

U.S.

## **Kobe Plenary Statement**

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Delegates,

I am pleased to have the honor to lead the U.S. delegation to this important conference -- now doubly important because of the enormous calamity that occurred recently in Asia. On behalf of the U.S. Government, I want to thank the Government of Japan for hosting such a timely meeting and for contributing so generously to the current tsunami relief effort. It is especially fitting to hold this conference at the site of a terrible natural disaster, the 1995 Kobe earthquake.

The recent profound outpouring of international relief and humanitarian assistance to the tsunami victims is unprecedented, and since December 26, 2004, earthquake and tsunami disaster assistance has been a major focus of the U.S. Government and the American people. Answering the UN Appeal issued by Under-Secretary General Jan Egeland, [phonetic: Yahn Egg-lend] the U.S. Government

