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**National Statement by Mrs. Ina Lepel, Deputy Director General for Global Affairs,
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Committee**

On behalf of the Federal Government of Germany, I would like to thank the Bureau and the ISDR Secretariat for convening the First Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. We welcome the inclusive consultations that have taken place at the regional and global level under the guidance of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström. The wealth of knowledge and recommendations that these consultations have produced will be very useful for preparing a concise and action-oriented successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Germany is convinced that an effective, integrated disaster risk management approach is needed more than ever. We are all aware that disasters have devastating impacts on the lives and livelihoods of billions of people and are causing massive economic losses.¹ Meanwhile disaster risks are growing and the exposure of people and assets to disasters is increasing significantly due to global challenges and underlying risk drivers.² Scientific data suggests that natural hazards will occur with higher frequency and intensity in the future. In an interconnected world,

¹ Over the last twenty years over 1.3 million people have been killed by, and 4.4 billion people been affected by disasters. It is estimated that economic losses amount to 2 trillion US Dollar during the last 20 years.

² Risk drivers such as climate change, rapid and unplanned urbanization, demographic pressure, construction and more intensive land-use in hazard prone areas, eco-system degradation, and weak governance and poverty.

all countries are vulnerable to disasters and together we must continue to prevent future risk creation, reduce existing levels of risks and strengthen preparedness and resilience.

When developing the successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action it is important to recall the achievements and shortcomings of the current framework. The Hyogo Framework for Action is providing a straightforward, normative and action-oriented framework that has prominently advocated for addressing DRR issues and raising DRR commitments on a global scale. It has increased international awareness towards DRR and supported the strengthening of national DRR legislations. It has contributed to an increase in early warning capacities and disaster preparedness and response. However, the Hyogo Framework for Action has not yet achieved a reduction of the underlying risk drivers. Moreover, its linkage to development frameworks and actors as well as climate change adaptation efforts needs to be strengthened as well as its accountability and monitoring system.

Germany is convinced that the current framework is still highly valuable and that its core elements have to be preserved and reinforced. We should jointly strive towards a post-2015 framework that builds upon the achievements of the current HFA. However, the successor to the HFA needs to put a stronger focus on the actual implementation of disaster risk reduction and management measures, and be monitored accordingly. In this regard, the Federal Government welcomes very much the issues

identified in the Suggested Elements and we would like to recommend highlighting the following aspects for the post-2015 framework:

Firstly, we all need to ensure that a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and our discussions and preparations during the next months are **coherent and mutually reinforcing** with the other relevant post-2015 processes, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris COP 21 on climate change and the World Humanitarian Summit.

Secondly, the new framework has to put a strong focus on an **integrated, inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction**. For successful implementation of DRR, we need to support locally and community driven Disaster Risk Management approaches that assist the most vulnerable in coping with and mitigating small-scale “everyday” extensive disasters, which represent the vast majority of cumulative losses. It is at the national, local and community level that we have to ensure that civil society, the private sector and the most vulnerable people are included in DRM.

Third, Germany welcomes the proposal to introduce a **monitoring and results based indicator system** into the new framework. We believe that such a monitoring system will enhance accountability as well as strengthen international cooperation and exchange of best practices. The framework should provide a globally agreed monitoring framework

which is flexible enough to be adapted to the national context and future challenges.

Fourth, in order to tackle some of the underlying risk drivers, Germany believes that the successor to the HFA needs to further highlight that Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Management have to be an **integral part of good governance and sustainable development efforts**. Development cannot be sustainable if the disaster risk reduction approach is not fully integrated into development planning and investments at the national, but also at the multilateral level. The post-2015 HFA framework needs to become an integral part of the development agenda.

For the German Government the prevention of future risk creation, the reduction of existing levels of risk and the strengthening of preparedness and resilience are important topics which are - and will - remain high on our agenda and I would like to briefly highlight three of our main initiatives:

First, given the importance of a successful process leading to the World Conference of Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai 2015, Germany **currently funds the ISDR Secretariat** to support the preparatory committee work.

Second, when it comes to Germany's current activities and priorities in disaster risk reduction, I would like to draw your attention to our work

on **disaster preparedness**. In a series of meetings 2011, 2012, and 2013 Germany has rallied stakeholders from disaster prone countries, donors, the UN, and other international organizations and NGOs engaged in preparedness with the aim to identify challenges and opportunities for a coherent approach to emergency preparedness. The consultations culminated in a document called “Principles and Recommendations on Preparedness”. We are convinced that these principles and recommendations remain a useful guide on how best to tackle emergency preparedness and should be fully taken into consideration when preparing for the post-2015 framework. Emergency Preparedness has to remain an important priority in the HFA successor.

Finally, Germany has launched the **Global Initiative Disaster Risk Management** in June. The initiative focuses on preventing, mitigating and preparing for disaster risks and brings together German and regional experts from public administration, the private sector, academia and civil society in order to learn from each other and to develop tailored DRM solutions across regions. In particular, the initiative examines the role the private sector can play in disaster response preparedness, critical infrastructure construction and in early warning systems.

To conclude, Germany is looking forward to continue to actively support the preparations for the HFA successor. In this regard, we would be very grateful if the Bureau would provide us with more detailed information about the drafting process for the new framework keeping in mind that

the drafting should allow for sufficient time in order to involve national stakeholders in this process. We all have the responsibility now to ensure that the new framework shifts the focus more to implementation of DRR and DRM, and while there will be many challenges ahead, we should also see the tremendous opportunity at hand to actively reduce disaster risk.