Official Statement, 17th May, GP 2019

Ulsan Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea

It is my honor to participate in this 6th Global Platform on behalf of Ulsan Metropolitan City in Korea. I would like to thank the UNDRR and Geneva for organizing this event.

Ulsan Metropolitan City has accomplished two great miracles over the last 60 years. First, back in 1962, Ulsan was a small fishing village. However, it has grown into a world-class industrial city as it has led Korea's rapid economic growth.

The second miracle is that with the help of its citizens, businesses and local government, Ulsan has restored its environmental pollution. In fact, Ulsan has become one of the most eco-friendly city in Korea by working together to stop and reverse the ecological damage done by its rapid industrial development.

Now, Ulsan aims to accomplish the third miracle. It wants to become a world-class disaster resilient city, beyond our previous accomplishments. By making the most of our experience and practical know-how, we are striving to transform Ulsan into a safer city for our Ulsan citizens and make the world a safer place for all of us. Hence, on a national level, Ulsan is actively promoting the UNDRR MCR campaign to implement the Sendai Framework. T / F teams made up of various stakeholders now use the UNDRR scorecards to evaluate the city’s resilience and compensate for its newly-found vulnerabilities accordingly. In addition, we are building and operating the Disaster Management Integrated System by utilizing advanced IT technology. What’s more, thanks to a cooperative system we built among civilians, and government and military officers, we can rapidly and systematically respond to any unpredictable disasters.

On an international level, we have been sharing our practical knowledge about the disaster reduction with the world as we had city-to-city communications, cooperated with the UNDRR Office for

Northeast Asia, and hosted the UN Typhoon Committee.

Ulsan’s ultimate goal is to contribute to World’s DRR by sharing our accumulated experience for economic development, environmental restoration and disaster risk reduction. Here are our three suggestions: First, let us share technology and experience. We would like to share our city's accumulated technology and experience with the world in order to bring high economic growth, make environmental restoration and create city resilience. In particular, we are planning to spread the Disaster Management Integrated System by harnessing IT technology which will help us overcome time and space-related constraints. We will do our best to collaborate with the UNDRR along with all the cities and agencies around the world that work to improve city resilience. We are willing to work with even North Korea, which would be the last key to world peace.

I also suggest that we make an active response to social disasters and complex disasters. It is true that we have been mostly focusing on Natural disasters in the past. However, we also need to make an urgent response to social and complex disasters. Responding to social disasters such as particulate matter and radiation accidents is critical since these catastrophes can be combined with natural disasters and even develop into a series of simultaneous complex disasters.

Last but not least, let us call for international cooperation for natural, social, and complex disasters. In order to cope with these global disasters, joint action between cities and countries is inevitable. For the same reason, the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon created a pan-national organization to tackle particulate matter as a joint response to social disasters.

Therefore, we urge private institutions, cities, and countries around the world to build a platform for cooperation and interaction with each other to reduce the risk of natural, social and complex disasters. As a representative city of Korea, Ulsan, together with UNDRR, promises to make its utmost efforts to reduce disaster risks around the world.

Thank you!