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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
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(Gavel).

>> CHAIR THANI: Could I ask delegations to please take their seats. Thank you.

I declare open the second session of the preparatory committee for the third UN World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction, established to 68211 of the 20th of December 2013.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all participants to the first meeting of the second session of the preparatory committee for the Third United Nations World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction. Before proceeding further, I invite the preparatory committee to turn to item 2 of the provisional agenda, namely election of officers.

Participants will recall that pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68211, the bureau -- Excellencies, delegates, I ask for your cooperation in taking your seats so that we can commence the morning session.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all participants to the first meeting of the second session of the preparatory committee for the Third United Nations World Conference On Disaster Risk

Reduction. Before proceeding further, I invite the preparatory committee to turn to item 2 of the provisional agenda, namely, election of officers. Participants will recall that pursuant to General Assembly resolution, 68211, a bureau of the preparatory committee was established at its first session, consisting of two members of each regional group, and a representative of Japan as an ex-officio member. And that bureau elected its own cochairs.

The bureau has since been informed that His Excellency Walid Abdelnasser, former permanent representative of Egypt to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and His Excellency, Abdul Hannan, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva have completed their tour of duty of their respective permanent missions and can no longer perform the duties of vice chairs of the preparatory committee.

It is my understanding that there is general agreement that their respective successors His Excellency Amr Ramadan, permanent representative of Egypt to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and His Excellency Shameem Ahsan, permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva should serve as vice chairs of the preparatory committee.

May I take it that the preparatory committee agrees to elect His Excellency Amr Ramadan, permanent representative of Egypt to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and His Excellency, Shameem Ahsan from Bangladesh to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva as vice chairs. Preparatory committee for the Third United Nations World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction?

(Applause).

I therefore declare elected His Excellency Amr Ramadan, permanent representative of Egypt to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. And His Excellency, Shameem Ahsan, from Bangladesh to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva as vice chairs of the preparatory committee for the Third United Nations World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction.

(Gavel).

I wish to congratulate both His Excellency, Amr Ramadan, and Shameem Ahsan.

I have been informed that Takashi Okada, the permanent representative of Japan to the United Nations Office and other international offices in Geneva has completed his tour of duty with the permanent mission of Japan and can no longer perform the duties of the ex officio member of the bureau of the preparatory committee.

Accordingly, his successor, Her Excellency, Misako Kaji, a permanent representative of Japan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva will serve as a ex-officio member of the bureau of the preparatory committee.

At this point, allow me to say a few opening remarks. Allow me, first, to once again welcome you to the second session of the preparatory committee. We are gathered today in the assembly hall where in addition to 150 Member States and their delegations there are also observers representing over 40 intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations entities. As well as observers representing over 100 organizations from the major groups. Combined we make up over 1,000 individuals traveling together on the road to Sendai. The large turnout for this preparatory committee meeting is a strong message in itself.

It reflects the inclusiveness in the preparatory process as called for by the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the importance of and the commitment we all share in trying to strengthen resilience and reduce disaster losses.

The next two days will be crucial. It will be a test of stamina, as well as a test of political will for states to continue the tradition of cooperation, inclusiveness, and innovation, that is the aim of the United Nations.

At the first PrepCom we reaffirmed our call for an outcome that was concise, focus and action oriented. Since then, we have before us the prezero draft which went through an intense sieve, open ended consultative process and we now have the zero draft, circulated on the 20th of October, which forms the basis of negotiations that will start this afternoon. I hope the negotiations will make good progress, building upon the goodwill shown during the informal consultative meetings held in October and continues under the framework adopted nearly 10 years ago.

I now give the floor to my cochair, Paivi Kairamo to deliver her opening remarks.

>> CHAIR KAIRAMO: Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much, Ambassador Thani. I echo the comments on the preparatory committee's ability to move forward effectively and decisively. Firstly, in addition to producing the first draft of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. We also have the task of agreeing on the program of the work for the work conference and we agree to endorse of the president of the world conference.

Secondly, we regard to our upcoming negotiations, I have also witnessed myself the spirit of cooperation demonstrated by members throughout the preparatory process, and therefore, share the same confidence that Ambassador Thani has expressed regarding the

committee's ability to unite in producing the first draft of the future framework.

As for item one, time is of the essence. As part of our duties as cochairs, Ambassador Thani and I proposed negotiations at the current PrepCom2, that we believe will advance the process in a timely way, meets the desires of Member States to provide a draft one at the end of PrepCom2.

Member States are fortunate to have a large group of observers joining us in these two days, including intergovernmental organizations, United Nations entities, and major groups. In view of the negotiations being open to Member States only, many of the governmental organizations, United Nations entities and major groups have taken the initiative to provide us with their views inviting which have been compiled for the use of Member States and are available on the world conference website.

I would like to remind Member States, however, that we have the chance to interact substantively with intergovernmental organizations, United Nations entities and major groups at events such as shared dialogue and technical workshops.

Tomorrow, before Member States negotiations come to a close, the cochairs will ensure the time is devoted to establish all of us together in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner, the more validity for beyond PrepCom2. This will include modalities for carrying out of the work of the informal Working Group on targets and indicators.

Together, all of us here today embody a wide variety of approaches to disaster risk reduction. Our alternate aim is to ensure that the peremptory committee commits a draft framework to the world conference that we are all proud of.

I take this opportunity to wish you a good meeting ahead. That ends my remarks and thank you very much, Mr. Cochair.

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank the cochair for her remarks.

I now give the floor to Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, who is a Special Representative of the Secretary General for the Disaster Risk Reduction.

>> SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE: Thank you, cochairs, acting Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, colleagues and friends. The international community adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 to '15, building resilient of nations and communities to disasters. The world resilience, nations and communities remain even more important today. And that has become, I think, very evident in the discussions we've had over the past few months. Since 2005, we logged about our disasters are generated, how they can be reduced and prevention.

We have the key elements required to design a new post-2015 framework that can guide the work of communities, communities and nations in the coming decades. All I would like to say this morning is to thank all of you for being present here today. It's an impressive gather, I will say. And for the contributions, formal and informal, so far, in the process since the early spring.

And in particular, I would like to thank the cochairs for steering this process firmly and sensitively. I would like to thank Member States who today have in their hands the responsibility for the outcome of these negotiations.

I would also like to thank the major groups who have been very active since the beginning of the process for substantive, strategic, and very thoughtful contributions. And, of course, the United Nations system and the intergovernmental organizations who have played a key role in supporting the implementation of the HFA, and, of course, now the world conference preparatory process.

And last of all, to thank Director General Michael Moller for not only hosting us here, but also joining us here in this session, and in this room, which we for the first time are making use of for our discussions on how we manage disaster risk in the coming decades.

The expectations are high. I think the numbers here is a manifestation on that. As you all work for the common good in the interest of all nations and communities and it is with this that we will proceed to work in the coming days and months for how to finalize our post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework.

I wish to thank all of you again and to wish all of us an excellent work process. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank the Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction.

I now give the floor to the Director General.

>> DIRECTOR GENERAL: I very warm welcome to international Geneva for the second session of the preparatory committee for the Third United Nations World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction.

I had the pleasure of being part of the first session in July, and I very much appreciate being able to support the important preparatory work leading up to the conference in Sendai next year.

Let me, in my opening remarks commend the strong efforts of the cochairs, Ambassador Kairamo, Ambassador Thani, and the host conference of Geneva and Japan for their support.

Today I have the privilege of sharing with you the mission of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, and the message goes as follows: I am pleased to Sen greetings to all participants at the second session of the preparatory committee on the Third United Nations World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction.

Disasters can stay a toll on our countries to preserve livelihoods and preserve economic losses. The post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction must take off where the Hyogo framework leads off providing the world with necessary tools to reduce risk levels and void new dangers. This will be important to a broader development efforts as the world strives next year to adopt a new universal climate agreement, and a set of sustainable development goals.

I wish you a most productive session as you pave the way for a successful Third United Nations Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

That was the end of the Secretary General's message.

At the first session in July, I highlighted how disaster risk reduction cuts across the three, peace, rights and well being and I firmly believe that we need to sect better our work on sustainable development and resilient societies by working across these dimensions in a more coherent manner, not least when it comes to disaster risk reduction. This is needed for a truly preventative approach. Disasters are destructive to people, economies and the stability of states and communities. Natural hazards and climate risk from the potential to seriously undermine global and national efforts to eradicate poverty and build peace.

Today as we open the second prep come session, we mark the beginning of Geneva peace week, which are a series of events which bring the many actors working on peace promotion and expand the space for dialogue about building peace and resolving conflict across these different communities.

Geneva peace week is in its own right an example of a multi-stakeholder partnership and is a reminder of the multi-facets connections across the challenges we face. Conflicts can increase disaster risk together with other compounding factors and other risk drivers all of which can eliminate disaster loss. Placing sustainable development at the heart of domestic and international strategies will better contribute to the promotion of lasting peace and security, while peace building will contribute to sustainable development. If we do not take into contribution these lengths, we will miss the opportunity to craft the forward-looking solutions we need. The United Nations Office at Geneva is pleased to facilitate your important work and I wish you a fruitful deliberation over the coming two days.

Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank the acting head.

We now turn to agenda item 3, adoption of the agenda and organizational work for the preparatory committee. The committee

will recall that following a series of open ended informal consultative meetings held in September and October, on the basis of the prezero draft prepared by the cochairs, circulated on the 20th of October 2014, we had circulated the zero draft on the basis for negotiations of this second session of the preparatory committee.

The zero draft has been issued as document A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/L3. And agenda item and it's now before the committee.

Subsequent to our letter on the 7th of November, on the suggested modalities for proceeding with the negotiations on the zero draft of the outcome document, and following the views expressed by some delegations on the framework in which the negotiations should take place, I should now like to go through the modalities under which we envision of the process moving forward.

The negotiations will begin with the first negotiation segment taking place this afternoon at 3 p.m. There will be only one open-ended negotiation segment without parallel negotiating segments. Major groups will be present as observers, without the right to speak.

