



Official Statement of

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**Delivered by H.E. Ato Mitiku Kassa, Commissioner, National
Disaster Risk Management Commission, on behalf of the
Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

At the Fifth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction,

25 May 2017, Cancun, Mexico

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Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to participate in the 5th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and to make this Statement on behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. I would like also to express my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Mexico and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for convening this Global Platform, the first since the adoption of the Sendai Framework in March 2015.

The government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia would like to associate itself to the Africa Common Position to the Global Platform and the Statement of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economy in the world registering a double digit economic growth over the last 12 consecutive years and is among few African countries that are believed to take the lead in the economic, social and political transformation of their respective sub-regions. This is a clear indication that Ethiopia is on the right track to achieve the vision of reaching middle income country status by 2025.

Despite an impressive economic growth over the decade, Ethiopia remains vulnerable to a range of natural and human induced hazards and related risks and disasters, the major ones being those associated with climate change and variability, like the recent El-Nino induced drought, which was the worst in 50 years and has had serious impact on livelihoods and food security of millions of

people. The prolonged drought that particularly affected the South and South Eastern parts of the country and its socioeconomic consequences is another challenge that the country faced after 2015-2016 El-Nino period. If it wasn't for the government's many years of efforts towards strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities as well as the early warning and response system, droughts and floods associated with such extreme weather events would have more serious consequences.

The government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia strongly believes that such challenges can only be effectively addressed if targeted interventions that address underlining risk factors are designed and implemented at all levels. This thinking is the pillar on which Ethiopia's development policies and strategies in general and the National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy in particular rest.

Ethiopia has taken and will continue to take a number of concrete steps towards advancing the disaster risk reduction and management agenda in the country in the context of our National Disaster Risk Management Policies and Strategies as well as global, regional, and sub-regional disaster risk reduction/management frameworks and plans. This is a clear testament to the fact that Disaster risk management is top on Ethiopia's development agenda. It wasn't only that the government took a decisive measure to move away from disaster management to disaster risk management in terms of thinking and approach, but also implemented a number of interventions to translate the new thinking and approach into action. These include: undertaking risk assessment and profiling, strengthening the early warning and response system, and putting in place institutional, policy and legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction and management, besides implementing targeted programs to build the resilience of vulnerable people, community, and their assets.

The government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia will continue to make strides to sustain the momentum generated 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 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 standalone government institution, the National Disaster Risk Management

Commission, answerable to the Prime Minister's Office, to lead and coordinate disaster risk reduction and management across the country in line with the National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia reiterates its commitment to disaster risk reduction in the context of the Sendai Framework and its Africa Programs of Action.

To that effect, we will in particular: (i) consolidate our work on disaster risk assessment and profiling; (ii) align our National Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy with the Sendai Framework and its Africa Programs of Action; (iii) define national targets and indicators in line with global and regional targets and indicators for assessing and reporting on progress of implementation; (iv) integrate disaster risk reduction and management within and across all sectors; and (v) ensure a coherent and coordinated approach in the implementation, monitoring and review of all the post-2015 frameworks and plans.

As we are always ready to learn from other countries we are also willing and ready to share our experiences, good practices, and lessons learned with other countries.

Finally the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is grateful to our partners, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, for their continued support to advance the disaster risk reduction and management agenda across the country.

Let's join hands to translate commitments into action!

Thank you!