



Statement

By

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Bahrain

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here today at this important Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to make a few brief remarks.

The Kingdom of Bahrain attaches great importance to the issue of Disaster Risk Reduction, and in particular the need to prevent disasters where possible; to implement policies and plans to mitigate and minimise the effects of disasters that do take place; and to ensure that full contingency and emergency plans and systems are in place to address the consequences of such disasters.

Bahrain is convinced that the time to plan for disasters is now – and that tomorrow may be too late.

Hence, Bahrain has implemented effective and comprehensive disaster prevention, alleviation and management policies, including the establishment of the National Commission for Disaster Management (NCDM) in 2006. Bahrain was also among the first Arab states to have submitted, in September 2008, its National Report to the ISDR pursuant to the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Most recently, from 17-18 May this year, the Kingdom of Bahrain hosted the launch of the first United Nations Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. The Report provides an overview of natural disasters and climate change and their effects on the world economy, and on efforts to alleviate poverty. It deals in detail with the progress achieved by Member States of the United Nations, other international and regional organizations, and civil

society in the implementation of policies aimed at reducing disaster risks and achieving sustainable development.

The Report sets out to draw the attention and raise the awareness of policy makers, and public opinion at large, to the dangers inherent in natural disasters and to encourage all Member States to work in close cooperation with the relevant international and regional organizations as well as civil society bodies, in order to implement practical and efficient policies and plans to protect their populations, minimize loss of life among the most vulnerable of their citizens, and preserve economic and developmental achievements from natural hazards.

The Report sets out 20 recommendations – a 20-point plan to reduce risk – that set out the measures that can be taken to reduce both disaster risk, and the underlying “risk drivers” that can contribute to the occurrence and severity of disasters. What the recommendations demonstrate is that disaster risk reduction, while a challenge, is not an impossible task, and that the tools we need to address the challenge are already at our disposal. Much of our task is focus the attention and energies of society and policymakers to address disaster risk, and to develop and implement the necessary plans and policies in this regard.

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Kingdom of Bahrain is proud to have been the venue for the launch of the Global Assessment Report, and urges all states and concerned UN Specialised Agencies and non-governmental organizations to carefully read, digest, and act upon the Report and its recommendations.

We in Bahrain believe the Report is a further milestone in the international community's disaster risk reduction efforts, and we will continue to work tirelessly to develop and improve disaster preparedness, both domestically and in coordination with the ISDR, the United Nations, and other states and organizations around the world.

I want to assure all of you of Bahrain's commitment to working with the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and to cooperating constructively with all of you here today, to achieve our shared goals, and to protect the lives, livelihoods and development of peoples throughout the world.

Thank you.