To make maximum progress an all-night segment tonight, starting at 6:30 p.m. is anticipated. With all arrangements made for security, food and beverages. As interpretation in all official UN languages will be available only until 6 p.m. tonight, the negotiations during the all-night segment will be in English only.

We will proceed by a paragraph by paragraph on-green script of the text. Those paragraphs for which delegations have no comment or are subsequently educated on screen and agreed to by delegations will be marked as agreed at risk. On the other hand, for those perhaps on which there is no agreement, the relevant text, including proposals will be placed in brackets.

Here, to ensure that proposals are accurately reflected, delegations are asked to commit the proposals, that were put forward during the negotiation segment, by the end of the second session of the preparatory committee at 6 p.m. These will be reflected in the document.

The text emanating for the negotiating segment of the preparatory committee, namely the document before us at 6 p.m. tomorrow, on Tuesday the 18th, will be the first draft of the outcome document, which will serve as the basis for further negotiations. Following the conclusion of the second session of the PrepCom proposal received by the Member States, received by the close of business Geneva time on the 20th of November will be included in a separate compilation document, which as will proposals received earlier but relate to paragraphs not yet covered during the negotiations.

This will serve as a reference for future negotiations with the mandate by the PrepCom. As cochairs we will circulate the first

document as a basis for further negotiations, along with a compilation document serving as reference. The first draft of the outcome document and the compilation document will also be made available on the official conference website.

Are there any comments on the modalities that I have described?

I recognize the Distinguished Representative of Argentina on behalf of GRULAC.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you very much, Chair. I'm making the following statement on behalf of the countries and the members of GRULAC. First of all, we would like to thank the Secretariat and the cochairs for their preparatory work for this conference. GRULAC has had an attitude, a positive attitude throughout the whole process and we would like to ensure that you can count on our commitment during these sessions.

We would like to make the following comments on the methodology to use during the second PrepCom and the following stages of negotiations. First of all, GRULAC would like to reiterate how important it is that all documents adopted in Sendai be the result of negotiations.

Secondly, as a result of this second PrepCom, we should have only one document which would include all the proposals made during the sessions tomorrow. This document would include the various proposals indicating the various authors. We believe that this draft should be the basis of future meetings and it will be enriched with additional proposals in -- in December and January.

Third, we would like to welcome what has been suggested by Japan. We believe it's a good basis but we would like to start the negotiations that will work on the text that will be adopted in Sendai as soon as possible.

Lastly, we would like to reiterate our trust in the cochairs and we are sure that under their leadership, this will be a very successful proceeding.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank the Distinguished Representative for his remarks.

With this understanding may I take it that the PrepCom agrees with the modalities to proceed with the negotiations under the zero draft?

I hear no objections. It is so decided.

(Gavel).

Distinguished Delegates, I will now turn to the provisional agenda, and propose organizational work for the second session of the preparatory committee, as contained in documents A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/1 and 2 respectively which you have before you.

May I take it that the preparatory committee wishes to adopt

the proposed agenda as contained in document A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/1?

I hear no objections. It is so decided.

(Gavel).

May I also take it that the preparatory committee wishes to adopt the proposed program of work as contained in document A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/2 with the understanding that it may be revised further as warranted based on the progress and the need of our work?

I hear no objections. It is so decided.

(Gavel).

I now invite the attention of the preparatory committee to a note by the Secretariat contained in documents A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/3 and addendum 1 entitled, accreditation of nongovernmental organizations and other major groups to the preparatory process in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and document A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/4, entitled participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. We will consider these documents one by one.

The committee will recall that by its resolution of 68/211, the General Assembly recognized the importance of the contribution and the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including nongovernmental organizations, major groups, and intergovernmental organizations at the third world conference in the preparatory process.

Are there any comments on documents A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/3? And addendum 1?

May I take it that the preparatory committee wishes to approve the list of nongovernmental organizations and other major groups as contained in documents A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/3, and addendum 1, who will participate as observers in the Third World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction.

I hear no objections. It is so decided.

There any comments on A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/4? Do I take it that you wish to adopt the A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/4, who will participate as observers in the Third World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction. I hear no objections. It is so decided.

(Gavel).

Distinguished Delegates, I now invite the preparatory committee to consider agenda item 4, organizations of the world conference. As participants are aware, the Third United Nations World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction is hosted by the government of Japan and will be held from Saturday the 14th to Wednesday the 18th in March 2015, in Sendai, Japan. At its first session, the preparatory committee agreed on the provisional agenda, and provisional Rules of Procedure of the conference as contained in documents A/Conf. 224/1 and A/Conf. 224/2 respectively.

The notes by the Secretariat on progress on the organized station of the world conference is contained in document A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/5. I now give the floor to Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom who will promote the note on the progress of the organization of the world conference, A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/5 and the draft provisional program of work of the conference which is document A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/L1/revision 1.

>> Thank you cochair. Much work has been done since the report was issued, of course so we take pleasure in updating you on this. As per the note issued, the note document A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/5, the pace of preparations has significantly accelerated since the document was submitted for translation a couple of months ago. Some very recent updates in particular on the intergovernmental segment, there is still a plan for the host country and ourselves for between 6 to 8,000 delegates and given the size and the interest of the second preparatory meeting committee today, it could, of course, be even larger.

The United Nations Secretary General has issued invitations to all heads of states and there is, of course, a very important interest from the public as well. A call for substantive contributions to sessions was placed on the world conference website at the end of October to encourage more inputs and momentum for stakeholder commitments and substantive contributions. For the world conference, emphasis has been placed on accessibility, disability access and inclusiveness. A strategy to make the conference site accessible to persons with disabilities is under development by the conference Secretariat, the host country, Sendai municipality with the financial port of Nippon Foundation.

On the intergovernmental segment, the details on modalities of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction or contained in the document entitled "program of work" which is your A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/L1/rev 1. As outlined in the revised program of work. The intergovernmental segment of the world conference will consist of nine plenary meetings as well as five ministerial round table and three multi-stakeholder conferences which will be held in parallel with the plenary meetings. These meetings will all take place in the new conference meeting in the Sendai international conference center building.

On the plenary meetings at the formal opening of conference, which will take place in the morning of Saturday, the 14th of March, consideration will be given to all procedural and organizational matters. The topics of the ministerial round tables are governing disaster risk overcoming challenges. Two, international cooperation in support of post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Three, reducing disaster risk in urban settings. Four

reconstruction after disasters building back better, and five, public investment strategies for disaster risk reduction.

The ministerial round tables will provide for interactive and key priorities and actions in support of the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction as it relates to each of the mentioned topics.

Each round table will have ministers from government delegations and at least five for other participants among representatives of observers, entities of the United Nations systems and other accredited intergovernmental organizations and major groups.

One chairperson per round table will moderate the discussions. The chairs will be moderated by the five regional groups. The outcomes will be given by the cochairs.

Partnership dialogues, in addition to the round tables, the program contains three high level multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues on one mobilizing women's leadership for disaster risk reduction, two, risk sensitive investments, the public/private partnerships; and three, disaster risk management, government, community and groups acting together.

The three partnership dialogues are open to all mistakes -- each dialogue will have two cochairs and a moderator. Each of the five regional groups will be invited to nominate one chair. Japan will serve as the sixth cochair. One representative from the secretariat will support the cochairs in addition four to five high level speakers for each dialogue will be selected by the cochairs on advice of the conference Secretariat. The cochairs will present the outcome of the dialogues at the conference plenary during the closing session.

In addition to intergovernmental segment, a multi-stakeholder segment and the public forum will also take place during the days 14 to 18th of March as part of the broader agenda of the Third UN Conference Disaster Risk Reduction. The multi-stakeholder will be held in the Sendai International Center and open to accredited and international participants. The segment is composed of around 32 working sessions.

The award, the risk award, exhibition studies documentary, TV, festivals and many, many other events. The public forum, which will be held in venues open to the general public in the city of Sendai is composed of several hundred side effects, posters, exhibitions and we work closely with the host country, Japan, to accommodate the huge interest that already exists in the public forum.

The whole talk to walk region is engaged in organizing the events in the public forum, and as Japan has already mentioned previously, a large organization is on the way for study tours and many other events that concludes my update on the program of work for the world conference. Thank you, cochair.

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank the special representative for her statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Ambassador in charge of the third World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction of Japan, to provide an update on preparations for the conference.

>> Thank you, cochair, and thank you Ms. Wahlstrom, the UN special representative for the positive group date on the state of the preparation. Indeed, our government is glad to report that the preparation for the organizational work conference is progressing a lot. And that is thanks to the devotion of the Secretariat all the stakeholders in the preparation and particularly the city of Sendai, which vice mayor Mr. Ito is present today, who will address us tomorrow afternoon and all the other stakeholders in the preparation process.

I have little to add to the report by the special representative. Maybe I will just mention that we are also working on making the conference green by the full cooperation with the ISDR. We will continue to work hard on the preparation to make the conference both fruitful and also pleasant for those coming in Sendai, and we look forward very much to welcoming all of you and also many leaders, heads of states, governments and ministers to the conference in Sendai next March. Thank you.

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank Ambassador Suganuma for his update.

Before proceeding further, I would like to announce for first time in this preparatory committee, closed captioning is being provided in the hall in the screens behind the podium.

I should now like to invite the attention of the preparatory committee to the draft provisional program of work for the conference issued as document A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/L1 revision 1.

Unfortunately, the document is currently not available in one UN language, and therefore, we shall postpone its consideration until later in the meaning when all versions are made available. The edited English version of the document is now available in the room.

I would therefore now like to turn the attention of the preparatory committee to document A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/L2 on the endorsement of the president of the world conference.

The document contains a proposal to nominate Her Excellency Ericko Yamatani for disaster management of the Japan for the presidency of the world conference. May I take it that the preparatory committee wishes to approve the nomination of Her Excellency Ericko Yamatani for disaster management of Japan for the presidency of the world conference, as proposed in document A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/L2.

