



Global Platform
for Disaster Risk Reduction
Third Session, Geneva, Switzerland
8-13 May 2011

Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

*Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow
Increase Investment in Local Action*

PROGRAMME



In collaboration with the World Reconstruction Conference

Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Reconstruction Conference

*Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow
Increase Investment in Local Action*

Chair of the Global Platform:

Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Opening of the World Reconstruction Conference:

Ms. Sri Mulyani Indrawati
Managing Director of the World Bank

Venue:

International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)
17 rue de Varembé, Geneva, Switzerland

For all information, please visit the Global Platform website:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2011>

World Reconstruction Conference website:

<http://www.wrc-2011.org>

Official Programme

Tuesday 10 May - Friday 13 May

Preparatory Meetings and Events

Sunday 8 May - Monday 9 May



Test the siren of Meghauli's early warning system, Nepal © Practical Action / Peter Crawford

Invest today for a safer tomorrow

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This programme is accurate at the time of printing. For updates, we encourage participants to consult PreventionWeb and electronic notice boards throughout the Conference venue.

Acknowledgments

The secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) expresses its deep appreciation to donors providing direct financial support to the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction including: Germany, Sweden and Switzerland as Gold Sponsors (contribution greater than USD500,000); Australia, European Commission, Luxembourg and Norway as Silver Sponsors (contribution USD100,000 to USD500,000); and Hungary as a Bronze Sponsor (contribution less than USD100,000). Our thanks also goes to donors that regularly contribute to the UNISDR, including: Argentina, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States. The support is essential to all the work leading to the Global Platform.

UNISDR expresses its gratitude to the large number of organizations and individuals who have contributed to the preparation of the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as part of their support to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. A special thank you to the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for financing the preparation and hosting of the World Reconstruction Conference as an integral part of the Global Platform.

UNISDR recognizes the volunteers as well as the dedicated team of interns who have helped make the Third Session possible.



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United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

At the end of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in July 1999, the International Programme Forum adopted the Geneva Mandate on Disaster Reduction, together with the strategy document “A Safer World in the 21st Century: Risk and Disaster Reduction.” The Forum recommended that an international cooperative framework for disaster reduction be maintained and strengthened.

In December 1999, General Assembly Resolution 54/219 created the UNISDR, as a successor of the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. In 2001, Assembly resolution 56/195 mandated the secretariat to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields.

In 2005, the Assembly, through resolution 60/195, endorsed the “Hyogo Declaration” and the “Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters” adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. The Hyogo Framework for Action has tasked the ISDR secretariat with supporting the implementation of the strategic objectives identified therein.



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Contacts and Assistance

For guidance or help with any queries relating to the Global Platform, please visit the Help Desk open from 8 to 13 May near the entrance of the Conference Centre (Centre International de Conférences de Genève).

Email: globalplatform@un.org

Telephone: +41 (0)22 791 94 43

Security

Access to the Global Platform and World Reconstruction Conference at the International Conference Centre in Geneva is limited to registered participants with valid badges.

Programme and Schedule

Updates and any changes to the programme and schedule will be posted on the monitors at the Conference Centre and the website: <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2011/>

World Reconstruction Conference

A detailed programme as well as background notes can also be found at <http://www.wrc-2011.org>

Documents

Documents for the Third Session are posted on the Global Platform website as they become available. Documents will be available at the Help Desk in the conference centre. Written statements will be posted online, along with daily webcasts of plenary sessions and audio recordings of roundtables and featured events.

Technology

The conference centre offers Internet access, wifi, computers, telephones, faxes, video projectors and flipcharts.

Interpretation

Plenaries, roundtables, informal plenaries and featured events will be interpreted in six languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Media

A range of communication activities have been organized for the media covering the Global Platform this year. These include: press opportunities with senior level United Nations and government officials; live webcasts for direct media feeds of the high-level roundtables moderated by renowned broadcast journalists; daily press encounters for the media with senior-level participants; as well as press conferences on the launch of the 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction and other key issues. A media centre for accredited journalists will be available throughout the event. The Platform's outcome will be posted to the UNISDR website which will be helpful to media covering the 2011 United Nations climate change conference in Durban, South Africa, and the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Greening

UNISDR has supported the United Nations Secretary-General's "Greening the UN" campaign since its launch in 2007. Transportation for participants will likely produce three million kilogrammes of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which UNISDR will offset by investing in a disaster risk reduction-related project under the Clean Development Mechanism of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Offsetting carbon emissions is supported by the 2009 and 2011 Global Assessment Reports as well as the Hyogo Framework for Action. In addition, UNISDR will endeavour to reduce the consumption of natural resources and the production of waste related to the Global Platform. This document is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Food and Refreshments

A coffee and refreshment bar is open from 07:30 to 17:30 hrs from 9 to 13 May. The conference centre has a cafeteria style restaurant open from 12:00 to 14:30 hrs. Please note that eating and drinking are not permitted in the meeting rooms. There are no dinner facilities provided at the conference centre. There are a number of restaurants near the conference centre including:

Restaurant la Romana
Rue de Vermont 37, 1202 Genève, Suisse
T. 022 734 82 85

Restaurant le Trèfle d'Or
Chemin Louis-Dunant 13, 1202 Genève, Suisse
T. 022 733 56 05

Restaurant Japonais Sagano
Rue de Montbrillant 86, 1202 Genève, Suisse
T. 022 733 11 50

