

**Dear Madame/Mr. Chair,**

**Distinguished delegates of countries and regional organizations,**

**Dear members of Media**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Before beginning my speech allow me to congratulate UNISDR Secretariat for organizing such a successful meeting. On behalf of Republic of Turkey and Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, I would like to express my pleasure and honor for addressing such an esteemed group of people.

In 2005, with the launch of Hyogo Framework of Action each and every country initiated to shift their disaster management mandate mainly from post disaster rehabilitation and recovery to disaster risk management. Turkey also used this document as a blueprint for shaping her future 10 year strategy to cope with the consequences of disasters. Hyogo Framework of Action is an important document because almost 169 countries adopted to implement it and until now voluntarily committing themselves to achieve actions at national and local levels.

2011 and 2012 were the most catastrophic years in terms of disaster events and disaster related losses. Turkey also affected from Van Earthquakes in 2011. Recovery and response to the Van Earthquake was one of the important achievements of AFAD after its establishment in 2009. Each of you will accept that recovery is also the difficult part of post disaster studies. Expectations are always high from the government and people affected from disaster want to return to normality promptly. After 2011 Van earthquake, Turkey constructed new houses within 10 months period. Considering the occurrence season and the winter conditions in the region, this short time period can be considered as a success.

Disaster risk reduction is the priority of Turkey for the next term disaster management policies. Disaster consequences not only affect human lives and properties, but also disrupt long term development targets. Mitigation practices, planning at local level and more importantly

increasing awareness and creating disaster resilient communities are the critical topics of Disaster Risk Reduction. Disaster risk reduction cannot be achieved overnight but by long-term strategically planning and visioning. Turkey prepared strategies and action plans in order to approach disaster risk reduction issues systematically. National Earthquake Strategy and Action Plan between 2013 and 2023 and National Climate Change Strategy are amongst the most important pillars of our risk reduction documents.

Today the roles of civil society, academic community and NGOs are increasing in achieving DRR targets. Community based disaster management activities increasing the roles and responsibilities of all specific units of our community. Every individual must be a part of the solution. They must also be trained, educated and resilient. In order to achieve this target, AFAD started Disaster Training Campaign at national level. We aim to reach ..... people by implementing training activities to four groups namely; children, family, workplaces and voluntary young people. By doing so we are not only distributing the responsibility, but also developing partnership, communication and collaboration among different groups of community.

We are aware that Turkey has a key role to play in sharing its knowledge, experience and lessons learnt both at regional and global level. We are willing to share our background on all phases of disaster management with the international community and aware that UN is serving as the most important facilitator and platform for this. As the Hyogo Framework of Action Plan is coming to close, we would like to contribute to the post-Hyogo efforts and both benefit and contribute to post 2015 document. As a country very robustly benefited from the HFA, we emphasize the importance of more action oriented and guiding documents must be prepared in order to assist local authorities to achieve DRR. Within Hyogo decade many countries prepared their national level plans, strategies and established strong mechanisms in order to better manage disasters. Lessons learnt within this period will be very useful in order to sketch next decade and will be a good opportunity to move to action oriented strategies.

In conclusion, I would like to underline that all of us as disaster managers has responsibility for future generations to make them live in more secure places. In order to achieve this, we must focus on disaster risk reduction and secure sustainable development targets. Finally I would like to thank Swiss Government for their warm hospitality extended to us and participants of Global Platform 2013.