**Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, distinguished guests and participants:**

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to make a statement on behalf of the Government of Armenia and congratulate the UNDRR and the Government of Switzerland for hosting this great event. We highly appreciate the efforts of putting together the achievements and challenges in Disaster Risk Reduction for each country, region and globally.

Strongly committed to Sendai framework, Armenia had the honor of hosting the Sub-Regional Platform on DRR in June 2018. Representatives of Central Asian and South Caucasus countries, stakeholder groups, development and humanitarian partners gathered at the integrated platform for sustainable development and building resilience. It resulted in signing Yerevan Declaration outlining the importance of reaching the Target E by 2020, in coherence with the 2030 Development Agenda including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda and other relevant instruments. It recognized the importance of engagement with local governments to implement and invest in disaster risk reduction.

The Declaration addressed to the importance of localization and dissemination of best practices in disaster risk identification, assessment and modelling, its application in DRR education and public awareness-raising; making disaster risk assessments a prerequisite for land use, urban planning, infrastructure and housing investments; inclusion of stakeholders regardless of gender, disabilities and age; establishment of national disaster loss accounting mechanisms enabling risk informed decision-making.

Furthering the implementation of Sendai priorities, the Ministry of Emergency Situations in partnership with UNDP, ECHO, UNICEF and other partners of DRR National Platform initiated elaboration of the new law on Civil Protection, stating rights and liabilities in DRR, Emergency Response and Post-Disaster Recovery at all levels from the Government to the citizen. Upon the adoption, it will bring DRR to a new level imposing its mainstreaming in governmental and community development process.

Another important step was taken in achievement of the Target E, supported by UNDP, ECHO and the National Platform for DRR. An electronic tool was created to monitor the implementation of the National Strategy for DRM, adopted by the Armenian Government in 2017. It allows integrating all principal stakeholders from state bodies to communities in a general reporting platform.

We strongly believe that the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai priorities can be achieved first and foremost through elaboration of the legislation promoting DRR mainstreaming in all spheres of development and all levels of the society.

It is certain, that new approaches in DRR financing should be adopted as well. Strengthening communities is key for a self-sustained society, where private partners play a crucial role alongside with advanced state policies. We do believe that the approach to the private sector should be shifted from a potential donor to a partner of risk-informed and sustainable development.

This is time for new culture of resilience to be based on advanced knowledge, modern technologies and innovative approach to integrate each and every member of society, addressing to their vulnerabilities and capabilities, creating public, private and academic synergies, admitting children and youth not be seen as vulnerable, but rather part of the solution to learn over our mistakes and create a safer future.

We must admit that in DRM sphere no country can be strong enough alone, not only because of trans-boundary nature of most hazards, increasing impact of the climate change, pollution and other challenges, but also because all of us become stronger and more resilient when we unite in sharing knowledge, information and expertise.

We affirm our commitment in deepening our international collaboration. International and local organizations including UNDRR, UNDP, UN OCHA, UNICEF, World Bank, JICA, EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), SDC, ARCS, Save the Children, OXYGEN and many others, as well as partner countries, including China, Germany, Japan, Russia, Switzerland, the United States, and others contributed tremendously in the national DRM capacity building in Armenia. We want to express our sincere gratitude for this priceless support and excellent cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to admit that there is no limit for resilience, there is only constant and daily work to improve, to bring to each mind that everyone matters in achieving the most important goal – building a safe home for all.

Thank you.