



**First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference
on Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, 14-15 July 2014)
STATEMENT BY THE ITALIAN DELEGATION**

Thank you Chair.

Excellencies, dear Colleagues, distinguished Delegates,

First of all, we would like to express our deep gratitude to the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms. Margareta Wahlström, for the organization of this Preparatory Meeting and for all the efforts she has been accomplishing towards the fulfilment of an important objective such as international cooperation in disaster risk reduction, having involved regular cooperation with Italy and the Italian Department of Civil Protection, including on the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction which took place in Milan on July 8th with an aim to ensuring incorporation of the European Union and wider Europe's contribution to the preparatory process leading to the global Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Last week's ministerial event, organized in the context of the institutional programme of activities for the semester of Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, took place within the Informal Justice and Home Affairs Council, but was extended, for the occasion, to Ministers in charge of Disaster Risk Reduction policy from the whole of the Europe region, who, although they are not EU Member States, participate in the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR).

Such kind of initiatives are key opportunities to formulate common recommendations, guidelines and inputs in preparation for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. Italy is a country characterised by a multiplicity of major natural hazards, and as such has always been strongly committed in the area of DRR, both at the national, European and international levels. For this particular reason, DRR is not only at the top of our political agenda, but it also represents a crucial part of the Institutional Programme for the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and of Italy's international involvement.

The Italian position in the preparatory process for the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is already well known. Italy was one of the European countries to have subscribed with great enthusiasm the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and has been strongly

supporting its implementation both at the national and international levels, also through the promotion of several ad hoc campaigns promoted by UNISDR. In the same spirit we are now participating in the activities aimed at shaping the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction with a view to actively contributing to the elaboration of an even more effective tool to improve DRR management in the years to come. The Hyogo Framework for Action has proved to be a very useful tool that has helped us foster discussion on risk reduction by increasing DRR visibility worldwide. It is now time to build upon this positive experience and make further progress towards making citizens and economies more secure and resilient.

The elaboration of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction takes place together with the reshaping of the international agenda on climate change and the development of the SDGs. It is therefore necessary to set up appropriate mechanisms to strengthen these three trends, bearing in mind the crucial role played by citizens and communities, especially cities, as main providers of culture, economy, innovation and progress.

In this regards, Italy would also wish to express its strong support of the definition of practical and measurable cross-sectoral objectives, in order to ensure continuous and effective measurement of the effectiveness and transparency of adopted measures. Besides, we are among countries supporting the possibility to include in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction non-binding guidelines related to internationally recognized best practices and measures to promote positive experiences, such as peer reviews already experimented with in some European countries.

We also consider the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to be critical to promoting: a) a more transparent and effective identification of responsibilities across levels, b) the central role of disaster risk reduction and a stronger involvement of social and economic stakeholders, for example through wider participation of citizens to public decision-making; c) a more coherent approach to public and private partnerships and d) the adoption of measures to seek the active involvement of the private sector in DRR.

Finally, we deem it appropriate to take advantage of the elaboration of a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to promote the best available practices of integration between public policies and investments, on the one hand, and scientific and technological research on the other, to ensure further development of strategic areas such as earth observation, both from satellites and in situ, for the purpose of disaster risk reduction and environmental monitoring.

In conclusion, Italy would like to reiterate that disasters are not only a dramatic threat to life, but also to social and economic stability. Hence, close coordination among stakeholders is paramount to promoting cooperation and facilitating the establishment of a well-designed post-2015 Framework for DRR.

As recently stated in the Outcome document of the European Ministerial Meeting on DRR, we call upon UNISDR to continue providing its institutional support for regional and sub-regional coordination, monitoring of DRR implementation, review of regional strategies and coordination of the work of the UN system in DRR.

Thank you Chair.