



Madam Co Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Cook Islands is grateful to be invited to this session of the 1st Preparatory Committee meeting (PrepCom) for the 3rd World Conference on DRR and to participate in this dialogue on considerations for the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2).

We express our sincere appreciation to the organisers of the PrepCom for bringing us to this important meeting and we align ourselves with the sentiments expressed by distinguished colleagues in congratulating you and His Excellency the Ambassador of Thailand as Co Chairs of the meeting.

In terms of the proposed elements of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction we first and foremost reiterate our support for the position taken by Pacific island countries and territories, in collaboration with a number of stakeholders at the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management held from 2 - 4 June 2014 in Suva Fiji. We also acknowledge that the Pacific position resonates closely with the position taken by our friends in the African regional platform and as well the one for the Americas.

The Cook Islands also supports the Compilation report on consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction in its entirety and wishes to acknowledge and endorse the work that has been conducted to inform the preparatory process of the 3rd World Conference on DRR.

The Cook Islands also recognises the importance of the suggested elements for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and associates itself with the Purpose, the Scope and the Plan of Action expressed, especially in the action to "prevent the creation of new risk and reducing current risk

We acknowledge the contributions of the Hyogo Framework for Action in assisting the Pacific region to build stronger and more resilient communities and also recognise that more efforts will be needed to prevent risk accumulation and build resilience in the Pacific, for the benefit of the current and future generations.

The importance of adopting a whole-of-society approach is of utmost importance. Different stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society, private sector and development partners all have a unique and essential role to play in building resilience. Inclusivity is central to the processes of building resilience. Persons with disabilities, women and men, the elderly, children, youth, migrants and volunteers are all important and are powerful agents for change and improvement, with special consideration to the needs of the vulnerable and to the observation of human rights.

We feel that the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction should have linkages with other global processes, including the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the new global Climate Change agreements, in order to strengthen coherence and mutual reinforcement of these international mechanisms.



We also believe in the importance of developing a strong mechanism for supporting the implementation and monitoring of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific region, and to assist Pacific Island Countries and Territories in the reporting process.

In this regard, we feel that the reporting process should, for the Pacific, also be aligned with that of the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific and with the relevant national development plans.

In terms of the guiding principles, we support those that have been suggested. In addition, we feel there needs to be an emphasis on an integrated approach to addressing disaster and climate change related risk. For the future this should be a standard in terms of addressing disaster risk.

The Cook Islands is supportive of the suggested implementation measures. However, it needs to be recognised that our capacity to record and account for disaster damage and loss needs to be strengthened. We acknowledge the support of some of our donors in developing this capacity but would ask for further assistance in this regard.

We support the proposal for targets to be developed at the global level. We must ensure that targets take into account various cross cutting considerations and be mindful that accurate baselines need to be developed to help make targets realistic. Developing such baselines is a challenge and we would welcome assistance in this regard

The Cook Islands is keen to continue to be part of the process for developing the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. We look forward to receiving a draft of the new framework in the coming months and to contributing to further preparatory discussions here at the global level and as well within the context of the Pacific region.

In concluding, The Cook Islands wishes to register its support and endorsement of the Prep Committee's Outcomes Statements as ascribed to, for the 3rd UN World Conference on DRR, in Sendai, Japan, March 2015.

Co-Chair, I thank you