(Applause).

It is so decided.

(Gavel).

Distinguished Delegates, the preparatory committee will now turn to agenda item 5, considerations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. As you are aware, following the first session. Preparatory committee, the cochairs have produced and circulates the prezero draft of the 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction on the 8th of August. We convened 15 meetings on the 5th of September to the 13th of October, to conduct informal consultations on the prezero draft, which resulted in the production and the circulation by the cochairs of the zero draft on the 20th of October.

During the consultations, the matter of identifying targets and indicators was raised. In this regard, we established an open ended informal Working Group on targets that indicated to discuss these issues in greater detail. The informal Working Group has deliberated on this topic and has presented us as cochairs with a report of this work.

This work is now available on the official conference website. We will now hear an update on their discussions and this update will be an additional reference for members as we conduct our negotiations today and tomorrow. I therefore wish to give the floor to His Excellency, Wayne McCook, the permanent representative of Jamaica to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and vice chair of the preparatory committee in his capacity as facilitator of this informal Working Group.

>> Thank you, Excellency, for giving me the floor to report on the work of the informal Working Group on targets and indicators, which I had the honor of facilitating. The Working Group was established by you cochairs, to look into targets and indicators identified in the zero draft of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

The group defined its terms of reference and held four meetings from 20 October through 12 November and also held one joint meeting with major groups. Reports and information on each of the meetings as you have indicated are available on the world conference website. Participation was open ended for government representatives, unit organizations, the World Bank, and experts from national institutions which were invited as observers.

Main purpose of the group was to advise on the viability of the targets mentioned in paragraph 13 of the zero draft, and the group also considered linkages with the relevant international agendas, including the sustainable development goals, climate change agreements and world human summit process.

Members indicated that the context and the percentages to be addressed in targets indicated will require further consideration to determine Inter alia the implications for national governments. Regarding time frame, the group suggests consideration of a time frame

of 15 years to align with the sustainable development goals outlook and related international processes.

In terms of baseline for targets, the group suggests 10 years proceeding the start of any monitoring process. Regarding the scope progress, we consider more positively oriented targets, slow onset disasters such as growths and small-scale localized disasters that will need further advice and consideration.

We considered the five global identified in paragraph 13 and further suggested two additional targets. Target one in the zero draft, of course, addressed the goal of reducing mortality by a given percentage and function of events, and the dates, of course, are to be determined.

Considering absolute mortality figures per year, including missing persons and desegregation of mortality data by age, gender and people living with a disability were further considerations arising from the deliberations.

Target two, reduce the number of affected people by a given percentage and function of events. The discussions turned Inter alia on considering affected people as a combination of the number of injured, the number of people evacuated, the number of people relocated, houses damaged and houses destroyed. These data were felt to be available in the majority current disaster loss databases.

Target three reduce disaster economic loss by a given percentage and function of number of events, in relate to GDP.

The group considered that it would be important to look at the reduction of direct economic loss in relation to GDP per country, per capita per country. It include consider loss of livestock and loss of livelihood and crops where available. And target four reduce impact to health given the number of events by a given period.

Considering that education and health facilities are critical infrastructure and they are damaged due to disasters are commonly available, and concrete and verifiable. Nevertheless, the group suggests that further consultations are required to broaden or -- define tore broaden the scope of target to cover other critical infrastructure and further consider disruption or closure rather than damage as a focus.

Target five, increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by a given percentage by the date to be given. The group suggestions the inclusion of climate change adaptation strategies and other relevant sustainable development strategies in this target, in order to strengthen coherence with other agendas. The time frame can be short in this input target in the view of some members, for example, by 2020, and in that process to consider integrated multi-hazard risk assessments as a foundation of national strategies.

The group further suggests consultations to fully define the scope of target five. The group further deliberated two new proposed targets. Several members suggested a sixth target on international cooperation and global partnership to support the implementation of the post-2015 framework. Two proposals were tabled that will need further consultations and I read, international cooperation to stimulate the creation and strengthening of national capacities and technology transfer at the regional and subregional levels.

And the other, increased know of additional sustained and predictable means of implementation, in particular provision of financial resources, for disaster risk reduction, including public investments, technology transfer, capacity building, from developed countries to developing countries, by a given percentage of G & I per year up to a give time.

A seventh target was also proposed to increase the number of people including vulnerable people with access to early warning and risk information by a given percentage by a fixed period. Excellencies this is what I can report on behalf of the informal Working Group and targets and indicators for the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction.

Members are further -- have also offered comment on the effectiveness of targets and indicators overall, and suggested that further discussion in this area would be useful. I thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank Ambassador McCook for his presentation and hard work on this issue.

I now invite the preparatory committee to turn its attention to the draft elements of a political declaration for the world conference on disaster risk reduction. The draft elements have been circulated by the cochairs on behalf of the host country Japan, on the 7th of November as a non-paper prior to the second session and now before you.

I now give the floor to Her Excellency, Ms. Kaji, deputy permanent representative of Japan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva an ex-officio member of the bureau of the preparatory committee to introduce the draft elements of the political declaration of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

>> Thank you, cochairs. As conveyed by the cochairs at the preparatory committee at the first session in July, A/Conf. 224/PC(I)/16, it is an honor for me as the facilitator to introduce the elements of the political declaration of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reductions and its timeline.

As mentioned by the cochair, a 10-points element paper has been distributed to the Member States for their reflection attached to

the cochair's letter, which will be attached to the letter. The Title Sendai declaration is suggested with due acknowledgment of the host municipality of the conference, as was similarly chosen as the second conference in Hyogo in 2005, and at the first conference in Yokohama city in 1994.

Also following the examples of the past possible declarations, it is the facilitator's view to share to the bureau that the declaration should be succinct in its form.

The Sendai declaration will essentially be based on the content of the main outcome of the third world conference, IE, the post 2015 framework of disaster risk reduction. The elements paper was prepared to capture the points appeared in the zero draft of the framework document. The ten points are not intended for the purpose of negotiation at this stage but rather to act as a sounding board for the views to be expressed by the delegations during the following session this morning.

Under the able guidance of the cochairs, the facilitator will carefully listen to the interventions during this session and note down the points made on the declaration. All contributions from the delegations, including regions of missions as required shall be utilized as inputs for a draft on the declaration.

The draft text that's compiled shall be presented to the Member States at a later date for their reflection, and a consultation process to finalize the text is to be called for. The timing of the aforementioned process will depend upon the progress made on the consideration of the framework document, but presumably at the margin of the consultations reviewed on the latter.

Bearing in mind the projected dead line for the consultation, for the conclusion of the consultation on the framework document at end January 2015, the facilitator deems it important that the considerations on the Sendai declaration shall also be concluded by this time.

The Sendai declaration is to be adopted on March 18th, 2015, last day of the world conference. The facilitator confirms hereby that the ownership of the Sendai declaration rests with Member States, reflecting the collective manifestation by the international community. The recommendations from the major groups and other stakeholders are expected to be reflected in the declaration through possible inputs by the Member States. I thank you, cochair.

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank Ambassador Kaji for her presentation. Delegations are welcome to provide comments on the draft, in their opening statements or to send comments in writing to the delegation of Japan.

Before proceeding to hear opening statements from delegations, I wish to make a proposal concerning the time limit for statements.

In order to allow for maximum participation during this session of the preparatory committee, it is proposed that Member States speaking on behalf of groups will be allowed three minutes for their statements, while Member States speaking in their national capacities and all other speakers will be allowed two minutes for their statements.

May I take it that the preparatory committee agrees with this proposal?

I hear no objections. It is so decided. (Gavel).

I now open the floor for general statements. Delegations are encouraged to adhere to the time limits as agreed, and to provide their full written statements to the Secretariat for posting on the official conference website.

I now give the floor to His Excellency, the Ambassador of Namibia, on behalf of the African Group.

>> NAMIBIA: I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. We wish to extend our gratitude and appreciation to you, madam cochair, Mr. Cochair and the members of the bureau for the collective efforts regarding the preparations for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Our aim is to agree on document for the second phase of the year ago framework for action on disaster risk reduction, to an open and transparent state led process ensuring ownership is all based on the second global partnership and international cooperation.

This will allow for more concrete and action oriented implementation of the goals set out to for building resilient and enhancement to deal with disasters particularly in developing countries and especially in the African countries.

Cochairs, the African Group took note of the stakeholders meetings and is pleased to extend that it's suggested to bring balance to the zero draft. The African Group would like to highlight some concerns on the current zero draft, which we believe should be incorporated in the final outcome document. First, the need for a clear differentiation between developed and developing countries throughout the document.

The current linkage between disaster risk reduction and conflict situations, the group stresses on the importance of not expanding the scope of the document and stick to the existing definitions of hazards and disasters. The linkages between disasters and the climate change in which the group stresses on the importance to clearly mention the climate change issues a delta under the UNFCC and according to specific principles. The lack of clarity on the important role of means of implementation provided to developing countries, as a key enabler for the full and effective implementation of our common vision as reflected in the new document of disaster risk reduction post-2015.

The African Group believes that health should be a central component of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction that provides for and enables action to achieve significant reduction health risks and the effects of emergencies and disasters.

Cochairs, it is a nonfact that as a result of wide spread poverty and lower resilience, people in developing countries are more affected by disaster risks. It is the African Group's belief that the focus of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies should be premised on provisional support on developing countries particularly African countries to allow for relevant, adequate and concrete action at national, regional and local levels and strengthen international cooperation.

In this regard, our emphasis is placed on building of resilience amongst the effective communities. Cochairs, the outcomes of the fifth African regional platform and the third ministerial meeting which took place in Nigeria from 13 to 16 May 2014, which conceives a ministerial declaration and a summary statement relative to Africa's contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction reflects Africa's commitment to disaster risk reduction with the principal objective of achieving resilience.

It's underscored that disasters would include the operationalization of the policies and strategies that require the involvement of all national, regional and local levels to formulate and implement disaster risk reduction such as early warning systems.