Restaurant Thai Phuket
Avenue de France 33, 1202 Genève, Suisse
T. 022 734 41 00

Restaurant Ariana
Rue de Montbrillant 83, 1202 Genève, Suisse
T. 022 740 07 67

Restaurant New Shanghai
Rue de Montbrillant 90, 1202 Genève, Suisse-
T. 022 734 00 81

Restaurant des Nations
Rue de Montbrillant 87, 1202 Genève, Suisse
T. 022 734 35 45

Geneva Public Transport

A free day pass for public transport (bus and train) is usually available to guests staying in hotels in Geneva. A transportation map can be found at: http://www.tpg.ch/index.php/tpg/horaires/horaire_normal

Geneva Hotel List

Please contact the Global Platform Help Desk at the conference centre.

For more information, please visit the Global Platform website: <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2011/>

Foreword: From Risk to Resilience

The 11 March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan is a sobering reminder that well planned actions based on human precision can seem almost extemporaneous when confronted with nature's imprecision. In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the world was riveted to images of the destruction as reports of the numbers of dead and missing grew into figures no one wanted to hear. Numbers that defied the billions of dollars spent by a country that was well aware of the daily risks threatening its population and determined to minimize if not prevent the suffering that accompanies the pernicious visitations of natural hazards.

Do we give up in the face of such odds? No. Consider that for those who are already familiar and comfortable with the notion, "disaster risk reduction" already existed long before the term came into use. The process today is merely the modern equivalent of attitudes adopted by communities after their catastrophes in past centuries. What is new is the almost 20 year old concept of ownership by the most vulnerable people; national policies that are responsive to human needs as well as the empowering of local people; and a sense of knowing that, development without resilience is not sustainable. Managing risk is therefore an inescapable part of our way of life. Yet this in itself is now not enough. We are now compelled to do more - to move from simply managing our risks towards building sustainable cultures of resilience.

Plausibly, the thrust to build such cultures began with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and Disaster Mitigation Branch in the 1970s. Today it is now the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), a collaboration of scientific, academic, political, economic, legal, civil, governmental and private sector entities, who took the internationally-agreed 1999 Geneva Mandate to build a culture of resilience using the Hyogo Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA) as a guiding tool. The resulting "Hyogo-effect" is a mindset of safety-conscious development processes that gave rise to a voluntary monitoring process, the formation of national laws and institutions underpinned by a system of national focal points and platforms. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which meets every two years, is the manifestation of these commitments.

From 8 to 13 May 2011, the Third Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction will convene in Geneva, Switzerland. The event brings together leaders, opinion makers, practitioners and experts to commit to action and set the future course of disaster risk reduction. The main theme of the Third Session of the Global Platform "Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow – Increase Investment in Local Action", is the chapeau of three main topics: Reconstruction and Recovery; Economics of Disaster Risk Reduction; and Alliances with Climate Change and Development.

Given recent events and the need for urgent action, the Third Session of the Global Platform comes at an important time. The Third Session will build on the findings and recommendations of the Second Session in 2009 as well as the results of the Mid-Term-Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action, the 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, and, the 2010 publication "*Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters: The Economics of Effective Prevention.*" The Third Session also features the World Reconstruction Conference (WRC), organized by the World Bank, that will add to the policy dialogue for more effective support to countries in recovery and risk reduction.

The main outcome of the Global Platform will be a Chair's Summary that will outline actions and set the priorities for the disaster risk reduction community.

Format of the Third Session of the Global Platform

The Third Session of the Global Platform will include the first World Reconstruction Conference (hosted by the World Bank). The sessions of the World Reconstruction Conference have been integrated into the overall Global Platform programme and schedule. Joint efforts by UNISDR and the World Bank to organize the event are a reflection of our continued collaboration and recognition of the importance of disaster risk reduction. Participants will find a rich array of events and topics on which to engage.



Opening and Closing

Both opening and closing ceremonies will include a keynote speech and statements from invited dignitaries.



Plenary Sessions

The plenary sessions are the main opportunities for leaders and opinion makers to come together and identify key challenges and solutions for reducing the risk of disasters. Panellists are drawn from among key leaders and actors in disaster reduction including members of national government, local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, as well as the private sector. Moderators at the main plenary sessions will engage panellists and participants to determine commitments and recommendations for action.



Official Plenary Statements

Delegations are invited to provide three-minute official statements at allotted times in the plenary segments according to the official speakers list. Please record your interest in making an official statement as soon as possible via the Platform's website or through the Help Desk. Delegations are also encouraged to come with written statements for circulation whether or not they deliver an oral statement. Plenary statements will be broadcast at different locations throughout the conference centre and via webcast.



Informal Plenary Sessions

Informal plenary sessions are scheduled for 16:45 to 18:30 on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May. The informal plenary of the Global Platform is an open segment to discuss common challenges related to the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The informal plenary discussions at the Third Session will be guided by the outcomes of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework.



Roundtables

Roundtables have been organized in cooperation with governments and participating organizations on issues of importance for the disaster risk reduction agenda. In particular these roundtables feature representatives from government, private sector and local authorities. Their outcomes will feed into the Chair's Summary and final proceedings of the Third Session of the Global Platform.



