

Written statement submitted by the Government of Luxembourg

Luxembourg conveys its gratitude to the Government of Mexico for their hospitality and for organising the Fifth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Luxembourg associates itself with the statement delivered by EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Mr. Christos Stylianides. In particular, Luxembourg welcomes the fact that resilience is a key priority of the EU and that special attention is given to women, children, elderly, people with disabilities and other groups disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of disasters. Luxembourg also fully associates itself to the EU commitment to develop inclusive strategies, with the active engagement of local actors, authorities, communities, affected population and civil society. In doing so, human rights, good governance and gender equality must be respected.

Under the stewardship of the Ministry of Interior, Luxembourg has set up a national platform for Disaster Risk Reduction with representatives of all relevant national stakeholders, thus fulfilling one of the commitments taken at Sendai.

Under its national humanitarian strategy, Luxembourg allocates 5% of its budget for humanitarian affairs to prevention, disaster preparedness and risk mitigation programs and supports the coordination work undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) through multi-year un-earmarked funding.

Luxembourg supports its humanitarian NGOs and institutional partners in implementing projects in the field of capacity building of local communities, risk management, preparedness, sensitization, risk mapping, contingency planning and other disaster mitigation activities. Luxembourg also encourages its partners to adopt an approach that is respectful of the environment and to integrate climate change adaptation strategies in humanitarian projects.

As a strong advocate of resilience building and enhancing preparedness for recovery, Luxembourg supports projects in Africa and Asia under UNDPs “preparedness for resilient recovery” approach aimed at bridging the gap between relief, rehabilitation and developing capacities that reduce disaster risk in the short and long term.

Moreover, Luxembourg operates a mobile satellite telecommunication platform - the “emergency.lu” initiative - which has in the past contributed to improve humanitarian relief and coordination efforts in countries hit by natural disasters.

Strengthening resilience, particularly of vulnerable populations, in the face of environmental and economic shocks, natural and manmade disasters and global threats to health is crucial. Closer cooperation and complementary between development and humanitarian actors, building on a joined-up analysis of risks and vulnerabilities while respecting the respective mandates and principles of each community of actors, is key. In this context, Luxembourg welcomes the adoption of a global common set of indicators, to measure progress against the seven Targets of the Sendai Framework, as well as the development of the DRR terminology.

To conclude, the implementation of the Sendai Framework is a key element for sustainable development and for the protection of communities from small and large-scale disasters.

The Fifth Global Platform constitutes an excellent opportunity to reinforce our efforts for a clear course for enhanced disaster resilience.