

## **Fostering more sustainable and inclusive societies in DRR global cooperation: A MIKTA perspective**

I have the honor to deliver this intervention on behalf of the cross-regional partnership of like-minded countries composed by Mexico, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia, also known as MIKTA.

All countries are exposed to natural disasters and their consequences. Ranging from floods, droughts, cyclones to earthquakes and tsunamis, climate-related and geophysical disasters have claimed the lives of more than 1.3 million people and left a further 4.4 billion injured between 1998 and 2017. Disasters create substantial economic losses and far-reaching effects on the population, biodiversity, infrastructure and impede sustainable development. The costs of natural disasters fall overwhelmingly on low-income countries, Small Island Developing States, poor communities and vulnerable people.

As the frequency and intensity of disasters increase, the urgency to engage in inclusive, multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder disaster risk reduction strategies and resilience building is more important than ever. The international

community has mapped out the way forward, with the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. On this note, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Regional Platforms have proven to be key spaces to take stock and advance the implementation of multilateral commitments, forge partnerships among relevant state and non-state actors, and share best practices and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies.

In 2017, the first Global Platform after the adoption of the Sendai Framework took place in Cancun, Mexico. This multilateral forum served as an opportunity to reaffirm our determination to the achievement of international disaster-risk-related agendas, and also to assess implementation, strengthen cooperation and shape the way forward. The GP2017 also highlighted a core principle that has driven our actions ever since: we need to shift from managing disasters to managing and reducing disaster risk.

This year in May, we convene in Geneva the second Global Platform after the Sendai Conference with two main goals: first, to build on the momentum created in Cancun and, second, to

underscore the urgency of achieving Target E of the Sendai Framework: substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020. There is opportunity to ensure strategies are inclusive and reflect local needs, to make sure that all levels of society benefit from the transition to reducing risk and building resilience. We must maintain momentum on implementation of the Sendai Framework by promoting comprehensive risk management, building resilience, and enhancing preparedness for rapid recovery and build back better.

MIKTA is a strong promoter of multilateralism and international cooperation to find common solutions to shared challenges. We firmly believe that we can achieve more if we act together and share knowledge and ideas. It is in this spirit that we are fully committed to the accelerated implementation of the Sendai Framework, and to supporting and engaging actively in the GP2019. We cannot miss this opportunity to reassert the importance of strong international coordination in effective disaster prevention, preparedness, response, management and resilience.

As we move forward, we must not forget that reducing disaster risk, as well as achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, requires collective action among all actors involved. MIKTA countries are determined to upholding the multi-stakeholder nature of the Global Platform, which is crucial to achieving concrete results that benefit all in our societies, especially vulnerable communities and people at risk, such as women, people with disabilities, minority groups, youth and the elderly.

On this note, a community-level approach to the implementation of the Sendai Framework must also remain in place. Disasters are felt most at the local level and so prevention must start here. We believe that by helping local communities to build resilience to natural shocks, we will be able not only to reduce the cost of disasters but also to address some of the factors that lead to climate and disaster induced displacement. Communities at risk must have a seat at the decision-making table. To implement effective disaster risk reduction, we must understand their needs, vulnerabilities and abilities. Most importantly, communities should be provided with the means to actively improve their adaptation and resilience capacities. National and local risk reduction

strategies are therefore essential, and we are fully committed to achieving target e of the Sendai Framework.

Any effort undertaken to tackle the threats posed by both natural hazards and human-induced disasters is destined to fail if women and girls are sidelined. We cannot possibly sustain the view that disaster risk is a universal challenge if half of the world's population is kept out of the picture. Women and girls cannot be perceived just as victims of disasters. They have leadership potential that must be harnessed.

MIKTA countries strongly advocate the leading role of women in the disaster risk reduction agenda, as well as a gender mainstreaming perspective at the core of the whole risk-reduction process.

Equally, attention should also be drawn to the risk faced by persons with disabilities in the occurrence of disasters. As they are tremendously affected by the impact of such events, efforts to reduce the risks should not fail to involve, engage, and empower persons with disabilities to play a central role. They can make a strong contribution to national and local disaster risk reduction plans and help ensure no one is left behind.

Discourses are worthless without commitments, and commitments are valueless without action. MIKTA countries are determined to take concrete steps towards realizing the internationally agreed disaster-risk-reduction goals, and to redouble our efforts aimed at inclusively and comprehensively implementing the Sendai Framework and its Targets, in order to deliver concrete results at the High-Level Political Forum and the UN Climate Summit. International cooperation is crucial in this endeavor, and a necessary condition to achieve sustainable and inclusive societies.

Thank you.

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