Featured Events

Featured events highlight a particular area of work in disaster risk reduction. Featured events in 2011 include a briefing of the Global Assessment Report; dialogue with parliamentarians and mayors; discussions on education, health, climate services for managing risks, preparedness, as well as a briefing on the recent publication *Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters: Economics of Effective Prevention*.



Side Events

Hour-long side events will take place each day during the lunch break where they will address a variety of topics and issues of interest, clustered around main themes and topics of the Third Session. Recognition goes to the side event organizers for support in partnership-building through joint organization of these events.



Market Place

The Disaster Risk Reduction Market Place will be open from 08:30 to 18:30 hrs from Tuesday 10 to Thursday 12 May and from 08.30 to 14:00 hrs on Friday 13 May. The purpose of the Market Place is to provide a dynamic venue for showcasing major projects, products, new ideas and approaches that support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Market Place area with stalls is located in the main entrance hall of the conference centre. In addition, an "ignite stage" will provide further opportunity for participants to highlight their achievements, challenges and innovative ideas.



World Reconstruction Conference

The World Reconstruction Conference will feature a number of events centred on recovery and reconstruction including a High Level Policy Panel, Thematic Sessions, Roundtable Discussions, and an Innovation Forum. Detailed session descriptions as well as background notes can be found at <http://www.wrc-2011.org>

Preparatory Meetings and Events at a Glance

Preparatory meetings and events provide participants with an opportunity to meet on Sunday 8 May and Monday 9 May 2011 in advance of the commencement of the formal programme of the Third Session. Preparatory meetings and events are listed below. Updates, where made, can be found on the website: <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2011/>
Preparatory meetings and events are closed sessions (invitation only) unless otherwise specified as an open event.

Sunday 8 May	Time	Room	Level
Media Training for Journalists and Media Focal Points for National Platforms	09.00 – 17.00	14	2
Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience	09.00 – 17.00	5	3
Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction - ISDR Science and Technical Committee	14.00 – 18.00	B-CCV	CCV building
Red Cross Red Crescent Day: The value of Volunteers in Reducing Risks and Growing Sustainable Communities (open event)	14.00 – 17.00	A-CCV	CCV building
Monday 9 May	Time	Room	Level
CEPRENAC: Disaster Risk Reduction analysis in Central America: Context and Future Actions	08.00 – 11.00	2	0
Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction: Learning Event on Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction	09.00 – 10.45	5	3
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Meeting	09.00 – 12.00	7+8	2
Climate Change Preparatory Meeting	09.00 – 12.00	18	-1
African Group on Disaster Risk Reduction	09.00 – 12.00	3	0
Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab Region: Progress and Challenges	09.00 – 12.00	4	0
Pacific Regional Group Orientation Meeting	09.00 – 12.00	13	2
ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management	09.00 – 12.00	C-CCV	CCV building
Media Training for Journalists	09.00 – 17.00	14	2
UNISDR Donors Group Meeting	09.30 – 12.30	B-CCV	CCV building
REHU MERCOSUR: Progress on Disaster Risk Reduction	10.00 – 12.00	6	3
CDEMA: Strategic Issues and Positions for Third Session of the Global Platform	10.00 – 12.00	E-CCV	CCV building
European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction	10.00 – 12.30	A-CCV	CCV building
International Consortium on Landslides	10.00 – 17.00	D-CCV	CCV building
SAARC Disaster Management Centre – Launch of South Asia Disaster Knowledge Network Portal	11.00 – 12.45	5	3
DKKV and IFRC: Early Warning Preparatory Meeting	13.00 – 15.00	5	3
GFDRR Consultative Group Meeting	13.30 – 18.00	A-CCV	CCV building
Global Task Force on Building Codes	14.00 – 16.00	18	-1
Heads of IGOs and Regional Platforms	14.00 – 17.00	3	0
National Platform Meeting: Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction through Better Governance	14.00 – 17.00	4	0
Preparatory meeting for Mayors, Local Governments and Making Cities Resilient Campaign (open meeting)	14.00 – 17.00	6	3
Shelter Sector: Preparatory Meeting	14.00 – 18.00	13	2
Civil Society: Preparatory Meeting	14.00 – 18.00	2	0
Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Health	14.00 – 18.00	C-CCV	CCV building
Parliamentarian Preparatory Meeting	15.00 – 17.00	E-CCV	CCV building

