

**CLOSING OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**Margareta Wahlström
Special Representative of the Secretary-General
for Disaster Risk Reduction**

15 July 2014, Geneva

Ambassador Kairamo,
Ambassador Thongphakdi,
Acting Director-General Moller of the United Nations Office in Geneva,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates and friends,

First of all, my very warm compliments to you, Ambassador Kairamo and Ambassador Thongphakdi, for the effective chairing and leadership that you have offered this first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. And also to all the members of the Bureau and all participants to this PrepCom for your work over these past two days.

I am very encouraged to hear the substantive discussions, the clear guidance given, the converging inputs about what the post-2015 framework should contain. I would also like to recognise, and that will of course be the work of the coming months, that in some areas there are diverging views and we look forward to hear how we will move in reaching a common expression of solutions to concerns that are very familiar to all of us. I do look forward to support the Bureau of the Co-Chairs over the next months, in the leading to the second PrepCom.

In this meeting, Member States and Major Groups have shared their vision for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, based on a couple of years and in many cases many more years of working together in the multi-stakeholder environment. And today, even more than yesterday morning when I opened this meeting, I would like to reiterate again that you have provided us with all the key elements that I personally believe are necessary to begin design the post-2015 framework.

I would like to thank you all for these contributions. I have taken careful notes of them. And not only will they serve the Co-Chairs for the continued preparatory process, but they will also serve to guide UNISDR's work, not only towards 2015 but beyond that as well. You have given many concrete recommendations to us.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the appreciation that so many of you have expressed towards the work of UNISDR, this conference and my colleagues both here in Geneva and in all the regional offices. And, since we are here in the United Nations Office in Geneva, I wish to thank Conference Services, Interpreters and everybody else who has made our work here over two days possible.

Thank you to Switzerland for sponsoring this PrepCom and for their continued support to the important agenda of disaster risk reduction, to our coming host country of the World Conference, Japan, and of course to the Director General for opening the doors to the Palais des Nations to us.

I do look forward to see all of you of course, if not in the coming months, for the second PrepCom in November.
