**Statement**

**ECO Deputy Secretary General**

**H. E. Ambassador Silapberdi Nurbediyev**

**9th Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction Statement**

**Excellency, Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan**

**Honorable Ministers,**

**Heads of Delegations,**

**Esteemed Participants,**

It is with immense honor and profound respect that I address this esteemed assembly, representing the Economic Cooperation Organization.

At the outset of our dialogue, I must extend my heartfelt and sincere gratitude to the Chairman of the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for this seminal gathering.

**Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In the intricate tapestry of recent years, a convergence of governments, international organizations, and a diverse array of stakeholders worldwide has initiated a pursuit of commonality and synergy. This collective endeavor aspires to realize the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” along with its associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seek to address pressing global challenges and foster equitable progress.

The ECO Member States, both as independent sovereign entities and in a spirit of regional solidarity, have actively participated in the complex process of policy formulation and operational implementation. This engagement is a response to the urgent need for Disaster Risk Reduction through the enhancement of resilience, aimed at mitigating the detrimental impacts of disasters, including transboundary and biological hazards. Such efforts are undertaken within the framework of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which provides a strategic approach to safeguarding the ECO region from future calamities while promoting sustainable development and cooperation among member states.

As you are well aware, the ECO region is among the most disaster-prone areas in the world. Its geological composition, topographical features, and climatic conditions render it susceptible to a wide array of hazards, including floods, earthquakes, landslides, and sand and dust storms. These calamities have inflicted significant loss of life, caused profound human suffering, and resulted in substantial economic devastation. Addressing these vulnerabilities is imperative for enhancing resilience and fostering sustainable development within the region.

**Excellences,**

The ECO Regional Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (ECORFDRR), along with the Roadmap for its implementation from 2021 to 2025, has been presented to the esteemed Member States for execution within the ECO region. This distinguished assembly may consider taking the initiative to assign tasks to the technical group for the purpose of updating the framework and its Roadmap for the subsequent five years (2026-2030), thereby marking a significant advancement for the region. As one of our paramount priorities, we propose the development of collaborative projects in alignment with this framework to bolster our collective capacity for disaster risk reduction and resilience building throughout the ECO region.

We are fully aware that the framework and the developed roadmap are designed to enhance the disaster risk management capacity, thereby fostering resilience among the peoples of the region. The proposed program, titled “Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the ECO Region,” comprises six components to be implemented in three phases over the next five years (2026-2030). The objectives of this program are to;

* determine hazards and map the risks faced by Member States and the region;
* identify areas for risk-informed development;
* integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) into governance frameworks;
* bolster public awareness and enhance knowledge management;
* protect individuals and communities against the impacts of natural disasters, including the potential effects of climate change; and
* To improve livelihoods and enhance quality of life by achieving the targets set forth in the Sendai Framework for DRR and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We need more decisive action, grounded in the mid-term objectives of the Sendai Framework, as well as the agenda of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) scheduled for October 2024 in Manila. This initiative aims to monitor, review, and strengthen cooperation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at the regional level, based on the following foundational pillars:

* Practical solutions to enhance disaster risk reduction financing
* Leaving no one behind: gender responsive and inclusive disaster risk governance
* Localization and urban and rural resilience

**Dear Delegates,**

Our priorities for regional cooperation are diverse and multifaceted: we aim to facilitate the sharing of exemplary practices throughout the region, particularly through regional platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. We seek to promote effective regional initiatives to strengthen disaster risk modeling, assessment, mapping, monitoring, and multi-hazard early warning systems for both common and transboundary disasters. Furthermore, we support for the development and implementation of holistic and participatory disaster risk management strategies at all levels, in alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the ECO Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I hold a deep-seated conviction that this assembly, alongside your effective initiatives, bolstered by your exceptional expertise in the Sustainable Development Goals, will guide us towards exemplary governance, heightened preparedness, and a resilient reconstruction within our region. I am convinced that this represents a significant advancement towards the fulfillment of the ECO vision and the successful pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In conclusion, let us reaffirm our unwavering commitment to fostering resilience and enhancing disaster risk management across the ECO region. As we stand at this pivotal juncture, it is imperative that we unite our efforts, harness our collective wisdom, and engage in collaborative initiatives that transcend borders. By embracing a holistic approach to disaster risk reduction, we not only safeguard the well-being of our communities but also pave the way for sustainable development and shared prosperity. Together, let us strive to transform our aspirations into tangible outcomes, ensuring that no one is left behind in our pursuit of a safer, more resilient future. Thank you.