

**Official Statement of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

**The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2019,**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

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**Delivered by H.E. Ato Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner, National Disaster Risk Management Commission**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is an honor to participate in the sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Switzerland for the hospitality accorded to the Ethiopian delegation since our arrival. I wish also to thank the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for convening and organizing the Platform and for facilitating our participation.

The government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia would like to associate itself to the Official Statements of the African Union Commission and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development delivered at this Platform.

Recognizing the role of disaster risk reduction in building resilience to natural and manmade hazards, and thus achieving resilient, inclusive and sustainable development, my government continued taking concrete steps to advance the disaster risk reduction agenda across the country in the context of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action for its implementation in Africa.

Milestone achievements in the last two years in particular include, but not limited to: (i) strengthening capacity for understanding and application of disaster risk information through disaster loss accounting and risk profiling; (ii) developing and rolling out of Disaster Risk mainstreaming Guidelines for effective integration of disaster risk reduction and management into sectoral development plans; (iii) strengthening coordination mechanisms for ensuring an inclusive and multi-sectoral approach to disaster risk reduction; (iv) increased political commitment for disaster risk reduction and management, as evidenced through increased budgetary allocation for disaster risk management, including for resilience building, strengthening the multi-hazard early warning systems, as well as for response and recovery interventions; and (v) strengthening the capacity and capability of the government in particular for effective early warning and response systems, whereby response includes recovery and rehabilitation interventions as part of the development programs. We still enhance our paradigm shift from managing crises to managing risks in materializing the upcoming exercise of having multi-year disaster resilience plans.

On the progress of achieving target (e) of the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action for its implementation in Africa, I am pleased to report that Ethiopia has aligned its National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy with both global and continental frameworks and submitted its report on progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework using the Sendai Framework Monitor.

We are grateful to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Management for its support in this regard and for organizing different platforms for exchanging experiences at different levels.

Despite the positive narrative, including in terms of economic growth, Ethiopia still remains vulnerable to a range of hazards, with drought, floods and conflict being the major ones leading to protracted humanitarian needs and posing treat to sustainable development. This continues as a challenge by undermining our efforts to deliver on our commitments to the Sendai Framework. My government is committed to accelerate efforts to build disaster resilience, while reinforcing efforts to address humanitarian needs, including in the context of the New Way of Working. We also recognize that the progress in ensuring linkages and coherence between disaster risk management policies, strategy, national adaptation plan (NAPs), and national development plan has been slow. Continuous measures are being taken to address the gap and build back better.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia remains committed to delivering its commitments to the Sendai Framework, including by implementing the Tunis Declaration on accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, commitments contained in the Africa Common Position presented at this Platform, and other outcomes of the Platform.

We look forward to strengthening partnerships and collaboration with our partners, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to support efforts geared towards advancing climate and disaster risk-informed sustainable development. Ethiopia in the context of sustainable development inclusive of resilience agenda has integrated with our Second Growth and Transformation Plan. The effort has undertaken disaster risk reduction and management as resilience building objectives.

***I thank you for your attention!***