

In the name of God the Merciful the most compassionate

Speech of H.E Mr. Ismail Najjar, Deputy Minister of Interior and head of Iran National Disaster Management Organization(NDMO) in theAsian Ministerial conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

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Mr. Chairman, Excellences, dear audience

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of Mongolia for their warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to us. Our appreciation also goes to the UNISDR Secretariat for their tireless efforts for preparing the necessary documents which are undoubtedly a milestone in strengthening regional cooperation to reduce and manage the risk of disasters.

Mr. Chairman

It is clearly recognized that the increasing impact of disasters and their complexity is unfortunately continuing to exact more tolls on human society and it is urgent and critical to plan for and reduce disaster risk in order to effectively protect our citizens, communities and countries. Hence, it is our urgent obligation to address the root cause of these issues with a need for focused action within and across sectors by the countries at local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas set in the Sendai Framework in order to achieve the outcome and goals of this present Framework. The Sendai framework as a global experience can provide an opportunity in this regard.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has worked hard to adhere to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and has taken actions in promoting the secretariat of The National platform and its engagement in implementing this Framework through appropriate reforms and changes made for this purpose building on the HFA Framework for action. Based on this, a roadmap for science and technology

has been also developed as a tool for implementing the framework and the required actions in the continuation of activities.

Mr. Chairman

Over the past two decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has suffered great losses due to earthquakes, floods, long-term droughts and other natural hazards.

Unfortunately in the past two decades Droughts the phenomenon of dust haze, dust storm and suspended particles in the air due to shortage of water resources in the region and the reduction of border water right have created a new intensive risk inflicting serious damages in the economic activity, especially agriculture and public health which is becoming more deteriorated needing urgent measures to be taken at regional and international level with coordination of involved countries in the region in order to curb losses through collective and coordinated activities within the framework of an action plan

Accordingly some of the most important suggestions of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the countries present at this meeting are as follows:

1. Investing in scientific, technological ,applied researches and scientific studies to identify the effective risk layers and capacity building for disaster risk reduction, in this regard, the commitment of all countries, particularly developed countries, are essential in order to provide financing, sharing knowledge and equipment needed to reduce the risk of disasters.

2. Free access to information, equipment and advanced technologies in reducing the risk of disasters; this access should be easy, rapid and indiscriminate, in order to be integrated in disaster risk reduction plans and programs.

We urge the international community to take the humanitarian nature of natural disaster risk reduction into account and exclude political bias and considerations, such as sanctions, in providing information and facilities and technologies needed to disaster risk management.

3. Developing regional cooperation in preventing and mitigating the effects of disasters on the basis of successful experiences and joint capacities in countries, in terms of geographic, social and economic coexistence, it is of great importance to enhance the capacities and knowledge of disaster risk management in countries. Therefore, it seems that the policy of UNISDR in division of regional offices needs to be revised or changed according to those similarities..

Mr. Chairman, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

the Islamic Republic of Iran experienced a number of disasters last year amongst

which the **earthquake of EzgeleSarepol-e- Zahab** on Sunday evening of 12 November in the Kermanshah Province is the largest. a strong earthquake with a magnitude of 7.3 occurred on the Iran–Iraq border, just inside Iran in the province of Kermanshah, west of the country in the cities of **EzgeleSarepol-e- Zahab**, with an epicenter reported near the town of **Ezgele** on the border between Iran and Iraq 32 Kilometers west of Halabcheh city. The quake has damaged seven cities and 1,950 villages in Kermanshah province and more than 31,000 residential units in this earthquake have been completely destroyed or have suffered major damages. In this catastrophic earthquake about 620 people died and more than 7.817 were injured, rendering 70000 people homeless.

Immediate measures were taken by the government to provide emergency needs and services to affected people in the shortest time that has been judged by commentators as one of the most successful global relief operations. One mainfeature of thisdisaster was the participation of the media and popular.Social, cultural and artistic figures to help the government to meet the basic needs of the earthquake stricken people, creating magnificent scenes of humanitarianism and mutual assistance.

Excellences.

Please allow me to share with you the important lessons we have learnt in the course of this earthquake as follows:

- 1-Paying attention to foreshocks as possible warnings for the consequent larger earthquake
- 2-The importance of completing strong motion and seismograph networks
3. Considering the importance of medical and health and service rendering facilities and hospitals in the phase of reconstructing disaster stricken areas
- 4- Taking into account the site selection and the effect of soft and loose soil
- 5- The need to monitor the implementation of buildings and the importance of controlling the quality of concrete and the attention to the strength of the lateral

and retaining walls and maintenance and implementation of non-structural components

6. Serious attention to the retrofitting of n of the country's infrastructure networks

7. Serious attention to the appropriate temporary settlement plans

In an era that reducing mortality, disruption and vulnerability as an indicator of the growth and development of countries, I firmly believe that expanding international cooperation can be an effective step towards the growth and development of societies and the save of the lives and properties against disasters.

Thank you very much for your attention.