

Welcome Remarks



Mr. Sálvamo Briceño

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Good morning. I don't have any special statement to make because the idea was to provide a summary of what was discussed yesterday. I saw, however, a very good summary already distributed to the room, and I would very much recommend reading it as a summary of the proceedings.

What I wanted to say very briefly before we continue the discussions and listening to the very valuable experiences of countries, I would just like to emphasize that from all the discussions yesterday, I realized that although there is an increasing awareness on the need and the urgency to reduce risk, there are still not good and enough systems in place to manage that process. I want to put the emphasis that to reduce risk is an extremely complex task: extremely demanding because it touches all sectors, which is why the Hyogo Framework was negotiated and adopted.

The Hyogo Framework identifies all the needs that

need to be addressed, but still I see in most of the presentations and most of the discussions, a greater concern, on how to manage the disasters themselves and how to deal with the disasters. When we must give much greater attention and difficult step of how to reduce the risk so that we can avoid the disasters or at least reduce them, I want to put the emphasis that this needs a different frame of mind, it needs a different approach; it needs a different set of issues. I would encourage the governments that have still not yet set up a national platform for reducing risk to disasters to do it. Because this is going to be an essential first step to bring together the actors to engage in that. So I just wanted to point that out that although I see an increasing awareness about the issue, I think there is still a great way to go in building the capacities to deal with the issue. That was just my single point for the opening today. Thank you.

