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**MESSAGE TO ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
New Delhi, 3 November 2016**

*Delivered Mr. Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the Secretary-General
for Disaster Risk Reduction*

I am pleased to convey my warmest greetings to the Government of India on hosting the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. This important conference will help set the direction for implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction over the next 14 years.

The adoption of the Sendai Framework marked a crucial contribution to the articulation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the subsequent agreement on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Paris Agreement on climate change and, last month, the New Urban Agenda, the world now has the tools and guidance required to achieve sustainable development, eradicate poverty and build peaceful societies that leave no one behind.

The journey from Sendai continues here in Delhi, where the outcomes of your efforts will influence the disaster risk reduction agenda not just in Asia but in the world at large.

Asia faces formidable challenges in managing disaster risk. Those include poverty, environmental deterioration, seismic risk, climate change and population growth in especially vulnerable areas. Yet Asia has also achieved remarkable progress in facing these threats by systematically improving policies, investing in institutions and enhancing national capacities.

Perhaps the most important driver of disaster risk is weak disaster risk governance. Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance and coordination are essential. Many of you are already taking steps to ensure that your national disaster management agencies are focussed not just on managing disasters but also managing the risk which can lead to those disasters.

I am confident that this Conference will bring further improvements in your already considerable efforts to reduce disaster losses across the region. I wish you every success.