

**Joint Statement
for the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Geneva, Switzerland**

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**By UN Development Group, World Bank, World Meteorological Organization,
United Nations Environmental Programme, International Federation for Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**

Natural hazards, exacerbated by the effects of climate change and rapid urbanization, now pose a threat to more people than at any time in history. We, the undersigned leaders, welcome this first session of the Global Platform and lend our robust support to the ISDR system as we work together to meet one of the fundamental challenges of our age: protecting lives and property from increased vulnerability to disasters.

Tens of millions of lives are at risk. Urgent action is needed at every level of society, from the grassroots to the global, to move the risk reduction agenda forward. To that end, we commit ourselves to working in common purpose, with singularity of commitment and plurality of expertise, to support the ISDR system, strengthen its impact, and broaden its reach among a new circle of partners. In particular, we commit to: raising the profile of disaster risk reduction; strengthening advocacy with key decision-makers; mainstreaming risk reduction in the development agenda; harnessing the expertise of a multiplicity of actors; and accelerating action on all fronts to increase the disaster resilience of communities and economies across the globe.

Given the enormity of the challenge ahead, we need a paradigm shift in our thinking and behavior. Only by working together will we be successful. We must not fail.