



**Government of Malawi**

**STATEMENT BY**

**MR. LLOYD MUHARA, CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET**

**AT THE**

**SIXTH AFRICA-ARAB REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK  
REDUCTION**

**TUNIS, TUNISIA, 9<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2018**

---

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. We have, in recent times, seen an increase in disasters in areas that are traditionally not considered as disaster prone areas. We have also seen an increase in disasters in urban areas.

**Mr Chairperson,**

Malawi has been implementing different disaster risk reduction interventions as part of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in order to reduce disaster risk. I am pleased to report that Malawi has managed to report on the progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, covering the past three years. As a country, we are aware of the progress that has been made, as well as the challenges we face in the process. We recognise that achieving national resilience to disasters is a long-term process that requires concerted effort, investment, political commitment and championship as well as government stewardship.

In trying to domesticate 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.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Recognizing the economic cost of disasters, and their effect on the social and communal fabric, where every year substantial amount of resources are spent in responding to disasters, Malawi has developed a National Resilience Strategy. The National Resilience Strategy aims at breaking the cycle of food and nutrition insecurity and humanitarian aid. It will, ultimately, guide Malawi towards reaching the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and achieving its own national development goals. It will be implemented by government ministries, departments and agencies, civil society organisations, the private sector, and United Nations agencies through the following four pillars:

1. Resilient agricultural growth;
2. Risk reduction, flood control, early warning and response systems;
3. Human capacity, livelihoods, and social protection; and
4. Catchment protection and management.

**Mr Chairperson,**

As a country, we are also making efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction in national and local policies and strategies. Since last year, we

have supported all urban councils to develop disaster risk management plans. We are currently supporting some councils to implement risk reduction interventions as a way of building resilience of communities to disasters. We have also facilitated the development of DRM sourcebooks for primary and secondary schools as a way of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the school curriculum. We have also invested in early warning systems, including community-based early warning systems across areas that are prone to disasters.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We are aware of the challenges we face as a nation and a region as we build household, community, national and regional resilience. Limited investment in risk reduction, lack of appropriate risk assessment and monitoring mechanisms, gaps in early warning systems, inadequacies in research to guide policy design and implementation remain some of the key challenges that we have to surmount. Moving forward, and together, we will have to address these challenges so that more progress can be seen.

Mr Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen; in conclusion, Malawi reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the Africa Regional Programme of Action on Disaster Risk reduction.

**I thank you all for your attention.**