

**The official statement of the Republic of Slovenia,
Global forum for Disaster Risk Reduction,**

Cancun, Mexico, 24.-26.5.2017

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to have the opportunity to contribute to this Global Forum on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia. Allow me to congratulate the United Nations and the Government of Mexico for providing excellent conditions for our work and to thank you for your great hospitality.

As a central European country with a diverse landscape, Slovenia can be affected by many disasters and has therefore developed a comprehensive system of protection against natural and other disasters. Ever since our independence 25 years ago we've put a lot of emphasis on prevention and later on a comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures that are included in all phases of disaster management cycle.

As an EU member state Slovenia shares the clear vision that is presented in the EU statement for Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction "*From Commitment to Action*". Slovenian legislation follows the guidelines of EU civil protection legislation which has a strong focus on prevention and preparedness policy and action.

However, challenges we are facing today are becoming more and more complex and inter-related and require greater awareness that disaster risk reduction is our collective responsibility.

We are aware that the targets set by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction will not be achieved without inclusive strategies for disaster risk reduction, engagement of local actors, synergies between Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and National Climate Change Adaptation Plans, without strengthening capacities to forecast and anticipate disasters, without education and effective communication, investment and taking special care of vulnerable social groups.

As an EU Member State, Slovenia strongly supports the determination of the EU to continue playing an active role in the implementation of the new framework, and its

readiness to engage in an open and constructive dialogue with all partners and stakeholders.

Let me give an example for these activities in the field of landslide risk reduction. Next week Slovenia is hosting the 4th World Landslide Forum, an activity of the International Consortium on Landslides and a part the ICL-IPL Sendai Partnership 2015-2024 entitled “Landslide Disaster Reduction for a Safer Geoenvironment”.

Slovenia also supports the cooperation of countries under regional programmes such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe. The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents brings together countries wishing to enhance their capabilities for the management of such accidents.

We all know, distinguished audience, that disasters are impossible to prevent. However, their negative impact can be reduced with various disaster risk reduction activities performed by all stakeholders, with strong and active participation of the civil society and the private sector, setting up the key element of sustainable development.

In this context, let me draw your attention to the joint statement of the Human Security Network, a cross-regional network of States, which highlights the relevance of human security approaches for strengthening resilience to disaster risks. The statement is available on the website of the Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

I strongly believe that with a joint effort, we can all make the world a more resilient place to live in. Please, allow me to conclude my speech with a joint message of the European Union: The Fifth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun is an opportunity to reinforce our efforts for a clear course for enhanced disaster resilience.

Let us make sure we work together to deliver for humanity and to make our world more resilient!