# Description: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/15/Coat_of_arms_of_the_Republic_of_Uganda.svg/200px-Coat_of_arms_of_the_Republic_of_Uganda.svg.png

# THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

# Excellency, The President of the Swiss Confederation

**The UN Secretary General**

**Excellences**

**Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Greetings from H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President, and the People of the Republic of Uganda. On my own behalf, and that of my delegation, I wish to thank the Government of Switzerland for hosting this very important conference, and the UNISDR for successfully organizing this global event.

It is my pleasure to join all these dignitaries, to attend the Sixth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Uganda has continuously suffered devastating impact of disasters resulting from both natural and human induced hazards. I am therefore happy to lead a delegation to join the rest of the world to discuss measures of accelerating efforts to reduce disaster risk and minimise losses, as we strive to make our communities more resilient, and nations safer for us and generations to come.

This Global Platform’s theme *“Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies”* is timely and indeed resonates with many of us. In Uganda, the risk profile is changing and becoming more dynamic due to factors like climate change, population growth, and urbanization, among others. These markers therefore challenge us to do things differently and importantly, to invest in innovative mechanisms that increase the resilience of persons, communities and systems to existing and emerging threats.

Ladies and gentlemen, amidst the current challenges lies a big opportunity. Opportunity in form of technology that drives innovation for DRR. For example in Uganda, with support from UNDP, satellite technology has enabled us triangulate ground truthed information with satellite imagery to derive hazard, risk and vulnerability maps for 112 districts, thereby supporting risk informed planning and programming at local government levels, as well as compiling a National Risk Atlas. Additionally, drone technology has proved effective in conducting rapid needs assessments in the aftermath of disasters by expeditiously generating aerial content of disaster-affected areas. These just a few examples of how technological innovation can support disaster risk reduction.

Distinguished participants; Uganda is committed to implementing the Sendai Framework, and has made progress on each of the four priority areas, and is particularly on course to achieve Target E by 2020. Uganda has a National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management; a draft Disaster Management Law; a five year Disaster Risk Management Strategy whose goal is to build Resilience of Ugandan People; and the Kampala Capital City Authority has finalised the City DRM Strategic Plan. Uganda is one of the countries that has had an active DRR Platform since 2007, and currently being upgraded to integrate Climate Change stakeholders in a bid to harmonize DRR and Climate Change.

In the same spirit, Uganda is in the process of developing a Third National Development Plan (2020/21-24/25) and this plan aligns with the 2030 Agenda. Also, efforts are on-going to develop guidelines on integrating DRR and Climate Change into the National Development Plan benchmarking the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework and Paris Climate Agreement; as well as mainstreaming in relevant sectors and lower government plans.

In Uganda, resilience is placed at the centre stage of planning, considering the lessons we have learnt from past disaster events, which have shaken the coping abilities of our people. Our experiences have exposed us to the reality that we cannot achieve sustainable development without reducing disaster risk and mitigating climate change effects. For example, Risk transfer through cash pay-outs to vulnerable communities in Karamoja region during drought/prolonged dry spells has reduced vulnerability and increased resilience to hunger and famine. And with UNDP support, we are implementing a project on Strengthening Community resilience to Climate Change and Disaster Risks which is impacting the livelihoods of selected communities in a resilient manner. Additionally, the Government is permanently resettling up to 900 households at high risk of landslides to safer areas constructing for them fully equipped houses with all basic amenities and availing each household 3 acres of land.

We therefore continuously aim at leveraging national and international mechanisms that empower us with lessons, skills and knowledge to anticipate risks and strengthen preparedness and response strategies when disasters occur. Building resilience of our vulnerable communities therefore can no longer be an option but a key requirement for socio-economic development and sustainability.

It is therefore our pleasure to join the international community of DRR and climate change stakeholders this week to exchange and harness ideas and best practices on how to realise the resilience dividend. To ensure that our efforts reach the local people, we are increasingly collaborating with local level governments to ensure planned investments target resilience outcomes. For example, Kampala Capital City Authority has developed a resilience strategy that integrates both climate change and disaster risk actions and these are prioritized in the city programmes and investments. By engaging the local communities as active stakeholders in activity design and implementation, we believe such a people-centred and all-inclusive approach will enable us realise the resilience dividend.

We look forward to developing and strengthening collaborations and partnerships with fellow governments, private sector, non-government actors, civil society and academia among others. I strongly believe that effective partnerships and collaborations is the best way to strengthen DRR and create resilient communities. I look forward to listening to and learning from success stories from countries and practitioners on how to foster risk-informed development at all levels while putting emphasis on building and strengthening resilience of the most vulnerable segments in our society.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations throughout this week.

For God and my Country.

Musa Francis Ecweru (MP)

Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Management & Refugees,

**REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.**