

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

By the Head of the Netherlands Delegation
H.E. Mr. R. Mollinger
to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January 2005

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands I would like to start by thanking the Government of Japan and the Hyogo Prefecture for hosting and organising this important Conference. Due to the recent horrendous events in Southeast Asia and the consequences for the region and the world, this event has even grown in importance.

The Netherlands considers the aim of the still to be agreed upon "Framework for action 2005-2015" of great importance. We would especially like to call upon disaster prone countries to mainstream 'Disaster Risk Reduction' into their PRSP's or other national development programs.

The Netherlands Government aligns itself strongly with the implementation of a long list of already agreed 'plans of implementation', which have strong implications for reaching these aims. I should like to mention especially the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In paragraph 37 hereof "an integrated, multi-hazard inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery" are mentioned as essential elements of a safer world in the 21st century. Also the link between climate change and increased disaster risk, as was recently discussed at the UNFCCC Cop10 in Buenos Aires, should be stressed.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to conclude by expressing my hope for a strong and positive outcome of this Conference, which will give us hope for a more secure future for our world.

Thank you.