



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
Office of the Prime Minister

**WELCOMING REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL
MINISTERIAL MEETING ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

BY

HONOURABLE, MR. JOHN MUTORWA
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

24 OCTOBER 2024

- Master of Ceremonies;
- Hon. Thulise Dladla, Deputy Prime Minister of Eswatini;
- Mr. Kamal Kishore, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR);
- Hon. Ministers
- Ambassadors
- Heads of Delegations;
- Your Worship Queen Kamati, Mayor of the City of Windhoek
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Distinguished Delegates;
- Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning and welcome to Windhoek, Capital City of the Republic of Namibia,

1. It is a distinguished honour for me to welcome you to this Eighth high level Ministerial segment on Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. Namibia is honoured to have hosted this ninth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction from the 21st to 23rd of October 2024. All distinguished delegates will agree with me that we have witnessed fruitful deliberations on disaster risk reduction over the past three days.
3. It is indeed evident that our convergence here, in the Capital City of Namibia, enabled us to not only reflect to the progress we have made thus far on achieving the 2030 Agenda, but also

culminated in the common position of our continent to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, but to also strengthen our relationships as we endeavour in this noble course, noting that the future of our people and that of our nations rely on decisions we make here today.

4. As we encounter the escalating impacts of climate change and unpredictable climate-induced disasters, the need for coordinated and pre-emptive disaster risk reduction cannot be overemphasized.
5. Over the last three days, we have echoed the fact that disasters respect no borders, does discriminate between rich or poor, and do not differentiate between urban or rural areas. They strike with cruelty, threatening the lives and livelihoods of our people and in the process impede the crucial development we wish to achieve, as we strive to achieve the Agenda 2063, the Africa We Want.
6. As Member States, the onus lies upon us to ensure that we are not caught off-guard and unprepared. We need to honour the paradigm shift of being reactive, to becoming proactive in our commitments towards addressing these risks.

Your Excellences, the **Windhoek Declaration**, tabled to us today for our consideration and adoption is not an ordinary document. This is a comprehensive roadmap that will guide our strategic and programmatic approaches towards reducing disaster impacts and building resilience among our countries, in order to protect our communities and ensure that our long-term developmental aspirations are not derailed.

Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Heads of Delegations

7. The adoption of the Windhoek Declaration reaffirms our commitment multiple goals, including amongst others, the strengthening of early warning systems for early action, integrating disaster risk reduction into developmental plans and enhancing continental and regional cooperation in tackling disasters.
8. I have no doubt that the discussions outcomes of this meeting will help chart the path forward. This is the critical moment requiring us to apply an eagle eye to ensure all our inputs, plans and aspirations are considered, as this will be our roadmap guiding our path towards accelerating the Sendai Framework and Programme of Action for Africa.
9. In conclusion, I look forward to our deliberations and the resultant the adoption of the **Windhoek Declaration to advance**

the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Africa.

Once again, I thank you all and wish you fruitful deliberations during this segment.

With that, I now declare the Eighth high level Ministerial segment on Disaster Risk Reduction meeting of Ministers responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction officially open.

I thank you.