

**Republic of South Sudan**

**Official Government Statement at the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, Switzerland 13-17 May 2019**

**Presented by**

 **Hon. Hussein Mar Nyuot,**

**Minister of Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Management**

Excellency, Chair/President of the GP2019

His Excellency, Secretary General of the United Nations,

Excellencies, Heads of States and Governments,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

 On behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, allow me to seize this opportunity to express my profound congratulations to the Government of Switzerland for hosting this vital event and the excellent arrangements put in place. I am convinced that this Conference will yield fruitful outcomes as Nations look forward to finding sustainable solutions to the pressing developmental needs and to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework with great success.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

South Sudan like any other country in the world continues to experience the cumulative risk of disasters and their devastating effects on lives and livelihoods, including; damage to critical infrastructure and forced displacement. These effects are exacerbated by the impact of climate change and variability. All these undermine the efforts aimed at achieving the aspiration of the global targets of agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

However, despite the above-cited challenges, during the last two years, the Government of South Sudan had made significant progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction **2015-2030** through the following actions: -

* The official launch of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in a High-Level Forum of policy-makers from the national and state governments that cemented the political will to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR in the country
* Sensitization and dissemination programs on Sendai Framework and institutional capacity building on disaster resilience were conducted at national and state levels
* In September 2018, the country launched its first National Resilience Conference that aimed at addressing challenges related to undermining the achievement and aspiration of sustainable development
* South Sudan had joined the world in the commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (2015 & 2017) as part of an awareness-raising program that has to push the DRR Agenda
* In an effort to establish National DRR Frameworks, South Sudan has developed a National Disaster Risk Management Policy (NDRMP) that focuses on legal and institutional frameworks in support of disaster risk reduction efforts. The Disaster Risk Management Policy is aligned with national DRR frameworks, the Sendai Framework, The Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Africa Programme of Action for DRR. This policy has been presented to the Cabinet for adoption this year
* The country has also taken measures to develop a National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy with support from the Norwegian Government through NORCAP, a senior Disaster Resilience expert has been deployed to South Sudan to facilitate the development of South Sudan National DRR Strategy; an implementation matrix to ensure DRR Program of Action in fulfilment and achieving the Target (E) of the Sendai Framework by 2020
* A road map has been developed by the National DRM working Group to promote and support the integration of climate change, DRR and sustainable development strategies, policies, programmes and plans of action at all levels of the government to ensure disaster risk-informed is inclusive to achieve resilient for sustainable development
* South Sudan has taken concrete steps towards enhancing institutional capacity through the implementation of the Early Warning capacity augmentation project supported by UN WFP. National and State Early Warning Technical networking groups were set up as Advisories to inform risk decisions, help support communities initiatives for preparedness and response through risk monitoring, dissemination, and publication of the National Multi-hazard Early Warning Bulletin
* Efforts were also done in mainstreaming DRR in educational and Agricultural sectors

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In spite of the progress made, the political instability in the country, lack of budget allocated to DRR activities, and institutional and technical capacities gaps are the most critical key challenges that hindered the implementation of DRR progress in South Sudan. Among other challenges to mention include weak institutional coordination mechanisms, poor infrastructure and access to data and analytical capacities.

In ensuring government commitments to accelerate the implementation of risk-informed sustainable development; With the signed Re-vitalized Peace Accord, South Sudan is committed to strengthen all pillars of governance that will ensure the risk-informed decision to building back better through recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction programmes; rebuild people's lives and livelihoods for poverty reduction through empowering communities to access food, clean drinking water, health, and educational services. Construction of key infrastructure such as roads that will link the production areas with markets. In addition, mainstreaming of DRR into all sectors is a top priority that will address the impact of the existing and emerging disaster risks

**Distinguished Delegates,**

Above all, the fact that an effective and timely early warning system can make a difference as a vital instrument for risk reduction, to deliver warning information and impact forecast to at-risk communities, South Sudan is looking towards establishing a multi-hazard early warning system by 2020.

Hence, South Sudan is committed to develop and implement national strategies and plans of action for disaster risk reduction as key instruments for the realization of the agenda 2030 for the Sustainable Development and Africa Agenda 2063; while acknowledging the continuity of working in partnership with UN agencies, humanitarian and development partners to building South Sudan to become a resilient nation to disasters. The Government acknowledges the role played by UN WFP, UNDP, IGAD/ICPAC, South Sudan Red Cross and Partners for Resilience in supporting the development of the South Sudan National DRM/DRR Policy and Strategy.

South Sudan also acknowledges the efforts and support of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in promoting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Action and urge the continuity of UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's role in financing and building technical capacities to support disaster risk reduction initiatives.

In conclusion, South Sudan looks forward to the fruitful outcome of this conference in achieving unanimous agreement of all nations' to effectively address the existing and new challenges of disaster risks and climate change.

**Thank you.**