

Official Statement

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4thGLOBAL PLATFORM

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is great pleasure to be here at the 4th Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction making some remarks on behalf of the members of Tehran City Council. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the conference staff for their hard work to ensure the efficient and smooth proceeding of the assembly.

Tehran is located at the foot slope area of Alborz Mountains, which form part of the Alps-Himalayan orogenic zone. This zone is one of high seismic potentials with many complex active faults. The primary active faults in the megacity of Tehran include: (i) the Mousa Fault, (ii) the North Tehran Fault; and (iii) the South and North Ray Faults that are the most prominent faults in the southern plains of Tehran. The historical seismic data indicate that Tehran has suffered several strong earthquakes with the return periods of about 150 years. The city is dotted with all kinds of buildings and infrastructural facilities, comprising good construction to the poorly designed. Considering the high level of seismic hazard and the existing vulnerable structures, it is essential to provide the decision makers and engineers with reliable estimates of seismic hazard for land use planning and improved building design and construction, to minimize casualties, property damage and social and economic disruptions caused by any probable earthquake. Moreover, Tehran has a population of about 11 million during the day and 8 million at night.

Recently, Tehran city council approved a Seismic Risk Reduction program which consists of the following three parts: (i) Seismic risk reduction of new urban elements, (ii) Seismic risk reduction of the existing urban elements, (iii) Public and technical training. The key goal of this program is to identify the roles and responsibilities of the governmental and private sections with regard to the disaster management before, during and after an earthquake occurrence. In order to put the rehabilitation and redevelopment of the reduction risk assessment strategies for new constructions into practice and also to retrofit the city's structural elements, the relevant institutional frameworks ought to provide such facilities as tax incentives, low interest housing loans and floor area ratio bonuses. The training programs for public consist of identifying the earthquake phenomenon, hazard level and the advantages of seismic resistant buildings. A trained population will be ready to provide the gained knowledge and ability for disaster mitigation and share the gained knowledge with the neighbors, providing an opportunity to enhance the resilience of the nations and communities to a potential earthquake.

We are all aware that disaster management is possible only with international joint effort and partnership. Thus, this session may be a good platform for the countries and organizations to reflect on DRR priorities, exchanging experiences and developing approaches to a safer world. Disaster

management is a societal effort but not political. The entire members of Tehran city council on behalf of the people of Tehran expected from the world communities to incorporate in the implementation of the SRRP which was approved by TCC. Generally, after an earthquake with casualties the governments start sending humanitarian aid. There is no doubt that it would be much better to collaborate in the risk reduction phase before an earthquake. Unfortunately, political issues overshadow these international collaborations. I suggest that the 4th session of the Global Platform bring these issues under consideration too and put it on its agenda.

To sum up, I would like to emphasize that the role of international organizations and public sector in DRR process is of high importance, and we are here today united by these challenges, beyond territorial boundaries, political influences, and institutional affiliations for a safer tomorrow. The city council of Tehran shall make the best of its efforts in achieving a safer city and is ready to exchange their knowledge with the other international communities.

Thankyou