

## **THE VOICE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS**

**Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:**

**On behalf of the parliamentarians attending this conference, I would like to express our grateful appreciation to UNISDR for the opportunity to participate and to be heard in the forums of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.**

**The dialogue among parliamentarians and mayors was well attended and most insightful. We shared views, experiences, and recommendations on advancing disaster risk reduction focused on translating policies into local actions and increasing investment and funding.**

**The dialogue effectively drew out the common concerns and current challenges that confront many countries and communities today.**

**As elected public officials, we share the common view that parliamentarians and mayors have a vital complementary role to play to promote national and global efforts for resilient development.**

**As elected leaders, parliamentarians shall work together to create the enabling environment for investing more in building community resilience and to put a human face to risk and vulnerability reduction.**

**Moreover, as parliamentarians, we shall exercise our mandated oversight roles which will ensure good governance of risk reduction. We are in a position to introduce laws that could enhance and promote risk-sensitive development policies and programs as well as increase investment in risk reduction. We could also request government agencies to report to the parliament their respective progress in reducing disaster risk.**

**Given the increasing prevalence of disaster risk and the current state of national capacities for disaster risk reduction, the challenge at hand is enormous. Yet with political will and genuine commitment to action, we believe much can be done and could be achieved.**

**Strengthening legislation at the national and local levels is important to ensure sustained funding and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development processes. The landmark laws on disaster risk reduction and**

**climate change in the Philippines highlights the importance of this intervention.**

**Disaster risk reduction is a responsibility shared by all. To effectively reduce risk, we must all act as one. It calls for multi-partnerships, concerted action, integration of efforts, engaging the private sector and academe, and securing funding and investments.**

**As we unite against risk, we, parliamentarians, agreed to transcend partisan politics and attain synergy of action in favor of achieving our shared goal of sustainable development. We have agreed then to promote disaster risk reduction as a trans-party agenda demonstrative of our political REPORTING ON THE DIALOGUE AMONG PARLIAMENTARIANS AND MAYORS**

**In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that the parliamentarians who attended this Global Platform have been active in advancing disaster risk reduction in their respective regions and countries. And, they have expressed to do more. These actions include (1) setting up of national committees on disaster risk reduction, (2) organizing high-level executive briefings on the importance of disaster risk reduction as part of the government's preparation for the United Nation's Rio +20 Conference on Sustainable Development next year, and (3) bringing the messages and outcomes of this global dialogue to our respective parliaments.**

**Finally, we earnestly call on other stakeholders, especially the executive branch of government, to immediately translate the outcome of this conference into concrete actions at the national and local levels.**

**As political leaders, we have a moral responsibility to act and arrest this chronic problem of disaster risk. And the urgency for more effective action has never been more pronounced than now. Otherwise, we will never achieve our goal of sustainable development.**

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