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Statement by Mr. Ugur Kilicarslan
Director for Human Resources and Sustainable Development of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
at
"2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction"
Cancun, Mexico
26 May 2017

ECO Region: some features
- Territory: 8 million square km
- Population: 475 million
- Countries: Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- One of the more disaster-prone regions in the world, highly vulnerable to earthquakes, floods, landslides and droughts
- Steady increase in the incidence rate of disasters over the past two decades in the ECO Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Earthquake(92) People Killed</th>
<th>Earthquake(92) Affected People</th>
<th>Earthquake(92) Damage 000$US</th>
<th>Flood (177) People Killed</th>
<th>Flood (177) Affected People</th>
<th>Flood (177) Damage 000$US</th>
<th>Landslide (43) People Killed</th>
<th>Landslide (43) Affected People</th>
<th>Landslide (43) Damage 000$US</th>
<th>Drought (9) People Killed</th>
<th>Drought (9) Affected People</th>
<th>Drought (9) Damage 000$US</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>1,338</td>
<td>112,785</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>2,110</td>
<td>401,009</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>301,600</td>
<td>10,600</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>6,558,000</td>
<td>142,919</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>25,793</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<td>188,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>788</td>
<td>2,005,469</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<td>5,400</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
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<td>304,251</td>
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<td>1,800,000</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>2,960,000</td>
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<td>1,71,576</td>
<td>92,860</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>912</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>61,100</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>12,910,000</td>
<td>349,015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Natural disasters, people killed and affected and damages in ECO Member States (2000-2015)
Excellencies; Distinguished Participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a privilege for me and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to participate in this global review of the progress made since Sendai. We are profoundly grateful to the people and Government of Mexico for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for this important event. My gratitude also goes to Mr. Glasser and his able colleagues, for organizing this Platform.

As an inter-governmental regional organization, ECO regional efforts for economic development of its Member States have always been threatened by the disasters risk. ECO Region is one of the most prone-regions in the world which is suffering terribly from natural hazards, such as earthquakes, floods, landslides and drought. Over the past two decades, there has been a steady increase in the incidence rate of disasters in the Region, and empirical evidences along with scientific findings show that our Region may be prone to more calamities in the future.

In the period of 2000-2015, about 333 natural disasters were reported. Based on statistics during this period, about 115 thousand people have lost their lives by natural catastrophic events in ECO Region due to natural disasters. According to statistics, more than 70 million ECO people were affected by natural hazards in various ways in from 2000 to 2015. The geographical vulnerability of ECO countries and the Region as a whole is exacerbated by phenomena such as climate change and urbanization.

Building on its engagement in the implementation of the Hyogo Plan of Action, ECO continued to be vigilant in the run-up to Sendai, during the Sendai Conference and in its aftermath. Since adoption the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, ECO Secretariat, in collaboration with Member States and international partners, has been working on “ECO Regional Framework for DRR”. Given the overlapping membership of some of our countries in other regional initiatives, ECO is determined to identify what exactly it can offer to the Member States while avoiding duplication. Accordingly, ECO is in coordination with UNISDR to explore mutual support between its regional
framework and the UNISDR regional plan for Central Asia and South Caucuses (CASC). ECO is further engaged with other partners and stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels, including UNESCAP, UNHABITAT, UNDP and UNESCO with a view to identifying areas where ECO has comparative advantage to contribute to implementation of the Sendai Framework in this region.

Dear Participants

Some of the measures taken since Sendai by ECO in cooperation with its Member States and partners are as follows:

▪ ECO Secretariat actively participated in the UN regional, sub-regional and global meetings held in the aftermath of Sendai. This, along with interactions with the Member States, helped ECO Secretariat develop the draft of the Regional Framework. Interactions with relevant UN bodies, particularly UNISDR and UNESCAP, also helped ECO better grasp how to streamline regional DRR needs and requirements with the global trends and attempts in the Sendai context.

▪ An experts group meeting was held in October 2016 in the ECO Secretariat in Tehran to work on an optimal regional framework for DRR in the ECO Region. Experts from Member States and partners, including UNESCAP, UNHABITAT, UNESCO and IFRC attended the Meeting. UNISDR also contributed into the Meeting. Discussing on the basis of the draft, experts managed to identify priorities for a regional framework and elaborate concrete areas for actions in different timeframes. A task group was established to develop further the text of the regional framework.

▪ As per request by NDMA of Afghanistan, ECO Secretariat in collaboration with ESCAP organized an assessment mission to Afghanistan in February 2017. The aim of the Mission was to make needs assessment and help develop Afghanistan strategy for disaster risk reduction. During the Mission, a national consultative workshop was also conducted addressing the implementation of Sendai
Representatives from the public and private stakeholders as well as academic communities attended the Workshop.

- The first ECO workshop on school safety after Sendai is designed to be organized soon in Turkmenistan in partnership with UNESCO.

- A project on seismic hazards mapping was initiated and almost completed making regional analysis of earthquake hazard zones within the territories of the ECO Member States with the ultimate goal of reducing risks of future earthquakes.

- An ECO project proposal is now developed by an international consultant on combating dust haze and sand storms in the ECO Region. ECO is also exploring cooperation with ESCAP and UNEP on this issue.

- ECO supported the initiation of UNESCO-HABITAT project on seismic hazard and risk analysis in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan. The objective of this project is to make updated assessment on the seismic hazardous parts of major cities in these countries and to develop seismic risk map for the most vulnerable cities.

- ECO Secretariat has started to explore partnership with some international partners for development and application of regional building codes.

- ECO has initially discussed with ESCAP possible cooperation with the newly established “Asia and Pacific Center for Disaster Information Management” (APDIM).

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The ECO Regional Framework on DRR entails objectives and targets in line with the Sendai Framework. As regards actions to be taken, the Regional Framework has envisaged, among others, the followings:

**Regional Flagship Programmes**
- ECO Regional Seismic Risk Atlas
• Risk Transfer including Regional Disaster and Climate Change Insurance
• Regional Disaster Response Preparedness Programme
• Regional Peer Review on the SFDRR Implementation

Activities for immediate implementation
• Regional Workshop series on safe school initiative.
• Regional programme on the development and application of building code.
• Completion of the Inventory of DRR Agencies.
• International Disaster Management Exhibition and Conference

The Sendai Indicators adopted recently and the discussions on the global progress in implementation of Sendai in this Platform give ECO an opportunity to make its DRR Regional Framework more streamlined before its final approval by 8th ECO Ministerial Meeting on DRR to be held later this year in Turkey.

To conclude, it should be noted that regional frameworks, such as the emerging ECO Framework, will undoubtedly contribute to Sendai Framework through facilitating disaster risk management, mitigation and preparedness at the national and regional levels. We believe that addressing all these issues is the responsibility we share with the national authorities and international community.

Thank you for your attention