

**Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
First Session
Geneva, Switzerland
5 - 7 June 2007**

Oral Statement by Delegations

Dr Maureen Fordham, Head of Delegation, Gender and Disaster Network

Building disaster resilience effectively and equitably requires the recognition and participation of all members of nations and communities. The Gender and Disaster Network would wish explicitly to identify the particular needs and capacities of women and girls, alongside those of men and boys.

We call upon governments as well as regional, international and nongovernmental organisations, to clearly recognize gender within the Hyogo Priority Actions as follows:

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority which explicitly recognizes gender as a cross-cutting concern requiring attention throughout response, recovery, rehabilitation, preparedness and mitigation phases of disaster reduction planning;
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning, recognizing that the daily routines and social conditions of women and men, girls and boys place them differently at risk, and engage them in different networks of communication;
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels and for all members of nations and communities, based on a solid knowledge base of gender-disaggregated data, tools and information;
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors which result in differential levels and occasions of vulnerability and endangerment, and shape the capacities and resources of women and men to minimise harm; and finally
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels by promoting the inclusion of women in disaster-related professions where they are under-represented, and actively engaging with grassroots women's groups - scaling up their effective solutions through partnerships - to enhance resilience in families and communities.

That concludes the statement from the Gender and Disaster Network. Thank you.