



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden

National statement by Ambassador Michael Frühling,
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At the second Preparatory Committee for the Third UN
World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

17 November 2014, Geneva

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Sweden welcomes the zero draft submitted by the co-chairs. We find the draft balanced and comprehensive, with the necessary holistic approach to the multi-faceted actions needed in order to achieve the important goals of disaster risk reduction.

It underlines the primary responsibility of every national government, while at the same time noting that international cooperation and global partnership are needed.

We welcome the people-centred approach, and see the need for sharing open data and information.

We support the emphasis on public awareness and local level decisions and actions.

Sweden wants to emphasize that disaster risk reduction aims at guaranteeing the human rights of all persons, their livelihoods and properties. Actions to achieve risk reduction should always be guided by, and respect, the principles of human rights.

A consistent gender perspective should be applied, both in regard to the analysis and understanding of risk factors, and when it comes to concrete actions to enhance the reduction of disaster risks. The participation of women is critical in designing, resourcing, and implementing gender-responsive disaster risk reduction policies, plans, and programmes.

This important dimension we would like to see reflected in the political declaration of the Sendai meeting.

Prevention is one of the keys to disaster risk reduction. We need to invest more in economic, infrastructural, social, cultural, and environmental and climate resilience.

There is no sustainable development without the consistent streamlining of disaster risk reduction measures of an integral character, including the factors of climate change. The world therefore has a unique opportunity to make advances when ensuring coherence and alignment across policies, practices and partnerships between the concurrent international processes on disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, and climate change.

Sweden believes that the current Hyogo Framework has helped us all to move forward with disaster risk reduction. Lessons learned include, among other aspects, the usefulness of establishing well-functioning National Platforms and networks for disaster risk reduction. The importance of implementation of consistent concrete actions and follow-up of results is evident.

We are confident that the draft for a new Framework now being discussed, will signify further improvements with regard to future consistent implementation of concrete measures that are needed.

The development and use of reasonable and not too complicated, nor too many, targets and indicators will be of great help.

At another level, but with the same objective, we believe that there is room for further improvement of the language of the zero draft.

Sweden expresses its wish and readiness to continue participating in an active and constructive manner together with all States and other stakeholders in order to contribute to the joint work towards the new Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In this regard, we also would like to express our appreciation for the professional assistance and work of UNISDR and its staff.

Thank you.