

Agenda 11: Adoption of the programme outcome
Agenda 12: Adoption of the Conference Declaration

World Conference on Disaster Reduction
Kobe, Hyogo, 22 January 2004

Statement by Dr Marco Ferrari
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Chairman of the Main Committee

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

In my capacity as Chair of the Main Committee of this World Conference, I have the honour and privilege to present for your consideration and adoption two main documents of this Conference: 1) the draft programme outcome document entitled "Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters: Hyogo Framework for action 2005-2015" and 2) the draft "Hyogo Declaration".

These two key documents are the result of a considerable process of consultation, deliberations and consensus building. There have been contributions from a wide range of stakeholders that have been taken into account. All these have led to this agreed collective effort.

The Drafting Committee which became the Main Committee of the Conference has laboured long and hard, first in Geneva, Switzerland where it met from October 2004 until the time just prior to the Conference and subsequently over the last few days here in Kobe. I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to all those who participated for the excellent spirit of cooperation that has been manifested all along the arduous negotiation process, including during sessions that extended to late at night and even to the early morning hours. The Main Committee concluded its work in the early hours of today with a result that I believe, we can be satisfied with and proud of.

