

**Remarks By Firdaus Dahlan, Director of IORA Secretariat**  
**at**  
**IORA Workshop on “Exploring Preemptive Disaster Risk Management Measures to**  
**Ensuring Community Resilience,**  
**Dar Er Salaam, 20 – 21 April 2015 Human Security”**

- Excellency, Mdm. Regina Likuli, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister Office, Tanzania
- Director, Disaster Management Department, PMO
- Acting Director, Department of Regional Cooperation, MOFA Tanzania
- Diplomatic Corps, representative from UN/International Organizations,
- Participants, Speakers
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Very Good Morning,

At the outset, allow me to convey warm greetings of Ambassador K.V. Bhagirath, Secretary-General, IORA to all participants of this workshop. He wished our deliberations in two-day workshop would be a productive and fruitful one.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, allow me to congratulate the Government of Tanzania for hosting this workshop on “Exploring Preemptive Disaster Risk Management Measures to Ensuring Community Resilience”. Indeed, this is very relevant and important workshop proposed by the Government of Tanzania under the IORA Sustainable Development Programme (ISDP), approved at the last meeting of the Council of Ministers in Perth in October 2014. I would like to convey my gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Tanzania for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the workshop.

Over the years, IORA member countries have been experienced of both natural and man-made disasters that have caused losses of life and property, as well as impacting on the environment. Disasters can hamper economic growth, affect poverty levels and cause human suffering. Without significant actions, the extent and impact of economic and social damage associated with disasters will get worse following disasters. So therefore, immediate actions should be taken to reduce risks and manage the diverse impacts of disasters.

Excellencies,

According to the World Bank, many developing countries is lack of the tools, expertise, and instruments to factor the potential impacts of adverse natural events in their investment decisions. The case in the East African Countries also reveals that there is inadequate resources and capacities to cater appropriate preventive measures, preparedness and response to disasters be it at country or sub-regional level.

This workshop has various objectives among others to promote sharing of knowledge and best practices of IORA Member States in disaster risk management; to ensure equitable and comprehensive human coverage of disaster risk management initiatives; to enhance the capacity for sustained human development and health post disasters; and to empower individuals to respond and deal with disasters and post-disaster social erosion.

Through the workshop today, let us share amongst ourselves best practices and country experience to equip and enrich ourselves with knowledge in order to strengthen our resilience to disaster risks. We must

at all times be better prepared to adequately respond to impacts of all disasters. The need for close collaboration and strong partnerships of all stakeholders, Government, non-governmental organizations, and civil societies is imperative not only at the national level but also at the regional and international level. The availability of sufficient knowledge, capacities supported by technologies and financial resources are important to achieve the ultimate goal of this workshop.

Excellencies, I once again to thank the Government of Tanzania for the excellent arrangements made for this workshop and I do hope that deliberations within two days workshop would guide us to recommend a doable action plan in disaster risk management cooperation in the IORA region.

I thank you.