

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Abbas Bagherpour, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the
Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN office in Geneva
Before Second Session of the Preparatory Committee
of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful,

I would like to associate myself with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Chad on behalf of G77 and China. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the two Co-chairs for their commendable preparatory works and also thank the UNISDR for their tireless efforts in preparation as well as the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction.

Madam and Mr. Co-chairs,

Today, the very close relationship between sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change is an established fact. DRR is undeniable sign and result of development; and climate change, in turn, has a vast impact on many disasters. We acknowledge the need for coordinating and harmonizing between the second Hyogo Framework for Action, Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change.

We are also of the view that, saving the life and property of the people within the growing scale of disasters caused by natural hazards, requires stronger commitment and active engagement of political leaders to ensure implementation of the DRR.

As regards the current process, I.R. of Iran believes that, the diverse economic, social and cultural condition of countries, and in particular the developing countries, should be well recognized. This important consideration can be taken into account either in defining the indexes and standards for assessment of implementation of HFA2 or during the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. We also believe that the overall proposal of the HFA2 should be regarded as supplementary to the national policies and strategies. To that end and in defining any monitoring mechanism or rendering any kind of assistance, the guiding principles of humanitarian assistance emanating from UN Charter, i.e. the sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of the affected country as well as its consent should be fully respected.

With respect to Priorities, we would like to highlight the consideration of the followings:

-Under Priority 1 (Understanding disaster risk); there is a need for establishing and updating databases and portals among relevant stakeholders for better management of the risks caused by disasters;

- Under Priority 2 (Strengthening governance and institutions to manage disaster risk): Close cooperation between national parliaments, local government and planning and budget management centers are of high importance;

- And under Priority 4 (Enhancing preparedness for effective response, and building back better in recovery and reconstruction), it is necessary to create mechanisms to determining the socio - economic effects of disasters at national and local level and in particular their relationship with development.

Madam and Mr. Co-chairs,

My delegation is of the firm belief that, within the Second Hyogo Framework for Action and in the deliberations before and during the Third World Conference, some important factors necessary for making this process successful are as follows:

- Addressing technology and knowledge gaps and challenges among the countries as underlying elements for reducing risk factors, without any discrimination or political considerations,
- Removing undue restrictions or limitations which jeopardize seriously Disaster Risk Reductions efforts,
- Developing common methodologies and standards, as appropriate, for improving the quality of risk reduction at national and international levels,
- Enhancing financial assistance and allocation of sufficient resources, especially for the developing countries, without which the achievement of the HFA2 will not be fulfilled. To that end, this matter should be fully considered in the deliberations before and during Sendai Conference, for full engagement of international financial organizations,
- Improving data collecting and information sharing, and also better utilization of media to ensure more timely and accurate information-sharing,
- Enhancing public education and training for disaster risk reduction.

Madam and Mr. Co-chairs,

Due to its geographical location and the climate change, Iran is a disaster-prone and among the most vulnerable countries in the world. Frequency of natural hazards especially earthquake in Iran pose significant threat to population, infrastructure, different sectors of our economy. To manage it efficiently, I.R. of Iran has taken necessary steps for prevention, proper response and preparedness against different types of possible disasters. In order to create an integrated management of the policies and planning, coherent implementation of policies, conducting academic research as well as integrated monitoring, collecting the data and dissemination of information on various stages of crisis management, we have passed a bill in the Parliament in January 2008. Besides, the "Taskforce Committee of Emergencies" was promoted to the "Disaster Management Organization". This Organization is responsible for coordinating and using the capacities of all the public and private institutions, at different local and national levels, for reducing the risk of disasters. Some of duties and achievements of the said Organization during last years can be mentioned, as follows:

- Establishing the Executive Secretariat of National Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, for full implementation of HFA and data collecting and upgrading the experiences and best practices of different organizations and experts within the country.

- Allocating 5 percent of the budget of the Government to disaster, including 2 percent for prevention and preparedness and 3 percent for response and recovery.

- Implementation of prevention-oriented policies,
- Strengthening and reconstructing around four hundred thousand schools and hospitals,
- Development of public insurance against risk of disasters,
- Raising public awareness on the natural disasters especially for students and armed forces by training them and inclusion of educational programs in their curriculums.

Last but not the least, I would like to reiterate our active and constructive engagement for promoting the goals of TWCDRR and adopting and implementing the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

I thank you.
