

**Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction
Geneva, 5-7 June 2007**

**Side-Event on Drought Risk Reduction: Networking and Partnership Opportunities
(5 June 2007)**

Inputs from the Republic of Djibouti, National Focal Point and Executive Secretary on Disaster
Risk Management, Ministry of Home Affairs and Decentralisation,
Mr Ahmed Mohamed Madar

1. Distinguished Delegates; Ladies and Gentleman:
2. It gives me great pleasure to address all of you on a very pressing issue and the single most important disaster for Djibouti: DROUGHT.
3. My intervention will be concise and to the point.
4. In my country we have been living with drought for as long as we can recall. However, we still are very much learning to live with the RISKS associated with DROUGHT and to cultivate a culture of resilience amongst our people.
5. With the Hyogo Framework for Action adopted in 1995, which we are implementing, we have made some important progress which I would like to highlight.
6. Our Government, under the leadership of the Minister of Home Affairs and Decentralisation, has achieved the following key results:
 - a) We have elaborated and validated a National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction;
 - b) A Bill was adopted by Government as regards the application of the said Strategy;
 - c) Laws were enacted to establish an institutional framework on Disaster Risk Reduction;
 - d) We have prepared a Draft Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction for the next four years, and;
 - e) We have established an Executive Secretariat on Disaster risk Reduction within the Ministry of Home Affairs and decentralisation.
7. In this context, as regards DROUGHT RISK REDUCTION, we have recently held a National Meeting of Experts on the subject with the participation of over 40 representatives from different Government agencies, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral donors, Media and Academia.
8. This Meeting has enabled us to agree on a course of action for reviewing and strengthening existing policies and programmes on DROUGHT RISK REDUCTION into one common Policy Framework and Action Plan.
9. We have also held discussions with local communities on how to improve communication on early warning systems and climate prediction for DROUGHT RISK REDUCTION.

10. In the next few months, we intend to undertake a study that will identify the root causes of DROUGHT in Djibouti, identify and map RISKS, assess the capacity needs of communities and Government, and define priority actions. This study will not only harmonise the different actions and policies on DROUGHT RISK REDUCTION in the country but will also strengthen coordination mechanisms.
11. We also hope to continue to contribute to a rich and dynamic exchange of knowledge and know-how amongst our colleagues and friends from other countries in the Horn of Africa who are also very much concerned with the issue of DROUGHT RISK REDUCTION given our permeable geographic borders that our nomadic people do not see.
12. In these different actions, we are very grateful for the ongoing technical and financial support and collaboration we have received from UN/ISDR Africa and Swedish SIDA. We are also very grateful also for the support from regional scientific and technical institutions such as ICPAC (IGAD), and at national level, from the Red Cross and Red Crescent and UN system agencies in Djibouti. We count on your continued support and collaboration.
13. Thank you for your attention.