**U.S. Statement, to be delivered by Dr. Dan Kaniewski, Deputy Administrator for Resilience, Federal Emergency Management Agency**

**2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**May 13-17, 2019, Geneva, Switzerland**

* Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The United States is pleased to participate in the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). I would like to thank the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Government of Switzerland for hosting this important meeting, which demonstrates Switzerland's commitment and leadership in the area of DRR. I also commend all of the participants for ensuring that the important global agenda of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction continues to move forward.
* In addition, I would like to extend the deepest condolences from the people of the United States to the families of the victims of Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. These cyclones—and other recent disasters, such as earthquakes and a tsunami in Indonesia and the Fuego volcano in Guatemala—have destroyed communities and led to the loss of thousands of lives. And in the United States, massive California wildfires and Hurricanes Florence and Michael resulted in billions of dollars of damages. These large-scale events are stark reminders of the need to prioritize disaster risk reduction.
* The United States has been a strong supporter of the Sendai Framework’s expected outcome to reduce the loss of life and the social and economic impacts of disasters, in the U.S. and abroad, including through assistance. For example, over the past decade, the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, has provided nearly $1.44 billion in DRR funding to more than 100 countries to support communities and countries on their journeys to self-reliance and resilience.
* The United States is equally committed to reducing the risks and impacts of natural disasters in the United States. The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is building a culture of preparedness, readying the nation for catastrophic disasters and simplifying access to disaster resources. FEMA is implementing the 2018 Disaster Recovery Reform Act to enable greater investment in pre-disaster mitigation, support efforts to reduce risk from future disasters, increase state and local capacity to manage disaster recovery, and provide greater flexibility to survivors with disabilities.
* In addition, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) continues to lead the world in severe weather prediction, providing highly accurate and timely forecasts of hurricanes that impact the United States and many of our international partners, saving countless lives and protecting property.
* The United States encourages scientific and technical cooperation by promoting the exchange of data; strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems; and enhancing capacity building in DRR. In addition to FEMA, NOAA and USAID, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also collaborate on DRR.
* The United States supports DRR programs because they are cost-effective. Last year, the National Institutes of Building Sciences issued the National Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report, which showed that every $1 spent on hazard mitigation in the United States can save the nation $6 in future disaster costs. In addition, the report explored scenarios on designing new buildings to exceed provisions of the 2015 International Codes. The Report demonstrates that investing in hazard mitigation measures to exceed select code requirements can save the nation $4 for every $1 spent.
* The United States strongly supports a “whole community” approach to implementing DRR. The whole community includes individuals who experience a disproportionate or greater impact during or after a disaster. It is important to stress that the participation of the whole community requires equal access to local, state, and national preparedness activities and programs without discrimination.
* Let me give you a few examples of what USAID is doing to help save lives through DRR in communities around the world. In coastal cities in Indonesia and Vanuatu, USAID—in partnership with the American Red Cross—is working to establish and strengthen civic coalitions and public-private partnerships to bolster public engagement and investment in coastal city preparedness and resilience. In Jamaica, Grenada and Saint Lucia, USAID works with Catholic Relief Services to support 23 Youth Emergency Action Committees. In Paraguay and Peru, a USAID-Handicap International partnership held DRR trainings, which were attended by stakeholders from Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Nicaragua.
* As these examples demonstrate, collaboration is crucial to achieving success. We can save lives, alleviate suffering, and lessen the economic and social impact of disasters if we partner broadly with communities; civil society; non-governmental organizations; educational, scientific, and technical institutions; local and regional governments; the private sector; and other stakeholder groups.
* Collaboration and cooperation must also be interdisciplinary. The knowledge and expertise of various government bodies—including ministries of finance, urban development, health, environment, commerce, and agriculture—are essential to implementing the Sendai Framework, reducing risk, preventing development of new risk, and building resilience. The private sector and NGOs also have critical roles to play in building the resilience of communities and countries.
* The United States remains committed to the common goal of reducing disaster risk and building resilience worldwide.  We have made significant progress under previous frameworks, but we have a lot of work ahead of us. I know that together we can significantly advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Thank you.