

## Statement at the Opening Ceremony

The International Conference on the Implementation of  
the Health Aspects in the Sendai Framework for  
Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

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Ambassador Thani Thongpakdi (ธานี ทองภักดี),  
Dr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the UN  
Secretary General on Disaster Risk Reduction,  
Mr. Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General, International  
Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,  
World Health Organization representative,  
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. It is my privilege to welcome you to the  
International Conference on the Implementation of the

Health Aspects in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 hosted by the Royal Thai Government, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and the World Health Organization.

This meeting is important as nobody knows when the next disasters will occur. When they occur, population health and well-being are inevitably affected, as with socio-economic aspects of the country, if not well prepared and managed.

I am delighted to learn that this Conference gives the importance to the integration of health aspects into the disaster risk reduction national policies and strategies. It is encouraging to see such a rich Conference agenda, with four plenary sessions, full with renowned moderators and expert panelists.

The Sendai Framework serves as a global blueprint for disaster risk reduction and management with seven global targets to achieve by 2030. Health aspects are placed well in four targets out the seven. To achieve these targets, the health sector needs to be well

prepared, investing more in strengthening country's capacity to manage disaster risks for health, and also promoting public and private investment in disaster risk prevention in health facilities and infrastructure and life saving measures.

Certainly not, the health sector can work alone to tackle all challenges posed by disasters. All stakeholders at all levels, from the local, national, regional and global levels have a significant role in ensuring a success of disaster risk reduction towards sustainable development.

This Conference serves as a platform for distinguished participants to discuss and share your experiences as to how we implement the health aspects in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

This Conference also marks an anniversary of the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction with the aims of promoting resilience of national health systems as key element for disaster risk reduction and management. The current status and

critical gaps for integrating the health sector and DRR community at all levels would be undeniably assessed.

We are proud of hosting this Conference together with the UNISDR, WHO, Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Interior in a timely manner, and also ahead many important conferences, including the First Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction held by India, GHSA in France, at which we can advocate the health aspects in their outcome documents.

Distinguished participants, in closing, may I ask each of you to use this opportunity to share your experiences and vision as how to implement the health aspects in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 effectively and successfully.

I would be pleased to receive the outcome documents of the Conference when they are available. Please send them to my Office. I will do as much as I can in my capacity to make our health system better prepared and

resilient for unexpected disasters, and also able to assist disaster affected countries in a timely manner.

I wish the Conference every success.

Thank you.

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