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Excellences, Hon'ble Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Representatives of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sectors, Media Personnel, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is my great honor and privilege to be here in Brisbane, Australia leading the Bangladesh delegation to the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction. On behalf of the Government of Bangladesh, I would like to express sincere thanks to the Australian Government and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for organizing such an important regional event.

Bangladesh is the world's 7th most affected country by extreme weather events last decade according to the Climate Risk Index 2021 published by German watch. In addition, 76.9% of people are exposed to multi-hazard risk mostly climate related disasters as stated by UN ESCAP, 2019. Despite the risk and vulnerability, Bangladesh has put extra importance on disaster risk reduction since independence. Bangladesh is recognized as a role model in disaster management.

The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman pioneered the concept of disaster risk reduction (DRR) for the nation, and established Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) after experiencing the devastating cyclone in 1970.

Following the footprint of Bangabandhu, Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina, the worthy daughter of Bangabandhu, has taken great initiatives to reduce disaster risks towards building a resilient nation. For the efforts of promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve SDGs, CPP under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief received 2021 UN Public Service Award in December 2021.

Bangladesh has made the disaster risk management including outcomes, goals and principles of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction since the adoption of the framework in March 2015. The country has made substantive progress and, is now in the leading position of disaster risk management activities in line with the Sendai Framework.

