Speech by Andre 15yr Old from the Philippines at the Closing Ceremony of the 2011 Global Platform

Good Morning, I am here to give my message on behalf of my co-children participants from Kenya and the Philippines and from all children in the world. We attended this Global Platform in order to fight for the rights of young people to participate in issues affecting our lives and rights, especially about climate change and disasters.

In our country, we are vulnerable to various calamities such as earthquakes, typhoons, storm surges, and many others. During Typhoons, lives and properties are destroyed, classes stopped, and our right for education and peaceful living is violated. That's why children like me got involved with disaster risk reduction activities. We planted trees to prevent landslide and mangroves to weaken storm surges. We separate our rubbish to avoid blocked drainages and floods in our community. We also held community gatherings showing films in order to raise the awareness of our community against disasters.

At the global platform, we learned a lot on how to improve our knowledge on disaster risk reduction. We have learnt many things people around the world do in order to fight disasters while sharing some ideas of our own. We learned to value life and our planet, we also learned how to help more in saving our communities from calamities in our own practical ways.

As children, we would like the adults to prioritize children on disaster risk reduction. Being the most vulnerable sector of society when it comes to disaster actions and plans should be made together with the children in order to ensure our safety. Child protection is a must, before during and after a disaster. Education is the most important way of sending information about disaster risk reduction so schools must be safe and education must not be interrupted. As a result, please focus your disaster risk reductions on practical measures to achieve these goals. The future of children depends upon your actions today.
Thank you.