**OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF TURKEY**

Your Excellences Ministers, UN Representatives and Dear participants,

I greet each of you with respect. It is gratifying to me to meet with you to deliver Turkey's official statement. In Turkey, we're getting global documents as the primary reference documents while establishing our disaster management and disaster risk management systems. In fact, we are working to develop models that will go beyond documents and to implement projects. In this session, I want to share the work we have conducted in Turkey in line with the objectives of Sendai Framework.

The 3rd United Nations Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 was the most important event in the recent past. The framework roadmap for disaster mitigation was created by this conference for the third time in history. Since the adoption of the Sendai Framework Document for Disaster Risk Reduction, much have been carried out in the field over the last 4 years.

Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen,

Within the scope of the 7 Sendai Framework global targets in order to renew disaster risk reduction terminology, AFAD has presented its reviews to the Open Ended Working Group on behalf of Turkey and EFDRR. Critical contributions have been submitted on the EFDRR Road Map by integrating the valuable lessons extracted from the Sendai Framework.

Sendai Framework calls for an increase in number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 in Global Target E. As Turkey, we are working on Turkey Disaster Management Strategy Document and Turkey Risk Reduction Plans in order to achieve this target.

Disaster Risk Reduction Plans of Turkey include answers to “what, how, when and who” questions in disaster risk reduction activities on national and local level. Based on gathering disaster risk knowledge, these plans aim to determine the risk reduction activities according the priorities and also ensure coordination between institutions and avoid duplicate investments in doing so while they cover all present and possible (new) disaster risks. They also set forth the basics for legislation, technical regulation, capacity building and implementation. The stakeholders of disaster risk reduction plans are the central and local governmental institutions, private sector, academia, NGOs, media, families and individuals.

Distinguished Participants,

As it is well known, taking precautions before disasters is the most important part of the disaster management cycle in terms of preventing loss of life and property. To this end, adopting a risk-focused and integrated disaster management approach is of great importance. Also, dealing with all phases of disaster management cycle separately is vital. Local authorities, therefore, have significant responsibilities in making our cities more resilient. As AFAD, we encourage our local authorities to work on reducing disaster risks and become more resilient to disasters by joining Making Cities Resilient Campaign of UNDRR. With this opportunity, we would like to congratulate the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for the change in the acronym from UNISDR to UNDRR.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority has “supported life” 58 countries in 5 continents. AFAD has delivered emergency humanitarian aid to these countries. It has conducted search and rescue activities. It has provided in kind / cash assistance, sent fire extinguishing aircraft where needed, and carried out wounded and patient evacuation.

For example, AFAD is helping more than 1.1 million people in the safe zone established in the regions of the Olive Branch and the Euphrates Shield in Syria. It meets the needs in cooperation with local councils in areas such as food, health and education. As a result of these activities, over 321,000 Syrians have returned voluntarily to safe areas from Turkey.

Turkey's humanitarian aid activities are increasing every passing year. According to 2018 Global Humanitarian Relief Report, Turkey is the first among the countries with humanitarian aid in the world as a result of humanitarian aid activities of 8 billion dollars.

Since the establishment of AFAD in 2009, our country's approach to disasters has been in the form of risk management. AFAD, in Turkey is implementing the integrated risk-based disaster management.

Distinguished Participants,

In order to prevent the adverse affects of disasters around the world, we should focus on pre-disaster phase. The world's resources should be channeled not only to disaster relief, but also disaster prevention and risk mitigation activities.

Disaster risk mitigation activities should include the most vulnerable groups of societies such as people with disabilities, refugees and the elderly. We believe that human-centered, human rights-based approach should be widespread worldwide in disaster risk management.

Dear Ladies, Gentlemen,

I would like to thank each of you for listening to me. I believe that the Global Platform will be beneficial for all stakeholders, and I would like to meet you on other international platforms.

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