

**Statement by H.E. Mr. AHN Youngjip  
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative  
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**at the 1<sup>st</sup> PrepCom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction  
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Thank you, Madame Co-Chair,

At the outset, allow me to join other delegations in extending our congratulations on your election as co-chairs together with Ambassador of Thailand of this important PrepCom. I would like to reconfirm my delegation's strong support and cooperation.

Madame Co-Chair,

I am pleased to be here today, as we seek to share important knowledge and experience on disaster reduction.

There are those who consider the costs associated with disaster risk reduction to be money ill-spent. In fact, I can think of few wiser and more necessary investments for our future than adequately preparing for inevitable situations and conditions of emergency. According to the World Bank, for every one dollar spent in disaster reduction, we benefit from a seven fold savings in damage costs. In my view, this represents the essence and core concept of disaster risk reduction efforts.

The "Hyogo Framework for Action" adopted in 2005 resulted in tremendous progress on the disaster risk reduction front, at the global, regional, and national levels. Needless to say, work by international organizations such as the UNISDR has been essential to this progress, and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Improvements in the risk reduction system and disaster risk assessment, strengthening of high-tech warning systems, and enhanced capacity building for effective disaster response are just some of the remarkable achievements. By contrast, of the five HFA priorities, the reduction of underlying risk factors and the decentralization of responsibilities and resources between the national and local levels have been pointedly

lagging. Establishing standardized monitoring systems and the pooling of resource funding are also facing serious hurdles.

Taking this opportunity, the Republic of Korea would like to highlight the three priority areas that we propose to be included in the Post-HFA.

First, we must achieve a fundamental reduction of the underlying risk factors, with special attention paid to developing countries. This effort will involve creating links between development and disaster reduction programs. Whereas developed countries display favorable conditions for building resilience, the limitations are much more apparent in developing countries. Most developing countries desperately need assistance from the international community to establish mechanisms and build capacity. Since poverty greatly amplifies the effects of natural disasters, we need to include disaster risk reduction issues in the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda, currently under discussion at the United Nations.

Second, in order to build societal resilience, there needs to be active participation and involvement from not just the central government, but all stakeholders that should include the local government, local communities, and civil society. At the strategic planning level, adopting a "whole of society" approach is key. Promoting public-private partnerships is also crucial. In particular, technology sharing and transfer on disaster risk management should be improved at global and regional levels.

Third, we need to set up a monitoring system in order to strengthen accountability in disaster reduction. Standardized indicators would be essential elements in an effective systematic monitoring framework. Also, we must work to harmonize the different monitoring systems that exist across countries. In this regard, working together to create a monitoring system that utilizes the Busan Global Partnership indicators can provide meaningful first steps.

Bearing in mind these three priority areas, the Republic of Korea continues to undergo extensive and overarching reforms of its disaster and safety management system based on lessons from HFA implementation. We are delineating roles and responsibilities across government agencies in order to mainstream disaster risk reduction into socio-economic development planning and programs. Importantly also we are encouraging private sector actors to develop their own business continuity plans. Korea has been supporting disaster risk reduction activities of developing countries through knowledge and technology sharing in this regard, including assistance for the UNISDR Northeast Asia Office and Global Education and Training Institute.

The Republic of Korea is ready to share with all interested parties the lessons learned, and looks forward to discussing ways to further improve disaster risk reduction.

Thank you, Madame Co-Chair. /END/