



**UNDP Statement to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction by
Mr. James Rawley, Deputy Director,
Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would like to begin our statement by thanking the Government of Japan, Prefecture of Hyogo, City of Kobe, the Bureau of Member States and the ISDR Secretariat for the hard-work and dedication that has gone into organizing this important and timely Conference.

With the attention of the world focused on helping the victims of the recent tsunami, all of us gathered here have an obligation to analyse our development choices, drawing upon our collective experience and knowledge to reduce disaster risk and its associated human and economic costs.

Now more than ever we believe that the international community must make a commitment towards achieving the goals set forth in the WCDR Framework for Action 2005-2015. We must ensure that all the commitments made at the global level and all the lessons collectively learned over the last decades are systematically applied where it counts most – at the national and local levels, especially in high disaster risk developing countries. Put simply, human and financial resources must be invested into “disaster proofing” development. We cannot limit our focus and resources on responding to disaster - we must reduce the risk of disaster!

With generous support from a wide range of donor countries, UNDP will contribute additional human, technical and financial resources to the UN System to further mainstream disaster risk management into development, thereby also facilitating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Specifically UNDP is pleased to announce that it will:

- Enhance UN system coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and national levels. As a first step towards this end, UNDP will assign experienced disaster risk management advisors to support the UN Resident Coordinator in 20 or more disaster-prone countries.
- Assist national and local authorities and regional organisations to develop norms, strategies and guidelines to strengthen governance for disaster risk management.
- Work with the UN System, programme countries, the Government of Japan and other partners to design and implement predictable and effective mechanisms for post-disaster recovery.
- Roll out a comprehensive UN system-wide learning and training programme for disaster risk management, building on the foundations of the UN Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP).

- Guide development decision making with improved information on hazard, risk and vulnerability patterns and trends, in partnership with international financial institutions, UN agencies and scientific institutions and under the umbrella of the ProVention Consortium.
- Support climate risk prone countries, particularly Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), to manage the risks associated with climate variability and change, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

UNDP looks forward to working with our partners to undertake these initiatives, thereby implementing important components of the WCDR Framework for Action 2005-2015.

Kobe, Japan

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