Africa's contribution to the post-2015 framework is concrete and objection orientated on four pillars and goals, namely, one, enhancing local and regional actions to effectively deal with disasters, including the identification of regional risk factors and the establishment of regional institutional frameworks. Two, insurance, coherence between disaster risk reduction and climate change by a common and coordinated data collection and national scientific and bureaucratic institutions, a client ecosystem approach to sustain the healthy ecosystems never ensuring that the positive spinoffs from the recovery from disasters is translated into resilience building and sustainability.

Three, enhancing investments in disaster risk reduction by strengthening the technical capacities of institutions and funding mechanisms, including the creation of public/private partnerships, and finally, enhancing commitments by focusing on capacity and institutional building and enhanced engagement.

Cochairs, the African Group believes that our work in the outcome must be reflective on issues relative to the differentiation aspects between developed and developing countries we are concerned about the gaps in capacity, the means of implementation, particular technical assistance in terms of technology transfers, research,

finance and enhanced actions at national levels amongst others.

The work should be reflective of a genuine commitment for enhanced implementation which should incorporate institutional cooperation, education and public awareness.

In conclusion, the African Group reiterates that the outcome of this meeting should also reflect on possible initiatives to avail data and support similar to that of the global framework for climate services and the global earth observation initiative.

Mindful of the numerous concerns and in the zero draft that we are found to negotiate we have to raise the bar and illuminate this document to be more transparent and balanced in the best interest of all of our communities.

In closing, the African Group is looking forward to discuss the draft elements of the Sendai declaration by Japan. I thank you, cochair.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank Her Excellency the Ambassador of Namibia. I now give the floor to Her Excellency, the Ambassador of Costa Rica on behalf of CELAC.

>> COSTA RICA: Cochairs, it's an honor for me to make this statement on behalf of the Latin American Caribbean state community, we would like to thank the Secretariat for what is being done to prepare the world conference of Sendai as well as the preparatory committee and its cochairs and especially the work done by our regional representatives in Jamaica, in the post-2015 framework for action for disaster risk reduction.

Countries of CELAC believe that the main octave of this new framework should be to diminish the human cost of disasters and significantly reduce the effects that these have on our societies and our economies.

We therefore recognize the fundamental importance of the principles, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities as was agreed at Rio+20 and we would like to underscore the need for this to be considered in the text that could effectively contribute to disaster risk reduction.

We acknowledge the fact that the implementation of this new framework for action must be adapted to the needs and the capacities of each country taking into account risk factors such as poverty, unbalanced economic development, insufficient and inadequate resources, variability, climate variability and change and the differences in ecosystems which increase the result of some natural events. We would like to underscore the events that disaster risk reduction requires the commitment of all states. Our region, therefore aspires to an international community that will commit to providing greater financial resources and providing technologies as

well as strengthening capacities, especially, for the Least Developed Countries through all modalities of existing cooperations such as development aid, multilateral corporations, south-south contribution and this new framework for action. The establishment of cooperation as a goal for this new framework that can be measured in an effective way through indicators will be a significant improvement that our region will support and that will do its best, utmost to ensure its implementation.

In our region, efforts have been made through the committee for the prevention of disasters, Caprada, the special meeting on disaster risk reduction, civil defense, civil protection and humanitarian assistance, the high level group on international management of UNISDR, and the Caribbean disaster response agency, CDMA, they have contributed to the development of disaster risk reduction in the region, to the institutional strengthening and establishment of policy, strategies and programs, which are common to the country, through the exchange of experiences, the creation of goals and an improvement of mutual cooperation.

We would also like to underscore the important positive impact that national plans or local plans adaptation can have in reducing risk -- disaster risks, in particular, for developing countries and the small developing countries and states.

CELAC would like to reaffirm the need for the post-2015 agenda negotiations and the sustainable development and climate change include and be consistent with the new framework for disaster risk reduction.

Nevertheless, we recognize the fact that each process has its own way of moving forward and its own legal nature. It is therefore thought that the document adopted in Sendai be separate from all over intergovernmental processes and their programs including strategies, initiatives and funding mechanisms.

We recognize the fact that disaster risk reduction related tasks can only take place if the various actors and all sectors of society take part, including volunteers that is, and of the leadership and the coordination of governmental authorities. The very experience of the Latin American and Caribbean region is an example of this successful way of working through associations.

We believe that the involvement of the private sector must be understood in the face of its responsibilities in disaster risk reduction. We hope to be able to count on the responsible participation of means of communication and the processes for awareness raising, education, and dissemination of public information to help prevent disasters.

We look forward to a result of this process that will create a framework that is preventative, pragmatic and will allow for

universal implementation that will take into account the various experiences and lessons learned.

We consider the objectives, goals, principles, indicators and commitments must all be taken with this in mind.

Aspects such as increasing knowledge about risks, strengthening early warning mechanisms and preparation mechanisms focusing on recovery and generating resilience, the generation of strategic associations and strengthening institutions that work in this field will all help us make considerable progress in reducing the number of people affected by these disasters and human loss.

Our region also the aspirations and hope they will be included -- they are included in the zero draft. Our region also aspires to strengthening agenda-related principles empowering women, including disaster risk reduction in urban planning and management, including persons with disabilities and including ancestral knowledge in our work on prevention preparation and management of the disasters.

We would like to express our thanks to the government of Japan, not only for the huge responsibility they have taken on in hosting the world conference but also for the efforts made in organizing consultations and in the political declaration, statement that will be adopted by our ministers and other representatives in March.

Lastly, CELAC would like to reaffirm its conviction that keeping it participatory and the working methodology will ensure that we can make progress. We are sure that under your leadership, we will experience success and significant progress. And the members of CELAC are ready to initiate documents that will be adopted at the third world conference, maximizing our chances of guaranteeing full success at Sendai. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank Her Excellency, Ambassador of Costa Rica.

I now give the floor to His Excellency, the Ambassador of an Myanmar.

>> MYANMAR: I congratulate -- I congratulate the new members of the bureau and reiterate our full support for the preparatory process leading up to the third UN World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai. The members at the highest level recognize the importance of DRR and look forward very much to the Sendai world conference next March.

In this connection, we welcome the newly revised zero draft, both in terms of structure, with specific sections on the role of stakeholders and on international cooperation and global partnership. We appreciate the development of measurable global targets and indicators that promote accountability and a greater role given to regional organizations in supporting and facilitating the

implementation of the post 2015 framework.

Cochairs, Southeast Asia is one of the most disaster prone and affected regions in the world. Last week marked the first anniversary of the diversity typhoon Haiyan which resulted in significant losses both in lives and the environmental dimensions.

Next month will mark the 10th anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami which took place in 2004, with Indonesia and Thailand, two of the most affected countries in the region. To reduce the disaster losses from such events, we believe that DRR has to be main streamed into our developmental efforts. We appreciate that the concept of building back better as well as building better from the start has been underscored in the zero draft as an appropriate approach for resilient communities.

Next year we expect to have three strategies, post-2015 for DR R. and Sendai. The post-2015 Development Agenda in New York, and the global agreement on climate change in Paris. The year 2015, therefore, presents us with a unique opportunity to ensure coherence and alignment across policies, policies and partnerships for implementation of these concurrent post-2015 processes, as well as the world humanitarian summit to be held in 2016 in Turkey.

Equally important, if not more so are the means of implementation, here while recognizing the primary responsibility of stage to take necessary measures to reduce disaster risks we stress the importance of international cooperation as well as regional and global partnership, including financial mobilization, capacity building measures and transfer of technology for developing states. Particularly the east developed countries.

Cochairs, turning to the draft elements for the Sendai declaration as proposed by Japan, we support the focus on resilience and prevention. We welcome the need for an inclusive and people centered approach to DRR and recognize the critical role of stakeholders and international cooperation in the DRR process.

Importantly, we support the call for renewed political commitment to DRR, as with well as to secure resources to achieve this end as we move closer to Sendai in March next year we believe it is important for the international community to come together and send a strong message on how to substantially reduce disaster losses in the decades to come.

I thank you, cochair.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: I thank His Excellency, the Ambassador of Myanmar. I now give the floor to His Excellency, the Ambassador of European Union.

>> EUROPEAN UNION: Honorable cochairs, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the

European and its Member States. We have the Sendai, proposed by Japan and zero draft submitted by the cochairs and would like at this stage to convey the following main observations to be reflected in the declaration and in the draft. Firstly the focus on implementation is vital for the framework. This is essential for implementation by governments. We reiterate the importance of the new framework of delivering results and measuring progress.

To this end, action-oriented targets linked to the priorities of, and supported by indicators can make a significant contribution. The draft rightly recognizes that each state has a primary responsibility to reduce disaster risks. Regional intergovernmental organizations just play an important role to support the national and the local authorities to implement the new framework, including the regional platforms for disaster risk reductions.

Secondly, as emphasized in the declaration, we need to promote the main streaming of disaster risk management with all policies, development and national sectoral policies economic and financial strategies an multilateral and bilateral assistance programs. It's also crucial to ensure a joint approach with climate change adoption, and the strengthening focus on reducing the underlying risk drivers and building the resilience of ecosystems for adoption.

Thirdly, the framework should address the vulnerability and needs where it matters most. And harness the potential of civil society. It should integrate, gender, age and disabilities into disaster risk management. The new framework should factor in conflict and fragility, emerging risks and global shocks and stresses such as food, nutrition, security and epidemics.

Fourthly, we should pull out the need for the stronger effectiveness in investing in disaster risk management. A new framework should emphasize the contribution of disaster risk management to innovation and sustainable growth. And be developed and implemented in close partnership with all stakeholders, including the private sector and international financial institutions.

Finally, we have a great opportunity to ensure that coherent approaches are taken across complimentary global frameworks and political process. The post-2015 development framework, the climate change agenda and the world humanitarian summit. This should be further reflected an operational level and will involve coordination action and advocacy to partners and stakeholders across these processes. All countries are affected by the increasing threats posed by disasters and the European Union is not spared. Ownership and accountability at appropriate levels will be of key importance for the implementation of the framework.