Official Programme at a Glance

Tuesday 10 May	Time	Room	Level
Featured Event: Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction	09.00 – 10.15	1	1
Featured Event: Dialogue with Parliamentarians and Mayors on Disaster Risk Reduction: From policy to local action	10.30 – 12.30	1	1
WRC Roundtable: Strengthening Local Recovery – The Key to Building Back Better	10.30 – 12.15	3+4	0
Roundtable: Preparedness	10.30 – 12.15	2	0
Side Events (see programme and schedule for details)	12.15 – 13.15		
Featured Event: Education and Safe Schools	12.45 – 14.15	2	0
Side Events (see programme and schedule for details)	13.15 – 14.15		
Opening Ceremony	14.30 – 15.15	1	1
Plenary: Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow – Increase Investment in Local Action	15.15 – 16.30	1	1
Roundtable: Ensuring a Return on Investment in Local Action	16.45 – 18.30	2	0
Roundtable: Addressing Wildland Fire Risk	16.45 – 18.30	3+4	0
Official Plenary Statements	16.45 – 18.30	1	1
WRC Thematic Sessions: 1. Urban Housing Reconstruction and Land Management	16.45 – 18.30	7+8	2
2. IT Innovations – Reconstruction 2.0	16.45 – 18.30	5	3
3. Assessment-led Reconstruction	16.45 – 18.30	18	-1
4. Post-Disaster Response in Fragile and Conflict Situations	16.45 – 18.30	6	3
Reception hosted by Switzerland	18.30 – 20.00	Restaurant	1
Wednesday 11 May	Time	Room	Level
World Reconstruction Conference (WRC) High Level Policy Panel: Responding to Natural Disasters - A Long-Ignored Development Challenge	09.00 – 10.45	2	0
Roundtable: Public Investment – Where Disaster Risk Reduction Really Makes a Difference	11.00 – 12.45	2	0
Roundtable: Engaging the Private Sector	11.00 – 12.45	3+4	0
WRC Thematic Sessions: 5. Monitoring and Evaluation of Disaster Recovery Operations and Programmes	11.00 – 12.45	18	-1
6. Rebuilding Life-important Infrastructure: The Case of Water and Sanitation	11.00 – 12.45	6	3
7. Lessons Learned from Large-Scale Reconstruction Programmes	11.00 – 12.45	5	3
8. Environmentally Sustainable Recovery	11.00 – 12.45	7+8	2
Official Plenary Statements	11.00 – 12.45	1	1
Side Events (see programme and schedule for details)	12.45 – 13.45		
Featured Event: Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters – Economics of Effective Prevention	13.15 – 14.45	2	0
Featured Event: Protecting Public Health from Disaster Risks	13.15 – 14.45	3+4	0
Side Events (see programme and schedule for details)	13.45 – 14.45		
Plenary: The Economics of Disaster – Effective Financial Instruments to Reduce Risk	15.00 – 16.30	1	1
WRC Thematic Session: 9. Shaping Institutions for Reconstruction: Options and Trade-offs	16.45 – 18.30	7+8	2
10. Protecting and Empowering Vulnerable Groups in Recovery	16.45 – 18.30	5	2
Informal Plenary 1: Implementation of Outcomes of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action	16.45 – 18.30	2	0
WRC Roundtable: Rebuilding and Protecting Critical Infrastructure – Lessons from Japan and Other Catastrophes	16.45 – 18.30	3+4	0
Official Plenary Statements	16.45 – 18.30	1	1
WRC Innovation Competition Presentations: New Approaches to Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction	18.30 – 20.00	Ignite Stage	0

Thursday 12 May	Time	Room	Level
Plenary: Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Alliances for Resilience	09.00 – 10.30	1	1
Roundtable: Managing Watersheds for Urban Resilience	10.45 – 12.15	3+4	0
Roundtable: Children for Resilience	10.45 – 12.15	2	0
WRC Thematic Sessions: 11. Innovations in Disaster and Climate Risk Financing for Developing Countries	10.45 – 12.15	18	-1
12. Reviving of Livelihoods and Local Economy	10.45 – 12.15	7+8	2
13. Providing Sustainable Health and Education Services in Disaster Recovery Programs	10.45 – 12.15	6	3
Official Plenary Statements	10.45 – 12.15	1	1
Side Events (see programme and schedule for details)	12.30 – 13.30		
Featured Event: Operational Climate Services for Managing Socio-Economic Risks linked to the Changing Climate	13.00 – 14.30	2	0
Side Events (see programme and schedule for details)	13.30 – 14.30		
Official Plenary Statements	14.45 – 18.30	1	1
Roundtable: Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Sensitive	14.45 – 16.30	3+4	0
Roundtable: Safety Nets for Disaster Risk Reduction	14.45 – 16.30	2	0
Roundtable: Mountains of Risk	14.45 – 16.30	A-CCV	CCV building
Informal Plenary 2: Implementation of Outcomes of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action	16.45 – 18.30	2	0
WRC Roundtable: The Way Forward – Moving Towards a Sustainable Reconstruction and Recovery Framework	16.45 – 18.30	3+4	0
United Nations Sasakawa Award 2011 Ceremony	18.30 – 19.30	3+4	0
Reception	19.30 – 20.30	Restaurant	1
Friday 13 May	Time	Room	Level
Joint Summary Outcomes Global Platform and WRC	09.00 – 11.30	1	1
Closing Ceremony	11.30 – 12.30	1	1
Side Event: Next Steps on Chair's Summary	12.45 – 14.15	2	0

Ceremonies and Receptions

Opening Ceremony

(Tuesday 10 May 14.30 – 15.15 Room 1)

Distinguished delegates are cordially invited to the opening of the Third Session of the Global Platform and the World Reconstruction Conference.

Opening keynote speech will be delivered by:

H.E Mr. BAN Ki-moon,
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Welcome address will be given by:

Ms. Sri Mulyani Indrawati,
Managing Director of the World Bank

Statements from invited dignitaries will follow. The opening session will be an opportunity to outline future plans and commitments to achieve international and domestic goals in risk reduction. As global and domestic institutions pursue the goals of sustainable development, it is only with strong leadership at the highest levels that investments can be protected and lives saved.

Reception hosted by Switzerland

(Tuesday 10 May 18.30 – 20.00 Restaurant)

All participants are welcome to attend a reception hosted by the Swiss Confederation at the Conference Centre.

