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**Title of the Session:** Earthquake Risk Reduction at the National Level

**Date:** 01/09/2014 to 07/09/2014

## **Summary**

Earthquakes are among the most destructive natural hazards in the world. Many megacities are located on earthquake threat areas around the world. Earthquake mitigation must be one of the key action of countries with high seismic risk. With strategic approaches including clear targets, timetable and funding the initial steps could be taken in order to reduce earthquake losses in the future at national level.

## **Context**

Earthquakes are among the most destructive natural hazards in the world. Many megacities are located on earthquake threat areas around the world. Earthquake mitigation must be one of the key action of countries with high seismic risk. With strategic approaches including clear targets, timetable and funding the initial steps could be taken in order to reduce earthquake losses in the future at national level.

Amongst the basic elements in earthquake risk reduction are robust knowledge about earthquake phenomena of a country, providing safe settlements, earthquake resistant construction and its implementation, community awareness campaigns with all stakeholders and political commitment.

Approaching disaster risk reduction through strategic approaches requires clear definitions and roles of stakeholders and may include all levels of community. Just like many other countries those are located on high risk seismic zones, Turkey has also experienced a lot from devastating earthquakes those hit the country in 1999 and 2012. Following the lessons learnt from catastrophic event, Turkey launched an Earthquake Strategy and Action Plan for the period of 2012-2023 with 87 actions on different areas of earthquake risk mitigation in order to approach earthquake risk systematically with all partners in the country. This document is a national roadmap for actions to be taken in order to reduce earthquake related losses defining the roles and responsibilities of agencies and necessary steps to be taken within given period of time.

The Hyogo Framework of Action promotes countries to prepare and implement risk reduction plans at all levels including national, regional and local. Hazard specific plans may be additive and helpful for countries when short-medium and long term community awareness and resilience policies are planned for sustainable DRR issues. Multi-stakeholder participation, targets with realistic implementation, definite timetables for the achievement of targets, local level implementation of mitigation efforts and funding are the important pillars of a DRR strategy or plan to be achieved in the long term with sustainability.