Statement by Norway

- At the outset, let me express that **Norway condemns Russia’s attack on Ukraine in the strongest possible terms.** Russia’s aggressive actions are a clear violation of Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

- We are gathered to deliberate on how to meet **one of the biggest challenges of our time;** how to strengthen and accelerate disaster risk reduction efforts and build resilient societies.

- The backdrop is the **climate-, nature- and the food security crisis, as well as the covid-19 pandemic.** This calls for united efforts and strengthened partnerships.

- On a national level, Norway has always been exposed to a variety of natural hazards. Our concern is the increase in both occurrence and impact. As we have become increasingly dependent on critical infrastructures, the societal impact may be severe.

- Progress has been made at different levels. Nationally, Norway’s **Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework** is currently ongoing. Useful lessons have been made.

- Norwegian municipalities have **improved their way of working on disaster risk reduction.** 98 per cent of all municipalities conduct regular comprehensive risk and vulnerability assessments.

- As part of our disaster risk reduction efforts we have also established a Bank of Knowledge. This is an **information management system for national hazards and disaster risks,** emphasizing the importance of quality data and information for the coming endeavors.

- Going forward, it is also clear that private sector will play key roles. In Norway, 90 per cent of critical infrastructure is privately owned. I am convinced therefore, that we must continue to **encourage and seek new areas and ways for cooperating with the private sector.** We are pleased to note that this is one of the four priority areas of UNDRR in its new strategic framework.

- On an international level, **climate is a prioritized area** in Norway’s foreign and development policy. We will double our climate finance towards 2026 and triple support for adaptation and building resilience. We see climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction as **prerequisites for reaching the sustainable development goals.**

- According to UNDRR, 90 per cent of disasters are now **extreme weather-related.**
• To build resilience and be prepared, early warning systems and climate services will be key. **Norway is therefore scaling up support in these areas.**

• Disaster displacement is an increasing challenge. According to OCHA, disasters triggered more than three quarters, or more than thirty million, of all **new recorded internal displacements in 2020**. 98 per cent of this resulted from climate-related events. We need to invest in disaster risk reduction, assess potential disaster displacement and prepare for movement in a way that minimizes associated risk.

• Slow onset events can also lead to a disaster. We are facing increasing food insecurity. **The Norwegian government is working on new food security policies** where climate resilient agriculture will be an important feature.

• At the regional level, Norway has during our 2021-22 Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, focused on **Disaster Prevention and Regional Cooperation** in the area of Civil Protection. Furthermore, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness is **one of the priority areas** under the European Economic Area Grant Scheme.

• To effectively improve resilience, we must ensure that the work under the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework is **coordinated and, as far as possible, integrated**. I would like to commend the UNDRR for their efforts to achieve this.

• Before coming to an end, I would like to emphasize the **importance of ensuring a gender perspective and a rights-based approach in all our efforts**. Stakeholders’ participation and an all-of-society-approach are crucial for achieving the Sendai targets.

• Finally, I **would like to express my gratitude to** the UNDRR for organizing, and Indonesia for hosting, this important meeting to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

• Thank you.