



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. WILSON MUTAGAYWA KAJUMULA MASILINGI
AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA TO THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

**AT THE 2017 GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

CANCUN, MEXICO. 22 - 26 MAY, 2017

**Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government;
Co-Chairs;
Honourable Ministers;
Distinguished Delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

First and foremost, allow me to convey to you warm and friendly greetings from H. E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania who due to pressing engagements at home, could not attend this meeting. He reaffirms the commitment of Tanzania to the United Nations and wishes the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction successful deliberations.

Secondly, on behalf of my delegation I express sincere gratitude for excellent facilities made available to us and kind hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful Cancun City.

My delegation commends the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the Government of the United Mexican States for organizing and hosting this important meeting and the first meeting since the adoption of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015 - 2030.

Mr. Chairman,

My country has been experiencing increase in incidences and scale of natural and human-induced hazards such as drought, floods, pests, epidemics, fire, accidents, cyclones/strong winds and earthquakes. Recently the North-Western part of our country Kagera Region, experienced a strong earthquake that claimed lives and damaged properties. Different parts of the country are vulnerable to different disasters due to diverse geographical coverage and difference in physical, social, weather and economic characteristics. Among others, my country vulnerability is compounded by rapid increase in population and assets exposed to adverse natural events. According to the 2012 Census, the total Tanzania population was 44,928,923 people.

With population average increase of 2.5 percent per annum, this year 2017 we are about 55 million people. Assets exposed to adverse natural changes are in danger and a trend is likely to be worsening with rapid urbanization and environmental degradation. The expected increase in the number and intensity of hydro-meteorological disasters resulting from climate change and variability is scaring indeed.

The government of Tanzania in collaboration with other stakeholders has been taking efforts to deal with the mentioned vulnerabilities and enhance resilience of her communities. The government efforts address the seven global targets of Sendai Framework. The current national Five Year Development Plan for 2016/17- 2020/21 elaborates the implementation of various measures to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction for resilience to address the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Mr. Chairman,

Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) in line with UNISDR 2017 terminology on disaster risk reduction and indicators for SFDRR; Programme of Action for the Implementation of the SFDRR 2015-2030 in Africa; Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy and Fund; and East African Community (EAC) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Action Plan (2016 - 2018). Herewith, the Disaster Management Regulations of 2016 has been developed; the National Disaster Management Policy of 2004 has been reviewed with development of its implementation strategy to match Sendai Framework; Comprehensive and Quantitative Risk Assessment, Mapping and Modeling for National and Community Resilience has been conducted in some districts. District Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans are now in place for some districts; Stations for Monitoring Flood, Drought and Wildfire hazards; Agriculture, Marine and Coastal Management services have been established; Multi-hazard Early Warning service along the coastline is on pilot and sector specific preparedness and response plans in health, agriculture and food

security, transport, communication, education and infrastructure are strengthened.

Mr. Chairperson,

Almost half of disasters we experienced are related to weather extremes associated with climate change and variability. Therefore, climate change is poised to undermine national efforts for disaster risk management. Increase in mortality, social and economic losses, destruction of physical infrastructures due to adverse impact of natural events are indeed of great concern to Tanzania as it strives to attain sustainable development. That is why we have made mainstreaming climate change adaptation in disaster risk reduction a national priority.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania under the leadership of H. E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of the Co-Chairs, members of the Bureau, and the UNISDR Secretariat under the leadership of H.E. Robert Glasser, for tireless efforts in preparation of this important meeting. I assure this gathering of United Republic of Tanzania's continued support to our shared commitment in addressing the myriad challenges facing the world due to disasters and their causative agents.

Thank you for your kind attention. Asante sana.