

**Pakistan's Statement during 5th Session of Global Platform
on Disaster Risk Reduction, Mexico
(22-26 May 2017)**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the People and Government of Pakistan, I would like to extend felicitations to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) for organizing the 5th Session on Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction on a relevant thematic areas focusing on various aspects of reducing vulnerabilities to various hazards and to share the progress of SFDRR.

Guided by International Obligations and having suffered a major earthquake in 2005, Pakistan established a disaster management system in 2007 to combat threats from disasters. This was timely, as since then we have experienced unprecedented floods in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, apart from another earthquake in 2008 and 2015. While the system has been established, we actively worked on filling the gaps, identified in DRM Needs Report, 2012, formulated as a result of a broad based consultation process.

Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to hydro meteorological disasters, induced by global climate change phenomenon. Cognizant of these challenges, Government of Pakistan approved National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy in 2013, to streamline activities of all stakeholders and provide strategic direction for undertaking DRR activities. Our DRR policy shifts emphasis from a response centric approach to a more proactive approach, aimed at prevention, mitigation and preparedness. DRR policy focuses on multi-hazard risk assessment, preparation of risk atlases and database, strengthening early warning systems, resilient development and strengthening CBDRM. Pakistan's DRR policies are gender sensitive

and child inclusive while mainstreaming vulnerable groups including women and children in DRR and supporting the four priority areas of Sendai framework.

For effective implementation of the Policy, the Government of Pakistan approved a National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP). The Plan is based on scientific data analysis and macro level hazard and risk assessment and is in line with Sendai Framework for Action (SFDRR). The Plan identifies 118 priority actions and interventions, implementation of which over the next ten years will require more than two billion US dollars. Initiatives aimed at addressing issues related to vulnerable segments of society including women, elderly and disabled are also prioritized.

For effective implementation of NDMP, Pakistan has launched National Disaster Management Plan - Implementation Roadmap in 2015 wherein the activities and interventions were streamlined to contribute to the implementation of SFDRR in a benefitting manner. Implementation of Roadmap has been started which will contribute to strengthening of resilience of the community and will thus ultimately contribute to the priorities and targets given in the SFDRR.

We also recognize that there is a need for investment in DRR and we are working on introducing a dedicated budget line for Disaster Management at national, provincial and district levels. We have also initiated disaster risk insurance for vulnerable communities to reduce their dependence on assistance.

Apart from above, we have formulated Fire and Life Safety Provisions in the existing Building Codes of Pakistan. These codes would bring a

material difference in defining building safety standards and directions for fire safety, which is likely to reduce the risk of fire hazards.

Pakistan is actively participating in DRR activities, both at regional and global level. We are part of DRR initiatives in SAARC and ECO. Pakistan along with Kazakhstan is leading Confidence Building Measures on Disaster Management in Heart of Asia / Istanbul Process. We have also concluded a number of cooperative agreements with neighbouring and friendly countries on disaster management.

Pakistan has been actively contributing in implementation of priorities set out in Sendai Framework for Action (SFDRR) and the first Country DRM Status Report, highlighting the progress in line with the priorities of SFDRR has been shared with UNISDR.

In the end, I once again thank the organizers for enabling international DRR stakeholders to interact for mutual benefit.

Thank you, Ladies & Gentlemen!