

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Poland
delivered by H. E. Zbigniew Czech,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the UN Office at Geneva
at the Sixth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Geneva, 13-17 May 2019

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

Poland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentleman,

I would like to express Poland's appreciation to Mami Mizutori, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and the UNDRR for their engagement. We confirm our support for the Sendai Framework, that while being a one of constitutive agreements of the post-2015 UN development agenda, shapes international efforts to mitigate risks and losses related to disasters.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Disaster risk reduction remains a priority for Poland both on national and local level. In particular for years we have been developing strategy and actions to reduce risk of flood, that is the biggest natural disaster threat. Currently Poland observes also new challenges related to climate change effect. We try to better understand the occurring phenomena and formulate strategies to minimize emerging risks. In our programs we have implemented comprehensive approach including identification, assessment, monitoring of risks and improvement of early warning systems. We put also an emphasis on promoting a resilience culture based on knowledge, education, and new technologies.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Poland is not indifferent to the needs of others. In the recent years a number of projects have been carried out as part of the Polish development cooperation aimed at capacity-building and addressing inequalities in development of disaster management systems among others in Georgia, Ukraine and Kenya. Polish Aid has been involved for years in fire trainings coincided with natural disasters striking Africa, that are caused by climate change. Polish search and rescue group maintains its capacity and preparedness to save lives in the situation of disaster occurring in other countries. The Global Meeting of International Search and Rescue Advisory Group - INSARAG, that will be hosted by Poland in 2020 is a confirmation of our strong commitment in this field.

Finally, I would like to stress the importance of the protection of cultural heritage during disasters. Poland attach great importance to this issue and stands ready to further develop international projects in cooperation with international organizations, foundations and associations.

I thank you.