



Statement of the Federal Government of Germany
First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Geneva, Switzerland, 5 -7 June 2007

- **Germany welcomes the creation of the Global Platform and wishes to thank the Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Sir John Holmes, for initiating the consultative process leading to the establishment of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. We wish to thank ISDR for the organisation of this first Meeting of the Global Platform and we appreciate the continuing support of Switzerland to the ISDR system. Germany commends the Government of Japan for hosting the „World Conference on Disaster Reduction“ in Kobe in 2005, which was a milestone event that prepared the ground for the strengthening of the ISDR system. More than two years after Kobe, we welcome the opportunity to take stock of what has been accomplished, to exchange experiences and to work together on remaining challenges. Disaster Risk Reduction must become a cross-cutting issue incorporated into all relevant policy areas.**

- **Since the early days of IDNDR (International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction), Germany has been committed to Disaster Risk Reduction at home and abroad. The three Early Warning Conferences in 1998, 2003 and 2006 hosted by Germany bear witness to this commitment. An outcome of the second Early Warning Conference was the creation of a specialised ISDR-platform for early warning, the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning in Bonn, with the support of the German Government. Germany also made disaster risk reduction one of its priorities during its EU presidency. In the first half of 2007, the Federal Foreign Office commissioned a survey on the integration of disaster risk reduction into the humanitarian assistance provided by the EU Member States and the European Commission. This document formed the basis for discussion at a meeting of the EU Humanitarian Aid Committee in Berlin at the end of March. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research hosted an international workshop on cross-boundary early warning systems in Europe and will include the results of this workshop in its future research agenda.**

- **Germany hopes that the strengthened ISDR system will continue to support the implementation of the outcomes of the Early Warning Conferences and in particular of the project proposals presented at the third Early Warning Conference.**

- **We remain committed to the strengthening of the national platforms system as called for in the Hyogo Framework for Action and we wish to highlight the successful initiation of a European Network of national platforms, which to date consists of Germany, Switzerland and France. We strive to enlarge this Network so as to encompass further European countries.**

- **Germany considers the identification of priorities for the ISDR system during the next two years to be of greatest importance and would be willing to actively participate in the implementation of these priorities. We are looking forward to contributions by ISDR and the participants of the Global Platform Meeting regarding these priorities. In our view, as a matter of priority, the challenges posed by the negative effects of climate change and unplanned urbanisation must be addressed by developing projections that allow us to adapt to and thus to reduce the risks associated with these phenomena.**

- **ISDR-bodies such as the Programme Advisory Committee and the Science Committee will be central to the success of the Global Platform. Germany would therefore be delighted to serve on these bodies and is looking forward to a fruitful discussion on the mandate and composition of existing ISDR-bodies and those that are to be created.**