

**Statement by Mr. Prem Kumar Rai, Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs  
and Head of the Nepali Delegation**

**to the**

**Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP 2019)**

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**Mr. Chairperson,**

**Excellencies the Ministers,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good Morning, Bonjour!!!**

It is, indeed, a great pleasure to attend the Sixth Session of the GPDRR here in Geneva. I express my sincere appreciation to 'the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction' and 'the Government of Switzerland' for convening this session. I commend the UNDRR secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Nepal is prone to a multitude of disasters. Every year, disasters strike the country claiming many lives and destroying property worth of billion rupees. Over the past decades, the frequency of disasters in the country has increased.

Recently, a powerful windstorm (Tornado) has hit two southern districts of Nepal for the first time in our recorded history. Besides the heavy toll that it has had on the lives of the people, the country has also experienced a huge setback in its socio-economic development process.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Nepal is fully convinced that the global problem such as disaster calls for global cooperation and collaboration. No single country has the capacity and wherewithal to cope with the scale of damage and destruction inflicted by disasters. Least developed country like Nepal is no exception to this.

Sendai Framework provides international cooperative framework for reducing the risks of disasters. I wish to reiterate our full commitment to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). Nepal has already harmonized its national targets on DRR with those of SFDRR, the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit. In line with the guidelines set by UNDRR, Nepal has formed a National Platform for DRR that includes I/NGO's, Academia, Media and stakeholders working in the field of DRR in Nepal.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Nepal has also set the target to achieve Priority 2 and Target E of Sendai Framework by the year 2020. Accordingly, the Government has promulgated the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017, the Local Government Operation Act 2017, National DRR Policy 2018, National DRR Strategic Action Plan 2018-2030 and revised the National Disaster Response Framework.

The National DRR Management Authority is in the process of being established at the earliest. We have initiated the allocation of disaster management funds for all 753 local governments. Emergency Operation Centers have already been established at the National, Provincial and District levels and the centers are being set up at local levels soon. We have recently made a comprehensive and integrated Disaster Information and Management System operational.

Enforcing the National Building Code and promoting disaster resilient structures, setting up early warning systems, and a multi-hazard risk mapping and vulnerability assessment are the current priority agenda of the Government in the sphere of disaster risk reduction.

The Government is preparing 25-year long-term development vision with a goal to transform the country into a developed nation by the year 2043. The Government is currently implementing development policies and programs with the motto: "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali", in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, our arduous development gains achieved over the years are shattered with a big blow of single disaster and we will be slid back to the downside of development ladder. The Gorkha Earthquake - 2015 and the Monsoon floods - 2017 in Nepal are cases in point. In the aftermath of those disasters, the public and private sector are collaborating and partnering in the reconstruction of disaster-affected areas in the country.

In our efforts to successfully implement SFDRR, the rugged topography, limited infrastructure, inadequate resources and weak national capacity remain the most crucial challenges. We will look for all possibilities including international support to overcome those challenges.

To conclude, I reiterate our strong commitment to the implementation of SFDRR. We are determined to make Nepal a disaster-resilient nation. I express sincere appreciation to the international community for their continued support in this area. My delegation wishes to commend the excellent job done by Madam Mami Mizutori, Special representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

I wish the 6th session of GPDRR a success.

Thank you all!