



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



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STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

AT

THE 2017 GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

BY

MARTIN OWOR

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MANAGEMENT

CANCUN, MEXICO

25 MAY 2017

Your Excellencies, Heads of State & Government

Your Excellency, President of the Conference,

Your Excellency, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegation,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my delegation, I convey to you warm greetings from H.E. The President and the people of the Republic of Uganda.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Mexico for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to the Uganda Delegation.

In 2015, Uganda participated in the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan, where the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted. The country has since taken part in the follow up meetings to review the DRR terminologies, develop indicators, and is a member of the Science and Technology Committee.

Uganda has an active National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which meets monthly and brings together representatives of Governments ministries, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, academia and the private sector. 75% of the Districts have functional Disaster Management Committees.

Uganda has a National Policy on Disaster Preparedness and Management (2011) which is being revised to align it to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The process of developing a legal framework, the Uganda National Disaster Preparedness and Management Act, is on-going and will be completed in this year.

The Uganda Parliament has a Forum on DRR with a membership of 153 out of 427 MPs. The Forum supports advancement of the DRR agenda, policy and

legislative processes. The Members of the Forum have received training in DRR, Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Government of Uganda with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is developing a National Risk Atlas, multi hazard risk profiles and maps of each of the 116 districts of the country has been published. The hazard maps guide preparedness and contingency planning as well as development planning at the central and local Government levels. The National Risk Atlas will be completed this year.

With support from UNDP, the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Center (NECOC) is operational and is fully equipped with the most up to date modeling and analysis software, which has heightened the reliability and precision of our early warning capacities to over 80%.

A monthly bulletin covering various hazards is published and disseminated through print and electronic media in addition to situational messages. To improve accuracy in reporting disaster incidents, impacts and losses, the Desinventar database, is being upgraded with support of UNISDR.

Government of Uganda's commitment to building the resilience of its people to shocks and stresses to climate and disaster risks is enshrined in the Uganda Vision 2040 and the second National Development Plan (NDP II). A number of Resilience building programmes are being implemented in areas prone to disasters, such as water for production and livestock in the pastoral community of Karamoja sub-region.

The Government of Uganda, with support from the World Bank, is implementing a five year Disaster Risk Financing programme in Karamoja region, the most drought prone area in Uganda. The programme targets the most vulnerable households.

The Government of Uganda has established a standby readiness team of 20% of the Uganda National Army has been given additional skills in rescue and emergency response. In addition, over 50 officers have been trained in Post-Disaster needs Assessment (PDNA), to assess and value losses and damages whenever a disaster occurs.

Uganda has also established the 'Presidential Initiative on Wetlands'. Wetlands, found in highly vulnerable areas of the country, are critical to Uganda's

sustainable development. This initiative recognizes the need for an integrated multi-sectoral approach.

Related to this initiative is Uganda's Green Growth Development Strategy. This Strategy seeks to attain an inclusive low emissions economic growth that emphasizes effective and efficient use of Uganda's natural, human, and physical capital. Ensuring that natural assets continue to provide for present and future generations.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Next month, the President of the Republic of Uganda and the Secretary-General of the United Nations will co-convene the Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees. The objectives are two-fold: (1) to bring global attention to three refugee crises – from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi; the (2) to mobilise investment into Uganda's unique refugee hosting approach. Uganda is seeking support and investment, as it is now the largest refugee hosting country in Africa, and the third largest in the World.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Uganda fully supports and is committed to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015 – 2030, and other outcomes of the Mexico 2017 Global Platform.

I thank you.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.

**MARTIN OWOR
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