

Opening Remarks at the side event “UNESCO’s Support on Building Resilience and Advancing Early Warning Systems”

7 April 2025 at 13:20-14:20

Room IX

ADG Ms. Lidia Brito,
HE Jirina Valentova, Ambassador of Czech Republic to UNESCO,
Distinguished panelists,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for joining this side event today. We are honored to host this in collaboration with the Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO and the Permanent Delegation of Czech Republic.

First of all, I would like to express my sincerest condolences and sympathies to the victims of the recent devastating earthquake that occurred in Myanmar.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) remains one of the top priorities of Japan, as a country prone to various natural disasters. In January this year, Prime Minister Ishiba emphasized in his policy speech the importance of sharing Japan’s knowledge and technology on disaster prevention overseas, in order to further contribute to disaster prevention around the world.

In UNESCO, Japan has developed various support programs on DRR through the Organization over the years, and I look forward to hearing from experts from Morocco and Ghana who could share good examples with us today.

In line with the Executive Board Decision adopted last year on implementing Sendai Framework for Action, we have just launched a

support program to the Emergency Fund for Natural Sciences. In case of a large-scale disaster, experts will be dispatched promptly to the affected area through this support program. We hope that they will help minimize secondary disasters. I am encouraged to note that the Natural Sciences Sector and the Regional Office in Bangkok currently consider possible measures regarding the earthquake in Myanmar.

I also welcome the inclusion of intersectoral outputs on DRR in the draft of 43C/5. In February this year, Japan launched a support program titled “Bridging Japanese and UNESCO-IOC Expertise on Geohazard Early Warning Systems to support Pacific and Caribbean SIDS”. This program is supposed to enhance intersectoral cooperation between the Natural Sciences Sector and IOC. Today, I look forward to hearing valuable experiences about tsunami countermeasures in the Cook Island.

UNESCO covers also education and culture. Japan has been engaged in DRR education through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and in projects to restore cultural heritage.

I hope that this side event will help Member States recognize and better understand the unique role of UNESCO in DRR and invite more member states to consider supporting the Organization’s activities in this important area.

Thank you for your attention.