

[Closing Remarks by co-Chair Ambassador Kairamo]

Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

First, let me say how impressed and encouraged I am by your commitment to the topic of disaster risk reduction. Our preparatory work is on track. Everyone showed immense focus during our short time together.

We agreed to a provisional agenda for the World Conference, which will adopt, as its outcome, a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

In our consideration of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, I heard many references to local, national and regional outcomes. This gives me confidence that, as a Preparatory Committee, we are being faithful to what people truly want on the ground, and that we will deliver a post-2015 framework that will meet the world's expectations.

I heard the message that people want more accountability for managing risk. We need to find a way to voice this clearly in the post-2015 framework. We have a shared responsibility for reducing disaster risk.

Several times, I heard that local communities want more empowerment on issues of their own safety and wellbeing. From a government perspective, local empowerment requires an informed citizenry, which means we need to continue focusing on awareness-raising and education. We must think of how the post-2015 framework can address this.

Another common theme is how to account for regional and national differences. Our capacities are different from region to region, and country to country. We need to consider how the post-2015 framework can create cooperation between countries.

I also heard many of you reaffirm the benefits of the Hyogo Framework for Action on other issues, such as poverty reduction and protecting people in times of conflict. We need to find a way

that keeps the Hyogo Framework alive as well as reflect on these new elements.

These are just some examples of what we heard at this meeting.

In the next few months, my co-Chair and I will take the views expressed during the past two days and begin to shape a pre-zero draft that will be the basis of our work leading up to Sendai. We look forward to working with you on the post-2015 framework that will set the tone for common action in the years to come.

Mr. Co-Chair, that concludes my closing remarks.

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