



REMARKS

BY VICE STATE PRESIDENT NGUYEN THI DOAN

At the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

(14-18/03/2015, Sendai, Japan)

Madam Chair,

Mr. Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary-General,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations and International Organisations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to attend the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. On behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I wish to sincerely thank the Japanese Government and the people of Sendai city for the hospitality and warm reception that you have accorded us.

I completely share and deeply sympathise with the losses incurred as a result of climate change in many countries, including Japan and the city of Sendai during the earthquake and tsunami “double disaster” four years ago. I also admire the determination and strong will of disaster-stricken countries during the post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, the most recent example being the Philippines which was severely affected by super typhoon Haiyan.

Our conference comes at a time when we have just witnessed horrific human and property losses due to climate change in the past ten years and the world is facing with multiple political and security fluctuations and global economic and social challenges. Among them, natural disasters have become a threat to almost all countries in the world. Climate change impacts have increased in terms of both frequency and intensity, resulting in greater human and property losses to mankind. With that, Viet Nam welcomes the initiative of the United Nations and Japan to organise a global conference in Sendai to discuss and develop the new post-2015 policy framework for strengthening joint efforts on disaster preparedness and disaster risk mitigation.

Madam Chair,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Viet Nam is frequently faced with a number of disasters. In Viet Nam every year an average of 400 people die and go missing due to natural disasters; material losses amount to millions of US dollars. Viet Nam is also in the list of countries that are severely affected by climate change. With the support from the international community, including the United Nations, Viet Nam has been proactive and strongly committed to implementing measures to respond to climate change and prevent disasters. In particular, we have been completing and

supplementing the legal framework and policies on disasters preparedness, strengthening the National Steering Committee as well as forming the National Committee and developing the National Strategy on Climate Change. Thanks to such efforts, human and property losses have been significantly reduced. The number of deaths and missing persons has been cut down by 8%, the number of injured persons went down by 17% during the past 5 years. Viet Nam has also been actively participating in the negotiation and discussion of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda of the United Nations, with priority given to climate change adaptation and disasters mitigation.

Madam Chair,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Viet Nam highly values the international community's recognition of the roles of women and girls in disaster risk reduction. They are the first to prepare their family before disasters and to stabilise life after disaster. In this regard, the Viet Nam Women Union has an important role to play. This is clearly the case in my home country. At national level, from the practical experience of Viet Nam, I wish to propose some measures to respond to and gradually reduce disaster risks in the coming years:

First, develop suitable national institutions. Accordingly, each country should develop and effectively implement the relevant legal documents which clearly outline the duties and mandate of competent agencies during disaster prevention, preparedness and post-disaster recovery. The disaster prevention agencies must be fully capable and organised consistently from the central to local levels. It is also crucial that medium and long term strategies and plans be proactively developed to provide the foundation for concrete implementing activities by agencies and localities.

Second, we should encourage the participation and mobilise resources of enterprises and the community, couple that with public resources in disaster preparedness and risk reduction. The State should focus on conducting good monitoring, assessment and forecast of disasters, develop infrastructure and build capacity for search and rescue, timely assist post-disaster relief and recovery efforts. Since the people are central to disaster prevention, the Government should provide training programs to raise awareness, develop specific plans at the

community to respond to disasters and mobilise maximum level of participation from enterprises and social organisations.

Third is to promote the application of science and technologies to enhance the effectiveness of disaster monitoring, assessment, prediction and warning, decision-making by governing agencies at all levels and people's proactive disaster preparedness with special emphasis on the role of women. Despite the resource constraint, Viet Nam still gives priority to science and technology projects, particularly IT and remote sensing technologies to develop the database providing basic information about natural disasters, the early-warning systems, and sustainable communication systems.

The last point I wish to underscore is the importance of strengthened cooperation at regional, inter-regional and global levels to build national capacity and enhance joint efforts to respond to and mitigate disaster risks. With that, I call on the United Nations and the international community to increase support for the developing countries and poor countries that are heavily hit by natural disasters, with priority given to improving the capacity for disaster forecast, warning and disaster risk assessment as well as institutional capacity for disaster prevention and preparedness.

Madam Chair,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Viet Nam has strictly observed the Hyogo Framework of Action on Disaster Risk Mitigation for 2005-2015. At this conference, Viet Nam reaffirms its support for the adoption of a post-2015 framework with concrete targets towards significantly reducing disaster risks and their human, economic and social damages. We are confident that with a new post-2015 commitment we will further strengthen integration and connectivity among countries, regions and particularly between ASEAN and regional and global mechanisms for prevention and mitigation of disaster risks.

Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you. May I wish the conference a great success!

