

Ministerial Statement by Vice Minister Zheng Guoguang

Morning, July 4th, 2018, Ulaanbaatar

His Excellency Chairman,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to extend my warm congratulations on the convening of this conference, and express my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the host Mongolian government, and all relevant agencies and individuals who have contributed to the preparation of this meeting.

China is one of the countries with the most serious natural disasters in the world. It has many types of disasters, a wide geographical distribution, high frequency of occurrence, and heavy losses. This is a basic national situation. The Chinese government has always attached great importance to disaster risk reduction and attached importance to advancing the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in China. First, formulate and implement the suggestions for advancing the reform of the institution and mechanism for disaster risk reduction and the national five-year plan for disaster risk reduction, all provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) have formulated and implemented a five-year plan for disaster risk reduction and actively responded to the implementation of Target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; Second, scientifically and effectively respond to massive natural disasters such as landslides, earthquakes, typhoons, floods, and droughts, minimize disaster losses, and effectively promote the reconstruction of the affected areas; Third, comprehensively strengthen disaster risk reduction infrastructure construction, and strengthen protection in the fields such as capital investment, material preparation, technology support, market participation, social cooperation, and education training; Fourth, international cooperation in disaster risk reduction has become more pragmatic and in-depth, communication and cooperation with neighboring countries along the “Belt and Road” have continued to be strengthened. In April this year, the second Asian Science and Technology Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was successfully held in Beijing, it clarified 14 priority actions and put forward 6 constructive opinions.

Although China's disaster risk reduction work has made very good progress, we have soberly realized that the basic national situation of China's natural disasters with frequent recurrences has not changed, and the impact of global climate change has continued to deepen. Earthquakes, geology, floods, droughts and other disasters Intertwined with concurrent development, economic growth, wealth accumulation, population concentration, and urbanization have further increased the complexity, derivativeness, and severity of disasters. The influence and impact of disasters on China's economic and social development and people's livelihood have become more extensive and far-reaching.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening to the world and also marks the 10th anniversary of the Wenchuan earthquake. China's President Xi Jinping wrote a special

letter on this issue, further elaborated new ideas, new thoughts and new requirements for China's disaster risk reduction work, called for strengthening international cooperation in disaster risk reduction, reducing the risk of natural disasters, and jointly building the community of shared future for mankind. Facing the new requirements of the new era, based on China's basic national situation and the overall economic and social development, in March of this year, we newly established the Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China. The purpose is to integrate and optimize the allocation of emergency forces and resources, and to strengthen national capacity building for disaster risk reduction and improve the national emergency management level. The Chinese government will use Mr. Xi Jinping's important thinking on disaster risk reduction as a guide, adhere to the people-centered concept of development, adhere to the principle of combination of disaster prevention, response and relief, adopt more solid and effective measures, and comprehensively enhance disaster risk reduction capabilities for the security of people's lives and property.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen,

In the disaster risk reduction work, the Chinese government has received extensive support and assistance from the international society, that we are highly appreciated. There is no end for the human being to understand the natural laws, and disaster risk reduction is an eternal subject for human survival and development. Understanding the law of disasters scientifically, effectively reducing disaster risks, and achieving a harmonious relationship between human and nature require the joint efforts of the international society. In order to further promote the development of disaster risk reduction in Asia and the world, I hereby propose the following three initiatives: First, all countries and regions in Asia should hold high the banner of building the community of shared future for mankind, coordinate regional resources, jointly meet challenges, and increase the resilience of Asian regions to the benefit of Asian countries and people; The second is to grasp the general trend of sustained economic globalization, promote the combination of disaster risk reduction and economic and social transformation in all countries, focus on reducing systematic risks, and promote fair, open, comprehensive, and innovative sustainable development; The third is to exchange and share information on disaster risk reduction, improve the emergency response mechanism, strengthen the technologies research and development on disaster risk reduction, improve the resilience of infrastructure, and strengthen the capacity building for disaster risk reduction along the "One Belt and One Road" to further strengthen cooperation and implement specific cooperation projects.

China is willing to work together with all parties hand in hand toward a world of lasting peace, universal safety, common prosperity, opening and inclusiveness, and a clean and beautiful world. I wish the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2018 a complete success!

Thank you!