



ЦЕНТАР ЗА УПРАВУВАЊЕ СО КРИЗИ

CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER

**Statement of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia
delivered by Dr. Pande Lazarevski
Director of the Crisis Management Center**

Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Republic of Macedonia welcomes the opportunity given by the Global Platform to present its accomplishments and to reaffirm its strong commitment for Disaster Risk Reduction. We thank the ISDR for the guidelines and support provided in the establishment of our National Platform.

Facing numerous hazards and disasters, intensified by a rapidly changing climate and environment, the need for a systematical reduction of risks is becoming a priority of nations. Taking in consideration the interdependency between climate change and disasters, we fully support the integration of relevant DRR components in the adaptation strategies.

Recognizing the national ownership of the Platform, we strongly support the international efforts for boosting the clear understanding of the importance of DRR. In the past two years, the Republic of Macedonia has made an important step in moving from concept to reality. By establishing specialized platforms that cover specific risks and threats we incorporated various governmental and non-governmental entities from national and local levels. With a multi-stakeholder network approach, our aim is to integrate reliable and relevant resources, and, instead of seeking costly new capacities, to merge and modernize the existing ones.

For instance, we developed a National Laboratory Network that includes over 70 laboratories and research centers at state institutions, universities, the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, as well as public and private companies countrywide. The aim of the functional integration of the laboratory resources is to provide capacity development, reliable data and expertise supportive to prevention, mitigation and forensics.

Also, to make the National Platform and the DRR overall understandable and close to the final beneficiaries, the local authorities have an important role. Through a network with all 84 municipalities and the capital, the National Platform is developing close cooperation and joint activities in the fields of risk assessment, prevention, early warning, protection and rescue of people and goods as well as mitigation.

The strengthening of capacities, preparedness and response to disasters is supported by strong NGO commitment through active engagement in all DRR phases. For example, in the aftermath of the great wildfires of 2007, much attention and resources have been concentrated on the post-disaster recovery through forestation. Twice a year, on the “Tree Day”, citizens are encouraged to plant a tree to renew the forests and improve the environment. Thus far, millions of trees have been planted countrywide and it is becoming a tradition.

There is no unified solution for every country's problems, nor do all countries have the same amount of resources to address the challenges. The Republic of Macedonia, belonging to the group of the small and mid-size countries, offers its positive experiences on utilization of the available capacities to avoid redundancy and duplicity.

We highly appreciate the ISDR scope of activities and the Second Session of the Global Platform as an excellent opportunity to exchange good practices and lessons learned in this respect. Having in mind that we are not isolated islands and that disasters recognize no borders, we all have to share the contribution to the global reduction of risks.

Thank you.