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As of 29 April 2013, 1500 hrs

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COUNTRY STATEMENT FOR UNESCAP 69

INDONESIA

(Mr./Madame Chair)

Distinguished Delegates,

I would also like to thank the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat for the utmost endeavors in organizing the meeting.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the past two decades, our world has survived through critical changes that may affect our prosperity. The world has gone through various crises ranging from economic crisis, food and energy insecurity, commodity price volatility, and natural disasters. Although several countries seem to remain strong, there is no guarantee that they will neither immune nor be only slightly impacted by these series of challenges. These global problems will need global solution.

As we have witnessed during the period of 2000 to 2012, approximately 2.5 million people were affected and almost 800,000 were killed by various disasters in this region. Moreover, the disasters have caused US\$294 billion in economic losses. These harsh consequences have not just destroyed development gains, but also have slowed down our progress to alleviate poverty, including our endeavor to achieve zero hunger.

We need to manage disaster risk that goes across most development sectors such as infrastructure, water and health services. Damaged infrastructure obviously impedes the production and distribution flow of primary goods needed across the country and region.

It is unwise, however, to only blame the nature. We also need to realize that some catastrophes have occurred as the consequence of human behaviour. The simplest, yet essential thing to do, is to raise public awareness to protect the environment. Furthermore, we need to refine our development pattern with the principle of sustainable development.

At the core of disaster response strategy, my government has introduced National Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction, including numbers of program as we have made Disaster Risk Reduction a priority in our disaster management strategy.

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One of the top priorities that my government put in place is local capacity building. My President has highlighted number of ways and means that can strengthen local capacity to disaster risk reduction during the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)

First, strengthening local resilience through the development of disaster resilient villages.

Second, the participation of multi-stakeholders is critical to the local capacity for DRR as a collective responsibility of governments and the people both at national and local levels.

Third, development of human and technical capacity at the local level.

Fourth, sustainable financial resources for the local government, including through the public-private partnership in promoting investment in social and physical local infrastructure.

Fifth, coherence between national capacity and the local level capacity. National plan of action must strengthen the local action plan.

Sixth, integrating small-scale disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives into local development processes.

How then can we develop a resilient region? From our perspective, each of national strategy needs to put local capacity as the priority, combined with early warning systems to reduce the underlying risk of disasters. As no countries can survive through disasters by their own efforts, we have to fully utilize existing network for information and technology sharing for the region in order to reduce the impact of disaster.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me touch upon our global economic challenges. In recent years, the world has been going through global economic hardship. As the world economy had not fully recovered from the 2008 crisis, recent sovereign debt problem in Europe have put another burden in the global economy. However, according to the latest UNESCAP economic and social survey, the global economy in 2013 is still improving, and in turn, it will help our region to grow by 6 percent this year.

Regardless of this promising picture, the outlook also shows how our region's economy depends on the global trade and demand from other region. The risk of being too dependent is clear, vulnerability to global economic shock. On the other hand, several countries have sustained and continued to grow by relying to their massive domestic consumption. Nevertheless, the question of sustainability on such growth pattern remains. Without balancing domestic consumption with investments and infrastructures, the economic growth in these countries may not be sustainable.

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In spite of existing problems, the region needs to move from the state of fragility to resilience of economic shocks. Based on the global experience, our regional economic resilience can not be build overnight. It requires sound and prudent macroeconomic policy from each of us. We also need to maintain sustainable economy without ignoring our sustainable development strategy. These two key strategies certainly need to be paired with enabling international environment.

After all, economic growth is meaningless without addressing the problem of poverty. According to the 2012 UN report on MDGs, we have succeeded in reducing poverty and slum dwellers in urban areas. This gain has improved the lives of at least 100 million people. Nonetheless there is imminent risk of increasing inequality that may impede the region's development efforts.

As regional risks emerge, so does our regional response. In the past decades, we had worked together as a region and overcome common challenges. However we shall not be complacent and take this for granted. We should always nurture our sense of common interests, create sense of common prosperity and create the habit of cooperation among countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, Asia and the Pacific region has successfully transformed the outbreak series of natural disasters into a number of cooperation opportunities benefiting not only countries in the region, but also the world at large.

Our region has emerged from the global financial crisis to be an engine of global economic growth and anchor of stability of the global economy.

We should not only solve today's problems, but we need also to anticipate future challenges. The key for this is collaboration, cooperation and partnership among us.

I thank you.