



3(2) AFGHANISTAN

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority

Country Statement

69th Session of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok 25th April – 1st May 2013

“Opportunities to Build Resilience to Natural Disasters and Major Economic Crises”

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and gentlemen,

The government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan appreciates the theme for 69th Session of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific “Opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises”. We understand there is strong bond between development and disasters. Catastrophes can ruin years of development within seconds. Integrating DRR into major economic strategies is the need for the time-being.

Afghanistan is a landlocked country with undulating topography and continental weather which makes it prone to a number of natural disasters like earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, sandstorms, floods, drought and extreme weather. In addition to these, human induced disasters such as mines, explosions, and conflict have further aggravated the vulnerability in the country. Statistics in the last few years is alarming and shows increased in the frequency of disasters which resulted to heavy human, physical and economical losses.

Afghanistan is committed to make its people and communities resilient to disasters and under the Hyogo framework for action 2005 – 2015, we have taken some concrete DRR measures. Institutional mechanism and authorities have been established at national and sub national levels. DM law has been passed by parliament and promulgated. Strategic documents with clear policies and plans for DRR have been developed. Coordination mechanisms for disaster management are in place with vigilant National Disaster Management Committee under chairmanship of the second Vice President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is fully functional. Likewise, provincial DM committees are working under the provincial governors with the participation of all governmental and nongovernmental DM actors.