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ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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**POSSIBLE IPCC SPECIAL REPORT ON EXTREME EVENTS AND DISASTER:
MANAGING THE RISKS**

(Letter from the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction)



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Renate,
Dear Ms Christ,

I note with appreciation the progress that has been made by the IPCC over 2008 in its consideration of the proposal by the Government of Norway and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for an IPCC Special Report on managing the risks of extreme events to advance climate change adaptation.

As you may recall, the UNISDR took the initial steps to develop the concept for the special report in mid 2007 and tabled the first proposal at the 27th session in Valencia, in November 2007. This has been further strengthened through the Government of Norway's collaboration and leadership and through the guidance at various IPCC meetings by Chair Mr Pachauri and yourself.

I write now to request that the ISDR system, represented by the UNISDR secretariat, be a Co-Sponsor of the planned Scoping Workshop for the special report, and, if the IPCC decides to undertake the report, be a Co-Sponsor of the special report itself.

The need for an IPCC special report on extreme events has been expressed on many occasions by the governing bodies of the UNISDR system.

The case for the IPCC special report was originally made during the First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on 5-7 June 2007. The session was convened by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in his capacity as Chair of the UNISDR system with the participation by 124 Member States and numerous international and regional organizations. The Chair's Summary of the session included the following text: "The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and UNISDR system should collaborate on the preparation of a special report on adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development." (Paragraph 8 – see http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/session_docs/ISDR_GP_2007_6.pdf)

The above view was confirmed by a subsequent Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly in September 2007, which made the following analysis: "The implications of the current trends and forward projections in terms of disaster occurrence and the use of the Hyogo Framework for Action as a means for adapting to climate change need to be more closely analysed and assessed through a special report, preferably under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Such a report should also provide guidance for Member States on practicable measures to reduce their climate-related disaster risks." (Paragraph 6, Report of the Secretary General on International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, A/62/320, 5 September 2007)

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The need for the IPCC report was also discussed in the meeting of the Management Oversight Board for the ISDR system, held on 8 October 2007. The Board, convened by Under-Secretary-General Mr Holmes and comprised of the heads or senior representatives of the UN Development Group, OCHA, WMO, the World Bank, UNEP, and IFRC, agreed to promote more forcefully the linkages between climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Most recently, the resolution on natural disaster and vulnerability adopted in November 2008 at the Second Committee of the General Assembly included the following text: [The General Assembly] "encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries." (OP16, A/C.2/63/L.50, 24 November 2008.) Similar resolutions containing this request have been adopted in previous years.

As a co-sponsor for the Special Report process, the UNISDR system and secretariat would contribute by helping to promote access to relevant information and by stimulating the interest and participation of disaster risk reduction and risk management experts from Member States. In this respect, I believe that special efforts are needed to reach out to expert communities that thus far have not been heavily engaged in IPCC processes.

I look forward to your advice on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Salvano Briceno
Director