United Nations Sasakawa Award 2011

(Thursday 12 May)

(Ceremony 18.30 – 19.30 Room 3+4)

(Reception 19.30 – 20.30 Restaurant)

The United Nations Sasakawa Award recognizes excellence in reducing disaster risk for a safer, more sustainable world. The candidates - individuals and institutions - have carried out outstanding and internationally recognized action that contributes to the strategic goals and priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 - 2015. In 2011 the focus of the award is on local action in line with the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and the overall theme of the Global Platform. All participants are welcome to attend to this high-profile event, which will be followed by a reception.

Closing Ceremony

(Friday 13 May 11.30 – 12.30 Room 1)

Distinguished delegates are cordially invited to the formal closing of the Third Session of the Global Platform. An invited guest will deliver a speech on future risk.



Opening Ceremony

Tuesday 10 May

14.30 – 15.15

Plenary Sessions

Plenary: Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow - Increase Investment in Local Action

Chaired by Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

(Tuesday 10 May 15.15 – 16.30 Room 1)

The plenary will be a discussion with guest panellists and a moderator.

Risk is most effectively reduced at the local level. Concerted action is required to ensure that systematic and predictable resources are reaching local levels, that activities are well-designed and that capacities are in place to support implementation. This plenary session introduces the overarching theme of the Third Session of the Global Platform and provides an opportunity for leaders to describe the strengths and weaknesses of mechanisms designed to ensure that local authorities are better resourced financially and technically. The plenary speakers are invited to recommend specific steps that can be taken to align national and local priorities in building resilience. Finally, this plenary considers how local and national authorities get started on assessing risk, and seeks, as a concrete outcome, to generate commitment to assess school and hospital safety.

Plenary: The Economics of Disaster – Effective Financial Instruments to Reduce Risk

Chaired by Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

(Wednesday 11 May 15.00 – 16.30 Room 1)

Organized in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank and the Inter American Bank

The plenary will be a discussion with guest panellists and a moderator.

While disaster reduction efforts have contributed to reductions in mortality, economic damages are rapidly on the rise. The value of global GDP exposed to tropical cyclones, for instance, has more than tripled from US\$564 billion in 1970 to US\$1.9 trillion in 2010.

Nearly two-thirds of Governments reporting on their progress toward the Hyogo Framework for Action referred to specific allocations for disaster risk reduction in their national budget. However, greater commitment is required to advance comprehensive approaches to investing in disaster risk reduction that embrace government and private sector spending and provide the incentives for the private sector and households to protect their investments.

The panel is composed of senior authorities that have responsibility for managing public and private budgets. Based on their experience, the panellists, in an active dialogue with participants from the floor, will outline what determines national, local and corporate spending as well as the most effective instruments that will ensure that investments reduce risk to natural hazards. Finally, the panel will be asked to provide specific recommendations to address critical gaps in our current tracking of investment in risk reduction.

Informal Plenary 1: Implementation of Outcomes of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action

(Wednesday 11 May 16.45 – 18.30 Room 2)

Discussions at this informal plenary will be guided by outcomes of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework, specifically focusing on the implementation of key emerging priorities for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. All parties are encouraged to contribute and comment on the future of disaster risk reduction based on the outcomes of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Plenary: Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Alliances for Resilience

*Chaired by Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
(Thursday 12 May 09.00 – 10.30 Room 1)*

The plenary will be a discussion with guest panellists and a moderator.

The latest round of negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Cancun established clear commitments on financing and implementing climate change adaptation. Disaster risk reduction was identified as central to this work. Conceptual links between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development have already been made, and successful partnerships between climate adaptation authorities and existing national and local mechanisms for disaster risk reduction already exist. However, more needs to be done to strengthen the alliance between climate change and disaster risk reduction. This plenary points to what is available for supporting implementation of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, and signals high-level commitment to harmonize disaster risk and adaptation in national policies and in the design and implementation of resilience-building programmes.

Informal Plenary 2: Implementation of Outcomes of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action

