

Statement by
The Head of the Main Department for the Protection of
Population and Territories of the Committee for Emergency
Situations and Civil Defense (CoESCD) under the Government of
the Republic of Tajikistan,
Major General Kamolzoda J.J
at the 9th ECO Ministerial Meeting on DRR
(September 17, 2024, Dushanbe, Tajikistan)

Dear Chairman!

Dear Heads of Delegations,

Participants of the Ministerial Meeting, Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan and on my own behalf, let me welcome all participants of the 9th ECO Ministerial Meeting on DRR. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the ECO Secretariat for organizing this event.

Today, we can confidently state that our meeting is rightfully an authoritative platform for open dialogue, exchange of experience and development of common approaches to the development of interaction, deepening integration processes and expanding cooperation between ECO countries in the field of disaster risk reduction.

The participation of the heads of rescue agencies of our countries and high-level experts reflects the desire and interest of our countries in expanding and strengthening cooperation in the ECO region with the aim of developing joint plans and actions to reduce the negative effects of climate change and, accordingly, natural disasters. We hope that our meeting will create conditions for attracting financial resources from donor countries and international organizations within the framework of the ECO Regional Framework Program for DRR and projects to improve the efficiency of work in the field of protecting the population and territories from emergency situations.

Dear Colleagues!

As is known, the catastrophic consequences of climate change, as well as water shortages and famine pose a serious threat to humanity worldwide.

Due to its location, the ECO region is also exposed to a number of natural hazards, such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, sand and dust storms, typhoons, droughts, glacial lake outbursts, heat and

cold waves, cyclones and avalanches, which cause various natural disasters.

Tajikistan, as a mountainous country, feels the impact of climate change the most and is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world in this process.

In addition, over the past decades, there has been a significant melting of glaciers in Tajikistan, the consequences of which are alarming for the entire region.

In order to protect the population, we are unanimous in our opinion on the need for more active actions and urgent measures to combat climate change and eliminate its consequences.

Addressing these issues requires all of us to fundamentally shift from disaster management to risk management, from a priority of response to a priority of prevention. It is also important to shift the governance mechanism from a ministerial-oriented approach to an approach covering the entire unified state system and the whole society, providing reasonable assurance in achieving the goals of the DRR policy.

Since independence, Tajikistan has been pursuing an effective state policy to protect the population and territory of the country from natural and environmental disasters, major industrial accidents, implementing a set of legal and protective measures.

As part of these efforts, Tajikistan adopted the Updated National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction for the period 2019-2034.

Within the framework of this Strategy, as well as in the adopted Medium-Term Development Program of the country for the period up to 2028, specific measures aimed at reducing natural disasters are proposed.

These actions and the commitment of the Government of Tajikistan to the implementation of the Sendai Program ensure the mobilization of local resources and encourage the strengthening of international partnership to achieve the goals of sustainable development.

As next steps, Tajikistan plans to continue working with partners to strengthen national coordination and capacity building in disaster information management.

In this context, Tajikistan attaches particular importance to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which aims to promote the improvement of early warning systems, increase investment and provide financial assistance to developing and less developed countries.

It is worth noting that Tajikistan is one of 30 pilot countries in the implementation of the UN initiative - "Early Warnings for All".

It should be noted that within the framework of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, a Roadmap for the implementation of this UN initiative in Tajikistan for the period up to 2027 was approved.

We plan to conduct a number of training courses for the staff of the CoES as part of the implementation of the UN initiative "Early Warnings for All" with the support of UNESCAP

Dear colleagues!

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan highly appreciates the support and assistance of donor partners in the area of disaster risk reduction at the regional and national levels, which contribute to solving problems and achieving development goals.

A number of large international projects are successfully implemented in our country with the support of donor countries and development partners, which are aimed at implementing strategic objectives in the field of disaster risk reduction.

Examples include expanding the coverage area and strengthening the capacity of the Anti-Hail Service, expanding the early warning and monitoring system of Lake Sarez, building new modern Central Control Centers in Dushanbe and in regional centers, building the Republican Educational and Methodological Center, building a Rescuer Training Center focused on eliminating the consequences of natural emergencies, creating centers for training divers and dog handlers, a large center for receiving potential refugees and temporary detention of persons affected by emergencies.

I would like to especially note the significant contribution to the financing and implementation of these projects from the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the European Union.

I would like to note that our country is ready to make efforts to implement the ECO Regional Framework Program for Disaster Risk Reduction and its roadmap for 2021-2025.

We believe that the proposal to develop a new regional framework program and strategic action plan for managing cascading risks associated with natural and biological hazards is timely.

It should be noted that it is also advisable, within the framework of the implementation of the ECO Regional Framework Program for Disaster Risk Reduction, to create a regional ECO information system for natural disasters, as well as to develop an ECO insurance system against natural disasters, as envisaged in the ECO Vision- 2025.

Dear participants of the meeting!

In conclusion, I would like to note that without the necessary resources, i.e. investments, knowledge and technologies, achieving the set goals may take many years. Therefore, active assistance of the international community in this matter remains a very pressing issue for the countries of the ECO region.

I wish all of us fruitful work!

Thank you for your attention