



**OPENING REMARKS AFRICA DAY**  
**at the**  
**2025 GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK**  
**REDUCTION**

**by**  
**Hon Natangue Paulus Ithete,**  
**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of**  
**Industries, Mines, and Energy of the Republic**  
**of Namibia- Chair of the Africa Regional**  
**Platform Bureau for DRR Bureau**

**Geneva, Switzerland**  
**Monday, 02 June 2025**  
**09:00- 11:00,**  
**Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG)**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and as Chair of the Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Bureau, it is my honour to welcome you all to this important meeting.

Namibia is proud to serve in this role at such a pivotal time, and we extend our sincere appreciation to the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for organizing this gathering to validate the draft Africa Common Position to the Global Platform 2025.

This draft reflects a truly inclusive, member-state-led consultation process, guided by the African Union Commission and supported by the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and the UNDRR Secretariat.

We also thank all Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and stakeholders for their valuable input. Your contributions have been critical in shaping a position that reflects our shared vision and continental priorities.

I am pleased to confirm that the draft Africa Common Position is fully aligned with the Windhoek Declaration. It ensures that African delegates speak with one voice at GP2025—amplifying our common concerns and ambitions on the global stage.

Importantly, this position sets the stage for effective implementation of the Windhoek Declaration and the GP2025 outcomes, advancing our commitments under the Sendai Framework and contributing meaningfully to sustainable development across Africa.

Namibia remains fully committed to supporting the AUC and UNDRR in securing endorsement of this Common Position by AU Policy Organs, and to ensuring its implementation at all levels.

As we proceed, I encourage all delegates to critically review the draft and work together to finalize a strong, unified position for submission by the African Union Commission.

Finally, fellow Africans, let us do away with the chronic dependence on superpowers! While we remain grateful of assistance from elsewhere, we are also cognisant that the world is ever changing. The ongoing cut of US funding across sectors should be a lesson-learned and warning for us all to work toward self-reliance through domesticated investment and strengthened efforts in Disaster Risks Reduction and Management. "Let's make hay while the sun shines"!

I wish you all productive discussions and a successful meeting.

Thank you.