

Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Sendai, Japan, 14-18 March, 2015
Country Statement by
Union Home Minister, Government of India

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It gives me immense pleasure to be a part of the Indian delegation for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. On behalf of the Government and the people of India, I wish to congratulate the United Nations and the host, the Government of Japan, for organizing this event.

2. The Hyogo Framework for Action has provided a blue print for disaster risk reduction activities including promotion of culture of prevention, mitigation, preparedness and resilience at all levels. Since then, considerable progress has been made by investing resources and enhancing capacities in dealing with the disasters. However, much needs to be done in the future. We are pleased to note that the post-2015 framework has provided us a practical and useful document with people-centered preventive approach to disaster risk. This would contribute to the reduction of disaster risks and strengthen resilience of the poor and the most vulnerable. We need to take risk informed decisions while making public and private investments. Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development programmes and community resilience building are some of the noteworthy features in the new framework. Indeed, the concurrent post-2015 focus on sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk would further

provide the international community with a unique opportunity to ensure coherence and alignment across policies, practices and partnerships for implementation.

3. Recent events in India such as the landslides and floods of 2013 in the Himalayan State of Uttarakhand, cyclone 'Phailin' in Odisha in 2013, the floods and landslides in Jammu & Kashmir and cyclone 'Hudhud' in Andhra Pradesh in 2014 have once again brought into focus the need for multiplying our efforts towards disaster risk reduction. In addition, Typhoon 'Haiyan' in Philippines in 2014, Ludian and Yutian Earthquakes in China in 2014 and extreme weather events in United States of America and South Canada have taken place in the world. The unplanned development of cities and lack of proper infrastructure are the major challenges of the future. While communities, particularly women and children, exposed to these events are trying to adapt to these regular occurrences, the economic and social costs continue to mount year after year. In this context, we believe that there is a need to actively build synergies among the DRR framework, the climate change adaptation framework and the sustainable development framework to ensure that our collective efforts enable us to create a safe, secure and disaster-free environment.

4. In India, our ancestors gave us the concept of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which means that the whole planet -- with all its human beings, plants, animal, birds and natural resources -- is one family. This ancient realisation of our inter-connectedness is even more relevant and urgent today. I would like to call upon this august gathering to embrace this notion and enhance international cooperation through sharing of technology, expertise and necessary resources. Here I would also like to reiterate the

commitment made by our Prime Minister in SAARC Summit last year by ensuring India's help and expertise to the neighbouring countries.

5. India hosts the SAARC Disaster Management Centre which is working towards putting in place a framework to reduce disaster risks and promoting knowledge sharing among the SAARC countries. The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services operates the Tsunami Early Warning System. This is a State-of-the-Art warning system which benefits not only India but also the littoral countries of Indian Ocean. As a part of SAARC Monsoon Initiative, an integrated Operational System for monitoring and forecasting monsoon weather systems has been set up to address monsoon induced hydro-meteorological disasters in the region. Our National Disaster Response Force which has the expertise in addressing national disasters also attends to disasters in the region and beyond. The National Institute of Disaster Management organizes trainings on various thematic domains of disaster risk management. We are keen to share our expertise and help other countries in disaster response and capacity building. We envisage a bigger role in capacity building in the Asia Pacific region and look forward to build sustained regional and international partnerships under the post-2015 Framework.

6. I would like to share that the Government of India has mainstreamed disaster risk reduction in its development policies at all levels, and has earmarked 10 percent of development funds towards innovation, disaster mitigation and restoration. Our Finance Commission, a constitutional body that recommends distribution of tax proceeds between the federal government and the states, in its recent report has called for hazard, risk and vulnerability assessment in all our states. This will be critical first step

in ensuring that over time, notions of risk reduction are embedded in every penny we spend on development. We are promoting cooperative federalism and devolving more power and resources closer to the ground of action.

7. Before concluding, we pledge our support to the post-2015 Framework, its goals and priorities. We commit ourselves to work with countries in the region and beyond in building resilient nations and communities, against disasters. We would also like to call upon all entities, public and private, to strengthen the international support mechanisms for disaster risk reduction by sharing of reliable and affordable modern technology for capacity-building and enabling institutional and policy environment at all levels.

Thank you all....