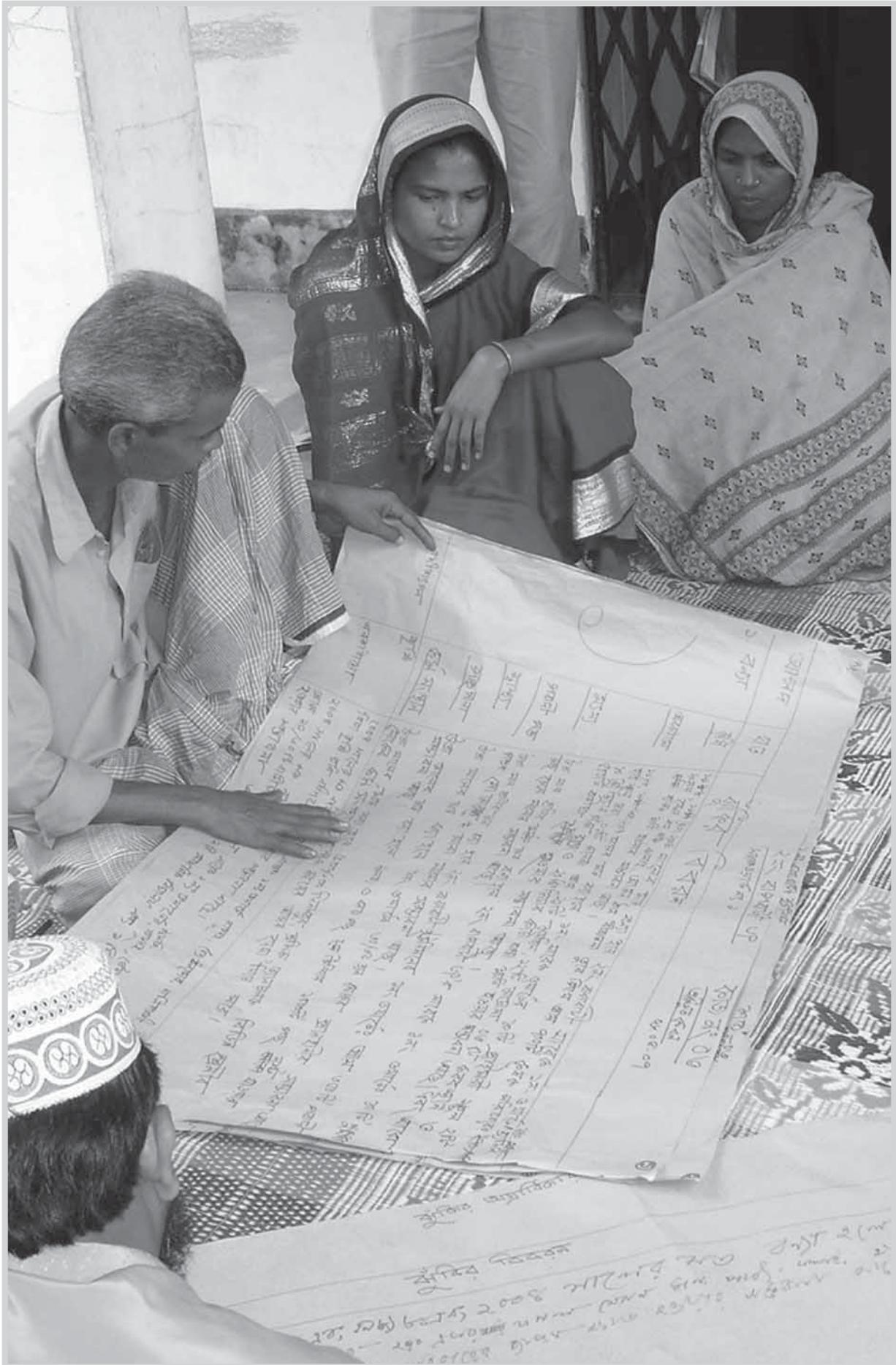
(Thursday 12 May 16.45 – 18.30 Room 2)

The informal plenary will continue the discussion on the outcomes of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework. All parties are encouraged to attend and contribute.

Joint Summary Outcomes of the Global Platform and World Reconstruction Conference

(Friday 13 May 09.00 – 11.30 Room 1)

Results and proceedings of the events of the Global Platform and the World Reconstruction Conference will be discussed at the Joint Summary Outcomes session. Representatives from key groups and delegations will be asked to comment on events and discussions during the week. The Chair's Summary will be presented and endorsement sought.



Mapping exercise © UNISDR

World Reconstruction Conference

World Reconstruction Conference High Level Policy Panel: Responding to Natural Disasters – A Long Ignored Development Challenge

(Wednesday 11 May 09.00 – 10.45 Room 2)

Major public interventions for reconstruction and recovery often follow after disasters, diverting scarce resources originally intended for development programmes. It is vital therefore, to rebuild and recover in a manner that is sustainable, contributing towards the development agendas and programmes of disaster-affected countries. When there is a lack of institutional capacity, coherent planning and coordination among stakeholders, the chance for development is lost, funds are wasted, and the affected population is left additionally burdened. This phenomenon can be observed across the globe – from reconstruction after Hurricane Katrina, haphazard recovery efforts after the earthquake in Haiti, and the lack of preventative measures after the numerous floods that occur every year in sub-Saharan Africa. The World Reconstruction Conference High-Level Policy Panel will address pressing issues of disaster recovery and reconstruction. The Panel is comprised of a prominent group of policy makers from government, multilateral and bilateral organizations, civil society and academia. This interactive session will centre on the following pressing issues:

Recovery and Reconstruction: Have we learned the lessons of the past?
Ensuring communities receive commitments and promises
Prevention Pays...but why are we not Investing?
Recommendations going forward



Great East Japan Earthquake © Recorded Pictures

World Reconstruction Conference Roundtables

World Reconstruction Conference Roundtable: Strengthening Local Recovery – The Key to Building Back Better

(Tuesday 10 May 10:30-12:15 Room 3+4)

The roundtable will address some of the complex issues surrounding the coordination, planning and quality implementation of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery interventions. Discussion will explore ways that disaster-affected populations, civil society groups and the private sector engage in risk reduction and recovery processes. Speakers will provide a range of recent examples to establish what is working and what is not in terms of local involvement. The roundtable aims to establish if there is a need for a common multi-stakeholder framework or processes that bring greater clarity to roles and responsibilities during post disaster recovery and reconstruction scenarios. It will also focus on how such a framework would ensure the appropriate participation of different stakeholder groups for the purpose of reducing future disaster risk.

