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Special Representative of the Secretary General, Ms. Mami Mizutori,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank **UNDRR** for the tremendous job it has accomplished in convening the sixth Global Platform. I would also like to thank the **Swiss government** for hosting this important conference.

For my Government this Global Platform is an event of high importance. We want to engage in fruitful discussions on important topics such as:

- Coherence between global agendas,
- Learning from each other
- Improving disaster risk management including fragile and conflict-affected contexts,
- Disaster risk financing and innovative early warning early action approaches,
- Enhanced protection for disaster displaced persons, and
- Strengthening the local level and specifically civil society organizations to leave no one behind.

These topics are **key for the German government; and they are** crucial for a successful implementation of the Sendai Framework in the national context as well as in vulnerable countries. They guide us to reduce humanitarian needs in the future and to contribute towards a future resilient to disasters and therefore more sustainable for people and societies.

The significance for the **national** implementation of the Sendai Framework lies in its clearly defined goals: reducing disaster risk; preserving lives, health and livelihoods; and protecting society and communities against extensive damage.

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For Germany, the Sendai Framework still represents both a challenge and opportunity:

- Challenge, because it calls for even greater efforts, and we must work even harder in international comparison;
- Opportunity, because it shows us and other countries the approaches we must pursue. Best practices, exchange and transfer of information and knowledge at international level will help us as well.

Germany already has an effective civil protection system which pursues an integrated approach and includes a wide range of administrative levels, institutions and actors. Civil Protection in Germany includes both volunteer commitment and government action, ensuring that aid arrives quickly where it is needed.

We would like to pool our knowledge and experience in various areas, because we view disaster risk reduction as a cross-cutting issue. We need to utilize insights gained from research and practice in various areas to optimize risk and crisis management.

Everyone working together – that is what the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction clearly expresses. We would like to encourage exchange among different actors nationally as well as internationally.

Germany continues to strongly commit to risk reduction worldwide as we support important initiatives to **enable bilateral and multilateral partnerships** with other countries, humanitarian and development organizations to reduce risks and to improve resilience against disasters globally.

Let me give you some examples:

Coherence between the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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can contribute strengthening the linkages between climate change adaptation as well as sustainability projects and programs managing disaster and displacement, thereby enhancing resilience to disasters. We would like to bring together what already exists in order to ensure coherence also within the national context. To do so, we must examine existing structures, approaches and initiatives to identify potential for improvement. This applies to national initiatives of the global agendas as well as civil protection efforts at federal, state and local level. In this way, we will be able to take advantage of possible synergies. Germany has established a Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management to also support countries to foster practical coherence in a world of global agendas. And following the core responsibilities of the **Agenda for Humanity**, strengthening **preparedness capacities** is a core component of our humanitarian assistance. We have supported our humanitarian partners with more than 26 million EUR last year in this regard.

Already by 2020, more than half of the world's extreme poor will live in environments affected by both, **disaster risks and conflict, fragility and violence**. Germany promotes **disaster risk reduction in fragile and conflicted-affected contexts** as a viable approach to reduce vulnerability and **support peace building**.

Such fragile and conflict-affected contexts are also pronounced in the portfolio of the **Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Reconstruction (GFDRR) of the World Bank**. We support this important facility and strengthen its capacity to expand its global reach, and to advance localized and community-based disaster risk reduction in developing countries.

Germany also remains a **committed partner for UNDRR**. We specifically support the important role of UNDRR in creating synergies between the climate and disaster community and

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working for a greater coherence between the 2015 Agendas. We are proud to have the Sendai Monitoring team based in Bonn to keep track of the global implementation progress in disaster risk reduction. We also very much value the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction of UNDRR and the innovative Global Risk Assessment Framework which we supported financially.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let us not forget about a pressing issue for the coming decades: **Climate change** leads to increased intensity and frequency of disasters.

The international community needs to better address the protection needs of **people displaced or otherwise affected by climate change and disaster**, as underlined within the Global Compact on Migration. The **integration of disaster displacement** must become a priority in the development of regional and national DRR plans.

Taking into consideration the growing humanitarian needs caused by climate change, we have expanded our engagement and donor outreach within our humanitarian assistance for **anticipatory risk financing approaches**, such as **Forecast-based Financing**. We are working closely with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the World Food Programme, OCHA and the NGO Start Network to enable **early action** financing within the humanitarian system. In the coming years we will further intensify our engagement in anticipatory financing and hope to see more donors invest in such innovative instruments.

Germany has started to combine concepts of climate and disaster risk management on national level and within development cooperation to promote risk informed decisions,

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local action and society encompassing approaches as well as inclusive DRR. Through the InsuResilience Global Partnership, vulnerable countries are supported to prepare financially against the impacts of disasters. The Partnership was initiated by G20 and V20 countries and includes more than 60 members, including a strong presence by the private sector. It aims to enable a substantial scale-up in the use of climate and disaster risk finance and insurance solutions so vulnerable countries are in a position to act quickly once a disaster hits.

One concrete goal of the Partnerships is to provide climate risk insurance to 400 million poor and vulnerable people by 2020. Germany alone has contributed more than **300 million EUR** to support this initiative, in particular through the Global Risk Financing Facility at the World Bank.

Ladies and gentleman,

Let me finally underline the importance of **action on the local level**. The best risk reduction strategies can only be successful if **communities are engaged** with a sense of their own power to build resilience against disasters. This is why we need to **support communities in general and civil society organizations in particular**. They have a specific understanding of local needs and give a voice to marginalized people.

We must ensure to go the **last mile**, to reach those who are most in need. To **leave no one behind** is a guiding principle of German humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. This is and will be essential to all our efforts as we will ensure that support is targeted where the needs are most urgent!

Nobody can reduce risks and build resilience alone. We **need strong partnerships** globally, regionally and locally. Only a

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whole-of-society approach and multilateral partnerships will lead us to a resilient world. Let us all advocate for that!

Thank you!