

**COUNTRY STATEMENT**

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM:**

**69<sup>TH</sup> UNESCAP COMMISSION SESSION**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY DATO PADUKA HAJI**

**ABDUL WAHAB BIN JUNED,**

**DEPUTY MINISTER AT THE PRIME**

**MINISTER'S OFFICE**

**30 APRIL 2013**

**OPENING REMARKS**

Bismillah Hir Rahman Nir Rahim.

Assalamualaikum                      Warahmatullahi

Wabarakatuh and a very good afternoon.

Your Excellency \_\_\_\_, Chairman of the 69<sup>th</sup>  
session of ESCAP.

Her Excellency, Dr Noeleen Heyzer,  
Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of Brunei Darussalam's Delegation, I would like to join my colleagues, in expressing our sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of Thailand for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality accorded to us.

Our appreciation is also extended to Her Excellency, Dr Noeleen Heyzer and the UNESCAP Secretariat for the excellent preparation and organization of the session.

Mr Chairman,

The recent macroeconomic crises, experienced in many countries, have prompted reassessment and re-evaluation of the adequacy of social safety nets that protect and assist the poor and the vulnerable segments of society in times of crisis. On another front, the world has witnessed several waves of natural disasters that have also brought about detrimental social and economic consequences.

All these events have taught us that, it is imperative, among other things, to put in place an effective and rapid response mechanism to contain the after-effects of such events.

Economic crises manifest in multiple forms. It can disproportionately affect the poor. Brunei Darussalam is not exempted from the repercussions of such shocks.

Various forms of natural disasters, on the other hand, can cause significant physical destruction and loss of life.

Brunei Darussalam is susceptible to the effects of these natural disasters namely, strong winds, land slides and flash floods.

In the past, Brunei has experienced milder forms of such natural disasters, but in recent times, such occurrences have been happening more frequently and with greater severity, prompting a response from His Majesty's Government in the formation of the Natural Disaster Management Council.

It has adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action. This systematic approach towards Disaster Risk Reduction will enable us to formulate the appropriate steps to further reinforce our preparedness and resilience against natural disaster shocks.

Being chaired by the Crown Prince with its membership comprising ministers indicates the seriousness of His Majesty's Government in ensuring the safety and quality of life of the Bruneian people.

Apart from the Council, Brunei has also established the National Disaster Management Centre which involves multiple agencies and stakeholders in order to mobilize the framework.

Social safety nets can be an important 'response mechanism'. They should be designed to help protect the incomes and human capital investments of the poor and vulnerable in times of crises to avoid them from pursuing erosive survival strategies.

They must also be able to respond in a timely and flexible manner to unexpected adverse situations.

The statements made by fellow distinguished delegates and panelists in this session of the UNESCAP commission provide a wellspring of ideas to further improve the safety nets we have put in place in Brunei.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is why we believe that the theme of this year's session is timely and important. Cooperatively establishing a mechanism to equip our countries with greater resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises would be a positive way forward. This calls for a more concerted effort among us at the highest level, to address the relevant issues that would continuously promote sustainable high quality socio-economic development.



## **CLOSING REMARKS**

I also would like to reaffirm our Government's commitment to UNESCAP by confirming our contribution to SIAP and the Pacific Island Fund.

Mr Chairman,

To conclude, we believe that the efforts made to increase our communities' resilience to economic shocks and natural

disasters, a valuable step in augmenting the quality of growth of this region.

I would like to laud the unwavering commitment of the Commission in promoting regional cooperation in increasing our communities' resilience against economic shocks and natural disasters. I sincerely hope that this noble objective will be realized for the benefit of the region at large.

Thank you Mr Chairman.