



Statement/Intervention by H.E. Mr. Demeke Mekonnen,
Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
At
The World Humanitarian Summit
**High-Level Leaders' Roundtable on
Natural Disasters and Climate Change: Managing Risks and Crisis Differently**
Core Responsibility Four of the Agenda for Humanity

24 May 2016
Istanbul

Your Excellency Secretary General,
Distinguished Co-Chairpersons,
Distinguished Speakers,

Allocated time: 4 minutes

Ethiopia is one of the world's fastest growing economies and it is working effectively towards achieving middle-income status by 2025. Nevertheless, climate change-induced disasters continue to pose a serious threat. Ethiopia, for example, remains

subject to recurrent climactic shocks, most recently the El Nino-induced drought. Such disasters continue to create higher risk of losing hard-won developmental gains and threaten our progress towards attaining inclusive and sustainable economic development. I am, therefore, particularly delighted, and honored, to co-chair a roundtable on an issue to which my Government attaches the greatest importance.

The magnitude of natural or man-made disasters in different parts of the world has become a major global concern requiring concerted international action. This needs to be based on a forward-looking framework that can take into account emerging situations.

Our own experience in Ethiopia has shown us the need to scale-up our efforts in early action and build resilience at the level of local communities and households. Indeed, disaster-risk reduction and building of resilience to disasters must be addressed in the context of sustainable development.

Ethiopia has developed an effective National Policy and Strategy on Disaster Risk Management in 2013. This policy seeks to reduce and eventually prevent and mitigate disaster-risk by building a process of mainstreaming disaster-risk management policy and strategy into development plans and programs.

We believe it is particularly important to mainstream such programs in sectoral development plans, in our case the Productive Safety-Net Program (PSNP). This allows us to enhance the resilience capacity of communities and households and define the

role of regional and international frameworks for cooperation in support of national efforts. There is no doubt that the introduction of the PSNP and other disaster risk reduction programs has prevented a more negative impact as a result of the current drought in Ethiopia.

Similarly, there is no doubt that access to early warning systems, disaster-risk information, and sustainable financing are of critical importance in reducing the impact of disasters on human life, economies and infrastructure. I would also remind all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector that they need to work together in line with the Sendai Framework for action for disaster risk reduction. Priority now should be given to doubling up our efforts to implement this framework and more sustainable development-oriented action by both states and other development actors.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have speakers here today of immense experience. I am confident they will be able to identify ways and means to enhance our collective efforts to reduce the risk posed by disasters. I am equally sure they will be able to make concrete suggestions to build more effective resilience. Their advice will certainly be of immeasurable value.

I Thank You!