

**Statement by Mr. Prem Kumar Rai, Secretary at the Ministry
of Home Affairs and Head of the Nepali Delegation, to the
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP 2019)**

16 May 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. Chairperson

Honourable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!!!

It is a great pleasure to attend this meeting in Geneva. We commend UN Office for DRR and the Government of Switzerland for its excellent preparation and arrangements.

Mr. Chairperson,

Nepal is prone to a multitude of disasters. Every year, disasters strike our country claiming many lives and destroying property worth billions of rupees. Over the past decades, the frequency of disasters in the country has increased. Recently, a powerful windstorm (Tornado) hit two southern districts of Nepal for the first time in our recorded history. It took a heavy toll on people's lives and property, and had a huge blow to our economy.

In the context of attaining the current Government's motto: **Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali**, building resilient structures and Nepali communities is critical. Therefore, in the approach paper to the upcoming five-year development plan, DRR is made an integral component of our development process.

Nepal remains fully committed to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). Nepal has harmonized its national targets on DRR with Sendai Framework, SDGs, Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit. In line with the guidelines set by UNDRR, Nepal has formed a National Platform for DRR.

In addition, Nepal has set the 2020 target to achieve Priority 2 and Target E of Sendai Framework. Accordingly, we have amended the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017 and the Local Government Operation Act 2017, and have also designed the National DRR Policy 2018, National DRR Strategic Action Plan 2018-2030 and the National Disaster Response Framework.

Moreover, National DRR Management Authority is being established. Allocation of disaster management fund for all 753 local governments has been initiated. Emergency Operation Centers have been set up at the national, provincial and district levels and are also being further extended to the local level. A comprehensive and integrated Disaster Information and Management System is operational.

In this context, Enforcing National Building Code and promoting disaster resilient structures, setting up early warning systems, and a multi-hazard risk mapping and vulnerability assessment are our current priority agenda.

In our efforts to effectively implement SFDRR, rugged topography, limited infrastructure, inadequate resources and weak national capacity remain the most crucial challenges. We continue to explore all possibilities including international support to overcome those challenges.

To conclude Mr. Chairperson, we reiterate our strong commitment to the implementation of SFDRR. We are determined to make Nepal a disaster-resilient nation. We express our sincere appreciation to the international community for their continued support in this area.

We wish every success of the Global Platform.

Thank you all!