



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND
GENEVA



Permanent Mission of Thailand
Geneva

7 November 2014

Excellencies,

As agreed by the Preparatory Committee for the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at its first session from 14 to 15 July 2014 in Geneva, States will begin negotiations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction at the Preparatory Committee's second session from 17 to 18 November 2014, on the basis of the zero draft issued on 20 October. In the event that negotiations continue beyond the second session, they should be concluded by 31 January 2015 in order to allow for the timely translation and submission of the draft post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction to a third session of the Preparatory Committee, to be held in Sendai on 13 March 2015. The third session would consider the draft and submit it to the President of the World Conference.

Regarding the negotiations themselves, we are honoured to present the following modalities. As there is an expectation that the first reading of the draft post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction be completed at the second session of the Preparatory Committee, it is therefore important to maximize the use of time. States, possibly through their regional and political groups, may make general statements at the opening plenary meeting scheduled for Monday, 17 November, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., under the agenda item "considerations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction". Due to time constraints, written statements by States and major groups are encouraged and will be taken as read and can be emailed to wcdrr2015-statements@un.org. The plenary meeting will be suspended at 1 p.m. States will start the negotiations on Monday, 17 November, at 3 p.m. and will continue until Tuesday, 18 November, at 1 p.m. The plenary meeting will resume on Tuesday, 18 November at 3 p.m. and will hear a report from the co-Chairs on the outcome of the negotiations.

For the format of the negotiations meeting, it is envisaged that: there will be only one open-ended session, thus without parallel meetings; major groups will be present as observers, without a right to speak; interpretation in all the official United Nations languages will be available until 6 p.m.; negotiations thereafter will be in English only; an all-night session on Monday, 17 November, is anticipated to make maximum progress, with arrangements for security and availability of food and beverages.

For the format of the negotiations, it is envisaged that: the zero draft will be reviewed paragraph-by-paragraph with on-screen projection; paragraphs where agreement is reached will be marked "Ad Ref."; States may submit written comments and text proposals to the co-Chairs ahead of, during or after the meeting, but no later than 20 November, close of business in Geneva, via email to salimd@un.org; the text proposals will be consolidated in a compilation document.

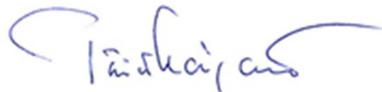
Based on the outcome of the first reading, and with a mandate by the Preparatory Committee, the co-Chairs will produce a draft 1 of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction by Friday, 28 November, close of business in Geneva. In particular, in the paragraphs not marked “Ad Ref.”, the co-Chairs will propose an appropriate formulation for those cases where there is convergence of States’ views, or will leave the States’ proposals in brackets, should they be diverging. Draft 1 will be in English and will be the basis for the continued negotiations. The compilation document will serve as a reference.

With a mandate by the Preparatory Committee, the co-Chairs will convene open-ended informal meetings in Geneva in December 2014 and, if necessary, in January 2015 with the purpose of developing the agreed draft post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction to be considered at the third session of the Preparatory Committee. By 31 January, the agreed draft will be submitted for translation, and an advanced, unedited copy will be circulated to States and made public through the World Conference website.

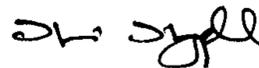
In order to allow for participation from capitals, it is proposed to cluster the meetings over several days in two rounds: from 8 to 10 December 2014, and from 12 to 14 January 2015, should more meetings be necessary. The modalities for negotiations will follow the model of the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee. For the format of the meeting, it is envisaged that: there will be one session; major groups will be present as observers, without a right to speak; negotiations will be conducted in English only. For the format of the negotiations, it is envisaged that: draft 1 will be reviewed paragraph-by-paragraph with on-screen editing; paragraphs will be marked “Ad Ref.” as agreement progresses.

As far as the political declaration of the World Conference is concerned, we are honoured to transmit, on behalf of the host country, Japan, the draft elements of the “Sendai Declaration,” enclosed herewith. Delegations are welcome to share their views at the plenary meeting in the morning of Monday, 17 November.

Please accept, Excellencies, the renewed assurances of our highest consideration.



Co-Chair
Ms. Päivi Kairamo
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations Office and other
international organizations in Geneva



Co-Chair
Mr. Thani Thongphakdi
Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations Office and other
international organizations in Geneva

Annex: Elements of the “Sendai Declaration”

All permanent representatives and permanent observers
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

cc: All permanent representatives and permanent observers
to the United Nations, New York