**NRC Plenary Statement for the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction**

Thank you, Chair,

Displacement by disasters is a life changing and devastating event for millions of people around the world. Over the last five years, an estimated 144 million people have been displaced by disasters associated with rapid- onset hazards - 32.4 million last year alone, as recently reported by the Norwegian Refugee Council’s Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. This figure is just the tip of the iceberg however, and would be far higher if drought and slow onset disasters were taken into account. The amount of people displaced by such events is currently unknown, highlighting a shocking blind spot in our knowledge of these phenomena.

Thanks to early warning and life-saving measures, the number of people dying as a result of disasters has declined over the past three decades. At the same time, a growing number of people are living in hazard-prone areas such as along flood prone river banks, or in areas vulnerable to coastal degradation. More and more people are therefore at risk of being displaced by disasters, particularly those associated with climate- and weather-related hazards. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has noted, projected increases in the frequency and intensity of such events is likely to be a further driver of displacement in future.

**As a result, immediate, coordinated and intentional action is needed to better prevent and prepare for disaster-related displacement and to help those displaced by disasters to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.**

Recurrent patterns of disaster-induced displacement have cumulative impacts on the vulnerability of affected populations in many countries. The Norwegian Refugee Council has witnessed this in assisting people who are repeatedly displaced by successive and relentless flood disasters in Pakistan, for example. In such cases, returning displaced people home without further reducing disaster risk is like treating the symptoms without addressing the core problem.

Governments and other stakeholders who participated in UNISDR’s post-2015 consultation process consistently called for the “inclusion of disaster reduction and climate risk in the post-2015 development agenda.” Given the current trends, **the resilience of the most vulnerable men, women and children struggling against the repeated and relentless impact of disasters throughout the world must be strengthened to avoid negative, cumulative impacts on vulnerability associated with recurrent displacement by both small and large-scale disasters.**

In 2011, the Chair’s Summary from the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Reconstruction Conference indicated that a “critical next step” was to “account for disaster losses in a standardized manner to support multi-hazard, integrated assessments as the basis for development decision-making and open-source risk public information.” During the post-2015

consultation process, several governments repeated this call, and the Norwegian Refugee Council wholeheartedly supports these requests.

The systematic recording of disaster impacts has been rapidly expanding, giving governments and humanitarians a better understanding of how peoples’ lives and livelihoods are at risk from future disasters. The number of national disaster-loss databases has more than doubled in the last decade, for example. The increased availability of disaster impacts at national and local levels has led to some of the biggest gains in DRR since the HFA was adopted in 2005.

Governments will find it difficult to reduce a risk that they have not measured, and there is currently an **information blind spot** when it comes to displacement data. The Norwegian Refugee Council and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre urge governments to take the necessary steps to halt and reverse the trend of increasing disaster-induced displacement. In order to achieve this goal, two things are needed: **1) standardized and robust methods for recording disaster-induced displacement must be agreed upon and incorporated into existing disaster-loss databases; and 2) more countries need to invest in the collection, storage, sharing and analysis of this data.**

NRC is committed to contributing knowledge and capacity to reduce disaster risk, with particular attention to issues of concern to people displaced or at risk of displacement by disasters. We will continue to provide independent, global evidence and analysis and access to expert personnel through a roster of senior Disaster Risk Management specialists available for deployment in support of national authorities and UN Country Teams.