The EU and its Member States are determined to continue playing

an active role in the upcoming negotiations and stand ready to engage in an open and constructive dialogue with all partners and stakeholders.

Let me conclude by the added values of the work the co-chairs, the bureau and the ISDR Secretariat's contribution to this process. Co-chairs, thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THONGPHAKDI: I thank His Excellency, the Ambassador of the European Union. I now give the floor to Her Excellency, the minister and head of the national Secretariat for risk management for Ecuador.

>> ECUADOR: Good morning. Three minutes. I have three minutes to convince you that we are for the obligation of providing the world with a tool that will not only save lives but will also ensure that humanity continues to progress. Three minutes is the time made available to a decision maker when faced with an alert for an imminent disaster or a disaster that's already underway. In three minutes that decision maker will have to make several phone calls.

We will have to call there are institutions members of academies, et cetera, and provide them with somewhat reliable and comprehensive information. If this decision maker is in a developing country or he is working in a city and not with a central government, he will probably barely have one or two years experience in disaster response management.

In those three minutes, he will have to save lives and set up various different evacuation models, cities or alerts that could be affected by this natural disaster. In those three minutes, you also have to create a metrics that would enable specialists to inform the people correctly. In those three minutes he will have to identify the entire infrastructure for a staged response, accommodation, evacuation and especially take into account people living with disabilities. I have three minutes can assume that we are obliged to provide the world with a tool that will not only save lives but ensure that humanity progresses. Three minutes is the time available for a citizen who has been informed by this decision maker to leave his field, his home, that he's had for his entire life, to find his loved ones, his sons, his wife, parents, grandparents, neighbors, their husbands and wives, their boyfriends and girlfriends, their partner and convince them that they have to face this threat and respond to it. And this is only going to be made possible if the governments have the decision, and the methodology to construct everything again.

He has to place his trust in them and not place him in vulnerability. If this citizen has lived in a small town, there are probably no cell phones or networks and he may not have the time to

put all of this to work.

We need a tool that will provide us with a metrics for decision making and response to risks that are forecasted, imminent or already underway. This tool, I suggest we call it three minutes.

Why three minutes? Because that matches what has been mentioned by the president of the Republic of Ecuador and the United Nations which is working on three agendas at the same time. And I suggest that we bring the three -- or he suggested that the three be brought together.

The proposal of Ecuador is the creation of three minutes, a tool that would be compulsory that would avoid discretion and it being implemented or not because as our president said in terms of life, life dignity and human development, one cannot be discretionary. Either you decide to save lives or you decide to turn your back to them. This is what we suggested in our declaration on the 29th of May, 2014 regional platform for risk and disaster management of the Americas but in three minutes we cannot overlook our citizens with living with disabilities.

We don't require three minutes to develop these tools, indicators that will serve our progress and disaster risk reduction. I would like to, quote, President Mujica he says we don't need a greater number of international organizations that occupy hotel rooms but we need more action.

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank the minister from Ecuador and I give the floor to the minister of national emergency of Paraguay.

>> PARAGUAY: Thank you very much, Excellencies.

First of all, we would like to thank the Secretariat for their work and efforts when preparing the world conference of Japan 2015. Secondly, we would like to support the statement made by CELAC. Thirdly, Paraguay would like to reference the commitment to disaster risk reduction and management and the proof of this is the presidential decree on the first national policy of risk management and reduction. This policy is the product of a participatory and wide ranging process during which lines of actions and strategies that establish the division of the state and the fields of risk reduction and management, its responsibilities as well as the commitment to its related challenges and how to overcome them based on five priorities established in the HFA were decided on.

In our country, we have just held a workshop for the revision and validation of indicators in risk management and reduction. The main objective of this was to generate a space where one could revise and discuss the relevancy and the applicability of indicators that are suggested in the post-2015 development program. This pilot process was carried out in five countries that have been selected to determinability and viability and the various national context.

In consultation with the UNISDR, regional centers and UNDP, five countries, Armenia, Indonesia, Mozambique, Nepal and Paraguay. Paraguay has three national consultation processes firstly the national post Hyogo consultation. Secondly, the national HFA workshop and lastly the national workshop on the lines of action for risk management and reduction this month.

The Secretariat and the national emergencies has launched a process of paradigm shift in Paraguay. The Secretariat is in charge of risk management and reduction and takes part actively in regional processes.

This way, Paraguay is moving towards plenary meetings and incorporating participatory operations of risk management to all levels strengthening the resilience of communities and at the same time providing an accurate framework in strengthening this field taking into account international commitments in the MDGs and HFA signed by Paraguay. We believe that the zero draft for the post-2015 agenda for the MDGs must include a risk reduction as a means to achieve its goals and that we also need to work towards greater inclusion that will reduce vulnerability with a few to reducing risk -- disaster risks and strengthening recovery capacity.

It is quite obvious that various facets of DR will have to be taken into account, taking into account the various topics such as climate change, sustainability development so that a long-term strategic vision can be adopted. Paraguay is able to take part actively in the negotiations of documents that will be officially approved in Sendai, Japan.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank you, His Excellency, the minister from Paraguay. I give the floor to Her Excellency, the Ambassador of the United States, to be followed by Cuba and Nepal.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Madam Chair, fellow delegates on behalf of the US government, I want to thank the United Nations and the government of Switzerland for holding the second session or on Third United Nations World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction. I am pleased and honor to lead the US delegation at this important meeting and to join everyone here in contributing to this worthy cause.

Under the leadership of President Obama, the US government remains committed to strengthening its role in disaster risk reduction both at home and abroad. Like the rest of the world, the United States struggles with perennial risks as well as new challenges to reducing vulnerability. To address these challenges the US continues to make significant investments in the natural and the social sciences, in technology, infrastructure, and communities to inform decision making for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Recent examples include the Federal Emergency

Management Agency's whole community planning initiative, our national climate action plan, and President Obama's recent announcement at the G20 of our \$3 billion pledge to the UN backed green climate fund.

At the international level, the United States continues to support DRR programs to save lives and to protect livelihoods, assets and infrastructure before, during and after disasters while increasing the communities' resilience to natural hazards in.

This regard, we are pleased to see increased attention to integrating the whole community into disaster risk reduction framework, including individuals who may experience a disproportionate impact during and after a disaster, such as women, persons with disabilities, children and youth, displaced persons, older persons, and indigenous groups.

The United States supports the HFAs a strong basis for the HFA2 and recognizes the follow-on framework must reflect increasingly prevalence challenges and trends such as climate change. DRR and climate change adaptation share a common purpose of exposure and vulnerable to climate extremes. We have increased our international assistance eight fold since 2009. Furthermore, the September -- in September of 2014, at the UN climate change summit, President Obama announced an executive order mandating all federal agencies to integrate climate change considerations into their international development efforts.

We believe that this is a vital step towards ensuring that our broader development funds address the impacts of climate change. Under this executive order, the US government will also provide scientific and technical assistance to developing countries.

DRR, climate adaptations and wider development efforts are mutually reinforcing, and should be approached in an integrated manner. The United States is actively participating in the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development and climate change processes. While we support discussions in the context of the post Hyogo framework, the framework itself should not seek to prejudge the ultimate agenda on sustainable development goals or climate change discussions which will be decided in ongoing intergovernmental negotiations that will continue over the next year.

While we recognize that monitoring progress towards the reducing the disaster risk is an important means of promoting action we continue to believe that it will be difficult to adopt a set of universal indicators and targets that are meaningful for every country or region participating in the HFA too. The 10th anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami reminds us that disasters do not recognize national boundaries. The US government promotes transboundary cooperation on DRR, especially for hazard early warning systems.

At home, the United States has forged new partnerships to that end. The US Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Mexican civil protection agency work together on a catastrophic hurricane scenario exercise to strengthen community preparedness and enhance resiliency. More globally, US AID, the national oceanic and atmospheric administration and the UN world meteorological organization are cooperating in the implementation of flash flood guidance systems in eight regions including the Mecongress river base and Africa and Central America and the Middle East with flash floods are the leading weather-related disasters. While the challenges of DRR may seem daunting, the collaborations are numerous. The new proposed framework before us represents an opportunity to strengthen our national and global commitment to work together in common cause to reduce disaster risk.

We look forward to this week's discussions and to a successful outcome in Sendai in 2015. Thank you, Chair.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank Her Excellency, the Ambassador of the United States. I now give the floor to the honorable undersecretary for the national disaster risk reduction and council of the Philippines.

>> PHILIPPINES: Distinguished guests, cochair, delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first and most on behalf of the Philippine people, thank you once again for the help you extended to us after Typhoon Haiyan. We would like to thank the members for preparing the zero draft. We associate ourselves with the statement of Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN.

(Audio distorted).

As a team in full support for the road to Sendai. The Philippines has much more to share. First, we welcome and appreciate -- (No audio) and accountability complimented by mutually reinforcing multi-stakeholder partnerships in the state and national/international DRR actors.

However, the draft needs to strengthen the section on international cooperation and global partnership in the prevention and the preparedness phase in the response phase, and in the recovery and the rehabilitation phase in order to assist developing countries particularly those in vulnerable situations to achieve a culture of resilience in all aspects.

Second, we have introduced the predisaster risk of CDR, a process that the possible risks in a manner that is hazard specific, area focused, and time bound going across the board warning signals.

Third, we prioritized the further institutionalization and the framework, particularly for recovery and rehabilitation. Our typhoon experience underscored the need to build back better, safer

and faster to promote resilience for development.

Further public/private partnership for enterprise development, and risk financing is vital, increase in disaster damages and losses underscores the need for more responsive risk transfer mechanisms and ensuring a business continuity. We have the zero draft and the reiterate that we should ensure the roll in DR R.

Finally on the political declaration, we welcome the call for the international community to take shared responsibility adoption of a people centered approach, investment in the recovery and the acquisition of resources nor DRR. Thank you, distinguished cochairs. (Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank the honorable undersecretary from the Philippines, and I now give the floor to his excellence staff of the national civil defense of Cuba.

