



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND
GENEVA

Plenary, Thursday 23 May, 9-11, Room 2

"Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow"

Governments and HFA: A Sustainable Engagement

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Finland sees the Global Platform as an excellent opportunity to share experiences and good practices on disaster risk reduction and to have thorough discussions on the Successor to Hyogo Framework of Action after 2015, in order to set up ambitious goals for the future.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in DRR. The HFA has played a major role in this. While the core elements of the current HFA are still valid, significant scaling up of the efforts are required if we are to keep up with the growing number of disasters.

Ensuring coherence between Post-2015 Development Goals and Successor to HFA is a top priority. Disaster prevention, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and sustainable development agendas need to be brought more closely together. The post 2015 development agenda has to prioritize the building of resilience among people and societies at risk, especially in fragile and highly vulnerable settings.

Finland together with Indonesia, Panama and the UN Development Group organized a series of consultations on this. The outcome is summarized in the document "Building the Post-2015 Development Agenda."

In terms of the HFA2, Finland would like to emphasize the following priority issues:

- Disaster risk reduction has to be integrated in all development policies and national development strategies. The approach should be multi-sectoral and comprehensive.
- As local action is fundamental to successful disaster risk reduction, DRR should be tailored in national and local contexts through multi-stakeholder consultations and risk assessments. In development contexts, there is a need to support the capacity of local governments, civil society and communities as well as facilitate

partnerships among public and private sector to promote technological innovation.

- There is a strong relationship between human rights, gender equality and disaster resilience. DRR has to take better into account the rights and needs of children, women, elderly, disabled people and politically marginalized groups. Promoting safety nets and social protection for the most vulnerable should be an integral part of HFA2.
- The reporting mechanisms of the future HFA should be based on risk assessment and include sections of prevention and preparedness, early warning, response and recovery, indicating legislative, technical and educational means and measures. The framework would benefit from measurable targets and indicators.
- The accountability and governance mechanisms related to the DRR architecture should be strengthened and a clear division of roles, responsibilities and institutional mandates ensured between different actors, both globally and nationally. There should also be a stronger linkage between DRR architecture and the governing bodies of relevant multilateral organizations to ensure coherence and complementarity of actions.

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to share with you the following key DRR achievements in Finland:

- **Firstly**, The National Hyogo Platform for Action led by the Ministry of Interior has been an active network in sharing knowledge and experience on DRR. The national action plan was recently updated.
- **Secondly**, Finland has launched a new National Early Warning System for Natural Disasters. It provides the decision-makers and rescue authorities with real time incidence monitoring, warnings and analytical information on disasters. It is of crucial importance that this data is easily accessible and shared with all in a transparent and open manner. Finland has also launched a multi-disciplinary synthesis of the impact of climate change and adaptation and further enhanced the emergency stockpiling of goods and materials.
- **Thirdly**, DRR has become an important element of the Finnish Development policy with the objective of being mainstreamed in all development policy and action. Finland also continues to invest into early warning and weather, climate and water-related partnerships. A new regional PRASDES programme in the Andean countries has just been kicked-off with the objective of reducing vulnerability to climate related hazards through the efficient use of information. This programme was presented here in one of the side events.

Thank you for your attention.