

GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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Swedish statement presented by Ambassador Mr. Jan Knutsson, Swedish Mission to the UN in Geneva.

Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I would like to thank the ISDR-Secretariat for organizing the 3rd session of the Global Platform and gathering the impressive three thousand delegates. Sweden believes that ISDR- Secretariat has a crucial role in bringing the disaster risk reduction agenda forward.

We are half way through the Hyogo Framework for Action and the midterm review has clearly indicated what has been achieved: a greater political momentum for disaster risk reduction on global and national level, improved legislation for a risk sensitive society and establishment of a number of national focal points coordinating DRR efforts. But the review has also indicated that much work is still required in order to achieve reduced vulnerability. Work to strengthen global, regional and national risk reduction measures, needs to be complemented by vastly increased investment in local action, which is why we fully endorse the focus of this third meeting of the Global Platform. One of our biggest challenges is to realize, that sustainable solutions to global climate change and disaster risks stems from effective and long-term support to actions at local level. We need to learn from the experience and knowledge from Governments and actors in disaster prone countries. Close cooperation between national governments, which hold the primary responsibility, and international efforts, is key for successful implementation of the HFA at country level.

Investments in risk analysis, risk-mitigation and preparedness need to be mainstreamed into poverty reduction strategies and development cooperation at all levels, locally, regionally and globally. Reducing disaster risks involves an array of measures including the strengthening of social protection systems, educating school children on how to detect and respond to early warnings, as well as investing in eco-engineering programmes. Increasing disaster resilience among people and communities all over the world can only be achieved when measures like these are carried out jointly, addressing the many faces of vulnerability together at the same time.

An overall priority for Sweden's international development cooperation is to increase the capacity of vulnerable people and countries to adapt to adverse climate change impacts and improve risk management. Furthermore, there is also a need for building stronger resilience to environmental impact generally. When resources such as water, arable land and assets become more scarce, we know that the weakest will lose out. There is a clear link between adaptation and risk reduction and the two work streams need to increasingly build on each other's strengths, with the common focus of turning both adaptation and DRR measures into integral parts of development policies and practices.

The mid term review of the Hyogo Framework for Action is clear on the need for a strengthened international system for disaster risk reduction. More and more development actors are developing strategies to strengthen disaster risk reduction. But we also need to ensure that the international system for disaster risk reduction is stronger than its parts. We need greater focus from international development actors, working towards clear goals and achieving results that can be measured. In light of the remaining major challenges identified by the Mid-term Review of the HFA, Sweden would strongly favor that the outcomes of this 3rd Global Platform include

- Clear policy-oriented messages on how DRR can effectively save lives and livelihoods and help achieve the MDGs.
 - A process towards defining a global action plan for implementing HFA indicating actions required by all actors in the ISDR system.
 - Measurable targets for a strengthened system addressing the gaps identified in the HFA Mid-term Review at local, national and global level.
 - An initiated dialogue on the process towards the DRR system post-HFA 2016 .
- Sweden is committed to continue to be an active partner within the ISDR system helping to achieve these outcomes.

Thank you.