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April 22, 2015

**Letter of Request Regarding the Implementation
of the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030”**

Dear Prime Minister of Japan,

We express our deep respect for Japan's leadership as the host country and the great efforts made toward the adoption of the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), held in Sendai City with the participation of 187 countries from around the world.

In particular, despite difficulties in reaching agreement among countries with dissimilar stances and values, we highly value your strong assertion for the necessity of “the promotion of women's participation and leadership” in the intergovernmental negotiations, which led to be included in the final document.

We, the Japan Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (JWNDRR), have long advocated that the perspective of gender equality be incorporated into the policies and plans for disaster risk reduction and reconstruction, and that this perspective be addressed in a new framework to be adopted at the conference. We are extremely delighted that the participation of women, the promotion of women's leadership and the importance of gender equality in policy formulation and implementation of measures for disaster risk reduction and recovery, and the importance of development of gender-responsive indicators have been clearly expressed as one of the most important elements in the “Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030” adopted at this conference.

We especially note that Prime Minister Abe announced the “Sendai Cooperation Initiative for DRR” at the plenary session. This document contains the heading, “The human security approach and promoting women's participation,” under which it is noted that “Japan attaches the great importance to gender equality and women's empowerment” and “It is also necessary to

develop human resources to enhance women's leadership role in DRR.” The document also states that “over the next four years, Japan will train 40 thousand of government officials and local leaders to play leading roles.” Furthermore, in the high-level multi-stakeholders' partnership dialogue, it was clearly asserted that “Capacity building training project for the promotion of women's leadership role in DRR will be launched as one of the main projects of the initiative,” and we are enormously encouraged by this appeal which calls for the importance of women's leadership to the international community.

Nevertheless, for the purpose of achieving DRR, it would be indispensable to ensure that the new “Sendai Framework for DRR” and other matters noted above be firmly implemented both in Japan and overseas. To achieve these goals, and to strengthen the women's autonomy and capability in DRR, we believe that particular consideration be given to our strong requests that:

1. the Government of Japan continues in the future to display its international leadership respecting the gender-sensitive perspective with regard to areas related to DRR,
2. the women's participation be incorporated as a basic principle into the “Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act,”
3. the importance of gender equality also be clearly stated as an effective measure in all related Acts,
4. the risk reduction and recovery sector be treated as stand-alone subject in the “Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality” and specific measures be indicated based on the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,”
5. the negative aspects of vertically segmented administration be eliminated and an inclusive and cross-sectoral system be constructed in order to promote gender equality in all phases of DRR and recovery instruction policies,
6. the “capacity building training programs for the promotion of women's leadership in DRR” clearly stated by the Prime Minister be swiftly implemented both in Japan and overseas,
7. the content of the international training initiative for gender equality and DRR, the development of which has been proposed by JWNDRR, be incorporated into the leadership training mentioned above,

8. the Government of Japan makes every effort for the international realization of the recommendations Women's Major Group (WMG) formally made. They state that "gender equality and respect for women's human rights are basic principles of DRR, and women's participation at all phases of DRR should be realized" and "women's contribution in DRR and reconstruction should be respected," and

9. the enhancement and strengthening of comprehensive and cross-sectoral policies based on the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030" also be carried out in local governments at all levels, *i.e.* each prefecture, city, town and village.