**Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction - May 2103**

**Save the Children Statement**

Madam Chair, esteemed delegates,

Save the Children prioritizes Disaster Risk Reduction in our development and in our humanitarian work. Across the world, we invest nearly 1.5 billion dollars a year working in 120 countries, protecting and supporting children and their communities. We know that more needs to be invested in reducing risks and building resilience. Thus we applaud the example provided by UNISDR in recognising that children have unique needs and **we strongly recommend that governments everywhere should follow UNISDR’s lead by prioritising risk management strategies that focus on the specific risks faced by children.**

Save the Children’s work follows the principles embodied in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Governments are signatories to this important convention too. This means that children’s rights to survival, to protection and to development should be non-negotiable. The Convention is also clear in stating that children have a right to participate in decisions that affect them now and in the future. During this Global Platform and in all the previous Global Platforms Save the Children has worked with the other child-centred agencies to help children from across the world to participate and express their views about the future. Their voice is just as relevant here on this global stage as it is where they live. Therefore we believe that children and youth must be involved in actions and priority setting for and within the World Conference on DRR in 2015 and HFA2 decision making processes. **Save The Children is committed to helping governments and international community secure a safer and more equitable future, for this generation and the next.**

Save the Children listens to children. They are very clear about their understanding of risk and they do not adopt a silo approach. Risk reduction means tackling all risks, not just risks associated with natural hazards. Poverty is a risk. The threat of sexual violence in a conflict is a risk. Having to work to survive instead of going to school is a risk. All these risks threaten their future. Though we all know that some hazards have their roots in nature, risks are man-made and disasters are never natural. **Thus, Save The Children calls on governments and the international community to ensure that HFA 2 is directly related and is reinforced by other post-2015 agreements, especially the MDGs and the Sustainable Development Goals.** This means that reducing the risk of technological disasters such as the Fukushima nuclear plant crisis should be included in the HFA 2 agenda. It also means that risk reduction in violent conflict settings should not be ignored in the HFA 2 agenda.

**Reducing risk is everyone’s responsibility. Save The Children is pleased to be working with all ‘stakeholders’ in this endeavor, especially with governments.** We see it clearly as part of our role to be working with and supporting governments at all levels from local to national. And we work with the private sector. Development and humanitarian aid is a tiny proportion of global economic activity. Together, civil society, governments and businesses working together can transform a risky world into a safe and resilient world where everyone prospers. This won’t be easy, it will take time and it certainly does not mean business as usual. Weneed to invest in anticipatory activities and we need to act early to reduce the vulnerabilities of those most at risk to minimize the likelihood of disaster. It means that there must be a shift from response to risk management so we are risk proofing development. The foundation for building a resilient future begins with prioritizing forward looking multi-sectoral – not siloed risk analysis.

The Hyogo Framework for Action emphasized the importance of education. **Save The Children calls on all governments to have a plan in place by 2015 to ensure that every new school is disaster-resilient.** We are working with the international community and with governments on this and we believe that HFA2 should include a focus on education. A comprehensive approach to school safety means that education about reducing risks should be part of formal and non-formal learning for all children.

Save the Children is committed to working with ISDR partners, governments, the private sector, donors, communities and children themselves in pursuit of a more resilient future.

Thank you.