World Reconstruction Conference Roundtable: Rebuilding and Protecting Critical Infrastructure - Lessons from Japan and Other Catastrophes

(Wednesday 11 May 16.45 – 18.30 Room 3+4)

The March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake dramatically illustrates the dependence of modern society on critical infrastructure, and the risks faced by individuals and government when critical infrastructure fails. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, damaged and interdependent electrical, communications and transportation systems can complicate emergency relief efforts. During reconstruction a slow rebuilding of critical infrastructure will delay economic recovery at both the macro and micro levels.

This roundtable will explore experiences related to the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami, highlighting the immediate challenges arising from critical infrastructure failures. Discussions will also focus on prioritization and opportunities for integrating risk reduction into the rebuilding of critical facilities, leveraging lessons from similar experiences such as the rebuilding of the Kobe container port after the 1995 Great Hanshin earthquake, reconstruction of key facilities following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and upgrading the communications network after the 2010 Chile Earthquake.

World Reconstruction Conference Roundtable: The Way Forward – Moving Towards a Sustainable Reconstruction and Recovery Framework

(Thursday 12 May 16.45 – 18.30 Room 3+4)

By providing a platform for reconstruction and recovery stakeholders from across the globe to share knowledge, experience and know-how on complex issues in disaster recovery and reconstruction, all of the sessions of the World Reconstruction Conference have sought to catalyze, review and reflect on current practices and recent experiences. The aim is to develop new strategies and processes for more effective reconstruction and recovery, and to identify proposals and recommendations for a global policy framework for better cooperation and coordination of recovery and reconstruction. This roundtable will summarize the key outcomes from the World Reconstruction Conference to help guide the development of a sustainable reconstruction and recovery framework. Priority recommendations, as identified in this session, will be delivered to the broader disaster risk reduction agenda during the World Reconstruction Conference and Global Platform joint summary outcome session. The roundtable will be structured as a multi-stakeholder mini-workshop, consolidating and agreeing on key priority recommendations.

World Reconstruction Conference

Thematic Sessions

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 1: Urban Housing Reconstruction and Land Management

(Tuesday 10 May 16.45 – 18.30 Room 7+8)

Numerous factors pose challenges to reconstruction in urban areas including high population densities, limited resettlement options, informal housing, unclear land titles and insecure tenure, developments on hazardous land, land-use planning unsuitable for mitigating hazard risks and environmental complexities. This session will review good practices for managing issues of urban housing, land and property rights, spatial planning, and legislation and regulation. To help strengthen reconstruction, this session will further explore conceptual designs, implementation and, governance mechanisms—including community participation—and monitoring and evaluation in settings of urban recovery.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 2: IT Innovations – Reconstruction 2.0

(Tuesday 10 May 16.45 – 18.30 Room 5)

The session will focus on innovation in damage assessment, reconstruction planning and monitoring and evaluating recovery and reconstruction. With presenters from Cambridge University, the European Commission Joint Research Centre, Google, OpenStreetMap, UNOSAT and Ushahidi, the session will open with presentations on practical applications of innovation in reconstruction, showcasing examples of the use of remote sensing, crowdsourcing, data sharing and the rise of Volunteer Technology Communities. This will be followed by a discussion on future directions and emerging potential in information and communication technology and reconstruction.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 3: Assessment-led Reconstruction

(Tuesday 10 May 16.45 – 18.30 Room 18)

Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is an internationally accepted tool that has come to increasingly inform the reconstruction process. PDNAs guide knowledge-based and country-led recovery and reconstruction, donor coordination, development effectiveness, aid harmonization, as well as risk reduction and adaptation mainstreaming into future development strategies. This session will focus on the PDNA's efficacy and evolution as a tool and the need to customize assessments to disaster-specific contexts. The aim is to refine the PDNA in terms of best practices, disaster preparedness, country ownership issues, the challenges of mainstreaming and implementation, and integration of information technology solutions.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 4: Post-Disaster Response in Fragile and Conflict Situations

(Tuesday 10 May 16.45 – 18.30 Room 6)

The post-disaster response in fragile and conflict situations necessitates a differentiated approach that combines shorter-term recovery with longer-term institution, peace and state-building, and encompasses political, development and security actors. This session seeks to identify appropriate responses to the challenges of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery in fragile and conflict situations. Speakers will identify components of fragility that call for a differentiated approach, trade-offs faced by governments and international partners, and specific financing, partnership and delivery tools that can enhance their effectiveness.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 5: Monitoring and Evaluation of Disaster Recovery Operations and Programmes

(Wednesday 11 May 11.00 – 12.45 Room 18)

This session will share and learn from monitoring and evaluation (M&E) experiences from selected disaster recovery operations around the world. Participants will develop and discuss a plan of action for the development of standardized, more efficient and effective M&E systems for future recovery operations. The key dimensions that define post-disaster recovery performance of countries and key players – including the public sector, the international community, civil society, and increasingly the private sector – will be investigated. These include governance and public/social accountability, results-based performance management and social impact monitoring.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 6: Rebuilding Life-Important Infrastructure: The Case of Water and Sanitation

(Wednesday 11 May 11.00 – 12.45 Room 6)

The session will address issues related to the restoration of services provided by damaged water and sanitation infrastructure during post-disaster rehabilitation. The focus will be on existing trade-offs between rapid action and comprehensive infrastructure planning. Presentations will cover thematic aspects of water system rehabilitation and will touch on issues such as how to limit distorted incentives present during the reconstruction process. Special attention will be paid to the roles and responsibilities of local population and local authorities, capacity building, transfer of ownership to local authorities and exit strategies for donors. Case studies from Bangladesh, China and Peru will illustrate the challenges and paths taken to overcome them.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 7: Lessons Learned from Large-Scale Reconstruction Programmes

