

Official Statement - Republic of Korea

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction – Geneva 2019

09:00~13:00, Thursday 16 May

Honorable Chairs, Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am Ryu Hee-in, Vice Minister for Disaster and Safety Management of the Ministry of the Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea.

I am deeply honored and delighted to be here at the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on behalf of the Republic of Korea. I would like take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the UNDRR and the government of Switzerland for all your efforts in organizing this meaningful event.

The Republic of Korea has been making great strides in the national disaster management system to allow prompt and effective responses to disasters. The government has made every effort to establish an integrated disaster management system where all stakeholders, including the central and local governments, disaster-related organizations and the public, take part in disaster and safety management.

Let me first touch upon Korea's key progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework targets for the past two years and future challenges.

First, the Korean government has conducted the ‘National Safety Inspection’ on a regular basis with an aim to prevent potential disasters through a rigid inspection on disaster risks in advance. The public and the private sectors have closely worked together with each other to inspect high-risk facilities. And, to raise the effectiveness of inspection and the responsibility of inspectors, a real-name inspection system is now put in place. The government plans to build the database on inspection results for ensuring a more systematic management of risks.

Second, the Korean government has led full-fledged safety culture campaigns to eradicate 7 major safety negligence issues, such as wearing no personal protective equipment at construction sites, blocking emergency exits and wearing no seatbelts, by running public-awareness programs and reinforcing laws and regulations. The government is especially focusing on a campaign against four major types of illegal parking, including parking in bus stops, pedestrian crossings and around fire-fighting equipment.

Third, the government is carrying out safety policies that people can actually feel the impacts in daily life. For instance, there are systems in place to send emergency alerts and control traffic in the event of flooding in low-lying, riverside parking lots and underpasses. In addition, much wider areas can now be designated as a special disaster zone. Korea has also expanded its R&D investment for science-based disaster management equipped with cutting-edge technologies.

Lastly, in implementing Target E of the Sendai Framework, the government aims to develop a comprehensive, national-scale natural disaster mitigation plan by incorporating the existing safety management master plan with regional storm and

flood damage reduction plan. By doing so, we will further improve the national and local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies of Korea.

Despite such progress and effort, we are facing challenges with new types of disasters such as heat waves and fine dust due to climate and environmental changes. To tackle climate change, I believe we should scale up our efforts in strengthening international cooperation.

Growing disaster risks caused by climate change are not really a recent problem. Nevertheless, we need to take multi-dimensional cooperation to another level through more active exchanges of information, technologies and human resources to make sure our collaboration and collective responses will succeed effectively.

Korea will do its best to implement the Sendai Framework to address climate change proactively and successfully.

I hope today's meeting will serve as a cornerstone of building a safer planet for all.
Thank you.