

**Official Statement – Republic of Korea**  
**Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction – Cancun 2017**  
**09:00~12:45, Thursday 25 May**

Mr./Madam Chair, Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Republic of Korea, I am deeply honored to be here at the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, especially at a time when there is a growing global interest in disaster risk reduction. I believe that this will provide opportunity to deepen cooperation between countries on disaster risk reduction and share experiences on the implementation of the Sendai Framework given that it is the first international forum to be held after the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which was adopted in Japan 2015. I would also like to express my appreciation to UNISDR and the government of Mexico for their efforts to host this important event.

As the foremost body for global efforts on disaster risk reduction, UNISDR plays a number of roles. It has taken the lead in the creation of the Sendai Framework, which set the standards for related activities, and has set out to develop and implement indicators to measure the progress in reducing the disaster risk in each country. It has also striven to raise awareness through campaigns, including the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, while providing knowledge and information through, for example, the publication of the Global Assessment Report.

The Republic of Korea fully supports UNISDR in these initiatives and has made efforts to work with international stakeholders and enhance its own disaster management capabilities further.

Since 2009, Korea has contributed more than 2 million US dollars each year to UNISDR Office for Northeast Asia and Global Education and Training Institute for disaster risk reduction. Hundreds and thousands of people, including government employees of underdeveloped and developing countries have benefited from the variety of training programs offered by the institute annually.

At national level, Ministry of Public Safety and Security has implemented a range of systems designed to identify the risk early on and effectively address them. These include: the 'Nationwide Safety Diagnosis' initiative to examine the overall state of disaster safety at the national level every year; Safety Sinmungo, a mobile application for voluntary reporting of hazards; 'prior examination of factors influencing disaster' aimed at assessing the risk of disaster prior to the implementation of development projects.

In addition, the 'Regional Autonomous Disaster Prevention Team' was formed in an effort to bolster partnership with civil society, engaging about 60,000 citizens in pre-disaster monitoring and disaster damage investigations. We have also increased investment in the prevention of natural disaster, spending approximately 12 billion US dollars between 1995 and 2016 towards improving reservoirs, steep slopes, and small rivers and streams vulnerable to disasters.

In line with these efforts by Korea, I would like to propose the following three points to the global community in order to further reinforce existing activities for disaster risk reduction.

First, regional cooperation should be vigorously sought to lessen the disaster risk. Given that disasters respect no national boundaries, damage to one nation can easily affect neighboring countries. The fact that these neighboring countries are also the ones with the potential to provide the timeliest support in the event of a disaster makes regional cooperation even more imperative. Over the past two years, Korea has developed a detailed collaborative plan on disaster risk reduction activities through a meeting of heads of disaster management bodies from China, Japan, and Russia. It has also coordinated with the UNISDR Office for Northeast Asia, based in Korea, to strengthen cooperative relationships with its neighbors.

Secondly, cooperation with UNISDR should be intensified to facilitate the sharing of information on and experience with disaster risk reduction in the international community. More active sharing and exchange of national experiences and good practices will help minimize mistakes and enable us, together, to respond to risks associated with disasters more effectively. I believe that the implementation of the Sendai Framework becomes even more critical in this regard given its focus on international coordination and cooperation. Korea is also committed to continuing its efforts to put the Framework to action. At the same time, we intend to further advance our collaboration with UNISDR Global Education and Training Institute towards

encouraging the sharing of knowledge and practical knowhow on disaster resilience between countries.

Lastly, official development assistance for less developed countries is crucial in the area of disaster risk reduction. Their limited resources make it difficult for them to finance for making community resilient themselves, and more support is needed in this area as well as in building educational, health, and other social infrastructure in these countries. Korea will also do its part to become more involved in this endeavor.

Korea fully appreciates the critical nature of the need to reduce disaster risk. it will continue to deepen its cooperation with UNISDR and international stakeholders and undertake national activities to reduce vulnerabilities to disaster.

Again, it is my hope that this Global Platform for disaster risk reduction will be the opportunity it deserves to strengthen cooperation between us on the implementation of the Sendai Framework and increases awareness on disaster risk reduction.

Thank you.