

Romanian delegation message

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to salute the initiative of UNO to organize the first session of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction as a result of World Conference of Disaster Reduction from Hyogo, Japan in 2005.

This Conference was a critical point in approaching disaster prevention at international level and involvement of countries and international organizations in a common effort of reducing the natural disasters impact on human communities.

With that occasion it was shown that solidarity and willingness of working together may become the foundation for a powerful initiative to prevent the effects of calamities by grouping together all the efforts to develop national programs on reducing the risks associated to disasters.

Starting with adoption of Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015, disaster risk reduction programs are recognized as a priority in the fight against disasters.

Implementation of the Hyogo Action Program has a major importance for national authorities, civil society, NGO's, regional and international organizations in achieving the best results in decreasing the loss of human lives, goods and environmental damages.

The importance that society gives to this initiative is reflected in the big number of states (over 90, Romania too) which officially designated a national institution to coordinate the implementation of the Program.

In this context, Romania has already in progress a series of concrete actions regarding implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action.

These actions included amendments of legislative framework by elaboration of disaster prevention strategies, putting these strategies in to practice by national, regional and international projects and programs, included increasing of the institutional capacity, creating of intervention structures and assuring the logistics for these.

Talking about facts, in 2005-2007 there were elaborated over 60 relevant legal norms, among of I have to mention: the national strategy for prevention against disasters (2006), the national strategy of flood risk management (2005), the national strategy for civil protection (2005), the national strategy of climatic changes for 2005 – 2007 (2005), from which resulted the national plan for action regarding climatic changes and national strategy for public information and education for emergency situations (2006), which is part of a national campaign developed in "The project for diminishing the losses associated to calamities and training for emergency situations".

In addition to the ones above, we engaged ourselves in a series of programs and projects mean to increase the safety of citizens and on the other hand to enhance the experience of authorities in the field of disasters management.

For example I want to mention that in 2005-2006 there were rebuilt and consolidated a number of 630 dams, dikes and barrages and for another 205 there have been elaborated the feasibility studies. There is an ongoing multidisciplinary process to assess the development program of hydrographical basins in order to increase the protection against floods and

secure water resources. From this study we know that we have to regularize 1200 km of rivers, to consolidate 300 km of river banks, to build 500 km of dikes, to set 4 wet zones with a total surface of 1000 ha, and to build 30 permanent and temporary water accumulations with a total volume of flood attenuation around 200 million of cubic meters.

Regarding modernization of meteorological, hydrological and water management informational system Romania has started a package of three projects: SIMIN, DEWAT and WATMAN.

Until now the SIMIN project (55 millions USD) is already fully implemented with a total of 8 meteo radars, 60 automate meteo stations, a lightning tracing system and a floating beacon system for Black Sea shore wave's survey. In the implementation phase there are DESWAT system (45 million USD) which will install 650 automate hydrological stations for measuring the level of rivers and a hydrological modeling platform for flood warning and flooding areas forecast, and WATMAN system (180 million USD) which include a complete monitoring of dams and lakes, an integrate alarming system and a platform for water management.

Regarding the new structures and logistics, I want to mention that starting with the second half of the 2004 the whole emergency situations management system was reorganized. In this way there were created new structures, more balanced, grouping together under the same command civil protection and firefighting forces. There were set duties and competencies for the whole system components, it was changed the liaison scheme and it was established the coordination in an integrate manner.

In this system Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform has a coordinator and integrator role, organizing the National Comity for

Emergency Situations, and bringing together high representatives from all ministries and organizations that have responsibilities in disaster management.

Even if the process of transformation and improving is not yet finished, there are positive results regarding the need to continue to reorganize our work. This conclusion came on one hand from 25005-2006 flood experiences and interventions and on the other hand from legislative regulation activity and inter-institutional cooperation.

Of course, examples can continue for other domains like protection against earthquakes, landslides, nuclear and chemical accidents, pollution, etc., but, Romania does not consider that it has been done enough.

The efforts for disaster prevention and risk reduction must remain a priority for governments, regional and international organizations. Only in this way the citizens of the Earth, we, together will enjoy the benefits of a "Sustainable Development" which integrates harmoniously in nature instead of fighting against it.

Thank you for your attention.