



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Office of State Minister for Disaster Management
Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority



Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, Government of India, Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr Robert Glasser, Distinguished Fellow Ministers Heads of Delegations and Esteemed colleagues

Asalama Aleikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa barakatuhu

I am delighted to use this opportunity to address this conference on Disaster Management situation of Afghanistan. Afghanistan is one of the most disaster prone country in the region and in the world due to its unique mountainous features. Therefore, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan considers the DRR in its priorities; and the State Ministry for Disaster Management is created in addition to the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) based on a special Presidential Decree during 2016. The institutionalization and legalization process to change ANDMA to a Ministry is ongoing. Afghanistan is also one of the countries that is seriously impacted by mines and unexploded ammunitions. Since 1989 up to date 75% of such areas are demined and it is planned that till 2023 the country will be free of mines. The last progress report on Hyogo Framework, indicating that Afghanistan made good progress regarding the development of laws, regulations, plans, capacity building and others in regard to disaster management. The State Ministry on Disaster Management experienced some challenges regarding technical and capacity issues during the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, and we hope to be able during the Sendai process, to overcome and improve these challenges.

The State Ministry for Disaster Management is the principle institution at the national level to coordinate and manage disaster relevant issues, such as natural and non-natural, internally displace people due to insecurity and war and returning refugees, along with its stakeholders and partners. The Ministry has a number of plans to revise the existing strategic framework, to bring reforms, to facilitated capacity building and DRR mainstreaming in national planning.

The State Ministry for Disaster Management ensured effective coordination with relevant governmental, non-governmental, private sector, and civil society organizations, and expecting that during the implementation of Sendai Framework this coordination will be further strengthened.

All relevant governmental ministries and agencies are engaged in the disaster management process through the Supreme Governmental Commission for Disaster Management, the secretariat for which is with this Ministry. The establishment of Environmental Protection and Disaster Management Faculty, at the Kabul University, which educates around 100 young experts in Disaster Management topics, is one of the recent achievements.

Therefore, there is still more efforts required for disaster management in the country, such as:

- Creating mass awareness among the citizens and Setting up a robust early warning system
- Facilitating and finding opportunities for humanitarian assistance for refugees and IDPs
- Use of different regional platforms to attract technical and financial resources
- Developing an inclusive approach to reach the goal of Sustainable Development
- Strong Emergency Communication mechanism to reach the affected communities
- Strengthening national and regional coordination for enhanced preparedness and capacity
- Nationwide framework for community engagement in disaster management process

Excellencies, let me thank for all countries, national, regional and international organizations and partners, who have been working with the government of Afghanistan on disaster management. The Government and People of Afghanistan are committed in cooperation, coordination and with implementation of the all regional and international efforts towards the DRR.

Once again, I would like to thank the Government of India and UNISDR for warm welcome, hospitality and technical facilitation for making this vital conference to take place in New Delhi.

At the end, I on behalf of the people of Afghanistan would appeal to the regional friends and international community – “Don’t forget Afghanistan, we need your support in the area of risk reduction and resilience building”.

Thank you

Mohammad Aslam Sayas

**Administrative and Finance Deputy Minister
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