

**UK Government Statement to UN Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**  
**Cancun, Mexico – 24-26 May 2017**

Distinguished delegates,

The UK welcomes the efforts made by the UN, countries around the world and non-governmental organisations to begin the implementation of the Sendai Framework, agreed in 2015. In particular, we congratulate Mexico for hosting the fifth Global Platform meeting, and thank the UN for convening it.

The UK continues to develop our own comprehensive resilience architecture, both unilaterally and when appropriate with partners. We remain committed to sharing lessons learnt on our own resilience journey with the international community.

We must now turn our minds wholly to implementation of this agreement. This requires action in a several areas.

First, we must have a shared understanding of what we are going to be measuring as we implement the agreement. We call on the UNISDR to provide clear technical guidance to all countries on what we should and should not be measuring. We must not let a quest for perfect data prevent us from agreeing clear, simple and reproducible requirements which can be met by all. Sometimes this must mean taking pragmatic decisions to achieve our aim.

Second, this must be done in conjunction with other global frameworks and agreements, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals and commitments to manage risks arising from Climate Change. We need to ensure long term trends and changes to risk profiles are considered as well as immediate disaster risk. Where there are clear synergies between parallel international frameworks, we should produce accurate and robust data once, and use it many times. We must not increase burdens on nations without a clear purpose. We look to the UN agencies to ensure efforts are as effectively coordinated as possible.

Third, the UK continues to place science and technology at the heart of the Sendai Framework. We have worked hard to ensure that the European Platform fully recognises the role science must play in implementing the agreement, from reaching clear, simple and

reproducible measurements, through informing investment in prevention and preparedness approaches, to underpinning of early warning systems for whole populations. This was further reiterated in the outcomes of the recent European Forum meeting. The UK encourages all regional Platforms to place science at the heart of the implementation process.

Fourth, resilience and disaster risk reduction should be a priority of all our overseas development efforts. This should be done with a strategic long-term approach that is integrated across all sectors, and institutionalises effective early warning systems and early action. Measures to support better risk reduction at national and local level must be directly responsive and accountable to vulnerable communities. They should promote capacity to manage risks at the local level and promote decision making based on monitoring data that is consistently collected and appropriately disaggregated.

Fifth, a significant scale-up is needed in the use of ex-ante risk financing instruments, including insurance, by developing countries. Pre-arranged risk financing would enable payouts to be triggered automatically, and reach countries faster and more reliably than traditional aid. The UK Government is working closely with the insurance sector, including London's world-leading expertise and capacity, to ensure cost-effective products are available to all levels of society, from the individual to the state.

At the historic meeting of the Global Platform in Sendai, Japan in 2015, we reached an important milestone in agreeing the Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. However, that is simply a milestone along the difficult road we are on, to reduce the impacts of disasters on the lives of our citizens. We have a long road ahead of us out to 2030, but we must focus on making progress every day, week, month and year until then.

*[597 words]*