



KENYAS STATEMENT AT THE AFRICA-ARAB PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, HOTEL LAICO TUNIS- TUNISIA, 09-13 OCTOBER 2018

Excellencies,

Representatives from UN,

Government Representatives,

Fellow Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join the Africa-Arab Platform leadership on this auspicious occasion which is unique and one of its kind - The Africa-Arab Platform for disaster risk reduction whose theme is “**Towards Disaster Risk Informed and Inclusive Sustainable Development**”, and which comprises the 7th Africa Regional Platform and 6th High level meeting and the 4th Arab Conference on disaster risk reduction. I would like to thank the Republic of Tunisia for hosting the Africa-Arab Platform at this glamorous and beautiful location – the Hotel Laico, Tunis, as well as the People of Tunisia for their warm welcome.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The common hazards prevalent in Kenya include drought, floods, fires, road accidents, building collapses, terrorism and HIV and Aids. Moreover, factors such as climate change, poverty, governance and illiteracy exacerbate the vulnerability of communities to disasters. Further to this, we are continually reminded that life is full of risks. Therefore, mankind cannot completely avoid risks or disasters, but can try to reduce them. The emphasis is on reducing existing risks and preventing the emerging risks in our societies so that we can minimize the effects of disasters and mitigate against both human-induced hazards and natural hazards.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The frequency and severity of disasters in Kenya has been on the rise in the recent past. The impact (in terms of costs) of disasters that afflict Kenya can be exemplified by looking at **floods** and **droughts**. The **cost of floods** is estimated at 5.5% of Kenya’s GDP every 7 years. **Droughts**, on the other hand, cost an estimated 8.0 % of Kenya’s GDP every 5 years. Collectively, the economic cost of floods and droughts is estimated to create a long-term fiscal liability equivalent to about 2 - 2.4% of Kenya’s GDP each year, or approximately US\$ 500 million per year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya has to date strived to bring its Policies and Strategies relating to Disaster Risk Reduction in line with the SFDRR, as well as the Africa Region DRR strategy and the EAC sub-Regional DRR Strategy. First, Kenya's Disaster Risk Management Policy has been aligned with the SFDRR and approved by the Cabinet and will soon be forwarded for approval by Parliament.

Second, a Disaster Risk Financing Strategy has been prepared and approved by Cabinet. Arising from this, a Development Policy Loan with a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat-DDO) has been signed with the World Bank to ensure that the Government of Kenya has funds within 72 hrs in case a disaster arising out of a natural hazard occurs.

Third, work has been initiated on an overall National DRR Strategy. Fourth, a Disaster Risk Management Legislative Proposal aimed at operationalizing the DRM Policy has been prepared and will soon be submitted to Cabinet for approval after undergoing public participation.

Fifth, efforts have been initiated to carry out hazard mapping in all the 47 Counties of Kenya. So far, hazard mapping has been completed in 7 Counties and Hazard Atlases have been published.

Sixth, the national government has taken a keen interest in awareness raising and enlightening of people about existing hazards and their profiles, as well as people's vulnerabilities and their capacities to respond to disasters nationally by mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction as a strategy for poverty reduction in it's national 5-year development plan (2018-2022) called "Medium Term Plan III" and in the 5-year County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) of respective Counties.

Lastly, Kenya has since 2016 been implementing each of the 7 annual targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and marking the same through the yearly celebration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) and the holding of a two-day symposium back-to-back to take stock of where we have come from, what we have achieved in terms of DRR, and what our future DRR plans are. In this respect, Kenya commits itself to achieving Target E of SFDRR.

Finally, Excellencies, Fellow participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We hope to gain immensely by learning and sharing experiences through this Africa-Arab Platform.

I THANK YOU ALL.