MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE “Reconstruction after Disasters: Build Back Better” – SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE PLENARY MEETING ON 15 MARCH

Session: Ministerial Round Table “Reconstruction after Disasters: Build Back Better”
Chair: H.E. Numan Kurtulmus, Deputy Prime Minister, Turkey
Time and Date: 15 March 2015, 10:00-13:00

President of the Conference,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to present the summary of the Ministerial Roundtable chaired by Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, H.E. Numan Kurtulmuş in the capacity of alternate head of delegation.

Based on Turkey's strong and active engagement in disaster risk reduction, we were honoured to chair this important roundtable, which will have important effects on the outcomes of the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Participants highlighted the many challenges associated with build back better, including poverty, growing urbanization, lack of institutional mechanisms, lack of predictable financing, and secondary hazards from industrial units, among others.

Participants agreed that for effective implementation of build back better there is a need to further develop and consolidate actions to build a strong basis to ensure recovery and reconstruction efforts address future disaster risks.

Participants raised the following measures in support of the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction:

- Promoting the institutionalization of post disaster assessments and recovery planning to enhance risk governance, strengthen coordination of governments, civil society, and other stakeholders, and; increase efficient and effective recovery and reconstruction programs;

- Ensure the involvement of all sectors in the recovery and reconstruction planning, to ensure multi hazard and inclusive approach;
o Involve civil society and ensure the recovery plan includes not only structural aspects, but also non-structural aspects to help communities, especially for livelihoods and continuing economic development and plan separately for complex disasters;

o Strengthening capacity for recovery planning and monitoring at the national, local, and community level, and establishing clear roles and responsibilities for all actors including national and local governments, private sector, academia, and civil society organizations;

o Building greater financial resilience and predictability within government to manage and respond to disasters, and formalized strategic and resource commitments toward recovery planning, implementation and performance management, including insurance;

o Strengthening mechanisms for cooperation and mutual assistance, both within the nations but also through regional mechanisms, in areas of recovery and reconstruction that include sharing rosters of experts, capacity building, dissemination of tools and guidelines, progress monitoring; and post-disaster assessments and recovery planning;

o Development and adoption of national and international standards to inform and guide recovery strategies and projects;

o Maintaining an institutional continuum between preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation and sustainable development measures. Learn from experiences of countries; share the experiences to better inform future recovery and reconstruction planning; and

o Ensure consideration of climate change in the recovery and reconstruction planning, with the aim sustainable development. Consider recovery as part of the development agenda, to protect economic growth.

Participants committed to promoting these general principles for the effective implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

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