



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

BY

**HONOURABLE JENISTA J. MHAGAMA, MINISTER OF
STATE, IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (POLICY,
PARLIAMENT, LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT, YOUTH AND
DISABLED)**

**DELIVERED ON HER BEHALF BY MS. MAIMUNA K.
TARISHI, PERMANENT SECRETARY (PRIME MINISTER
AND PARLIAMENT), PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

**PRESENTED AT THE AFRICA – ARAB PLATFORM ON
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

9 – 13 OCTOBER, 2018, TUNIS, TUNISIA

Honourable Ministers;
Distinguished Guests and Participants;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

First of all, I have great a honour to convey to you warm and cheerful greetings from fellow Tanzanians particularly Honourable Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, the United Republic of Tanzania who due to some commitments at home she could not attend this important meeting. The Minister commends to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Government of Republic of Tunisia in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the League of Arab States for organizing this important meeting. She wishes successful deliberations for this Africa-Arab Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018.

On behalf of Tanzanian delegation I express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Republic of Tunisia for their brilliant services and heartfelt hospitality since we arrived here.

Chairperson,

The United Republic of Tanzania like other countries has been tirelessly investing in disaster risk management to build resilience of our diverse economy and communities from various hazards. Under the coordination of the Prime Minister's Office through its Disaster Management Department progress has been made especially in the past three years to inform Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030. Policy and regulatory measures have been undertaken through the Disaster Management Act No. 7 of 2015 and its Regulations of 2017. Our National Five Year Development Plan 2016/2017-2020/2021 which is a key guiding document for planning in all sectors considers disaster risk management as a priority. Considerable achievements have been made to build disaster resilient in key sectors such as agriculture which provides about 66.9 per cent of employment; strengthen health services especially for rural people which account about 70 per cent of population, improvement on epidemiological survey and emergency health services; investment in climate change adaptation and biodiversity and environmental management which has great impact to livelihood of the majority population.

Other major achievement has been on improvements on the provision of weather forecast being 87 per cent accuracy. Current efforts are on investment in multi-hazard and impact based early warning system.

Chairperson,

The United Republic of Tanzania would like to see more emphasis placed on disaster risk reduction and management to build resilience for sustainable development, particularly eradication of poverty. As our country is prone to natural and human induced hazards, including floods, earthquakes, drought, marine and ferry accidents; we recognize the need for humanitarian assistance that will arise from time to time. In order to reduce the diversion of development funds to humanitarian needs, we believe that there should be more investment on disaster risk reduction and bridge the segregation of humanitarian assistance and recovery programmes. It is understood that behaviour and attitude change towards disaster risk management and knowledge on the need for risk informed investment in various sectors are key for disaster risk reduction. Therefore, we welcome disaster risk management stakeholders to partner with our Government of Tanzania and support its initiative to establish a well-equipped Disaster Management Centre in the Capital City of Dodoma. The centre will champion the agenda for disaster risk management at local and international level through leadership capacity building and advocacy to inform policy and enhance technical understanding through innovation to provide hazard informed strategies and actions towards sustainable development.

Chairperson,

As we consider the progress made on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for the past three years, the United Republic of Tanzania would like to recognize regional bodies as an important governance architecture of the United Nations through regional strategies on disaster risk reduction and place our appreciation for their important policy initiatives, which are crucial for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The United Republic of Tanzania wishes to reiterate the need for national capacity and institutional strengthening, including innovation on hazard

monitoring and disaster events data collection and management and hazard risks informed development practice, without which countries would be unable to take advantage of the support and guidance offered through various programs on development initiatives.

Chairperson,

Lastly, the Government of Tanzania under the leadership of His Excellence President Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli wishes to express its appreciation to all of the UN Agencies, Regional Bodies and Entities operating in the Sub-Region for their cooperation in advancing disaster risk management for in the country.

Thank you for your kind attention. Asanteni sana kwa kunisikiliza.