

**First Session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom1) of the Third UN World
Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
14 and 15 July 2014, Monday and Tuesday
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland**

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

**14 July 2014, Monday
10.00H-13.00H**

Madame Chair,

The Philippine delegation congratulates you and Ambassador Thani Thongphakdi on your election. We assure you and other members of the Bureau of the Philippines' full support and cooperation.

We associate ourselves with the statement of the distinguished Permanent Representative of Myanmar on behalf of the ASEAN.

Distinguished Co-Chairs.

Precisely because our country and our people are at a disadvantage in terms of frequency and scale of natural disasters, owing to the natural attributes of the country, the most recent of which was the devastating Super Typhoon Haiyan, we support the crafting of a more responsive post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework that takes into account the differences in physical and geological and varying levels of development of countries.

The Philippines strongly believes that national governments should play the central role in disaster risk prevention and management. The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 mandated that the State develop, promote, and implement a comprehensive national disaster risk reduction and management plan that strengthen the capacity of national governments and the local government units, together with partner stakeholders, to build the disaster resilience of communities, and to institutionalize arrangements and measures for reducing disaster risk reduction, including climate risks, and enhancing preparedness and response capabilities at all levels.

Risk resiliency and climate change adaptation and mitigation are priority areas in the Philippine Development Plan for 2011 – 2016.

It is indeed important for States to establish a dedicated DRR platform as called for by HFA1.

As we begin the first round of formal negotiations on HFA2, the Philippines proposes the inclusion of the following key points:

1. *Central Role of Governments in Enhancing Risk Governance, Transparency, Responsibilities and Accountabilities of all Stakeholders*

The new framework should put national governments in a command and control role to reinforce the responsibilities and accountabilities of, as well as synergistic cooperation among, all stakeholders. DRR and climate change adaptation are cross-cutting issues and thus require the engagement of many actors and institutions operating at all levels under the supervision and command of the national government.

On building resilience for disasters, we should improve and strengthen mutually reinforcing multi-stakeholder partnership between national government agencies, local government units and other national and international DRR actors. We must stress here the increased engagement and role for the finance, planning and foreign affairs and other relevant agencies as national and local disaster preparedness and response plans, policies and systems need to be responsive to concomitant risks.

The private sector is a vital stakeholder and partner for DRR and should be more closely engaged.

To further ensure transparency and accountability of all stakeholders, a financial tracking mechanism should be developed to safeguard the funds and resources provided for DRR and resilience from all sources.

2. *Prioritization of DRR in DRRM law and policy*

We need to prioritize and integrate more comprehensive and detailed DRRM provisions into legal frameworks. National DRRM platforms should be supported by legislation to ensure dedicated resources and institutional powers for DRR.

It is imperative that national DRR frameworks have a sound scientific basis. There is a vital need for solid risk assessments, and engagement of both government and non-government scientific communities.

3. *Inclusion of Migrants and Vulnerable Groups in Resilient Efforts*

Migrants are vulnerable to disasters and should be accounted for in resilience efforts of States and the international community. We should ensure the inclusion and participation, including positive contributions of migrants in disaster activities and processes.

In the same manner, the new framework must underscore the need for protection and empowerment of vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly and persons with disabilities and the important role of women and youth in DRR.

4. *Strengthening International Cooperation and Transfer of Technology*

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Efficient and effective implementation of the new framework demands the strengthening of international cooperation.

Innovation and new technologies in DRR should be made available, accessible and affordable to national governments and local communities of developing countries. In addition, best practices, comparable data and research on disaster risk prevention and reduction, disaster losses and vulnerabilities should be shared through open sources and networking.

5. *Standards and Guidelines for DRR*

In setting standards and metrics for measuring DRR performance of States, the countries' natural attributes and level of economic development must be considered.

6. *Trust and Confidence in DRR*

While procedures, systems, and regulations are important for successful international cooperation, mutual trust and confidence, and collaborative attitudes among stakeholders are also keys to strengthening joint response and should be included in HFA2.

We would like to cite here the study of the Disaster Response Dialogue on the Typhoon Haiyan Response in the Philippines, which stressed that the remarkably cooperative spirit and open attitude among international responders and domestic authorities strengthened the joint response to Typhoon Haiyan.

7. *Contributions of Inter-Regional and Regional Dialogues to DRR*

Discussion and recommendations of various regional and inter-regional dialogues enrich our preparations for the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and should, therefore, be considered. The Philippines will make available the Post-Haiyan Tacloban Declaration which was adopted at the ASEM Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management held in Manila last month.

The Philippines will also host later this year the 2nd Global Disaster Response Dialogue and the first Southeast Asian Regional Consultation on the Nansen Initiative and will bring forward the results of these meetings to Sendai.

8. *The role of UNISDR*

Finally the Philippines commends the UNISDR, led by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on DRR, for its able leadership in DRR in the UN system. Its initiatives for more resilient local government units, safer schools and hospitals, and recognition of DRR champions have significantly advanced the resilience agenda. In the post-2015 framework, we should focus on further mainstreaming DRR through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, breaking down silos among stakeholders.

On behalf of the Philippine government and the Filipino people, we would like to thank everyone once again for your expression of solidarity and extension of generous assistance to our country in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan.

Thank you.

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