Thank you Mr Chair,
Excellencies,
Hon Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All Protocols observed

It is indeed a privilege and honour for me to address such an important audience on behalf of the Republic of Mauritius. Greetings from my lovely island to you all.

Mauritius is listed very high on the World Risk Report 2017 on exposure to natural hazards and risks. Natural hazards will always be an integral part of our life in the Indian Ocean.

The collaboration within and among countries is more than ever crucial to assist decision-makers to focus on proactive risk reduction strategies to improve resiliency and reduce vulnerability.

The firm stand of the African Union in DRR is unequivocal and inclusive. Africa is fast emerging and all major developments need to be in a smart, sensible, all-inclusive and sustainable way.

Hon Chairperson,

Significant progress has been achieved since the adaption of the Sendai Framework.

The 6th Session of Africa Regional Platform on DRR was hosted in Mauritius in 2016 to demonstrate our commitment at regional level with the adoption of the Mauritius Declaration pointing towards the Africa Position on DRR.
We initiated several measures at local and national levels to reduce existing and emerging risks.

Some of the measures initiated since 2015 are:

1. Government came up with the **National DRR Management Act in 2016** creating a pathway for Mauritius to forge towards DRR in view of building resilience in a comprehensive dialogue engagement process between decision makers and those more at risks.

2. An **Inter-Ministerial National Environment Commission** chaired by the Hon Prime Minister meets regularly with DRR high on agenda.

3. **National and Local DRR Management Agencies** instituted in line with **Target E of Sendai Framework** are empowered to address DRR issues with financial support from Government.


5. **Specialised Disaster Response Unit** has been setup within paramilitary forces for multi-hazard with capacity building support from the Indian **National Disaster Response Force**.

6. **Land Drainage Board** with appropriate **legal framework** has been established for comprehensive multi-stakeholder approach for development of **Land Drainage Master Plan** to address flooding and sustainable development with risk-informed decision-making practices.

7. **Contingency/ Emergency Plans** for various risk sectors such as School Safety, Residential Care Homes, flood prone areas have been drawn.

8. **Review of Early Warning System** for cyclones to adapt to changing hydro-meteorological hazards patterns is in progress.

9. **National Multi hazards Emergency Alert System** to issue alert messages to vulnerable population is being implemented.
10. More than 140 simulations exercises have been conducted with participants from local authorities, first responders and vulnerable communities.

11. Community Based Disaster Response (Volunteers) Teams in vulnerable areas have been trained including Rodrigues and Outer Islands.

Mauritius is actively involved in inter-state/regional platforms for exchange of knowledge and capacity building in DRR such as the AU, EU, IOC, IORA, SADC, COMESA and not the least UNISDR Africa.

Hon Chairperson,

Though, we initiated so many measures, we have no cause to rest on our laurels as climate change related challenges are more and more daunting.

Our challenges are in terms of funding, expertise, knowhow, capacity building and gaps in coordination at regional and local levels.

Thus, we are called upon to further strengthen our institutions, structures and capacity to be able to take up the various challenges of climate change for greater resiliency and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you for your kind attention.