



Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
National Directorate General for Disaster Management (NDGDM)

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R. Glenn Mittermann
Senior Coordinator
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UN/ISDR Secretariat

Budapest, 1st June, 2007

Dear Ms. Mittermann,

Please find below the statements of the Hungarian delegation at the Global Platform meeting. We would like to ask a short time for the first statement to be said on Tuesday morning at the Plenary by the head of delegation, and for the second one in the afternoon by an expert of the delegation.

Yours sincerely:

Signed
Dr. Katalin Cecei-Mórotz
Head of Department

Statement # 1 to the Challenges and Opportunities in Disaster Risk Reduction, Interventions by Heads of Delegations (by Mr. Attila Tatár, head of delegation)

The National Directorate General for Disaster Management (NDGDM), the official disaster management authority in the country is committed to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 and to its Declaration.

Bearing in mind the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action, Hungary has adopted and adopting the main objectives of HFA into its National Disaster Management Strategy.

Hungary has been making efforts to implement the HFA, through developing disaster risk initiatives in the phases of prevention, response and rehabilitation on a national, county and local level. These include the strengthening of institutional background of disaster management, integrating disaster risk reduction into development policies and sectors, developing monitoring systems, improving the awareness of inhabitants to build a culture of safety and the effectiveness of response to natural disasters and emergency situations.

Just to point out some results: since 2004 the new ISDR National Platform for Disaster Reduction has been operating inside NDGDM. It gives an institutional basis for the coordination of different spheres of the society to be aware of the latest developments of disaster risk reduction and to contribute to the adoption of HFA. Next summit of the Platform will be held on 19th June, to discuss the outcomes of the Global Platform meeting.

In the field of education, the national programme of the education of experiences in emergency situation for primary school student has been developed to integrate disaster risk reduction knowledge in school curricula. A Central Proposal has been made to the local teaching programme in connection with the National Core Curriculum. In Hungary until the end of 2006, 1222 institutions have integrated disaster risk and emergency education into their local education programme. There were great achievements made in disaster risk education. In 1196 schools of the country have been carried out the education, and in 628 schools of them the education has been run in frame of regular class time.

In order to be more prepared for an effective response when a disaster occurs, NDGDM organized a 3-phased training system with the approval of UN OCHA to train staff uniformly and to gain accreditation when it participates in international rescue operations. The training system was built upon the INSARAG Guidelines, to which Hungarian SAR team members and of neighboring countries were invited. At the end of 2005 three main Hungarian rescue organizations, involving teams and sub-teams in their organization with almost 500 members from different type of search and rescue fields and neighboring USAR teams received their INSARAG accreditation from UN OCHA.

All of the nations are responsible for disaster risk reduction and for maintaining their sustainable development. The fact, that disaster reduction is the task of nations and it is a national matter, needs to be reinforced, which has to bear a strong institutional basis. Disaster risk awareness of governments and their availability needs to be strengthened and increased continuously. Culture of prevention has to be built out and reinforced, as well as mobilizing adequate sources and carrying out refundable investments. These include risk assessment and early warning investments (monitoring, informing inhabitants). Pro-active measures have to be extended, which will increase the resilience of nations to disasters. These may include

rules and regulations, proceedings orders, modernizing of organizational structures. Nations, who assure certain guidelines, legal and institutional frameworks for disaster reduction and make efforts to develop these frameworks and keep the track of development with special and measurable indicators, are able to handle risks and emergencies more effective and achieve a widespread social agreement with regard to their measures.

Statement # 2 to the High Level Dialogue Session of Reducing Disaster Risk through the Hyogo Framework as a Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation (by Mr. László Kozári)

Global climate change: effects and answers in Hungary

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water of Hungary and Hungarian Academy of Sciences launched in 2003 the “Global climate change, national effects and answers” research project, lasting 3 years. Abridged name of the project, VAHAVA, was created from the summary of the first syllables of the three key words of the project: Change - (*Változás* in Hungarian) Effect (*Hatás*) – Answer (*Válaszadás*).

The elaborating work is not based on the Hungarian ISDR Disaster Prevention Platform, however the professional disaster management organization, universities, research institutes, governmental and non-governmental organs, social organizations, different spheres of economy and community have contributed actively from the beginning during researches, discussions and forums.

Basic assumption of the research was, that nowadays role of climate policy has increased. This includes the reduction of the emission of green-house gases and adaptation. The latter can be extended to three important phases: prevention, protection and reconstruction.

Strategic aim and scope of effect of the research was on the one hand to prepare the inhabitants and the economy for the occurrence of an extreme weather condition and for its effects to be expected. On the other hand aim was the elaboration and development of human, technical, organizational and financial conditions of rapid respond to damaging effects.

Effects of extreme meteorological phenomena range over an extremely wide field. Almost every sectors and groups of people can be affected, considering the professional field of Hungarian disaster management authority, fire protection, civil protection and disaster management issues can be affected as well.

In frame of the project calculations and assessment have been made. According to former data and tendencies it can be said, that in Hungary damaging effects of extreme meteorological events, costs of protection and reconstruction came close to 1 % of GDP, which amount can be further increased because of the effect of climate change.

In accordance with the analysis of VAHAVA project, climate change could cause foreseeingly warming up, drought, increase of the frequency and intensity of extreme weather phenomena in Hungary.

In Hungary such a climate policy needs to be worked out and implemented, which is an integrated part of community, economy, safety and environmental policies. Key fields of it are the decrease of effects and adaptation, protection.

Climate policy has become a common knowledge as a new concept. Basically, it means a system of principles, objectives, resolutions, instruments and conditions, which on the one hand

tends towards the reduction of damaging gases emitted into the atmosphere, and on the other hand towards the adaptation of probable effects.

The project has also stated, that there is a need to prepare the population through the methods of education, raising, popular science and technical advice. Objective of preparing is to prevent the damaging effects of adverse weather and climate phenomena, reduction and toleration of its adverse nature and furthermore introducing the concept of climate awareness.

The project puts forwards a proposal for the Hungarian Parliament: to adopt a National Climate Change Strategy, which would be integrated into different national development programmes, plans, sector development conceptions with its approaches and priorities.

The Strategy can secure the role of all members of government and society, financial and technical conditions of implementation, and the method of supervision for the preparations process. The Strategy would look forward into 20-25 years, dividing necessary tasks to governmental cycles.

It is necessary to emphasize, that determined elements in the climate strategy are implemented in the interest of the society and with the participation of the people. This is a guiding principle of the project, since part of the necessary social measurements can be taken in frame of the general welfare policy, and other parts of them in frame of disaster management.

Recommendation of the project is also referring to that, that financial support of technological developments and researches in connection with this issue are desirable.

In connection with the researches, professional conceptual systems and new risk-analyzing models in relation with the topic have been elaborated in the field of disaster management. Problems of Hungarian crisis communication, and the economical questions, questions of insurance and mitigation of damages of disaster management tasks considering climate change have been analyzed. The results, touching the professional field of disaster management, have been summarized in 15 studies, in 10 publications – 4 of them are in English - , and at 3 international conferences.