Excellencies,……

Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to express on behalf of the government of the Syrian Arab Republic the appreciation for the effort that has been expended to conduct the Second Session of the global platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

For almost a decade now Syria has paid greater attention to the issue of disaster risk mitigation.

Work has been done on this subject at national, regional and international levels, as evidenced by the development of legislation governing the structure and operation of disaster management, incorporating the subjects of preparedness and disaster risk reduction in Government development plans and linking it with the sustainable development process.

At the international level, the cooperation between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations agencies in the implementation of several projects that focus on disaster risk reduction and capacity building to deal with crises and disasters at the national level, linked to regional cooperation for the exchange of expertise and experience, has had the greatest impact in creating a comprehensive vision to deal with disasters in line with the concepts and standards applied worldwide.

Our work in all disaster related fields is harmonized, and conforms with the objectives contained in the Hyogo Framework for Action as described in the national report on the status of progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. We have covered in our report all the fields that have been worked on, such as updating legislation on disaster management, adopting modern scientific methods in dealing with disasters, and promoting cooperation with relevant states and organizations, in addition to capacity building and dissemination of training and an awareness culture to all segments of society.

Our future work will take into account the linking of disaster risk reduction to address ecosystems degradation problems, and global climate change, through combating desertification and coping with the environmental and social repercussions of the phenomenon of drought, in addition to poverty alleviation through sustainable urban planning and infrastructure development in slum areas in order to mitigate disaster risk in these areas.

We will continue what we have begun through the adoption of policies and through commitment to global campaigns to mitigate the effects of disasters such as the (Disaster-Risk Reduction Begins at School) global campaign, where we worked and are still working on spreading a cultural framework to deal with disasters in schools, through involving teachers and students in training and integrated concepts of disaster in school curriculums.

This is in addition to strengthening the role of women through their active participation in the issues of disaster mitigation, through both the reduction of causes, such as climate change and drought, and dealing with the results in order to strengthen the community as a whole and the preservation of the sustainability of resources.

What we have achieved is a source of pride for us as well as a stimulus for further work and development of capacities and capabilities and continuing the cooperation with international organizations interested in this issue. We emphasize what Ms. Margarita Wallstrom - UN Assistant Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction- has mentioned Syria is taking this matter seriously and we will follow the work on programs to strengthen the management of disasters and crises and to improve the plans and capabilities as it is the best investment for a safe future.

Thank you.