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By

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African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

On the occasion of

Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction
22-26 May 2017

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honored to be addressing you in this Global Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Let me take this opportunity to convey greetings from the AUC Chairman, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat.

Africa is a continent that bears the brunt of climate-and human induced hazards the most. The Africa' vulnerability to hazards is compounded by a combination of factors, key of which is climate change and variability. Notwithstanding the burden the continent faces, progress has been made in reducing disaster risk with regards to policy and institutional development for Disaster Risk Reduction, just to mention some.

Following the adoption of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015, the African Union Heads of State and Governments took a major step by endorsing the Programme of Action in January 2017 to facilitate implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa.

Similarly, progress has been also made in terms of institutional development for Disaster Risk reduction across the continent.

On behalf of the African Union and the AU commission, I would like to thank the European Union for its financial support through its ACP-EU Programme to advance the DRR agenda in Africa. We are also grateful to UNISDR and other partners for their continued support in this regard.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the political will to address disaster risks in Africa has been gaining momentum, however, resources required to translate commitments into action remain a challenge. I wish to call upon the International Community to support DRR in Africa as an important instrument to realize Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, and, of course, deliver on our commitments to the Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals.

The African Union registers its commitment to implement the Sendai Framework and its Africa Programme of Action as well as Africa Common Position delivered here at this Global Platform.

I thank you for your kind attention!