



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

STATEMENT

AT THE

6TH GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

13TH TO 17TH MAY, 2019

CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE CONFERENCE GENEVA (CICG)

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to join you here at this important meeting.

Allow me at the outset to convey my delegation's appreciation to the Swiss Government and to UNISDR for the excellent organization of this Platform.

Kenya aligns itself with the Common African Position for this meeting,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the adoption of the Sendai Framework in 2015, Kenya has made major achievements in Disaster Risk Management (DRM).

We have taken considerable steps in embedding priority area one, understanding risk. Academic institutions in Kenya and other Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Centres of Excellence have begun offering academic programmes on DRR. We have also produced Hazard Atlases for 8 counties in Kenya.

Strengthening disaster risk governance is a critical step to manage disaster risk. In this regard, Kenya has included DRM as a sector in its Third Medium Term Plan, 2018-2022. Additionally, the National DRM Policy has received Cabinet approval. We are convinced that this policy will provide an important foundation for DRM in Kenya as we move towards the continued implementation of the Sendai Framework. Consequently, two DRM Bills are currently in the National Assembly and

18 counties have legislative proposals and legal frameworks for DRM in place.

In 2018, the National Treasury approved the National Disaster Risk Financing Strategy, while the Ministry of Education launched the Education Sector Disaster Management Policy of 2017. In March 2019, the National Platform for DRR and various stakeholders validated the National Action Plan for DRR 2019-2022.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

County governments have set aside 2% of their annual budget allocation for DRM. In addition, the National Treasury has not only a contingency fund for Disaster Risk but has also allocated disaster response funds to various line Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Partnerships from development partners and the private sector have also secured additional financing for DRM. These efforts will no doubt contribute towards investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.

Our commitment to enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, is demonstrated by the establishment of county response units and programmes for building back better. Examples for these include; the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project 2017-2022; and the Pastoralists Livelihood Resilience Program, active in 14 counties. We also have psychosocial support institutions that offer support during response and recovery.

Additionally, the Government allocated the Kenya Red Cross Society (KCRS) Ksh.1 billion to respond to the flood affected communities in 2018 from which KCRS constructed 6,692 safe shelter housing units in 22 Counties and carried out water treatment in 4 Counties. Further, His Excellency the President launched a national tree planting program with a target of reaching 1 Billion trees. The National Government has also established 12 feedlots and launched 4 feedlots in 4 regions to mitigate loss of animals and livelihoods for pastoral communities in the event of drought.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our country's Constitution aspires towards sustainable development. We are in the process of implementing international instruments on DRR, including the Sendai framework. To this end, our nation is in the preliminary stage of developing the national strategy on DRR. Nevertheless, we have already mapped out key stakeholders and resources needed in preparation for its development.

In addition to the above, efforts are underway towards achieving Target E. These include prioritizing reduction of vulnerability, improving resilience and updating early warning systems for hazards. Furthermore, DRR strategies for key Sectoral areas (including Health and Education) are in place.

It is also worth noting that DRR strategies have been mainstreamed in County Integrated Development Plans at sub-national level.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen

As disasters affect various groups differently, the National Government has put in place measures to mainstream gender and promote inclusion of vulnerable and minority groups in National and local DRM governance as well as by establishing social protection mechanisms aimed at strengthening resilience of these groups so that no one is left behind.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.