>> CUBA: Chairs, representatives of the Secretary General for the disaster risk reduction. Cuba supports the statement made by Costa Rica on behalf of CELAC. And I now send my regards and reaffirm the commitment of the Cuban government with regard to the disaster risk reduction. Likewise we support the international strategy to participate in this meeting. We consider that this is a topic of major relevance to the international community, with particular developing countries. That often have the greatest amount of loss of human life due to disasters as they lack the necessary response capacities.

Humanity must face increasingly complex disaster risk situations as it threatens the very survival of our species. Hence -- (Audio distorted).

At the international, regional and national levels. To do so, it is essential to adopt a risk management approach for prevention. Cochair, it also requires the commitment of all states, especially those with the task of disaster risk reductions that would require a major investment in technology. The main core in achieving better results in disabilities such as under development -- and poverty must be eradicated.

The international operation -- (Audio distorted).

Significant progress in this field. Cochairs, despite economic -- we have shown how much can be achieved without including the affected the property. We have been able to achieve -- only the strong ability with the activation of all the people. New framework for action, and disaster risk reduction post 2015 should be based on the Hyogo framework for objection in 2005 and should be a tool in the hands of the States to promote international cooperation, access to technology, exchange of good practices, and development of national capacities in connection with the priorities defined by the competent authorities in each country.

Lastly, the objectives being pursued by the new framework for

action must be achieving greater resilience of individuals, communities, and countries to measures of economic, commercial, educational and cultural nature, amongst many others. The implementation of the framework for action must be adapted to the realities of each nation. Cuba considers this political declaration of Sendai must reflect the view points we have expressed in this statement.

Cochairs, Cuba reaffirms its willingness to raise its results in the cycle of disaster reduction. Similarly, it we have reaffirmed our willingness to support those countries that request us to do so.

Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: I thank His Excellency, the chief of staff for the national civil defense of Cuba and I now give the floor to the distinguished joint secretary, the ministry of home affairs of Nepal to be followed by India, New Zealand, and Japan.

>> NEPAL: Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the government of Nepal, I would like to express my sincere of thanks to UNISDR for welcoming us here today and for organizing this important meeting as we prepare for the World Conference in the March 2015.

Nepal has been a committed signatory to the HFA, which has provided us guidance and support in developing our disaster risk management approach. As a signatory to the HFA, we have developed the national strategy for the disaster risk management. Based on this strategy, we have drafted a Disaster Management Act, which is currently undergoing analysis.

Nepal has experienced the grim reality of the impact disasters can have. This recurrent disaster will be coming more frequency and it too was a great intensity. Disasters in Nepal over the last few years that the actual vulnerabilities of the countries is still to be undertaken.

Now, we will seek to scale this up and to focus on the national assessment. A stronger mechanism for the -- it must be integrated on the government and the sector. In Nepal we have made strides into the development goal however, we have not always been successful in ensuring that these elements and the risks sensitive. It will be crucial to ensure the reduction and an alliance with the development priority across the sector.

Lastly, we must ensure effectively monitoring on the framework in the place of HFA. It is critical that we can implement the global framework and the local level an this must be done through the mechanism. If it does not impose overwhelming burden on places like Nepal. Commitment is needed by the global community to recognize the importance of the disaster reductions and to go with the process.

We are looking for what working with this process ensuring

success in our development efforts.

Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank the distinguished joint secretary of Nepal and I now give the floor to -- to the distinguished secretary for border management ministry for home affairs of India.

>> INDIA: Distinguished cochairs, it is an honor to participate in the second preparatory committee meeting. I wish to thank the cochairs for their tireless efforts and assure them of my delegation's support in their efforts to conclude their discussions at an early date.

I also wish to thank Mrs. Margareta Wahlstrom, for DRR and her able team for providing technical and logistical support to the delegations. India is prone to frequent natural hazards, particularly cyclones, earthquakes and landslides. In order to streamline disaster-related preparedness and response and also to shift from a relief centric approach to a more holistic one, India has established a disaster management authority, under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister in 2005, and also disaster management authorities at the state levels.

In addition, national level disaster response force were also set up. A national disaster management policy was also announced in 2009.

India has started earmarking funds for all development schemes for used in disaster mitigation and restoration. An emphasis on innovation and use of advanced technologies in fields of forecasting and early warning systems, coupled with other disaster risk reduction measures have improves our abilities to effectively limit the impact of disasters and also to manage all disaster situations.

The nature and the timing of disasters different from place to place and so is the vulnerability and the impact as a result of them. Nonavailability of the accurate and sufficient data poses a challenge in assessment of timing, and extent of impact from various types of disasters. The desire to define global and national level targets, in India are notable one, but we need to temper our ambitions with the reality on the ground, wherein the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries lack sufficient resources to fully meet these targets and indicators as a result our discussions must also seek ways to supplement national resources to achieve disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction in the developing countries.

Distinguished cochairs, we therefore believe that the post 2015 DRR framework should focus on international cooperation and means of implementation of the framework for capacity building and availability of appropriate technologies in the developing countries

the international community in particular, the developed countries should demonstrate its commitment by providing matching financial support to effectively realize the goals and objectives of the post-2015 DRR framework in the absence of reliability financing support. It would be unrealistic to expect many developing countries to take full advantage of the post 2015 DRR framework.

Dear cochairs, we are confident that under your able leadership, the deliberations will conclude soon, leading to a concise, focused, forward looking and action oriented post-2015 framework for the disaster risk reduction. I thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THONGPHAKDI: I thank the distinguished secretary from India and now I give the floor to special envoy for disaster risk management from New Zealand, to be followed by Japan, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Morocco.

>> NEW ZEALAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In view of the time limit you have set, I will restrict my comments. My full statement will be circulated in writing.

Mr. Chairman, although tuning will be needed, New Zealand considers the zero draft before us as a solid foundation. The following areas we consider especially important. Firstly, strong partnerships, where knowledge and experience are shared between national and local government, the private sector, the scientists academia and civil society. These are crucial in communities are to become more resilient.

Engaging local leaders and effective communities including different ethnic and cultural groups women, children and the elderly those with chronic illness are essential if the impacts of disaster are to be effectively managed.

The private sector's role in particular is critical in response and ongoing resilience. An integrated and collaborative approach to reducing risks and building resilience with governance arrangement and legal and policy frameworks are strong and transparent are one we strongly support.

Second, investing in community and household preparedness builds resilience and can save lives. Sadly, we in New Zealand we know from experience the value of disaster preparedness actions which include early warning, public awareness and education programs.

We support a strong emphasis on these in this new document.

Third, reducing risk is everyone's business. We endorse UNISDR messages that all sectors have specific roles in doing so. Given that HFA1 largely addressed the what, it is important that the post-2015 framework set the direction for the how.

Four, investing up front in disaster risk reduction makes economic sense and pays dividends when disasters do strike. This

investment is urgent, and we support efforts in pushing this message.

Five, integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is sensible and requires strong coordination across public, private and not for profit sectors to ensure sound investment, decision making and planning.

We note the important role of our friends and partnerships in the south Pacific under the Pacific regional infrastructure facility.

Finally, science and technical research must underpin all that we are doing in this sector. Long-term research in seismology, volcanology, engineering and the social sciences contribute to stronger legislative framework and integrated approaches to risk management. If risks are to be mitigated reliably, up to date, relevant and accessible scientific information is needed with different levels of government, civil society, and the private sector working in partnership and drawing on comparative advantages.

Mr. Chairman, New Zealand supports efforts to reduce risk and to build resilience.

We are committed to sharing our lessons and experiences on the global stage, we integrate our own lessons we provide in our own Asia Pacific region.

Mr. Chairman, disasters do not draw distinctions among countries and regions. We in New Zealand are here to share, but we are also very much here to listen and to learn. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank His Excellency, the special enjoy from New Zealand and I now give the floor His Excellency the Ambassador in charge of the third world conference on disaster risk reduction of Japan to be followed by the Ambassador from Barbados for the small island of developing states, the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

>> JAPAN: Thank you, cochair. It is my greatest pleasure to deliver a statement as the representative of the host country of the third UN world conference on disaster risk reduction. First, let me express our deepest appreciation to our cochair, Ambassador Thongphakdi Thani, and Ambassador Kairamo and the Secretariat of the ISDR for their great contribution to the preparation of this WCDRR second preparatory committee. I'm delighted to find that the present zero draft has improved a great deal from the previous -- the prezero draft and has become a solid basis for further adjustment.

Among the newly added elements to the present zero draft, we attached importance to first the responsibility of the central government and the role of local authorities, community, business sector and civil society, two the investment and education and three the policy of building back better.

We will make additional concrete proposals during the consideration of the text. We strongly hope that post HFA will become

a useful reference for DRR practitioners to promote DRR policies in each country.

Secondly, let me comment on the political declaration since many high level figures from Member States are expected to participate in the world conference, Japan as a facilitator aims to summarize their political recommendation to the DRR into a concise and impactful document. We are thoroughly convinced that the political declaration should accommodate the important elements, including among the others human security, the integration of DRR into the post-2015 Development Agenda, and the notion of building back better.

I would like to ask for the kind cooperation and assistance from Member States in finalizing a concise declaration that we have a real political impact needed for this important topic.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank you, his Excellency, the Ambassador from Japan and I now give the floor to Her Excellency, the Ambassador of Barbados.

>> BARBADOS: Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for Barbados to deliver this on behalf of small island developing states, I will be delivering an abridged version but the entire statement will be made available to the Secretariat. At the outset, SIDS like to recognize the UNISDR and the bureau in the work for preparing for of the third world conference on disaster risk reduction and thank the cochairs for their work.

The issue of disaster risk reduction is one in which our countries consider -- one which our countries consider to be of critical importance to our sustainable development and to the continued existence of our islands. We therefore have a vested interest in ensuring that the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction supports the inclusion of various shareholders, builds on the achievements, priorities and gaps in the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Cochairs, though we subscribe to the negotiation that it is the role of government to ensure a country's sustainable that we contributes or induce the catalyzed risk which affect our peoples and their livelihoods.

