

**Declaration
of Ministerial Conference on a
Framework on establishment of regional centre for emergency situations**

Belgrade, 17 February 2010

Emphasizing that in recent years the frequency and severity of natural and man-made disasters have increased, and that this trend is likely to worsen in the coming years;

Recognizing the importance of effective disaster prevention in saving lives and protecting the environment, property and cultural heritage; Furthermore **stressing** the importance of regional and international cooperation and collaboration on disaster risk reduction and disaster prevention;

Emphasising that the States are primarily responsible for the protection of their citizens; Furthermore **stressing** the need for a cross-sectoral approach in order to enhance synergies and emphasising the need for increased actions across all levels and by all relevant actors;

Recalling the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 : Building the resilience of nations and communities to disaster, which provides the agreed international framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR);

The Conference has adopted the following conclusions:

1. Recognises that the overall aim of disaster prevention is to, where possible prevent natural and man-made disasters from happening , and aim at reducing their adverse consequences and minimising their social, economic and environmental impact;

2. Underlines that prevention actions should be based on existing knowledge, take into account the actions already taken in the region of South Eastern Europe supported by Russian Federation and several EU member states, complement and further support national initiatives and cooperation between States, avoid duplication and develop synergies with existing national and international work;

3. Recognises the important contribution that regional cooperation and cooperation between different States facing the same or similar risks can make to an effective disaster prevention framework;

4. Emphasises that the Framework on establishment of regional centre for emergency situations in Nis should support and implement the exchange of information and knowledge related to disasters and their social, economic and environmental impact, and develop best practices concerning method for prevention of disasters;

5. Calls on the participating States of the Ministerial Conference to:

Express the willingness to participate in the establishment of the regional centre for emergency situations in Nis through the engagement of human resources and/or capacities, bringing together and complementing the activities referred to in this document, including proposals for instruments to review disaster prevention actions, like for example through sharing experiences and best practices. Such new initiatives should be consistent with other relevant regional initiatives, and should be in accordance with the priorities set in the Hyogo Framework for Action.