

## ***SPEECH***

***of the Minister of Emergency Situations  
of Azerbaijan Republic  
Colonel-General Kamaladdin Heydarov  
At the  
Asian Conference  
on Disaster Reduction***

**Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies  
and Gentlemen!**

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you all a very warm welcome on behalf of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, here in Baku and to say how grateful we are to Asian Disaster Reduction Center and the Cabinet Office of Japan who have cooperated with us in the organisation of this Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction.

It is an opportune time to renew contacts and discuss problems of mutual interest with delegates from member countries of the Region. Human society, the development of civilization have always been closely associated with emergencies caused by natural and man-made disasters. Indeed, the existence of humanity itself already includes the availability of disasters. As we all know the natural disasters like earthquakes, high waters, floods, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and so on are not directly caused by human activities. Meanwhile, in the backdrop of the further

development of civilization, especially the scientific and technological revolution, as well as a big number of industrial achievements not only natural cataclysms, but also man-made emergencies have become the hazard factors for the environment. Moreover, the climate change is already causing serious consequences in different countries, thus becoming a more dangerous factor as time goes on.

Here, I would like to note that Azerbaijan is a country located in the area of high risk of disasters. So far, earthquakes, torrents, floods and floodings, landslides, volcanoes, forest fires and other dangerous natural disasters are specific for our country. Moreover, facilities which are source of potential hazard, including oil and gas, chemical, mining facilities increase the likelihood of the occurrence of the man-made disasters. Considering the above mentioned factors, to ensure the safety of people's life and work, Disaster Risk Management has become an important task currently. To cope with this difficult task, international cooperation and mutual assistance is of great importance nowadays. The recent disasters occurred in the territories of various countries showed that any state alone already does not have enough power in preventing emergencies. For timely warning and preventing emergencies, prompt and effective elimination of their consequences, most importantly, for the protection of human lives, it is necessary for all countries to unite their powers, coordinate the management of capacities and organize the exchange of experience in this field. In this sense, I want to emphasize that the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan is always

interesting in the development of co-operation in international scale. In this regard, I am pleased to say that the close cooperation has been established with the UN and relevant International organisations. In this respect, I think that adopted "Sendai Framework Programme on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015-2030" is an important document that contributes to our future joint activities. In one row with more than 180 countries of the world, Azerbaijan joined "The Program", which I believe is a great challenge for joint and fruitful co-operation to be built for Disaster Risk Reduction and its minimization. To organise more effective protection of people and the ecosystem, including population quality food supply, health and socio-economic activities; To predict disaster risks and reduce the negative impacts of emergencies, planning of the activities is of the main upcoming challenges.

Therefore, to effectively fight the disaster risks we should primarily intensify our activities in all directions and coordinated works should be done in national, regional and global levels to eliminate the circumstances that lead to these risks.

Taking into account all above said and the fact that it is possible only together to conduct an effective fight against uninhibited, global threats such as natural and man-made disasters, I want to announce once again that the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan is ready to join all initiatives in this area.

Thank you for your attention!