We therefore welcome the role played by our development partners in assisting and sharing this burden and urge continued and sustained efforts.

Small island developing states continue to be on the front line of disaster risk and impacts of climate change. Such disasters have the ability to ultimately stifle progress towards sustainable development.

However, with respect to the means of implementation, many small island development states remain significantly challenged. The

global economic situation has not been particularly favorable for many of our economies and in recent years many SIDS have been elevated to the highly indebted countries in the world. This is not an adequate measure as it does not take into consideration the peculiar vulnerabilities which are faced by SIDS. In this regard, we stress the need for a structure which would ensure that all SIDS are able to access critical resources for disaster risk reduction and resilience building activities.

Though we appreciate that the United Nations trust fund for disaster risk reduction should be reviewed with a view to expanding its usage and feasibility, to include the set of national strategies, we also think that the scope should be such as to assist vulnerable countries such as SIDS with the implementation of the post 2015 framework, including through developing plans for securing and safeguarding the transition of livelihood and migration for climatic hazards financing, infrastructure, preparedness and mitigation projects, development and implementation of strong disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management and recovery policies and frameworks.

Cooperation at the regional and global levels is a crucial part of ensuring that disaster risk reduction is instituted in and across countries and borders. Collaboration at the regional level which enhances national and regional preparedness and response collaboration projects such as the development and the implementation of early warning systems, urban search and rescue teams, simulation exercises, increasing and sustained knowledge, and learning and comprehensive disaster management are important for catering for our needs.

Cooperation with international organizations, which could strengthen advocacy for the enactment of new pieces of legislation is one of the additional areas which could be considered for inclusion in the framework. This could support the development of enhancement of existing ones, for example, international disaster response law, in collaboration with the international federation of the red cross.

In the past -- in the SIDS document, the international community committed to supporting efforts of SIDS in disaster risk reduction in light of our, and I quote, unique and particular vulnerabilities. In this regard SIDS as was the case in the HFA proposed the inclusion of specific language in the post 2015 framework to, quote, implement the outcome of the small island developing states accelerated modalities of action or the SAMA pathway particularly in the area of risk reduction.

Cochairs, we would, however, like to note the need for continued support for the assistance of SIDS to attend these meetings. We, act, acknowledge the support we have had in the past and we urge that our

group continues to be given such assistance.

Given our limited time over the next few days, SIDS recommends that we focus on achieving as much common ground as possible during this preparatory committee meeting in.

This regard, SIDS remains willing and ready to actively engage in negotiations on the zero draft of the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction and wishes all a fruitful and productive meeting. In closing, I just wish to remind that the full statement has been made available for inclusion in the record of this meeting. I thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank Her Excellency, the Ambassador of Barbados and I give the floor to the Ambassador of the United Kingdom and northern Ireland.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Chair and to your fellow cochair, thanks also to the bureau and the UN office for disaster risk reduction for convening facilitating this second preparatory committee meeting and for their work in producing the zero draft in which further negotiations are to be based, the United Kingdom looks forward to actively engaging in these negotiations.

I would like to start by saying that we support the earlier statement made by the European Union, welcoming the draft elements of the Sendai declaration proposed by Japan.

We will reserve our more detailed observations on the zero draft for the negotiating to come. The zero draft provides a good basis on which to begin an ambitious new framework while retaining its volatile nature. Some of the gaps identified in recent consultation on the prezero draft have been more effectively addressed however, in our view, there remain a number of areas in which the draft could be improved and more importantly, there are similar missions which we believe need urgently to be addressed.

We welcome the progression towards the clearer, and more concise framework and we support further moves in this direction, as a vital element in successful implementation. We would like to see a stronger overarching narrative in which the disaster risk reduction and broader resilience agenda is firmly established as both a development and humanitarian priority. This narrative should explain not only context and history but it should also set out a vision and a strategy that we wish to adopt, one that sets out on how it will build on the Hyogo to enhance the communities -- this should go to broader and such as eradicating poverty and addressing climate change and sustainable development and the official fostering of economic growth.

We need to ensure an effective level of coherence between the post2015 DRR framework and other global frameworks and processes and

we will not achieve a broader and more integrated approach to risk management unless we can do this.

We join others in reiterating our goal for the new post-2015 DRR framework to be aligned with the post 2015 sustainable development and climate change agenda.

It's not enough in our view for this to be reflected as an aspiration or a guiding principle. Rather, it should be permeated through the outcomes and goals and the synchronicity between time frames reporting schedules and target dates.

We welcome the clear recognition of the prime responsibility of states to reduce disaster risk. Action taken at the regional and the global levels has an important role to play in supporting states, particularly through sharing good practice, however, we need to keep in mind that there is rarely a one size fits all approach to risk management. We support the moves in the zero draft towards recognizing the important role of civil society, the private sector, and science in supporting national and local leadership in countries to manage disasters by themselves.

It is important that the framework is pragmatic, workable and focused, and does not place a disproportionate burden on states or create unnecessary bureaucracy. For example, we recognize the value of understanding and accounting philosophy through disasters, however, experience in the UK has demonstrated that it can be difficult to arrive at complete and accurate data that can be used on a comparable basis. In some cases, we need to recognize that this effort may be warranted, but in others it may be disproportionate.

Finally, cochair, the third world conference truly is a unique community to lead the way in setting out an ambitious roadmap for reducing disaster risk and building resilience over the coming decades. We must grasp this to integrate disaster risk management to eradicate poverty and ensure sustainable development. The United Kingdom looks forward to contributing to this process.

Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank Her Excellency, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom and I will give the floor to the Ambassador from Switzerland.

>> SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Chairman, cochair, representative of the Secretary General Your Excellency, on behalf of Swiss government, I wish you all welcome to Geneva. I'm delighted to see you here for this important event, along the path towards Sendai. I particularly welcome those who have traveled sometimes great distances to be with us today.

Since the first meeting of the PrepCom in July, considerable work has been accomplished, in particular in preparing the zero draft

of the new global framework for risk reduction. I wish to congratulate the cochairs for their leadership, and all of the state and non-state stakeholders and the United Nations with the key role played by UNISDR for having drafted and enhancing this text. Allow me to mention the fact that risk reduction is something we are concerned about within the Swiss chairmanship for security and cooperation in Europe. We would like to thank the participating states in the EOC who are here today in advance for the constructive contributions with a view to the possible adoption of a ministerial decision of the ministerial council on December 4th, 2014. We are half between the first PrepCom and the world conference. As in a marathon, we need to manage our resources not to hurry and not to slow down, but to make sure we keep going forward at the solid and regular pace.

We will not repeat here our positions on points of substance, which we shall raise in the negotiations summit this afternoon. Allow me, however to express our desire that our negotiations be carried on in this same factual frame of mind that as we have seen them conducted during the consultations so that we have an operational document, a concise document linked to other international and global processes in its approach.

We warmly thank Japan for sharing with us the draft elements. We support Japan to organize the finalization of this development and any contents could be constructed in a bilateral manner without a need for an additional negotiating forum. On contents of this, we welcome the fact that this text reflects the key aspects such as investment, and inclusive approach and interconnection with sustainable development and the climate. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: I thank His Excellency, the Ambassador from Switzerland. I now give the floor to Her Excellency, the Ambassador from Brazil.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Brazil expresses appreciation to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, experienced this special representative, Margareta Wahlstrom and thanks the host Japan. We associate ourselves with Costa Rica and would like to make additional comments.

While we believe the zero draft represents a clear improvement in relation to the previous document, more efforts are needed to achieve an ambitious and balanced outcome. We share the view that the draft should be concise and action oriented, building upon and adding to the Hyogo Framework for Action, but form should follow substance. It is important to firmly anchor the text in the framework of sustainable development, most notably in the Rio+20 outcome document.

The text should therefore clearly depict poverty eradication. We need to recognize the deep synergies with disaster risk reduction, particularly with regards to developing countries. As it currently stands, poverty eradication and reduction of inequalities are only two among many factors that account for disaster risk.

We welcome the proposed chapter on international cooperation and partnerships and the reference to means of implementation, but more needs to be done. We fully recognize that disaster risk reduction remains a primary responsibility of national governments, however, the draft does not contain any reference to commitments on development cooperation undertaken in other UN bodies especially ODA to developing countries.

We call on the cochairs to ensure that the current draft is duly aligned with other UN documents on international cooperation and global partnership for development. The use of the terms "north-south and south-south and triangular cooperation does not properly reflect the differences and the complementarities between these modalities. The text clearly recognizes that developing countries require support and special attention in the implementation of the disaster risk targets. We reiterate the need for reference to the principles of common backed differentiated responsibilities and of respective capacities of developing countries.

Finally, Brazil welcomes the draft elements of the Sendai declaration. While it offers important suggestions on some of the issues addressed in the framework, it still lacks appropriate balance. We believe the text should include language on four principles such as sustainable development and the eradication of hunger and poverty which have been recognized by central elements for the reduction of risk and vulnerabilities and the construction of more resilient societies.

We expect that the outcome document will reflect the views of all actors, including developing countries. But it would be remiss on our part if we did not mention the tight shadow of negotiations ahead.

I thank you.
(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank Her Excellency, the Ambassador of Brazil and I now give the floor to His Excellency the Ambassador of Indonesia to be followed by Egypt, Norway and Morocco.

>> INDONESIA: Thank you, cochairs, distinguishes delegates, ladies and gentlemen, at the outset, Indonesia associates itself with the statement made by Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN, we will have a draft frame for the disaster risk reduction prepared under the able guidance of the two cochairs which has reflected the outcome of our discussion both formally and informally.

At this stage, allow me to add several salient points, first we put more emphasis on the linkage, climate change adaptation and is sustainable Development Agenda, and that's just difficult to achieve without investment on disaster risk reduction being considered as an integral part of the post-2015 DRR framework.

