



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
Ambassador

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is an honor to be in such an esteemed company and to address this august gathering on such an important topic.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Government of Japan for hosting for the third time this international conference, especially for their choice of venue, in the beautiful “City of trees”, Sendai, a city not only blessed with a natural environment, but a city that presents a role model city for the World Disaster Reduction Campaign.

It is now been 10 years since the Hyogo agreement which has been a significant instrument in global, regional and national efforts for disaster risk reduction. The Hyogo Framework for Action has been instrumental in our undertaking to build a better resilience, a better response to achieve our exemplary objectives in the area of disaster risk reduction.

Looking in review, 10 years ago we had been called upon to implement five key objectives clearly defined to ensure reduction of vulnerabilities and to increase hardiness to natural and human made risks and disasters.

Since then, modalities of cooperation have been identified and commitments have been made. But, we still have a long road ahead of us. However, it is of key importance that today, we once again commit- to continue with our efforts to promote and further develop what has been agreed with the Yokohama international strategy of 1994 and the Hyogo Framework for Action of 2005, as the main guiding tools on disaster reduction. The main question today is where do we go from here and what should the post -2015 Framework on disaster risk reduction include?

Floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, climate change, drought, to name a few, are the risks we continue to be faced with and continue to battle. As a result, many families flee their homes, children are starving, and possessions are lost. They seek shelter, safety and security. Then, they face new challenges: diseases, fires, lack of drinking water and have no or almost no access to proper medical assistance. Therefore, it goes without saying that adequate and joint global response is the answer to disaster risk reduction.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Recent and past natural disasters have, in their magnitude, shown that what happens in one place can have a tremendous impact not only there, but everywhere, even on the other side of the globe. Therefore, I would like to share our gained experience for disaster risk reduction.

The Republic of Macedonia is fully aware of the challenges Mother Nature’s calamities present. Unfortunately, we just experienced serious floods in the country. Understanding that “*sustainable development, poverty reduction, good governance and disaster risk reduction are mutually supportive objectives*”, the Republic of Macedonia developed its third revised National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Based on a holistic system approach, the Macedonian model is dedicated to effective and efficient risk reduction by integrating all available and relevant capacities and resources. Guided by this methodologically consistent approach, networks were formed and comprised of all national and local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders committed to prevention. Engaging stakeholders across a broad range of sectors in the government and civil society, the National Platform currently includes all relevant ministries, governmental agencies and inspectorates as well as public enterprises and services. The National Platform is also dedicated to greater investment in local action through its local and regional councils. Additionally, the National Platform’s academic and expert backbone consists of 79 institutes, research centers and observatories, as well as the National Laboratory Network which encompasses 173 laboratories countrywide. The multi-sectoral approach is further strengthened by engaging 42 national

NGO federations relevant to prevention, response and recovery. In addition, the social dimension of the Platform is supported by business as well as religious communities in the country.

The Republic of Macedonia, realizes that shared responsibility is a key precondition for Disaster Risk Reduction. Therefore, we joined the South Eastern Europe Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, thus embracing an important dimension of public-private partnership. Furthermore, dedicated to promoting engagement of the private sector through investment in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, Macedonia looks forward to continuing the excellent collaboration with UNISDR and the World Bank in the context of the South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Program (SEEDRMAP). Furthermore, recognizing the direct linkage between climate change and natural disasters, we are strongly committed to promoting the merging of risk reduction and adaptation efforts on a national, regional and global level, that implies the following: development of integrated risk assessment methodologies and procedures; establishing mutually interdependent disaster prevention standards, inspection procedures and insurance mechanisms and by introducing national disaster resilience index for international financial support eligibility criteria.

Mr. President,

Macedonia supports the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and commits to promotion of coordinated approach in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the sustainable development goals and the climate change agreements. In particular, it supports the inclusion of gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and youth empowerment, as they apply to a significant portion of the population with increased vulnerability during emergencies, and it also offers a human-centered approach.

Macedonia has already made significant progress by including sexual and reproductive health services during emergencies for the first time ever into its national policies and thus has a leading role in Eastern Europe and Central Asia by demonstrating its commitment to further advance this topic into its national system.

As the country is prone to natural disasters, such as the recent flooding, let me use this opportunity to express our gratitude to the UN agencies that have provided swift response and support - UNFPA has provided 2400 dignity kits for the affected population, WHO educational materials and UNICEF chlorine tablets for water purification.

**Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Disaster risk is a reality of today but a real threat for tomorrow. Having this in mind, the Republic of Macedonia will continue to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in strategies, policies, plans and legislation. Furthermore, the Republic of Macedonia will continue to support the joint actions of UNISDR and the European Union in building and increasing regional awareness.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that we must recognize that sustainability is the key to risk reduction and proper development. Discussions during these days should focus on collective and shared responsibility, global partnerships, local cooperation, regional collaboration, capacity building, inclusion, integration. The Sendai Conference should demonstrate strong commitment, not only by declaring so, but through implementation. We need to ensure an effective new approach. Mostly, on country level, but also reinforced through partnerships on regional and global levels. To do so, as the EU Representative stated in the joint EU statement to which the Republic of Macedonia has aligned itself to, we need a comprehensive, thorough and broad framework at all levels, as well as a across-the-board monitoring of all actions, which will be needed to ensure an effective use of resources and a greater focus on impact.

This is what the Republic of Macedonia advocates and stands for. Thank you.