

## **Opening Statement for WRC4**

**H.E. Mr Carl Hallergard - Deputy Head of Delegation, EU Delegation to the UN and International Organisations in Geneva.**

Honourable Members, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to welcome you to this fourth World Reconstruction Conference. The EU is proud to be among the organisers of this important event. We would like to specially thank our partners - the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the ACP group of States. For the fourth time, this event is the fruit of strong cooperation between our organisations.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits to "leave no one behind". The EU has long been a strong advocate of the adoption of a rights-based approach to development and committed to inclusion and participation, non-discrimination, equality and equity, transparency and accountability. Particularly, in our efforts to strengthen resilience in the face of natural and man-made disasters - including conflicts, we do not want to leave anyone behind.

The 2017 EU Consensus on Development, which is our response to the Agenda 2030, reiterates the EU and its Member States' commitment to adopt a rights-based approach to development, encompassing all human rights and addressing the multiple dimensions of discriminations faced by vulnerable people. This includes measures to better target, protect and support them so as to offer them the same opportunities and ensure non-discrimination. The EU also reiterates this commitment by allocating at least 20% of its Official Development Assistance (ODA) to social inclusion and human development.

It is clearly recognised that climate and disaster risk reduction is essential to ensure the achievement of the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs). We do not need statistics to know that climate related disasters are increasingly more frequent and intense and continuously destroy development benefits, particularly of the most vulnerable.

Just recently, Mozambique was hit by two of the strongest cyclones that the African Southern hemisphere has experienced - for the first time two strong tropical cyclones have hit the country in the same season. Just over a week ago, India and Bangladesh were bracing for cyclone Fani. Our thoughts remain with the people affected in such difficult times.

Disasters compound social exclusion and existing vulnerabilities, disproportionately taxing the poor, women, the elderly and people living with disabilities among many vulnerable groups. Relief and recovery interventions can increase, reinforce, or reduce existing inequalities.

The EU believes that recovery provides us with an opportunity to reduce these inequalities and build resilience. However, to do so, recovery requires a whole-of-society approach; everyone's recovery needs must be considered, and everyone should

have the opportunity to actively engage in his/her own future. Recovery should work to reshape the institutional and social landscape and allow for greater inclusion and participation. Good recovery governance means that recovery is inclusive, accountable and transparent.

This conference seeks to connect people while sharing their rich knowledge and expertise on recovery. In so doing, it provides a forum to take stock of the progress in the practice of recovery, address the remaining challenges and highlight the opportunities that we have ahead of us to ensure inclusive resilient recovery.

I encourage you all to actively engage in the discussions and join forces to improve the practice of recovery and enhance coordination and cooperation in this endeavour. It is only by joining forces that we can build a resilient future.

The EU and its Member States look forward to continuing to work together to promote inclusive recovery and resilience for the most vulnerable.

I wish you a successful conference. Thank you very much.