



**Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction  
Second Preparatory Committee- Geneva, 17-18 November 2014**

**Statement of the European Union and its Member States**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

We welcome the draft elements of the Sendai Declaration proposed by Japan and the zero draft submitted by the co-chairs and would like at this stage to convey the following main observations to be reflected in the declaration and in the draft.

Firstly, the focus on implementation is vital for the success of the new framework. A clear and concise framework, regularly reviewed, is essential for implementation by governments. We reiterate the importance of the new framework of delivering results and measuring progress; to this end action-oriented targets linked to the priorities of action and supported by indicators can make a significant contribution. The draft rightly recognises that each State has the primary responsibility to reduce disaster risk. Regional inter-governmental organisations should play an important role to support the national and local authorities to implement the new framework, including the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction.

Secondly, as emphasised in the Declaration, we need to promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk management within all policies : development and national sectoral policies, economic and financial strategies and multilateral and bilateral assistance programs. It is also crucial to ensure a joint approach with climate change adaptation and a strengthened focus on reducing the underlying risk drivers and building the resilience of ecosystems for adaptation.

Thirdly, the framework should address vulnerabilities and needs where it matters most and harness the potential of civil society. It should also integrate gender, age, and disabilities into disaster risk management. The new framework should factor in conflict and fragility, technological risks, emerging risks, and global shocks and stresses such as food and nutrition insecurity and epidemics.

Fourthly, we support the need for a stronger effectiveness of investing in disaster risk management. The new framework should also clearly emphasise the contribution of disaster risk management to innovation and sustainable growth and be developed and implemented in close partnership with all stakeholders including the private sector and international financial institutions.

Finally, we have a great opportunity to ensure that coherent approaches are taken across complementary global frameworks and political processes: the post-2015

development framework, the climate change agenda, and the World Humanitarian Summit. This should be further reflected at operational level and will involve coordinated action and advocacy to partners and stakeholders across these processes.

All countries are affected by the increasing threats posed by disasters and the EU is not spared. Ownership and accountability at appropriate levels will be of key importance for the implementation of the framework. The EU and its Member States are determined to continue playing an active role in the upcoming negotiations and stand ready to engage in an open and constructive dialogue with all partners and stakeholders.