

**Statement of State Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian
Affairs of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for the Sixth Session of the Global
Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction dated 13-17 May 2019, Geneva,
Switzerland**

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests and Dignitaries...

Ladies and gentleman...

It is a great pleasure for me to be part of this conference organized by UNSIDR and hosted by the government of Switzerland in this beautiful city of Geneva.

On behalf of government and people of Afghanistan, I would like to congratulate the government of Switzerland, UNISDR, and every one of you for organizing the conference and I hope that outcomes of the conference would contribute to disaster risk reduction, especially the goals outlined in the fifth global platform.

I am representing a country that according to international reports especially Global Disaster Report of 2016 and Asia Pacific Disaster Report of 2017, due to lack of capacity, inability in adaptation, vulnerability and disaster proneness, has been ranked amongst one of the 15th most disaster-prone countries in our region and globally.

Last year Afghanistan experienced severe drought which widely affected agriculture production and livestock; our framers lost over 50% of their cereals and fruit production. In west part of the country, herders lost significant number of their livestock which amounted to 3 million in total across the country.

The impacts of the drought were so much severe that compelled rural population who had lost their means of livelihoods to migrate in groups from their villages and remote areas to cities. At the moment more than 400,000 rural population displaced due to drought, are living in temporary shelters.

Apart from legacy of the last year's drought, in the current year we have been witnessing severe precipitation and flooding that threaten over 2 million people across the country.

Though flood season has not finished yet, until now flood has claimed over 279 lives and causing injuries to 333 people. A total of 16,312 houses have been completely destroyed affecting over 120,000 men, women and children, so far.

In addition to these, 12,357 livestock have perished. A total of 144 schools, 10,000 acres of farmlands and gardens, 76 bridges and 630 km roads have been completely destroyed.

This Sequence of droughts and floods as climate induced hazards in our region, show the complexity of climate change.

One of the massive impacts of this complex situation in the long run is increased poverty and mass migration of rural population to small towns and cities and improper settlements in the outskirts of the cities. This high population density within the countries, has adverse social, economic, political and even security consequences which have been experienced in Syria, Yemen and Somali.

Ladies and Gentleman:

Understanding the current situation, considering the inevitability of combating terrorism and allocating the main resources to this battle of life and death; in the areas of mitigation and disaster risk reduction, Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with support of UN agencies, International organizations and donor countries have successfully managed to:

- Develop national disaster risk reduction strategy and its action plan for 4 years. (2018-2022)
- Submitting reports in the Sendai Monitoring system, based on the pre-set deadlines. (31th of October 2018 and 31th of March 2019)
- Develop hazard profile of provinces till district level with respect to natural disasters like flood, earthquake, avalanche and landslide.
- Prepare community-based disaster risk reduction plan for more than 1126 villages, targeting around 450,000 women, men and children.
- Plan and implement 400 structural mitigation projects across the country benefiting over 300,000 women, men and children.
- Promote disaster risk reduction in 254 schools across 9 provinces by provision of school's safety and capacity building.
- Raise public awareness on disaster risk reduction and ways of managing it through translating Sendai framework into national languages and inclusion of DRR concepts in educational curriculum of schools and universities.
- Organized a number of different workshops with participation of representatives of relevant government departments, international agencies of United Nations, civil societies, women, mass media, research and

academic agencies for developing the road map for implementation of Sendia framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

- Start working on developing a national platform for better cooperation and coordination among government departments, international agencies, and NGOs.
- Integration of DRR into the national framework for sustainable development and climate change mitigation plans.

Lastly, I would like to share some of the challenges Afghanistan is facing in implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction the most important being as follows:

- Absence of a systematic central database for disaster induced damages and losses.
- Limited capacity for disaster risk modeling and analysis of the related information for enhancing the coping strategies against disasters and potential losses.
- Lack of financial and technical capacities to support integration of DRR programs into the development plans.
- Continuation of war, instability and inability in implementation of DRR projects in war torn districts.
- Increase in migration of farmers and rural population who due to climate change, drought and other natural disasters have lost their means of livelihood and settled in the outskirts of cities and inability in providing them with essential assistance and relocating them to their places of origin.
- Rapid desertification process and its negative impacts on the environment and standard of living of local communities.

Ladies and gentleman:

The complexity of natural disasters, intensity and increase in its damages beyond national boundaries that appears in different forms such as, mass migration, increase in violence, poverty, environmental degradation and radicalization of political situation in our region; shows that henceforth no country alone can succeed in restraining this huge monster. Therefore, using the opportunity and through collective wisdom, sharing of knowledge and experience; we should analyze our shared problems and support each other towards overcoming the challenges and building resilient societies.

On behalf of the Government and people of Afghanistan, once again I would like to take the opportunity to thank the UN and its affiliated agencies and donor countries for their sustained support to us in the implementation of SFDRR and achieving its targets and organizers of this conference and I wish all the success for its future endeavors.