

Statement by Norway

Check Against Delivery

- It is a great pleasure to be here in Geneva and to participate in the Global Platform 2019.
- We are gathered to deliberate on how to meet one of the biggest challenges of our time; how to strengthen and accelerate disaster risk reduction efforts and build resilient societies.
- Norway has always been exposed to a variety of natural hazards. Our concern is the increase in both occurrence and impact. What used to be seasonal challenges are now more or less continuous. As we have become increasingly dependent on critical infrastructures, the societal impact may be severe.
- When it comes to target E in the Sendai framework, aiming to substantially increase national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, Norwegian municipalities have improved their way of working on disaster risk reduction.
- Norway's public security survey for 2019 shows that 98% of all municipalities conduct regular comprehensive risk- and vulnerability assessments.
- We are also developing an information management system for national hazards and disaster risks. The aim is to compile and systematize data to give us a better understanding of disaster risk, and improve the quality of our local and regional risk- and vulnerability assessments.
- We must continue to encourage and facilitate Private Sector cooperation and involvement. 90 % of Norway's critical infrastructure is privately owned. I am convinced therefore, that we must seek new areas and ways for cooperating with the private sector in disaster risk reduction, risk mitigation and prevention. In this regard, the Norwegian government has established a cooperation with Finance Norway, which is the industry organization for the financial industry in our country. Bringing together all relevant institutions and expertise, public and private, is crucial to meet the complex and multifaceted task of new challenges in the disaster risk management area.
- When it comes to Norway's foreign and development policy, climate and environment is one of five priority areas. We see climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction as a prerequisite for reaching the sustainable development goals.
- According to a World Bank report, Hydrological and meteorological hazards are responsible for 90 percent of total disaster losses worldwide, causing significant

economic damage and loss of life, and forcing 26 million people into poverty each year. Developing countries are the most severely affected.

- To build resilience and be prepared, early warning systems and climate services are key. Norway is supporting the strengthening of climate services in countries in Africa and Asia. Access to data and capacity to analyze and understand them are essential to inform disaster risk reduction strategies and to trigger action when needed. Increased sharing of meteorological and hydrological data and analyzes across borders would be beneficial.
- Slow onset events can eventually lead to a disaster. The Norwegian government will soon present an action plan for sustainable food systems where climate smart agriculture will be an important feature. We need increased efforts to safeguard food production for future generations.
- Climate change can also act as a driver for social and political destabilization, and in extreme cases violent conflict. It is expected that climate change will be a lead factor in causing extensive displacement. This has to be addressed as part of disaster risk management to secure the dignity and human rights of the affected people. Transnational climate impacts could also have significant consequences for national security and immigration policy.
- To effectively improve resilience, the coherence of the global architecture for sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk reduction should be improved; making sure the work under the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework is coordinated and, as far as possible, integrated. I would like to commend the UNDRR for their efforts to achieve this.
- Finally, I would like to thank the UNDRR for organizing and Switzerland for hosting this important meeting to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework – Norway is prepared to contribute towards *Sustainable and Inclusive Societies*.
- Thank you