

**STATEMENT OF THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON  
FLOOD DEFENCE (ISFD4)  
6-8 MAY 2008, TORONTO CANADA**

**1 ACKNOWLEDGES**

- that floods in their natural state play a vital role in support of economic and environmental sustainability;
- that costs associated with floods in terms of both lives lost and damages sustained continue to rise on a global scale;
- that societies of all types continue to occupy floodplains and delta areas that are highly prone to the incidence of severe flooding;
- that the threat from climate change continues to grow and changes the frequency and severity of floods and coastal storms;
- that flood management is defined as the management of the flood risk by integrated measures of legislation, economy, administration, structures, technologies and education; and
- that international and regional cooperation and collaboration, particularly within trans-boundary basins, is critical to the flood damage reduction process.

**2 TAKES INTO ACCOUNT**

- that trans-boundary measures and institutional arrangements are improving, albeit on an incremental basis;
- that a well designed and properly maintained flood control system with moderate standards, safety and credibility, and proper utilization provides a vital framework for living with floods;
- that the role that non-structural measures, such as floodplain expansion and public awareness, play in reducing the overall flood risk continues to expand in importance;
- that flood-related information technology continues to improve and be diffused throughout all economic sectors;
- that the principles of integrated floodplain management, taking into account economic, social, and environmental dynamics, continues to gain in stature; and
- that the measures used for flood adjustment are highly variable and region dependent.

### **3 RECOMMENDS**

- the continued advancement of integrated floodplain management principles and practices, including a more fully balanced approach of structural and non-structural flood protection measures;
- the development of variable procedures to more effectively manage the flood risk within various sectors of society;
- the full exploitation of basic and advanced information technologies to improve environmental representation, flood characterization and prediction, and to foster inter-sectoral communications, and collaboration;
- the advancement of strategies to involve a broader range of groups and individuals in decision-making processes based on common, basin-wide visions;
- the continued exchange of information related to flood management through regional and international initiatives and meetings;
- the introduction of flood risk and impact assessment with any new development proposal; and
- the enhanced awareness of local flood management capacities and the need for affected groups and individuals to assume their share of the risk.

### **4 AGREES**

- to change the name from the "International Symposium on Flood Defence (ISFD)" to the "International Conference on Flood Management (ICFM)"
- to distribute this statement at key international events, such as the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (Istanbul, 2009) and the Hyogo Framework for Action (Geneva, 2009)

### **5 INVITES**

- the Ad Hoc Committee to organize a 5th ICFM to continue the exchange of innovative flood management research and practices and national, regional and international policy developments.