The Ministry of Emergency Management, The Department of Disaster Relief and Supplies Security Level One Bureau Rank Official Fang Zhiyong

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon!

It is my great honor to attend CAREC Disaster Risk Engagement Meeting and share with you the experiences of China and other countries in Central Asia in developing disaster risk transfer mechanisms and relevant policies and institutions. Such efforts can help effectively reduce disaster risks and losses as well as better product the lives and property security of our peoples.

China is among the countries most exposed to natural disasters. The Chinese government has always attached great importance to efforts in disaster

prevention, reduction and relief. We put our people first, people's lives first and try our utmost to protect people's lives and the security of their properties. To this end, the Chinese government has developed a comprehensive disaster risk transfer mechanism and made the most of insurance and other market mechanisms' functions in risk prevention, loss and damage compensation as well as recovery and reconstruction. Through many efforts including by developing disaster insurance and issuing special bonds, we have been improving our comprehensive capacity in disaster preparedness and response consistently and creating a secure and stable environment for social and economic development.

Building on the last five-year plan, the Chinese government has developed two new initiatives, one on national emergency system planning and the other on national comprehensive disaster prevention and reduction, to be carried out during the 14th five-year period. Insurance facilities will be integrated into China's disaster relief and emergency management systems and fully involve in all stages of efforts from

prevention, fundraising to post-disaster compensation as well as recovery and reconstruction. We will put in place a model of risk reduction management that features ex-ante prevention, during-the-event management and ex-post compensation and can effectively enhance the quality and performance of disaster relief efforts. In recent years, China has also actively explored and developed set of disaster insurance products such as earthquake catastrophe insurance, agriculture insurance, typhoon catastrophe insurance, flood insurance, rural housing insurance as well as disaster and livelihood protection insurance. These innovative products have delivered effective risk transfer and sharing as well as loss and damage compensation. They made a significant difference in reducing losses of affected populations, ensuring their basic living standards and restoring social and economic activities in a timely manner.

In the event of major natural disasters, Chinese local governments can finance reconstruction with issuances of special government bonds and local government bonds as well as special fiscal transfers from the central government. Companies and

financial institutions in the disaster-stricken areas are also encouraged to raise reconstruction funding from the bond market. Local governments of the affected areas also provide financial relief to market entities through a wide range of means including scaling up credit assistance, cutting lending rates, reducing service costs, extending maturing loans as well as enabling the provision of more credit loans. All these measures can help companies resume production and operation. Local governments also provide assistance to agricultural and husbandry sectors ravaged by the disaster, villages with many damaged houses to repair as well as commercial businesses and self-employed businesses forced to suspend operation due to the disaster, doing what it takes to restore normalcy.

Ladies and gentlemen, China is a good neighbor, good friend and good partner of Central Asian nations. We face the same risks and challenges from major natural disasters like earthquake, flood and drought. Thus, the room for cooperation on the development of comprehensive disaster risk transfer mechanisms among us is huge. I hope all parties can engage in an in-depth discussion on this topic and make positive contribution to improving disaster prevention and

response capacity of countries in Central Asia, bolstering stable social and economic development and promoting cooperation between China and countries in Central Asia.

I wish the meeting a complete success. Thank you!