

*Excellencies,  
Honorable Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Republic of Türkiye, and my organization Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) I would like to extend appreciations to the United Nations The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and Government of Tajikistan for hosting the Eighth Session of Governing Council of Asian Pacific Centre for Disaster Information Management (APDIM) and Regional Expert Group Meeting on Advancing Disaster Resilience.

*Dear Colleagues,*

Asia Pacific region is the most disaster prone region in the World. Turkiye also locates in a highly dangerous geography that is seriously affected by disasters due to its geological and geographical structure and climatic characteristics. That's why, Turkiye develops its disaster management system in light of its past experiences and unique management style and under the guidance of international policy documents such as the Sendai Framework.

In this regard, The Turkish Disaster Management Strategy and Action Plan (TAYS), which will be the vision document of our country, is being prepared in line with the Sendai framework "Target E".

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We live in an era where the number and effects of both natural and human-induced disasters are increasing. Rapid and unplanned urbanization and industrialization, population growth, climate change, threats and risks to our societies. The processes affecting the entire world, including our country, make it imperative for us to focus on disaster risk reduction.

Today, the most crucial element of disaster management is "risk reduction." Disaster risk reduction refers to the approach of reducing risks before they turn into disasters. Every investment made without considering disaster risks is a potential loss. As we all know, an investment of one unit in risk reduction before a disaster can prevent at least 15 units of damage.

In 2015, under the "sendai framework" released at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, national platforms were recognized as critical stakeholders.

National platforms established by countries worldwide play an effective role in ensuring a collective approach to risk reduction and resilience by ensuring effective coordination of disaster risk reduction at the national level.

In light of these global developments, under the coordination of AFAD in our country, the Türkiye disaster risk reduction platform was established in 2011. Its goals are to increase societal awareness towards disasters, ensure continuity in risk reduction activities, integrate risk reduction into planning, policies, and programs at all levels, and contribute to identifying needs and monitoring and evaluating applications.

The Türkiye Disaster Risk Reduction Platform allows not only the public administration but also the academic community, non-governmental organizations, private sector, media, and local governments to participate in the formation of disaster policies in the country.

**Dear Participants,**

- We have to create correct strategies and policies in disaster management for disaster resistant and safe cities.
- We aim to expand risk reduction at every level during the integrated disaster management process in accordance with international disaster risk reduction policy documents.

**To reduce disaster risks in our country,**

We have implemented

- Türkiye Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (TARAP) at national level,
- Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Plans (IRAP) at the local level.

**Türkiye's Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (TARAP)** defines disaster prevention actions and responsible ministries to minimize disaster risks. There are 17 objectives, 66 targets and 227 actions in 11 common disaster types in TARAP.

**TARAP** is our first national disaster risk reduction plan.

This plan is exactly compatible with the strategic priorities of the 2015 – 2030 Sendai Framework. With TARAP, our country has taken its place among the "Countries with a National and Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy".

One of our most important achievements as a country in disaster risk reduction is the implementation of provincial disaster risk reduction plans (irap) at the local level.

**IRAPS** manage disaster risks in our provinces;

-Creating safe living areas,

-reducing damages and losses that may occur due to disasters,

-spreading the culture of disaster risk reduction,

-It was prepared to ensure the effective use of resources by reducing the expenditures after disaster.

Our stakeholders in the preparation, implementation and follow-up process of IRAP are the public, institutions and organizations, local governments, private sector, universities and non-society organizations.

**Dear Participants,**

All our efforts are directed to prevent the losses we have experienced in the past due to disasters in our country again.

Our policy for this purpose is to adopt and spread disaster risk reduction practices in every area.

**Dear participants,**

As it is well known, taking precautions before disasters is the most important part of the disaster management cycle in terms of preventing loss of life and property. Furthermore, adopting a risk-focused and integrated disaster information management approach and meticulously dealing with all phases of disasters are very crucial.

In this context, Türkiye's national disaster response plan (TAMP) plays a vital role during disasters. With the coordination role of AFAD, according to 24 working groups each responsibilities sector by sector and service by service has been identified. Thus, all stakeholders involved in disaster management know their responsibilities to take part in the response mechanism. In line with TAMP, disaster information flow between the local authorities and the central is established with 24/7 operability.

With the coordination role of AFAD in the disaster management system in Türkiye, relations between stakeholders such as local authorities, ngos and academia is identified in all disaster

management documents and plans. In this context, AFAD provides guidance and training to stakeholders regarding whole disaster process.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

*As you may know, unfortunately, Turkiye was struck by devastating earthquakes on 6th February this year. 11 our provinces and approximately 15 million of our people are affected by these earthquakes. As a result of these devastating earthquakes on 6th February, we lost more than 50.000 our citizens. During the earthquake, around 11.000 search and rescue personnel from 90 countries took part in the search and rescue activities in the earthquake region.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all countries which supported and extended their hands and shared solidarity with Turkiye during a tough time.*

*Thank you.*