



**Office of Science and Technology Policy**  
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**STATEMENT**

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**Statement in Support of International Day for Disaster Reduction**  
**From**  
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**Executive Office of the President**

Throughout the United States, natural and technological disasters claim lives and damage our economy. Hurricane Isabel in the mid-Atlantic region and the power outages in the Northeast are two recent and vivid examples of the impact such events can have. Escalating population growth along coastlines, fault zones, and other hazardous areas means increasing numbers of Americans live and work – often unknowingly – in harm’s way. The number of people affected by natural and technological disasters highlights the need for new tools and technologies for disaster management that reduce the loss of property and life. Whether facing natural or technological hazards, communities must be equipped with the hazard mitigation, preparedness, and response and recovery technologies required for a disaster resistant America.

The International Day for Disaster Reduction, October 8th, simultaneously recognizes the world’s vulnerability and strength in the face of disasters. A vital source of our strength is our progress in science and technology, and the application of both to disaster reduction. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to developing and implementing the tools and technologies required to create a disaster resistant world.

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