PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

GENEVA

The 2nd Prep Com for the 3rd WCDRR

Agenda Item 4: Considerations on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Geneva, November 17, 2014

**Statement by Ambassador AHN, Young-jip**

**Representative of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you, Co-Chairs.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Co-Chairs for their leadership in guiding this Preparatory Committee.  The Republic of Korea is confident we will have another successful session under your able leadership.  I also extend a warm "welcome back" to all of our colleagues.

Co-Chairs,

I believe the first session of the Preparatory Committee in July provided us with a great opportunity to review the implementation of the “Hyogo Framework for Action” and engage in constructive discussions on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Despite increasing awareness of and investment in disaster risk reduction, today's challenges such as climate change, urbanization and poverty leave both developed and developing countries vulnerable as they continue to be exposed to disaster risk.  Having far-reaching economic consequences, disasters are a serious impediment to sustainable development.  For developing countries, in particular, a vicious cycle may develop in which disasters roll back years of development achievements, leading to further extended poverty.  Therefore, it is crucial to recognize disaster risk reduction as a key factor in achieving sustainable development.  Importantly, the ongoing Ebola outbreak reminds us that communicable diseases can bring a disaster by hitting affected countries’ tourism and the broader economy.

We must recall that the post-2015 development framework aims to eradicate poverty through sustainable development.  As such, disaster risk reduction is also directly linked with the success of the post-2015 development agenda.  Disaster risk reduction and resilience in the face of disasters are indeed fundamental requirements for sustainable development.  Without a doubt more efforts are needed to mainstream disaster risk reduction in the post-2015 process.  Cooperation among developed countries is especially essential to develop and provide “appropriate technology” for developing countries.  In this vein, the Republic of Korea is making efforts to share disaster management information technology for underdeveloped countries and establish disaster management systems that are tailored to local contexts.

Co-Chair,

The Government of the Republic of Korea is of the view that the new framework for disaster risk reduction shall consider three key elements.

First, we need to build partnerships based on a “whole-of-society” approach that encourages the participation of not only governments but all stakeholders.  A close partnership between the central government and civil society is critical.  Equally important is the public-private partnership for innovative financial instruments for addressing disaster risk.  This is also well in line with the concept of “global partnership” as a means of implementation of the post-2015 development goals.

Second, in order to carry out disaster risk reduction work, it is vital to build and strengthen the capacities of diverse stakeholders such as central and local governments, the private sector, and civil society.  In addition, it is also deeply important to strengthen disaster risk reduction education for children and youth who will be the main beneficiaries of the new framework.  I believe the UN Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), based in the Republic of Korea, can play a role in this regard.

Third, we need to develop more innovative techniques for disaster risk forecasts and analysis such as a big data strategy using science and technology.

Co-Chair,

The Government of the Republic of Korea will actively participate in the process of adopting and implementing the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.  Our new disaster control ministry, which will be established on November 20, is expected to build a more effective and coherent disaster response and management system and can make a meaningful contribution to future discussions on the post-Hyogo framework.  The Government of the Republic of Korea will continue to share our experiences with the international community as we work toward disaster risk reduction.

Thank you.  /END/