

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE AT THE
FIRST PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE
THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION, 14-15 JULY 2014, PALAIS DES NATIONS,
GENEVA**

[Mr Chairperson]

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Singapore welcomes the progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA). Since the submission of our national progress report on the implementation of the HFA in 2009, Singapore has continued our efforts to prevent disasters and strengthen our resilience, enforcing building codes and fire safety regulations, and adopting an integrated cross-agency approach to handle emergencies at both the policy and operational levels. We have also strengthened community preparedness through public education and awareness programmes.

The Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction next year provides an opportunity to further enhance the global framework on disaster risk reduction (DRR). Prevention and preparedness must remain at the core of the post-2015 DRR framework. The framework should maintain HFA's emphasis on building strong institutions to develop and implement DRR policies, based on science-based risk information and knowledge. Singapore also supports the integration of responses to sustainable development and climate change into the post-2015 DRR framework. We believe that disaster risk can be reduced with proper development planning, responsible environmental practices and effective governance. As a country with 30% of our land being less than 5m above sea level, Singapore is susceptible to the effects of climate change. As part of our long-term DRR efforts, we have constructed sea walls to protect our coastline, raised minimum levels for newly reclaimed land to safeguard against long-term sea level rise and invested substantively into drainage infrastructure to mitigate and manage flood risk. These investments are part of our holistic approach to enhance our security, social and economic well being as well as long-term sustainable growth.

Our best efforts in building national resilience for DRR are necessary but not sufficient. Large scale natural and man-made disasters, both localised and transboundary, continue to threaten communities with massive loss of lives, injuries and suffering. Examples include typhoons, earthquakes, and the pollution of air, water and earth. Cooperation at the international and regional levels is therefore essential to tackle in particular, transboundary hazards. The post-2015 framework can play a useful role in setting out the approach to enhance such cooperation.

Singapore firmly supports the international efforts to enhance the post-2015 DRR framework. We look forward to a constructive and fruitful discussion in the preparatory process in the lead up to the World Conference next year.

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