

Draft

**Australian Statement to the World Conference on Disaster
Reduction**

Thanks to Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates.

The work of this conference has been brought into sharp relief by the tragic consequences of the Indian Ocean Tsunami. I would like to take this opportunity to express Australia's condolences to those countries and peoples who suffered losses.

In the wake of this tragedy we have seen an unprecedented international relief effort. For its part, the Australian Government and the Australian people will continue to give generously to support those in need.

In Australia the Government to date has committed one billion dollars to the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development, 60 million dollars to regional relief efforts, and a half million dollars to the flash appeal to assist the Seychelles.

We were also able to respond quickly and practically on the ground, deploying medical and victim identification teams, defence force field hospitals and rescue teams.

