

SRI - LANKA

Distinguish Co-Chairs, Excellences and Delegates,

At the outset I would like to take this opportunity to express my delegation's deep appreciation for the Zero draft that was provided and thanks the two Co-chairs for their efforts. Also, to the UNISDR and all organizers giving on progress made so far on post HFA document.

We are living in an increasingly fragile world. Climate change, urbanization, population growth and environmental degradation has aggravated the frequency and intensity of disasters, which has risen steadily over recent decades globally. Given the unprecedented experience we had during the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the past decade in Sri Lanka lots of emphasis and efforts has been put on such as MDRR into development, resilience city programmes and disaster Risk preparedness at national and local level. Under HFA 1 we have achieved considerable progress in priority areas 2, 3 and 4 and level 3 achievement under priority areas 1 and 5. However, Analysis of data and information on disasters in Sri Lanka also revealed that frequency and the damages and losses for the infrastructure is still in increasing trend, and the need for enhanced capacity building to rapidly responding to such situations.

In this context, we note that the zero draft of the HFA 2 more focus have been given on inclusive disaster risk reduction at local level giving priority to building community resilience reducing exposure.

Distinguish Co-Chairs,

We wish to emphasize that the HFA 2 considers

- A) To have long term and sustainable strategies at global level which can be practically converted into national strategies for collaborative programme coordination, facilitation and implementation taking cognizant of the fact that there should be adequate flexibility at national level on the means of implementation of DDR framework, as different countries will have diverse situations in regard to response capacities and institutional mechanisms. We highlight the need to support developing countries for strengthening their response capacities and DDR policies.
- B) DRR has to be mainstreamed into livelihood development / poverty reduction programmes in order to sustain the community resilience, as risk reduction has a strong correlation to poverty reduction and sustainable development. Multi-disciplinary, integrated approaches should be encouraged for effective intervention at community level, supported by more effective international cooperation including funding.
- C) The recent experience we had in Sri Lanka proved us the need to have more attention on preparedness for rapid response, recovery and reconstruction incorporating the Build Back Better concept. We need to have a strong emphasis on understanding the failures and when rebuilding the damaged structures, to incorporate DRR measures using modern science and technologies minimize damages and losses due to any future disasters. Hence we support a focus on technology transfer and technical assistance.

D) Under the HFA 2 we would like to have reinforced national platforms for disaster risk reduction for the effective and efficient disaster management at all levels. We believe that it would be a better way forward for all our countries in disaster risk management.

E) Finally Mr. Co-Chairs, Sri Lanka will remain actively engaged in the process and assure you our full cooperation.

Thank you