

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

Statement on behalf of the Government of the Netherlands

As a risk-prone country, the Netherlands has invested considerably in disaster prevention and risk reduction. We hope that with our extensive knowledge and experience with water-related risk reduction, we can contribute to the success of this very important world conference.

The Netherlands welcomes the Zero draft and considers it as a notable improvement of the Pre-Zero Draft. We believe that the Zero-draft will serve as a good basis for the negotiations that are starting today. We equally welcome the first elements paper on the Sendai declaration.

We support the EU statement and would like to share the following general comments to be reflected in the declaration:

1. The Sendai declaration in our view should transmit 3 main messages:

a) The strong urgency that we as member states all feel with regard to strengthening disaster risk reduction

b) The need for concrete and lasting commitment and

c) The joint responsibility all of us share at different levels, as governments, private businesses or local communities. We need to be in this together!

2. More emphasis should be given to the positive contribution disaster prevention and risk reduction can make in supporting inclusive sustainable growth;

3. Stimulating green growth is the best way to prevent risk creation in development processes. This requires integration of ecosystem-based solutions and the sustainable management of land and water resources at the relevant spatial scale;

4. Policy coherence is the key to success. Merely underlining the link with the post 2015 development agenda and other important international agreements is not enough. We believe that the new framework for action should recognize a strong interdependence with the post 2015 development agenda and other international processes. Accountability, monitoring and financial arrangements for cooperation should be coordinated and aligned;

5. In view of global changes such as climate change, preventive action has to deal with many uncertainties. DRR scenario-building is of the utmost importance; long-term scenarios are crucial elements for adaptive capacity building;

6. Finally, we would like to underline again the importance of private sector involvement in DRR and the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships, also at the local level, for the successful implementation of DRR measures. Local, national and international stakeholders should be able to fully understand and take up their role within the post-2015 framework.