Incheon Declaration, Road Map and Action Plan (REMAP): Two Year Summary Progress Report

Background. The Incheon Declaration focuses directly on the critical issue of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) into development. It was signed at the ministerial level in October 2010 by 53 countries and includes a detailed two and five year REMAP.

Progress. The REMAP focuses on three themes: raising awareness and building capacity for DRR and CCA; developing and sharing information, technology, sound practices, and lessons learned; and promoting integration of DRR and CCA into development for green growth. The most significant progress has been made on theme 1 with awareness related initiatives and technology capacity building for multi-hazard early warning systems, emergency response and disaster management showing great progress in many countries of Asia-Pacific. This progress at the national level now needs to be more broadly replicated at the local/community levels. Some progress has been made on theme 2, particularly with multi-hazard risk assessments and data portals and now needs to be more broadly replicated. Least progress has been made on theme 3 at both national and local levels but promising initiatives are underway (including national platforms, mainstreaming guidance and selected sectoral integration) and the theme is becoming a very important emerging area. The REMAP review has also highlighted the following critical issues for Ministerial action.

Accountability. Accelerating the momentum of mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development requires greater clarity of accountabilities and roles and responsibilities among key ministries and agencies. In many countries, ministries are now beginning to discuss respective roles and responsibilities in the context of existing mechanisms such as national platforms. But insufficient leadership and guidance is constraining progress. In view of the urgency of making rapid progress on the mainstreaming agenda, it is proposed that: Ministers request their heads of state to play a lead role in delineating accountabilities and responsibilities for the mainstreaming of DRR and CCA into development; Ministers should also stress that technical support will be available to line ministries for more effective integration of DRR and CCA into development.

Scaling Up Through Partnerships. Although most progress on the mainstreaming agenda has been made at the national level, many good, needs-based examples of integration have emerged at grass-roots and city levels, involving partnerships with NGOs, local governments, and international organizations. But these encouraging examples are still relatively few and scattered and have yet to move beyond the pilot stage due to insufficient resources, monitoring and links to national strategies. Partners are interested in scaling up these initiatives in cooperation with national governments and financial resources can be mobilized through active partnerships. In this context it is proposed that: Ministers encourage good practices to be better documented and replicated through building strong partnerships with all stakeholders and drawing on specialized funds and eventually on regular development resources.

Regional and Global Agenda. It is also important that Ministers give due attention to opportunities to further the mainstreaming agenda at the regional and global levels: Mainstreaming and risk informed decision making should be reflected in the forthcoming AMCDRR declarations and post-2015 DRR framework; Ministers responsible for post MDG and climate change negotiations also need to be well briefed on the benefits of an integrated approach on DRR, CCA and development.