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**Statement of Qom Municipality (Iran) in the**

**4th Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction,**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 May 2013**

Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, Distinguished Guests and Participants;

It is both honor and privilege for me to participate in this very important event. I, first of all, would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairperson for the kind welcome extended to us. I would also like to mention how grateful I am for UNISDR for organizing this event. UNISDR’s continuous support in our efforts to make Iran a disaster resilient country is highly valued.

Mrs. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The global increasing trend of disasters triggered by natural hazards shows the long-term and heavy task of decision makers and managers in order to achieve satisfactory reduction of disasters risk as put in the Hyogo Framework for Action. Qom as a disaster prone City has taken a number of measures in the recent years toward implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Qom is counted as one of the focal centers of the Muslims both in Iran and around the globe and geographically connects 17 provinces of Iran together. Substantial sums of money in the form of alms and Islamic taxes flow into Qom to "Source of Imitation" that resides there. Qom is an urban settlement existed in the pre-Islamic ages. Architectural discoveries indicate that Qom was a residential area from the [5th millennium BC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5th_millennium_BC). Pre-Islamic remaining relics and historical texts point to the fact of Qom being a large regional city. By 1503 Qom became one of the important centers of theology in relation to the Islam, and became a significant religious pilgrimage site and pivot.

The city mostly has been faced natural hazards such as earthquake, flood, environmental degradation rapid population growth and urbanization. These multiple hazards and challenges mean that a tremendous effort is needed in Qom to reduce the risks and impacts of disasters. Accordingly, renovation and reconstruction of old urban areas are the first priority of Qom municipality regarding disaster risk reduction.

Dear Delegates,

Qom has been joint Making Cities Resilient Campaign (MCR) in 2012 and is planning to implement 10 essentials of that campaign. The Strategy of disaster risk reduction outlines that disaster risk reduction is a shared responsibility of governments, business, communities and individuals – in short, it is everybody’s business. The strategy sets out concrete steps that Governments at all levels can take to reduce risks posed by natural disasters, and outlines key areas for action including:

* Undertaking risk assessments and preparing risk map.
* Educating communities about the risks they face.
* Empowering individuals and communities to exercise choice and take responsibility for the risks they live with.
* Reducing risks in the built environment through land use planning and building standards.
* Implementing urban crisis management system.

I firmly believe that with support from our partners we will continue to strengthen our institutional capacity, mainstreaming and promoting disaster risk reduction initiatives at all levels of Government, implementing the HFA, strengthening infrastructure and supporting program initiatives under flagship areas. I would like to specifically mention how crucial it is we ensure disaster risk reduction activities in urban settings are undertaken.

Distinguished Guests,

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction creates an opportunity to review the progress made in implementing the Hyogo Framework of Action over the past years and chart a clear, effective and result oriented course for the future on the basis of the Global Assessment Report. We hopes this conference will be able to come out with new ideas to achieve consensus on how local, national, regional and international stakeholders can meet new challenges brought about by disasters and climate change.

Thank you for your attention.

Mohammad Delbari

Mayor of Qom City

I.R of Iran