

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. MAKARIM WIBISONO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WTO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA/
HEAD DELEGATION OF INDONESIA TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GLOBAL
PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

Geneva, 5 - 7 June 2007

UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Sir John Holmes,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Indonesian delegation, I should like to express our pleasure at the convening of this First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and to congratulate the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Sir John Holmes, for initiating this consultative process. We hope that the Global Platform will provide much-needed and practical proposals for strategic preparedness and response mechanisms to reduce the risks and effects of natural disasters.

As one of the countries most severely affected by the 2004 tsunami, Indonesia very much welcomes the setting up of this forum. Indeed, due to its geography and geophysical characteristics, our country is especially prone to disaster risk. There has been an increased incidence of natural disasters in the country in the last two years with the Nabire and Alor earthquakes, the Aceh and Nias tsunami, the Mount Merapi eruption, the Yogyakarta and Central Java earthquake, the landslide in Langkat, North Sumatra, and the floods in Aceh Tamiang.

The cost of such events in human lives, material destruction, wrecked environments, degraded or poisoned ecosystems, lost livelihoods and countless other ills is appalling. But more than anything else, it is the economic impact of these events which is crippling. Not just the stricken areas and communities, but beyond them, the entire national support and relief systems of the affected countries are burdened beyond their means by the huge financial, infra-structural, logistical and reconstruction challenges involved. Thus, in response to these events and as part of its commitment to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 as well as the Beijing Action Plan for Asia, the Government of Indonesia has established the National Action Plan for Disaster Reduction 2006-2009. Disaster mitigation and management has also become one of the nine priorities of the Indonesian National Development Plan.

The preparation of this Action Plan involves many different stakeholders from the national and local levels. Multi-stakeholder consultations have been held to encourage ownership by all relevant stakeholders and to ensure that the Action Plan would fulfill its purpose as an integrated reference for action embracing social, economic and environmental aspects. It is expected that, as a follow up to this National Action Plan, local governments will develop their own Local Action Plans for Disaster Risk Reduction at the provincial and district/city levels.

On the basis of our experiences with the above-mentioned disasters, we believe that the immediate task before us is to formally establish the Global Platform as a solid common structure for a scientific and methodical approach to the issue of Disaster Risk Reduction. Moreover, it is important that the Global Platform should be able to ensure the full capacity of developing countries to implement their National Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction, especially on education, training and media supports as well as empowerment of women and children in community participatory for preparedness and response to natural disasters.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to convey our sincere gratitude and highest appreciation to the UN and other International Agencies, as well as to donor countries, for their unstinting support in the various natural disasters that have affected Indonesia in the recent past. We continue our reconstruction efforts in the stricken areas and look forward to working with the Global Platform to strengthen our preparedness and response in coping with natural disasters.

Thank you.