

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AT GENEVA



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DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE POLOGNE
AUPRES DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
A GENEVE

IV session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Statement by Ambassador

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(Geneva, 21 – 23 May 2013)

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Poland, I would like to express our gratitude to UN ISDR for organizing this interesting and valuable meeting.

The fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has significant role in whole preparation process to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. The first 10-years term of Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 is almost completing and now time has come for reflection on the participation of all stakeholders in building the framework for broad resilience agenda.

Poland has been contributing to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action by strengthening its own national disaster management system, assisting its development partner countries in building their disaster risk reduction and preparedness profile as well as participating in the international DRR debate in humanitarian and development sector.

Since the last Global Platform in 2011 we were witness to a number of disasters turning the lives of the most vulnerable communities around the world into ruin. Population growth, destruction of natural environment and climate change are the factors increasing the intensity and impact of disasters nowadays. The need to reduce disaster risk through systematic efforts and to prepare for those disasters that may occur now is better recognized by international community.

Within the recent 8 years, the Hyogo Framework for Action has been a crucial instrument for the international community to support work towards more pre-emptive and systemic approaches to managing the risk of disasters. It has been particularly efficient in stimulating progress in DRR actions at national and region all levels.

Progress in understanding the resilience concept and improved resilience-targeted programmes in the field are too slow and hampered by a limited availability of funds. But it is changing. The lines between Preparedness, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience still are unclear. Preparedness for disasters saves lives, livelihoods, it saves time and money. Therefore the priority of investing in national and local preparedness capacity is essential to

strengthen resilience to increasing global risks.

The disaster risk reduction agenda recognizes the primary role of governments in disaster risk management and expects them to be mainstream DRR into national development priorities. National Governments have the main responsibility for emergency response, however communities and local authorities are the first responders to emergencies. Local level community's understanding of DRR is essential to government's policy implementation. It is crucial for governments to promote in national society full knowledge about the risks, vulnerabilities and to have the capacity in adaptation to climate change. Local governments are at the frontline of disasters and their role should be further reinforced in the Hyogo Framework for Action Two.

DRR projects implemented by the Polish Institute of Meteorology and Water Management – National Research Institute, relating to the climate change influence on national economy and IT framework to assess the risk of natural hazards, are just the examples on how Polish Government was developing its national disaster management system in recent years.

Natural disasters will mostly like strike in middle – income countries. Existing work in disaster preparedness at all levels deserves more financial support. That is why Poland strongly advocates for urgent shifting of paradigm by international system to systematically and proactively facilitate links and create new mechanisms to re-define relationship with affected states by bridging the divide between humanitarian aid and development assistance.

In this regard we have supported the recent EU work on the comprehensive approach to disaster resilience and better coordination of EU development and humanitarian actors.

Poland shares the view that Hyogo Framework for Action has been a useful tool to identify priorities for action, that is why its core elements should be preserved and reinforced in the future. At the same time the issues, which have not progressed substantially since 2005 or have not been sufficiently reflected in the present DRR framework, should be given particular attention in the Hyogo Framework for Action Two.

The efficient mechanism to identify, share and replicate the success stories, good practices and recommendations from disaster-prone countries is needed in the future DRR framework. In order to build resilience the stakeholders should not aim at changing the present architecture but shall improve concrete operations, specifically:

- reliable information preparedness, strategic thinking, careful planning, broader coordination on all levels in order to make limited recourses effectively and wisely used;
- building capacity and supporting local communities in improving investment in knowledge,
- ensuring strategic coherence between development and humanitarian sector;
- focus on concrete existing mechanisms in broad disaster management approach;
- ensuring capacity on recipient side at international and country level to receive the preparedness assistance by better mapping of expectations;
- broad outreach to communities, engaging local level and private sector to strengthen system for adequate reaction and proper joint risk assessment.

In conclusion, Poland remains committed to strengthening and accelerating the dialogue within UN ISDR system on the content of post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction by improving its performance regarding resilience agenda.