

## **GLOBAL PLATFORM ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)**

### **UK Delegation Statement 5 JUNE 2007**

The Government of the United Kingdom welcomes the opportunity to discuss the very important issues of disaster risk reduction and the links between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Ministers regret they are unable to attend due to previous Parliamentary engagements today. We should like to make the following main points:

- The reports of the High Level Panel on Climate Change and the Stern Review have raised awareness that the challenge is even greater and more urgent than ever. Economic losses from disasters almost doubled in real terms between 1960s and 1990s and climate change is likely to mean more frequent and more severe disasters in future. DFID recognises that we must raise our game if we are going to address these challenges effectively. This is why we are investing more in disaster risk reduction initiatives, as well as climate change adaptation, to ensure our development programmes are resilient and sustainable;
- We are also committed to spending approximately 10% of funding provided in response to each natural disaster to prepare for and mitigate the impact of future disasters, where this can be done effectively;
- Donors and the Multilateral Development Banks are committed to risk screening development investments under the Gleneagles commitments on climate change adaptation. It is important to convince policy-makers of the need to factor risk assessments, including climate change risk, into decision-making and budgetary allocations;
- There is a need to provide incentives for governments to invest in DRR by showing evidence of the cost-benefit of doing so: eg. there is important work by the ProVention Consortium and others on this; but more evidence is needed. The idea of a Stern-type review to look specifically at cost-benefit analysis is of interest;
- We would also like to see stronger time-bound targets and indicators factored into the Hyogo Framework, in order that our commitments made in 2005 at the Kobe conference are not forgotten or delayed;
- The DRR community needs to do more to assess the impact of climate change on future vulnerabilities and liaise with CC community on possible response options. Equally the CC community has much to learn from the DRR community on assessing vulnerabilities, the economic benefits of investing in preparedness and helping communities prepare for shocks;

We hope this meeting will provide the opportunity to look at concrete ways in which the Hyogo Framework for Action can better address climate change and DRR in a more coherent and coordinated way, at the national, regional and international level.