

The UN Secretary General / Representative  
The Chairperson, AUC  
Your Excellences  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

I bring you warm greetings from His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President, and the People of the Republic of Uganda.

I am delighted to be here, to participate in this edition of the Africa-Arab Platform on DRR, and specifically this Ministerial level segment.

Uganda, considers with great concern the issue of hazards and disasters, noting the negative impact disasters have had on Ugandans and their livelihoods over the years. Importantly, as a country we have acknowledged the harsh reality that disaster risks and emergent impact are steadily on the rise both in scope and magnitude, causing deaths, damage and destruction and frustrating livelihoods and coping mechanisms, especially in this era of climate change and weather variability. For example droughts have become more regular in Uganda, and for a nation whose over 80% of the population depend on agriculture, any variability in weather and climate uncertainty become not only a social challenge but a political concern.

Moreover, we are fully aware that disasters have the wary potential to set back our development gains as a country, as well as undermining our aspirations and hard efforts in implementing and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

The good news is; we are not just standing by and waiting upon fate or wishing on natural luck. As a country, we are continuously introducing and implementing both structural and non-structural measures to address disaster risk and evolving impact.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me briefly highlight some of the key measures that Uganda is undertaking to address disaster risk.

First, Uganda has a five year strategic plan for DRM whose goal is to build Resilience of Ugandan People, Infrastructural and Development Projects to Natural Disasters and Climate Change. The plan has two key pillars i.e. Building Disaster Resilience and Responding to Emergencies; and Strengthening DRM Institutions and Governance. Under these pillars are various core areas and outcomes including enhancing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery; establishing effective and responsive public institutions; and developing effective polices and laws on DRR/M. This strategic plan was developed in harmony with the provisions of the Sendai Framework.

Secondly, we believe that the first step to addressing disaster risk is actually getting to know the risk itself. Over the last 3 years, my ministry has been leading the process of profiling disaster risks in the country. Consequently, a total of 112 district risk, hazard and vulnerability profiles have been produced to support risk informed planning at local government levels. Currently, these profiles are being analysed to produce a National Disaster Risk Atlas for Uganda. The theme for this year's platform therefore resonates with Uganda's undertakings. Our ultimate goal of the national risk profiling is to ensure all development interventions and programmes across all sectors in Uganda are risk informed to warrant sustainable development.

Thirdly, Uganda is scaling up the gains made in implementing the Hyogo Framework and leveraging on such gains to implement the Sendai Framework. Excellences, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to proudly report that after a dedicated effort, Uganda already has a disaster loss reporting system that is synchronized with the Sendai Monitoring and reporting system. Not many countries have reached this effort. You can access our updated system online at <https://www.desinventar.net/DesInventar/>

Lastly, Uganda is in advanced stages of developing a National Disaster Preparedness and Management Law. This will be in addition to the existing Policy on DRM. With a fully-fledged ministry which I preside over, I can confirm that my government has the required resolve to address disaster risks.

I would therefore like to re-affirm our commitment both at the political and technical level to continue working with our fellow African governments, regional bodies, development partners, UN Agencies and our non-government actors to ensure our people are safeguarded from the lethal impact of disasters by implementing risk-informed and risk-sensitive development interventions. And re-affirm our commitment to continue working tirelessly towards realization of the SDGs and implementation of Sendai Framework, among other global efforts.

We look forward to sharing experiences in this platform, learning from fellow DRM practitioners and governments, establish relationships and cooperation opportunities, and hope to consolidate lessons and best practices that we can take back home to improve and advance Uganda's DRM strategy and agenda.

For God and My Country.

Musa Francis Ecweru – MP  
**MINISTER OF STATE FOR RELIEF, DISASTER MANAGEMENT &  
REFUGEES,  
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.**