

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Cancun 22-26 May 2017

Official Statement by the Government of Denmark

Denmark thanks the Government of Mexico and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for hosting and organizing the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. We highly welcome this first important opportunity to take stock of progress in the implementation of the 2015 Sendai Framework.

In the national DRR-related work of Denmark, we are guided by the Sendai Framework. Reducing risk from disasters and crises is not only an important governmental responsibility; it is also best achieved through close collaboration with stakeholders from the private sector, the scientific community, and civil society.

Since the adaptation of the Sendai Framework, we have made it a priority to further develop our national approach to engaging the private sector in enhancing the resilience of our society. Private companies hold not only capabilities, but also know-how that we can learn from in the public sector, both in terms of disaster risk reduction and in terms of crisis management.

An example of our approach is how a new strategy for prevention was co-created just a couple of months ago through a close multi-stakeholder collaboration. This strategy places emphasis on both the needs of and the *potential resources in* citizens when countering the effects of disasters and crises.

Another strong example of a pivotal DRR-related resource, which is developed with other stakeholders is the National Risk Profile for Denmark, published in

the beginning of the year. The report aims to strengthen national risk knowledge and planning efforts by analysing 13 of the most relevant incident types in our country.

These are only a few examples of how we mainstream public-private collaboration in our DRR-related work. Collaborating with the private sector and civil society does not, however, diminish the important responsibilities of our authorities.

The public sector must continue to invest in solutions that match the developments of our risk landscape. In our national settings, new investments must not only be executed bearing in mind the costs, but also take into consideration the needs of the local communities. In Denmark we have in recent years launched new digital initiatives and strategies to support the broad disaster risk information and to strengthen the resilience of our citizens.

However, multi-stakeholder co-creation of strategies and tools is not an end in itself. The real aim is the ability to reduce or even prevent devastating consequences, when disasters or crises hit. We saw this in effect in January this year, when a 100-year coastal flooding event was forecasted on the coasts of Denmark. The efforts by regional and national authorities were supported by initiatives in civil society, by media, and by private companies. And together they managed to counter the worst effects of what could have been a disaster for our capital and large parts of our country.

Better cooperation among relevant actors and sectors is also at the forefront in our international efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction for resilience

and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response. It is a priority for Denmark to support the implementation of 'The New Way of Working', focusing on collective outcomes and breaking down silos between humanitarian and development actors. The High Level Workshop held in Copenhagen in March 2017 and the Round Table meeting co-hosted by Denmark on "The role of national stakeholders in the implementation of the New Way of Working" at the World Bank Spring Meetings in April 2017 are examples of these efforts.

With regards to the reduction of climate-related risks, Denmark has in 2016 committed 156 million DKK in support to the LDC Fund established linked to the UN Climate Convention supporting also activities related to climate data, information and early warning. Also, a range of other activities has been initiated through our bilateral assistance to increase the resilience of the poorest segments of society. Finally, a new monitoring framework for Danish climate change funding specifically contains an indicator for the number of people made more resilient.

Denmark remains committed to supporting and implementing the Sendai Framework, including as an important element in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Agenda for Humanity and the vision of Leaving No One Behind. We look forward to continuing moving this agenda forward in collaboration with a wide range of national and international stakeholder from all sectors of society.

Thank you.