Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to participate in the Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, which also comprises the Seventh Africa Regional Platform and Sixth High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and make this Statement on behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

First of all, I would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Tunisia and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for convening this Platform in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the League of Arab States. I wish also to thank the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for facilitating Ethiopia’s participation in the Platform.

The government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia would like to associate itself to the Official Statements of the Africa Union...
Commission and that of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Ethiopia is not only Africa’s fastest growing economy, but also currently going through reforms of all rounded policies as part of its continued efforts to achieving the vision of reaching middle income country by 2025.

My government has taken and will continue to take concrete steps in the context of its Second Growth and Transformation Plan (2015/16-2019/20) to deliver on its commitments to global, continental and regional agreements and programme. This include

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,
- The Paris Agreement on Climate Change,
- Agenda 2063 Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework
- IGAD DRM Programme.
- Integration of disaster risk reduction and management into our Second Growth and Transformation Plan is a testament to Ethiopia’s commitment to ensure coherence among climate change, disaster risk reduction and management and sustainable development actions in the country.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

While pursuing efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction and management across the country in the context of our National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy, we embarked on the review of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy, as well as its implementation tool-Strategic Programme and Investment Framework. These align them with the Sendai Framework and the
Program of Action for its implementation in Africa. Efforts are well underway to finalize this process soon. We have also designated a National Focal Point for the Sendai Framework and are making efforts to meet the reporting requirements for 2018 and 2019. We are grateful to UNISDR for its support in all these endeavors.

Ethiopia continues to strive to achieving disaster risk-informed, resilient, inclusive and sustainable development, including through promoting and supporting the development and application of disaster risk profiles for risk-informed decision making for development and investment plans.

A whole of society approach including gender inclusiveness is central to our disaster risk management undertakings, which comprise efforts geared towards enhancing the multi-hazard early warning and response system.

Integration of disaster risk reduction and management into all sectors’ development plans is also among our key disaster risk reduction related priorities. We took a step to enhance our capacity in this regard as well including by developing a Disaster Risk Management Mainstream Guidelines with support from the World Bank, which will be launched at the International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13 October 2018.

While ensuring adequate financial allocations in the annual national budget for disaster risk reduction is key to strengthening the program on the continent. Enhanced partnership is important to enable countries in Africa to effectively deliver on their commitments to the Sendai Framework and the Programme of Action for its implementation in Africa.

Equally important is to strengthen a mechanism for exchanging experiences, lessons learnt and best practices in on disaster risk reduction and management among counties and regions in Africa. We value this Platform for providing the opportunity for the African
countries and Arab States in this regard, besides its contribution to laying a foundation for integrating disaster risk reduction and management into the Africa-Arab Partnership Programme going forward.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia endorses the outcomes of the Seventh Africa Regional Platform and the Sixth High-Level meeting, as well as the Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and will remain committed to their implementation.

We call upon partners, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to continue their support to translate these outcomes into action across the continent, including Ethiopia, thereby ensuring effective implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

I thank you for your attention!