

**Statement by India at United Nations International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Evaluation Steering Committee
Meeting held at Geneva on January 25, 2010**

Government of India has made significant progress in shifting its focus from post disaster relief to pre-disaster preparedness, mitigation and risk reduction. There is an increasing emphasis on integrating disaster risk reduction measures in development planning, programming and promoting a culture of prevention and preparedness. Efforts are also being made to establish and sustain dedicated budgets for disaster risk reduction. The Eleventh Five Year Plan document of Government of India given impetus on addressing disaster risk reduction as one of the priorities in development programmes. A working group was also constituted on Disaster Management by the Planning Commission as a part of the formulation of Eleventh Five Year Plan to examine the manner in which measures for disaster mitigation, preparedness and capacity building could be enhanced and integrated into the development plans at centre and states. The current key focuses are to strengthen the capacity of the disaster management institutions at various levels to integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) into a development planning and implement specific disaster risk reduction project, enhance regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation for early warning dissemination, knowledge networking and sharing of good practices on disaster risk reduction.

2. Legislative, institutional, financial and coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction have been put in place with statutory backup viz. Disaster Management Act 2005. The National Institute of Disaster Management has been established for providing training, conducting research and formulating the comprehensive human resource development plan for disaster management.

3. At the regional level, India was at the forefront in extending disaster relief to its neighbours for example in case of Tsunami in Sri Lanka and earthquake in Pakistan etc. India is host to the SAARC disaster management centre that was established at the directive of the Fourteenth SAARC Summit in 2007. The Fifteenth SAARC Summit directed that a National Disaster Rapid Response Mechanism be developed by the institution for coordinating the requisite response within the SAARC region for dealing with disasters.
