

## **Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**

**Sendai, Japan, 14. - 18. 3. 2015**

### **Slovenia Official Statement, Mr. Miloš Bizjak, Msc., State Secretary at the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to have the opportunity to contribute to this conference on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia. Allow me to congratulate the United Nations and the Government of Japan for providing excellent conditions for our work and to thank you for your great hospitality.

As a central European country with a diverse landscape, Slovenia can be affected by many disasters and has therefore developed a comprehensive system of protection against natural and other disasters. The system integrates a variety of stakeholders, and is based on a very high number of volunteers, like fire-fighters, mountain rescuers and others, and links them with the common information-communication and training system.

However, challenges we are facing today are becoming more and more complex and inter-related and require greater awareness that disaster risk reduction is our collective responsibility. The Hyogo Framework for Action that was agreed ten years ago set up the basic roadmap in supporting global, regional and national efforts for disaster risk reduction. With a transition to Post-2015 Framework for Action, which is happening right now here at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and with the preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit, we are all setting the world on a clear course towards enhanced disaster resilience.

We see the importance of the new framework in supporting action-oriented targets linked to the priorities of action, in transparency and accountability at all levels along

with comprehensive monitoring, which will be needed to ensure an effective use of resources and a greater focus on impact.

We are aware that all the before-mentioned goals will not be achieved without a more effective investment in resilience and disaster risk management, and that the new framework should also clearly emphasise the contribution of disaster risk management to innovation, job creation and sustainable growth. It is also crucial to ensure a joint approach with climate change adaptation and a strengthened focus on reducing the underlying risk drivers and building the resilience of ecosystems.

We are entering a very intensive period of important global events; the World Conference in Sendai will be followed by the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the UN Climate Change Conference. All the before mentioned events will offer the international community a great opportunity to ensure a coherent international framework for action. Special attention and our great expectations are also placed on the forthcoming World Humanitarian Summit next year, where better preparedness and disaster risk management will be discussed as well.

As an EU Member State, Slovenia strongly supports the determination of the EU to continue playing an active role in the implementation of the new framework, and its readiness to engage in an open and constructive dialogue with all partners and stakeholders. In 2015, a new seven-year “post-2015” Resolution on the National Programme on Protection against Natural and Other Disasters will be adopted in Slovenia, with a strong focus on cooperation among all stakeholders at different levels within risk assessment and disaster risk management. Let me give an example for these activities in the field of landslide risk reduction. In 2017, Slovenia will host the 4th World Landslide Forum, an activity of the International Consortium on Landslides and a part the ICL-IPL Sendai Partnership 2015-2024 entitled “Landslide Disaster Reduction for a Safer Geoenvironment”.

Slovenia also supports the cooperation of countries under regional programmes such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe. The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents brings together countries wishing to enhance their capabilities for the management of such accidents. Under this Convention, specific mechanisms and tools have been developed – such as dedicated Assistance

Programme steered by benchmarks and criteria-based assessment of countries' needs. Under this programme, the targeted exchange of knowledge and good practice among countries is put into practice to ensure sustainability and effectiveness of their disaster management systems.

Indeed - ladies and gentlemen – this conference offers a great opportunity to address the variety of initiatives and programmes at the national and international level that contribute to better disaster management. Allow me to also emphasize here the importance of finding and exploiting synergies among them and of ensuring that we work hand-in-hand in a cost-effective and sustainable manner.

I strongly believe that with a joint effort, we can all make the world a more resilient place to live in.