

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of Nepal, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for your unanimous election to the chair and other members of the bureau. I am pleased to express sincere thanks for your words of welcome and to UNISDR for organizing this important event.

In view of its vulnerability to climate change and fragile geological structure, Nepal is the high ranked vulnerable country in the world to natural disaster. Our geographical difficulties such as landlockedness, mountainous regions, lack of sufficient infrastructure development, have added further vulnerability to our national efforts.

With its sustained commitment, Nepal has gained considerable experience with regard to rural Disaster Risks Management. Additionally, we look at urbanization that will face a great impact if high magnitude of earthquake occurs. The result will be at least one hundred thousand deaths, three hundred thousand injuries and around one million displaced persons. A major earthquake in Nepal could become one of the greatest humanitarian and logistical crises the world has ever seen.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to mention that National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management is under implementation and a separate new Disaster

Management Act has been drafted. Once the draft Act is enacted, this will lead to the establishment of a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and mainstreaming DRM to development plans. The National Strategy is based upon Nepal's commitments to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

In 2011, we launched the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC). Our Flagship priorities are: school and hospital safety; emergency preparedness and response; flood risk management in the Koshi River Basin; Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction; and, Policy and Institutional Support for DRM. The proposed NDMA will collaborate with the current Consortium, which has received global recognition as an effective model of collective working.

As per our commitments to the five HFA, we have made considerable progress. In addition, the National Platform for DRR has actively been mobilized. Our focus is on meaningful mainstreaming with DRM focal points in 26 key Ministries. We need to enhance national capacity through strengthening these institutions and expect cooperation from our partners in this endeavor.

In conclusion, this Global Conference's theme "Invest Today for Safer Tomorrow" leads us for greater commitment to the future. And, in view of the magnitude of the work still to be done, Nepal would like to request the international community and its partners for their sustained commitment to complementing the national efforts towards implementing the present programs and the post-HFA agenda for disaster risk reduction and preparedness to which we are committed.

Thank you.