

UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Second Preparatory Committee, Geneva, 17-18 November 2014

Statement by Norway

Thank you, Mr Chair.

Since we last met at the First Preparatory Committee in July, we have moved several steps ahead in the process to adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Norway would like to thank the co-chairs, and the UNISDR, for their open and forward-looking approach, and for providing us with a zero draft which we believe is an improvement compared to previous versions. We would like to encourage you to continue working in an inclusive way that involves relevant expertise, from within the UN system and other key organisations. At the same time, we would encourage a firm hand on the wheel so that we can have an effective negotiation process, in order to arrive at an action-oriented, practical and strong framework that will guide our efforts in the years to come.

We would also like to thank Japan for providing us with draft elements for a political declaration to be adopted by all states at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March 2015. The elements suggested seem to cover the main substantive points, and we are particularly pleased to see references to the post-2015 development agenda – the Sustainable Development Goals – and to the climate change agenda. What is important is that the political declaration should contain strong and clear language that will commit all states to implement the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction in an effective manner. We would like to express our support to Japan's efforts as they move ahead in their consultations in order to finalise the political declaration.

With regard to the zero draft of the post-2015 framework itself, we would like to underline a few general points. There is still potential to shorten and strengthen the text, avoid duplications, and use more action-oriented language. Coherence with the sustainable development goals, and with the outcome of the climate change processes must be ensured, in particular through a coherent system for monitoring and evaluation.

Norway would also like to emphasise the importance of involving affected populations in all phases of DRR work – including in multilateral negotiation processes like this. In addition, we know that certain groups are disproportionately impacted by disasters. Such groups – for example persons with disabilities, children, the elderly, displaced persons, and in many societies women and ethnic minorities – must be involved both in needs-assessment and in planning processes, and their particular needs must be taken into account during any response. Disaggregated data is essential to achieve this.

We look forward to contributing to discussions today, tomorrow and in the weeks to come to ensure the strongest possible documents. The framework must be an effective tool for us all as we strive to reduce and mitigate risk, in order to save lives and losses due to disasters.

Thank you.