

**Speech of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China
In the Special Session on the Indian Ocean Disaster:
Risk Reduction for a Safer Future
By H.E. Minister LI Xueju
(World Conference on Disaster Reduction, January 20, 2005)**

Mr. Chair,

Dear colleagues,

More than 20 days has passed since the occurrence of the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster and the international society has been demonstrating an unprecedented solidarity in providing emergency relief to the affected countries and people. Today, in the same spirit of solidarity, we are convening this special session and reflecting upon lessons learned from this disaster with a view to pursuing a "safer future". China appreciates very much the timely arrangement of this Special Session.

The Indian Ocean tsunami disaster speaks in a shocking way for the importance of the early warning system. Nowadays, many countries, especially the developing ones, are still ill-equipped in this regard. To remedy this deficiency, China submitted to the Conference an initiative on the *"Establishment of Regional Mechanisms on Surveillance, Prevention and Assessment of Severe Natural Disasters"*. We sincerely thank those countries who strongly support the initiative. We also welcome valuable initiatives presented by other delegations and are pleased to see that, based on all these initiatives and the general views expressed by all

delegations, this Special Session will deliver a consolidated Common Statement.

China supports this Common Statement.

Mr. Chair,

As solemnly stated by Chinese Premier WEN Jiabao at the Special ASEAN

Leader's Meeting on the Aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunamis held in Jakarta

on 6 January 2005, the Government of China is willing to help the neighboring

countries, the afflicted in particular to establish an earthquake monitoring and tsunami

early-warning network and ready to share relevant data and products of its satellite

with the countries in the region. We are also willing to host an Asian Conference on

Disaster Reduction and a series of workshops on early warning so as to give full play

to the existing regional cooperation mechanisms.

In conclusion, let me reiterate the firm commitment of China in promoting and

participating international and regional cooperation on disaster reduction and we will

work together with other countries to pursue our common "safer future".

Thank you, Mr. Chair.