



# The Federal Republic of Somalia

## Official Statement for the Republic of Somalia

### Africa-Arab Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

#### 09 – 13 October 2017 – Tunis, Tunisia

**Excellency .....**

**Honorable Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers, Commissioners and delegates**

**All Protocols Observed**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia, I would like to thank the Government of Tunisia for successfully hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Arab Platform for DRR, the 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Platform and the 6<sup>th</sup> High – Level Meeting.

**Mr. Chair**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

More than 75 per cent of Somalia's' population are estimated to live in rural areas, Agro-pastoralism and Pastoralism are the main livelihood strategies.

Around 65 per cent of the land is Arid and 35 per cent of the land is estimated to be Semi-arid.

Drought, desertification and floods are the most common climate-related hazards when coupled with conflict (which is in our case) increase the exposure and vulnerability to these hazards and disasters.

Disasters continue to have negative impact on our Somali communities. These disasters have had enormous devastating impacts on the socio –economic continuum of the affected local communities.

Considering that, we are at an earlier point of implementing the Sendai Framework for Action; Somalia is undertaking measures to conform to the four priority areas.

Somalia's action around the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction focuses on tackling underlying disaster risk drivers, such as; Conflict, the magnitudes of poverty, unplanned and rapid urbanization, climate change and other structural factors such as institutional arrangements, non-risk-informed policies, lack of private disaster risk reduction investment, unsustainable uses of natural resources and, environment deterioration.

The government of the Federal Republic of Somalia will continue to make strides to sustain the momentum engendered so far as a result of implementation of its National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy and thus be able to effectively deliver on its commitments to the Sendai Framework and its Arab and Africa Programs of Action. One of the key milestone achievements made following the adoption of the Sendai Framework in March 2015 is the creation of a separate government institution, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management

Similarly, DRR in Somalia has been guided by the National DRM strategy for the last one year, which was adopted by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management. The strategy aims to guide multi-hazard reduction and management of disaster risk.

The implementation of the strategy has been undertaken through prioritization of the essential elements for institutional arrangement and subsequently developed the National DRM policy, although its alignment to Sendai Framework is debatable.

**Excellences,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Somalia has successfully achieved Target (E) of the Sendai Framework for Action which also contributes to the implementation of priority for action (2) of the Sendai Framework for Action “Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk”

However, the government of the Federal Republic of Somalia echoes its commitment to disaster risk reduction in the context of the Sendai Framework and its Arab and Africa Programs of Action.

To that effect, we will in particular:

1. Align our National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Policy with the Sendai Framework and its Arab and Africa Programs of Action;
2. Define national targets and indicators in line with global and regional targets and indicators for assessing and reporting on progress of implementation of Sendai Framework;
3. Integrate disaster risk reduction and management within and across all sectors; and
4. Regularly report the National achievements of the Global targets of Sendai Framework for DRR.

**Mr Chair,**  
**Distinguished delegates,**

Disasters are becoming more frequent and unpredictable and we can only address the challenges by working together.

Somalia has faith in the role played by the Arab League and the African Union in providing leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction.

We also highly appreciate the important work that the UNISDR regional offices of Africa and Arab States are carrying out in partnership with countries of the Arab region and the Africa continent.

Thank you.