

4<sup>TH</sup> GLOBAL PLATFORM ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (GPDRR)  
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GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL

*Statement by*  
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Good morning. First of all I would like to greet Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, heads of delegations and all member States present here.

The subject of "Disaster risk reduction" has been treated as a priority on the agenda of the Brazilian government since 2011. This is reflected by the representativeness of the delegation of Brazil in this edition of the Global Platform. There are about 50 representatives, from the three levels of government (Federal, State and Municipal administrations), the Legislative Power, the universities and the civil society.

2011 was marked by the worst disaster ever recorded in Brazil, in the highland region of Rio de Janeiro. Floods and landslides in risk areas caused 912 human losses and left 45,000 people homeless or displaced. This event strongly sensitized the society and the government on the importance of investing in prevention.

Although Brazil has fostered actions in past times, that year was a milestone for the institutionalization of disaster prevention and civil protection. The focus on prevention was translated through an integrated and multi-sectoral approach, reinforcing the aspects of civil protection and promotion of resilient cities.

The Brazilian government realized that management of risks can't remain at a lower level compared to the major economic and social progress that the nation has been attaining. Hence, we have invested, broken paradigms and taken a number of practical measures to meet the commitments under the Hyogo Framework of Action.

In August 2012, the Brazilian president, Dilma Rousseff, launched the National Plan for Risk Management and Natural Disasters Response, which foresees the investment of 10 billion dollars by 2014. These resources are being invested in the following areas:

- Mapping of risk areas;
- Structuring of the national monitoring and alerting network;

- Strengthening of the network for disaster response; and
- Structuring works to reduce risks.

With the 12.608 Law of 2012, it was established the legal framework of the Civil Protection in Brazil, facilitating the resumption of institutional relations between the federal government and the State and Municipal administrations for actions to reduce disaster risk.

An important progress was the adoption of the Payment Card of the Civil Protection, an innovative way for the rapid transfer of resources from the federal government to States and Municipalities and also for the proper application of these funds. The financial transactions of the card can be monitored by any citizen through the Internet, which favors the transparency of the whole process.

This month, the Brazilian government has consolidated an important partnership with the postal system of the country, allowing a much more effective model of humanitarian logistics for the emergency assistance to people affected by disasters.

Finally, we know that we still have a lot to improve, but we have considerably progressed towards a culture that emphasizes prevention and that keeps the issue of disaster risk reduction as a priority in the governmental agenda. Therefore, we will be very glad to provide any further clarification on Brazilian projects and to share best practices with all present here at this important event.

Thank you.