Second, there needs to be more engagement of developed countries in supporting developing countries in advancing the DRR and resilience building agenda. Therefore, we support the cooperation of a stronger international cooperation and global partnership in the draft.

Third, community resilience has to be taken into account as the ultimate visions of post-2015 framework for DRR. He would like to strengthen the community resilience, particularly resilience at the village level.

Fourth, the frameworks need to address the measures of cycles and challenges faced by countries in building disaster resilience. While political commitment is continuously encouraged it should be taken into account that each country has its own specific challenges in main streaming DRR, including the characteristic its geographical area, as well as other of stakeholders such as lack of finding technical can knowledge and capacity building.

Fifth, the rules of private sectors in the major -- I repeat, the roles of private sectors and media in advancing DRR need to be strengthened in 9 zero draft.

Sixth, it is imperative to fully take into account the importance of providing sustainable, adequate financial support and transfer of technology, technical and expertise and capacity building to developing countries to strengthen and enhance their capacity to deal with the long-term negative and adverse effect of disasters.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, we thank the government of Japan for preparing elements for Sendai political declarations and support various elements currently included in the draft. including the issue of capacity building and expertise to strengthen local community resilience for reduction -- for disaster risk reduction. I thank you, cochairs.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THANI: I thank the distinguished Ambassador from Indonesia. And I now give the floor to His Excellency, the Ambassador of Egypt.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, chairman. First and foremost, we would like to subscribe to the statement made by Namibia on behalf of the African Group, the complete statement of my delegation has been committed to the Secretariat, in the two minutes we have. We would just say that we support the adoption of the Hyogo framework and we reassert our belief and commitment to the objectives. We recall that there

are challenges resulting from pressure on the environment, and shortcomings in urban planning. In this context, we support the efforts deployed at the international level for risk reduction, Egypt hosted the second Arab conference on this topic in Sharm el-Sheikh and this demonstrates our support and any objectives we are discussing here and the fact that we are shouldering our shared responsibility in this area.

We believe that we do need to assess current situations for the future. At the first meeting of the PrepCom, and during the Arab conference, which has been included in document PC2/CP7, we made statements which you recall were contained in the Arab declaration. That is that we need to take the following measures on how to best combat disasters. We need to achieve a pragmatic approach based on the -- the priority of society and preparing society better to deal with this so they can enjoy better protection so that human lives can be protected.

Secondly, we need to focus more on the occupied Palestinian territories given the challenges that those in these territories are faced by.

Thirdly, we need to take being of the concerns of food security, and water security, given the consequences of the disasters linked to drought and desertification. It's important that we take account of the climate change and sustainable element goals and fifthly the new framework for action must take account of the necessary mechanisms that we need to see to ensure the best possible financing for these issues so that we build up human resources that we have capacity building conducted.

Sixthly, we must recall the principle of shared responsibility, common but differentiated responsibility must be focused on all activities.

Seventhly, we must step up international efforts to provide societies and regions to have the necessary tools to ensure better risk management.

Eighthly, we must establish a framework which is better adopted to disaster reduction without uplying -- or focusing on local capacity.

In conclusion, I would recall that it's important to have an international framework which takes full account of developing countries and their needs and focuses on different capacities.

Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: I thank you, His Excellency, the Ambassador of Egypt and I now give the floor to the Distinguished Representative from Norway to be followed by Morocco and the Republic of Korea.

>> NORWAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Since we last met at the first

preparatory committee in July, we have moved several steps ahead in the process to adopt a post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Norway would like to thank the cochairs and the UNISDR and for providing us with a zero draft which we believe is an improvement compared to the previous versions.

We would like to encourage you to continue working in an inclusive way that involves relevant expertise from within the UN system and other key organizations. At the same time, we would encourage a firm hand on the wheel so that we can have an effective negotiation process in order to arrive at an action oriented practical and strong frame that will guide our efforts in years to come.

We would also like to thank Japan for providing us with draft elements for a political declaration to be adopted by all states at the world conference on disaster risk reduction in Sendai in March 2015. The elements suggested seem to cover the main substantive points and we are particularly pleased to see references to the post-2015 development agenda and to the climate change agenda.

What is important is that the political declarations should contain strong and clear language that will commit all states to implement the post-2015 for DRR in an effective manner. We would like to express our support to Japan's efforts to move forward to enhance the political declaration.

With regard to the zero draft, we would like to underline. There's a potential to shorten and strengthen the text. Coherence for the sustainable development goals and with the outcome of the climate change processes must be ensured. In particular for coherence. We would like to include effective populations in all phases of work, including in multilateral negotiation processes like. This in addition we know that certain groups are disproportionately impacted by disasters. Such groups, for example, persons with disabilities, children, the elderly and in many societies women and ethnic minorities must be involved both in needs assessment and in planning processes and their particular needs must be taken into account during any response.

Disaggregated data is essential to achieve. This. We look forward to continuing to discussions today, tomorrow and in the weeks to come to ensure the strongest possible outcome documents to Sendai. The framework must be an effective tool for us all as we strive to reduce and mitigate risks in order to save lives due to disasters. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THONGPHAKDI: I thank the Distinguished Representative of Norway. I now give the floor to His Excellency, the Ambassador of Morocco.

>> MOROCCO: Cochairs, Morocco subscribes to the statement made

on behalf of the African Group made by the Ambassador of Namibia. Morocco supports the Arab declaration from the Sharm el-Sheikh meetings. Cochairs, my delegation shall circulate the full text of my statement and I shall just make a few key points. I would like to start by paying vibrant tribute to the UNISDR and in particular Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom and the ambassadors of Finland and Thailand and the Ambassador of Jamaica, chair of the informal Working Group, and we would like to warmly thank the government of Japan.

Cochairs, the zero draft established by the two cochairs should without doubt be a document providing political guidance to Member States. The political declaration of the third world conference on south risk reduction should be negotiated in Geneva before we go to Sendai in Japan. The conclusion should not be an end in itself. We should consider in this context how this zero draft could be implemented in other terms.

We are wondering how developing countries will be able to translate this document into reality if they do not have the tools necessary to do so in specific terms. Multilateralism should maintain here its ethical and moral essence. The paragraph on international cooperation should be fleshed out. It should explicitly meet the needs, the urgent needs of countries of the south, the paragraph on international cooperation should mention granting financial resources which are regular and additional resources full developing countries with a few to them establishing a process of sustainable inclusive transparent resilience, which will allow the community of the south to arm itself against essential risks of disasters.

Cochairs, the establishment of a trust fund for the developing countries and especially for the Least Developed Countries, land states should today be an imperative need. And given the specific needs of developing countries, zero draft should take account respective capacities and the national situation of each of the countries of the south as it comes from the principles of group, with differentiated responsibilities the this is why the declaration of this third world conference for disaster risk reduction should be based on the recommendations of regional plant forms, so that we can guarantee a certain degree of harmonization of regional specificities and global specific needs and characteristics.

Cochairs, disaster risk reduction should be a legal international -- international legal requirement. And it would be precious support with respect to human rights reduction -- disaster risk reduction would be a direct link with the NDGs and the sustainable development goals as well. They should be clearly interrelated.

Cochairs Morocco is determined to work together with the Member States, the United Nations, and all stakeholders involved in this

process to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action number two, which can allow the international community to arm itself against the scourge of disaster and sustainable resilience. Let us build together, focusing on the most vulnerable of us all. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: I thank you, His Excellency the Ambassador of Morocco. And I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Republic of Korea.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, distinguished cochair. At the outset, I would like to thank the cochairs for their leadership in successfully guiding this meeting.

Disasters are a serious impediment to sustainable development. For developing countries, in particular a vicious cycle may develop in which the disasters roll back years of development or achievement, leading to further extent of poverty. Therefore, it is crucial to recognize that disaster risk reduction as a key factor in sustainable development. Also more efforts are needed to main stream DRR. In the development. Cooperation among developed countries is especially essential to develop and provide appropriate technology for developing countries. In this way, Korea is making effort to share this effort in information technology for developing countries and establish the management systems.

Cochair, the government of the Republic of Korea views that the new framework for DRR shall consider three key elements, first, we need to build partnerships based on a whole of society approach, that encourages the participation of not only governments but all stakeholders.

A close partnership between the central government and the single society is critical. Equally important is the public/private partnership for innovative financial instrument for addressing this risk.

Second, in order to carry out our work, it is vital to work and to strengthen the capacities of disaster by stakeholders. In addition, this is also extremely important to have DRR for children and the youth who will be the main beneficiaries. I believe the training institute can play a role in this regard.

Third, we need to develop more innovative techniques called disaster risk forecast, and analysis such as a big data strategy using -- our new cochair is expected to build a more effective and coherent disaster response and management assistance and can make some meaningful contributions on the post Hyogo framework. The Republic of Korea will share our experiences with the international community as we work towards disaster risk reduction.

Before closing we would like to thank the government of Japan for proposing elements for the political declaration to be adopted

in Sendai which we believe will make a good basis for future discussion.

Thank you, cochair.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR THONGPHAKDI: I thank you, His Excellency, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea. We have heard the last speaker for this morning's meeting and we will continue to hear general statements by delegations, promptly at 3 p.m., starting with Colombia, kashi bong and Turkey.

I invite the preparatory committee to resume agenda item 4, organization of the world conference. I wish to invite the preparatory committee to consider the draft provisional program of work for the conference issue as document A/Conf. 224/PC(II)/L1 rev 1 which has now been issued in all languages and is available in the room.

At this point, I wish to make the finally oral revision to the document, to the effect that references to the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogue will read high level multi stakeholder partnership dialogue. May I take it that the preparatory committee wishes to adopt the draft provisional program of work for the conference as orally revised?

I hear no objections. It is so decided.

(Gavel).

Delegations are reminded that the Chair's dialogue with major groups will be held at 1:15, 1:15 p.m. in room 19, building E, and that negotiations to consider the zero draft will commence this afternoon at 3 p.m. in room 16, building A.

The meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

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