, unplanned urbanisation, environmental degradation, conflicts and competition for scarce

resources, climate change, disease epidemics, poverty and pressure from development within high risk zones. It is therefore Zimbabwe's fervent hope that the Hyogo Framework for Action 2 will contribute significantly towards reducing disaster risks emanating from all of the above-mentioned factors.

Mr Co-Chair

With the view to address disaster risks, the draft outcome document has to consider the following pertinent issues:

- The principle of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR) between developed and developing countries. This principle should be clearly reflected since countries are at different stages of development with different national capacities.
- A clear commitment to the provision of capacity building, financial resources and technology transfer to developing countries is a key priority for my country. This is very important to enhance the development of national disaster risk reduction institutions, policies, strategies and actions.
- The impact caused by climate change in terms of increasing frequency and severity of hazardous events such as droughts and floods should be acknowledged. In this vein, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures are therefore paramount.
- Public health should be made a central component of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. There is need for the Framework to be able to effectively reduce risks to public health and to build the resilience of nations and communities to health which is at risk due to emergencies and disasters.

Mr Co-Chair

Zimbabwe would like to emphasize that the outcome of the 5th Africa Regional Platform and the 3rd Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Abuja, Nigeria in May 2014 should be fully ^{considered} captured in the HFA 2.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe looks forward to successful and fruitful negotiations on the draft outcome document of the Post -2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

I thank you

