

(Translation)

**Statement by Ambassador LI Baodong, Head of the Chinese Delegation, at
the Second Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

17 June 2009

Mr Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Chinese delegation, may I first of all extend my warm greetings to the Second Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

China is the world's biggest developing country where natural disasters happen very frequently. Every year, disasters cause grave human casualties and huge property losses. In order to effectively respond to disasters of all kinds, China has established a disaster prevention, disaster reduction and disaster relief management system featuring central leadership, disaster management at different levels and departmental responsibility. At the same time, China has also set up a coordination mechanism composed of agencies such as the National Disaster Reduction Committee, State Flood and Drought Control Headquarters as well as the National Disaster Control and Relief Coordination Office with a view to further strengthening the institutional building for disaster prevention and relief. In recent years, the Chinese Government has taken the following main measures in disaster reduction :

1. Integrating disaster reduction into national development plans and social policies. In 2008, the Government issued the '11th five year plan on comprehensive disaster reduction' aiming at enhancing overall national capacity in disaster reduction. Currently, the 'Plan' is being promoted in full swing, gaining recognition at all levels.
2. Reinforcing the capacity building in monitoring and early warning of disaster. On the basis of existing meteorological, hydrological, earthquake, geological, marine and environmental monitoring networks, China will increase the monitoring density and

upgrade monitoring level. On September 6, 2008, China launched small satellites named *Constellation A* and *Constellation B* dedicated to environment surveillance and disaster monitoring and forecast which provide a good platform for a complete system of disaster monitoring, early warning, assessment as well as emergency management.

3. Strengthening emergency relief activities. China will continuously improve disaster relief programs and criteria in order to guarantee the timely rescue and proper settlement of victim populations. We will also refine the rapid response mechanism in terms of medical relief and post-disaster disease prevention, and provide better psychological support. A sound recovery and reconstruction mechanism will be put in place in order to minimize the damage and the losses caused by disasters.
4. Promoting community level capacity building in disaster reduction. We have basically established community-based disaster response system with emergency response plans and regular drills. Communities are provided with relevant facilities and equipment. Their capacity in disaster reduction is thus clearly enhanced.
5. Launching campaigns to disseminate scientific knowledge and raise disaster risk awareness. At the beginning of this year, the Chinese Government decided to set May 12 every year as national 'Disaster Prevention and Reduction Day'. We will further strengthen education and awareness-raising in disaster reduction and accelerating personnel training with focus on disaster management level of government officials.
6. Promoting international exchange and cooperation in disaster reduction. In this area, China has established close partnership with UN Development Program, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UN World Food Program, UN Food and Agricultural Organization and so on. We have actively participated in the DR cooperation under the UN framework, at the same time, we've also strengthened governmental cooperation with members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

On May 12, 2008, a devastating earthquake occurred in Wenchuan of Sichuan Province, China, an earthquake that shocked the whole world. China's earthquake relief work and reconstruction proved to be a shining example of international cooperation in disaster relief. Governments, civil societies and individuals from more than 160 countries as well as many international organizations provided us great deal of financial and material assistance through different channels. Some countries sent rescue teams and medical teams. For a year now, money and goods donated by all countries are extensively used in the building of important infrastructures such as housing, roads, schools and hospitals ; thus playing a very important role in the recovery work. The Chinese government established strict regulations on the donations in order to ensure that money is used effectively and spent where it is most needed. We'd like to take this opportunity to once again express our heart-felt thanks to the international community for its huge support and precious aids.

Mr Chairman,

Facing the increasing trend of global disaster risks, the Chinese Government hope to strengthen international cooperation in three areas :

1. step up the building of national disaster reduction platforms in order to enhance the cooperation and exchange of DRR information, scientific research and development as well as early warning information sharing.
2. give particular attention and actively promote the work of grassroot capacity building in disaster reduction in order to improve capacity at community level, give guidance as to the reasonable allocation of disaster reduction resources and foster the awareness and knowledge of ordinary citizens of disaster prevention and reduction.
3. the international community should pay more attention and provide assistance to the developing countries in terms of human resource training, and provide technical and financial support in disaster reduction.

Thank you for your attention !

李保东大使在第二届全球减灾论坛大会上的讲话

2009年6月17日

主席先生，女士们，先生们：

我谨代表中国代表团向第二届全球减灾论坛的开幕表示热烈祝贺。

中国是最大的发展中国家，也是自然灾害频发的国家。每年因灾造成的人员伤亡和财产损失都非常严重。为有效应对各类灾害，中国建立了政府统一领导，灾害分级管理，部门分工负责的防灾减灾和救灾管理体制，同时，建立了国家减灾委员会、国家防汛抗旱总指挥部、全国抗灾救灾综合协调办公室等协调机构，进一步加强了防灾减灾的组织体系建设。近年来，中国政府在减灾方面采取了以下主要措施：

一、将减灾纳入国家发展规划和社会政策。2008年，中国政府颁布了《国家综合减灾“十一五”规划》，力求提高国家综合减灾能力。目前《规划》正在全力推进，得到各级广泛认同。

二、加强灾害监测预警能力建设。在现有气象、水文、地震、地质、海洋、环境等监测站网的基础上，不断增加监测密度，提

升监测水平。2008年9月6日，中国政府发射了“环境与灾害监测预报小卫星星座”A、B星，为完善灾害监测、预警、评估、应急救援指挥体系提供良好平台。

三、加强灾害的应急救助工作。不断完善灾害救助的项目和标准，确保受灾群众得到妥善安置和及时救助。健全医疗救护和灾后防疫等方面的快速响应机制，提高心理救助工作水平。健全灾后恢复重建工作机制，将灾害影响和损失降到最小。

四、推动城乡社区减灾能力建设。基本建立了社区灾害应急管理体系，制定了灾害应急预案并经常组织演练活动，配备了各类减灾设施和器材。社区减灾能力得到明显提高。

五、大力开展减灾科普宣传教育。今年初，中国政府确定了每年5月12日为国家“防灾减灾日”，进一步加强减灾知识的普及，加速减灾人才培养，着力提高政府工作人员的灾害管理水平。

六、积极开展减灾国际交流与合作。中国在减灾领域与联合国开发计划署、国际减灾战略、人道主义援助事务协调办公室、亚太经社理事会、世界粮食计划署、粮农组织等机构建立紧密型合作伙伴关系，积极参与联合国框架下的减灾合作，并加强了与上海合作组织成员国政府间的救灾合作。

2008年5月12日，中国四川省发生了震惊世界的汶川特大地震。中国的抗震救灾和灾后重建，也是国际救灾合作的典范。160多个国家的政府、团体和个人以及多个国际组织通过各种途径向我们提供了大量资金物资援助，一些国家派出了救援队和医疗队。

一年来，各国捐赠的款物广泛用于灾区房屋、道路、学校和医院等重要基础设施建设，在灾区恢复重建工作中发挥了重要作用。中国对国外的捐赠严格监管，有效使用，努力用于灾区人民最需要的地方。我们再次对国际社会提供的巨大支持和宝贵援助表示衷心感谢。

主席先生，

面对全球灾害风险日益加剧的形势，中国政府希望从三方面加强国际减灾工作：

一是加强国家减灾平台建设，加强各国在减灾信息交流、减灾科技研发、预警信息共享等方面的合作与交流；

二是重点关注并积极推动基层综合减灾能力建设，提高基层社区层面的减灾能力，引导减灾资源合理配置，提高普通民众的防灾减灾意识和知识素养；

三是国际社会要更加关注并援助发展中国家开展减灾领域人才培养工作，为发展中国家提供减灾技术和资金支持。

谢谢大家。