

**NATIONAL STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HANS LUNDBORG,
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**AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR
THE THIRD UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION**

14 July 2014, Geneva

Mr/Madame Chairman, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sweden has been, and will continue to be, a very strong supporter of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Sweden supports the current process for developing the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and we encourage the development and future implementation of the new framework. Also, a concerted effort by the European Union would provide a solid input in the coming work.

In recent years, extreme weather and natural events have caused several disasters in the world. Disasters and climate risks have major impact on the economy, security and welfare for people worldwide. Unless preventive measures are taken and sound investments are made, community development and climate change are expected to lead to even more and worse disasters.

Vulnerability to disasters has increased significantly due to consequences of climate change, urbanization, increasing population, intensive land use, increasing dependencies and the rapid vulnerable technology development.

Although Sweden has been spared from experiencing major disasters, we strongly support, and welcome, the development of a new international framework for disaster risk reduction to also include disasters overwhelming local emergency capacities.

We agree with the idea that the new framework will build on the success of the existing framework in order to offer coherent, long-term and action-oriented way to address future challenges, and would like to highlight the importance of coordinating and aligning the new framework for Disaster

Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development goals and the agenda for the UNFCCC.

From a Swedish perspective we have noticed that the Hyogo framework have contributed to a common language for collaboration and exchange on the issues of disaster risk reduction. This has in fact led to increased international exchanges from the national level down to the local level.

An overall priority for Sweden's international development cooperation is to increase the capacity to adapt to adverse climate change impacts and improve resilience and risk management. When resources such as water, arable land and assets become scarcer, we know that the most vulnerable will be most affected.

We encourage stakeholders from all sectors of society to increase their coherence in financing actions for disaster risk reduction.

It is important to strengthen the gender perspective and the new framework should be more inclusive and gender-sensitive.

The Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk reduction was established in 2007 and has contributed to develop a broader understanding of disaster risk reduction in the Swedish society. The National Platform has also improved the cooperation between national authorities, other stakeholders and especially the local level.

The Hyogo framework has contributed to more international exchanges in many ways, between cities and countries, across sectors and disciplines, between researchers, practitioners, NGOs, private sector and government representatives. This is indeed one of the great assets of the existing framework. Sweden also welcomes the link between the Hyogo framework and the recently adopted EU legislation on civil protection, which emphasizes preventive measures.

National platforms should have a prominent position in the new framework as a hub to coordinate national activities and actions, and as such support efforts made in implementing national standards and policies on a local level.

Ladies and gentlemen to sum up, Sweden is in favor of a framework that;

- Will continue to primarily focus on the prevention and reduction of risks, which includes underlying risk drivers, vulnerability and exposure from the effects of natural hazards. In this work, it's important to take into account the impacts and effects of a changing climate.
- Is open and flexible in order to help protecting the natural environment and communities in the long term.
- Still be a framework that is flexible and inspiring, action oriented, global adaptable to nations and regions individual circumstances and their risk profiles and special needs.
- Give careful consideration to the work of the UN development agenda post-2015 as well as the climate negotiations.

Sweden is committed to continue to be an active partner within the ISDR-system helping to achieve these outcomes in the years to come.

Thank you for your attention.