



Government of Malawi

STATEMENT BY

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AT THE

GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

13-17 MAY, 2019, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

The Chairperson;
Ministers;
Your Excellencies;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Malawi, just like other countries represented here, is exposed to different types of disasters that have had far-reaching consequences on the socio-economic growth of the country. This year, we have been hit by floods that affected about half of the country and led to a declaration of a state of disaster. Unfortunately, the floods have eroded some of the gains that we have made in disaster risk reduction, while also teaching us a number of important lessons.

We have also faced other challenges in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including limited investment in risk reduction, limited risk assessment and monitoring mechanisms, limited awareness on risk reduction mechanisms across levels and inefficiencies in early warning systems.

Mr Chairperson,

In domesticating the Sendai Framework, we have fully integrated its priority areas in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, which is the medium-term development strategy for Malawi, through a disaster risk management component that is considered as one of the key development areas. We have also supported local authorities, both urban and rural, to

develop local-level DRR strategies aligned to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). Over the next five years, we will be supporting a number of local authorities to develop disaster risk management plans that are aligned to the SFDRR. To ensure institutionalization of DRR across all levels, we have finalized the review of the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act and development of a Disaster Risk Management Bill that has been approved by Cabinet and will be present to Parliament for approval within this year.

Mr. Chairperson,

We recognize the economic and social costs of disasters, and we will continue to undertake comprehensive assessments such as post disaster needs assessment to understand impacts and also design interventions that go beyond business as usual approaches. Through the National Resilience Strategy that we have developed, which also speaks to the SFDRR, we aim to break the cycle of food and nutrition insecurity and humanitarian aid and ultimately, guide Malawi towards reaching the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and achieving its own national development goals.

Mr. Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, Malawi reaffirms its commitment to further accelerate implementation of risk-informed sustainable development.

I thank you all for your attention.