



Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
State Ministry for Disaster Management
Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
Country Statement
AMCDRR 2018, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 03-06 July 2018

Excellency chair of the conference, Excellency special representative of the UN for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), distinguished heads of delegation from member countries, ladies and gentlemen:

I am delighted being here among you in this grand conference organized by UNISDR initiative and hosted by Mongolia in this nice city of Ulaanbaatar. On behalf of the government and people of Afghanistan, I would like to congratulate holding this conference to the government of Mongolia, UNISDR and each and every of you, and I am hoping that the results of this conference would be useful to reduce disasters risks.

I am representing such a country which is ranked as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world and region as per the World Disaster Report 2016 and Asia – Pacific Disaster Report 2017 in terms of limited capacity, lack of adaptation ability, vulnerability and exposure.

During this year in addition to the occurrence of frequent avalanches, landslides and earthquakes, we suffered from floods and droughts in the same time which actually they are two very different hazards in nature. Heavy precipitation and floods in the peak of drought, indicating the complication of natural hazards as consequences of climate change. The climate change impacts and effects in our country revealed in various aspects such as change in precipitation pattern from snow to rain, reduction in the precipitation time and increase in its severity, seasonal changes in precipitation with increase of temperature, more evaporation and less soil moisture and desertification.

Recent drought affected 20 out 34 provinces of Afghanistan, of which the main impact is the destruction of pastures or grazing lands and rain-fed cultivation and 50 % reduction in wheat yields which is the key source of food for our people. Currently over 1.4 million peoples suffering from severe food insecurity and their life is depending on emergency humanitarian assistance provided by the government and international and national humanitarian organizations, and 3

million more people needs for such assistance till end of this year. Furthermore, almost 5 million livestock is facing hungriness and lack of food and fodder which is one of the key pillars of our local communities' economy beside agriculture and they are faced with threat of death and loss.

Therefore, one of the complications of this undesirable situation in long term could be extension of poverty and mass migration from rural areas to small towns and then to cities which may have various social, economic and even political and security consequences, for which clear example is the current situation in Yemen, Syria and Somalia and repetition of this situation is likely in other Asian and African countries.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Considering the current situation, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan despite the inevitability of counter terrorism and allocating main resources to the war between death and live, focusing on the following activities in terms of disaster risk reduction and prevention:

- Drastic endeavor towards the implementation of Sendai Framework objectives and 2016 AMCDRR and initiation of measures to implement Asia Regional Plan for DRR for which one of our action is the development of a strategy for disaster risk management on the bases of our assessment of the current condition;
- Ensuring resilience of local communities against hazards for which a project is currently being implemented in Kabul and Balkh provinces;
- Raising public awareness regarding prevention of disasters and providing solutions to it through Sendai Framework translation into national languages and mainstreaming topics related to prevention and mitigation in the universities and schools' curriculums;
- Conducting a number of workshops with participation of governmental, international and national organizations, UN, Civil Society, women, mass media, academic institutions in order to develop a national roadmap for Sendai Framework and for this the first draft is prepared;
- Establishment of a National Platform in order to ensure effective coordination and communication among governmental, international and national NGOs and organizations, is already initiated;
- Preparation of vulnerability profiles of disaster prone areas in terms of various hazards and raising awareness about it, is initiated in local communities and governmental institutions;
- Mainstreaming DRR in the national planning and development programs in medium and long term;

In order to implement those strategies and Sendai Framework for DRR, we are also facing with a number of challenges, such as:

- Lack of a centralized Database of loss and damage for disasters;
- Limited capacity for modeling and analysis of information accordingly in terms of DRR and DRM to manage potential and significant hazards;

- Limited financial and technical capacity for the purposes of mainstreaming DRR aspects into national developmental programs;
- Increase in the migration of farmers and rural residents due to climate change, drought and other natural disasters to sub-urban areas where they lost their livelihood options and unable to ensure their needs and resettlement;
- Promotion of desertification and its destructive effects on environment and quality of life of local communities;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Complication of natural disasters, extension and cross border nature of its losses that today we see it as mass migration, environmental degradation, spread out of violence, extension of poverty and making the political space radicalized in our region is very clear; it indicates the fact that no country would be able to manage and combat against the huge destructive monster individually, therefore it is up to us to use these regional and global platforms to assess our challenges and problems and use our shared and joint knowledge, wise and exchange experience and manage these challenges and overcome.

At the end once again I would like to thank and appreciate the efforts of UN and its stakeholders, who have been assisting us for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR and also for the organizers of this conference and I am hoping for further success and continuation of efforts towards future.

Thank you