(Wednesday 11 May 11.00 – 12.45 Room 5)

To support learning from past recovery experiences, this session will identify and investigate lessons from large-scale reconstruction programmes in China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Colombia and others. While the focus will be on systemic challenges and successful approaches to overcome them, examples based on specific contexts will drive discussions. Aiming to reach consensus on lessons applicable to all or most settings, the session will capture key recommendations to be further investigated and disseminated.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 8: Environmentally Sustainable Recovery

(Wednesday 11 May 11.00 – 12.45 Room 7+8)

This session will emphasize best practices of environmentally sound reconstruction based on examples from recent disasters. These include trade-offs such as regulating the use of local materials versus imports, and market-based incentives to strengthen waste management. The session will also look at the behaviour of aid agencies themselves – in post-disaster situations, how can weakened, affected governments best enforce environmental standards in reconstruction? Speakers will be drawn from environmental NGOs, government, and international agencies known for their experience and insights in the field.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 9: Shaping Institutions for Reconstruction: Options and Trade-offs

(Wednesday 11 May 16.30 – 18.30 Room 7+8)

The need for speed is linked to the phases of disaster-response implementation where speed directly saves lives and reduces misery – rescue, relief and early recovery. Since reconstruction takes much longer, planning for it must also start immediately after the event. How institutions are shaped during these various phases will be discussed, along with special procedures for accelerated decision-making, internal coordination of response, and dangers of implementing resettlement before livelihood development is programmed. A few specific positive and negative lessons of experience will be proposed for discussion.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 10: Protecting and Empowering Vulnerable Groups in Recovery

(Wednesday 11 May 16.30 – 18.30 Room 5)

Disasters are not neutral. They compound social exclusion and existing vulnerabilities. Reconstruction and recovery interventions are also not neutral. They can increase, reinforce, or reduce existing inequalities. Sustainable recovery requires a clear understanding of the pre-existing factors that contributed to the vulnerability of the poor before the disaster and an understanding of how relief, recovery and reconstruction interventions can often reinforce those vulnerabilities. This session will demonstrate how support can be designed to upgrade living standards of the poor, enable the marginalized to participate, and establish mechanisms between affected citizens and government to foster accountability.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 11: Innovations in Disaster and Climate Risk Financing for Developing Countries

(Thursday 12 May 10.45 – 12.30 Room 18)

Many disaster financing instruments are available to increase the financial resilience of developing countries against natural disasters. These mechanisms reflect the diverse needs of countries, tailored to different macroeconomic profiles (e.g. small versus large geographic spread, low versus middle-income). Despite this range of potential solutions, gaps remain in where they can be used and the extent to which they are accessible. In this session new ideas will be explored on how disaster risk financing can meet the challenges of growing global economic and fiscal exposure to natural disasters.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 12: Reviving of Livelihoods and Local Economy

(Thursday 12 May 10.45 – 12.30 Room 7+8)

Disasters have a devastating impact on livelihoods, either completely destroying or damaging assets that are critical for economic activity and employment. The challenge of designing and implementing livelihood support programmes includes choosing the appropriate approach, knowing who to target and how, and ensuring implementation capacity. This session will argue the importance of having a well-crafted livelihoods strategy in the early recovery and reconstruction phase. It will explore various approaches used to rebuild assets, to generate income and employment, as well as effective ways to protect the most vulnerable.

World Reconstruction Conference Thematic Session 13: Providing Sustainable Health and Education Services in Disaster Recovery Programs

(Thursday 12 May 10.45 – 12.30 Room 6)

The objective of the thematic session is to share the lessons of reconstruction efforts across the health and education sectors from selected disaster recovery operations. There will be four key dimensions that gauge the performance of post-disaster experiences including: models of planning processes; implementation arrangements in reconstruction efforts, particularly community driven models (vis-à-vis outsourcing or delivering services through existing government departments); examining construction practices (delivery of infrastructure, conventional construction, innovative technologies and community driven practices); and opportunities for improved and sustainable service delivery.

World Reconstruction Conference Innovation Competition Presentations: New Approaches to Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction

(Wednesday 11 May 18.30 – 20.00 Ignite Stage)

Local initiatives play an important role in recovering and reconstructing after natural disasters. To help identify and tap the best of these approaches, the Innovation Competition invited individuals, NGOs, community-based organizations, communities and other groups to submit innovations in services, products and approaches that have been implemented at the local level in disaster recovery and reconstruction. Sectors of interest included, but were not limited to, housing, water and sanitation, education, health, energy, transportation, information and communication technology, monitoring and evaluation, environment, governance and institutional strengthening. This special event will begin with introductory statements by high-level representatives of the organizing partners, followed by presentations by three to five of the most innovative submissions as selected by an international jury. The submissions were judged on their innovation, community connection, impact and feasibility for replication and scaling up.

Roundtables

Roundtable: Preparedness

(Tuesday 10 May 10.30 – 12.15 Room 2)

Organized in cooperation with Towards a Safer World Initiative and members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Sub-Working Group on Preparedness

The people of Japan offer poignant testimony to the value of preparedness. The urgency of building national and local capacities for preparedness is well-recognized; yet systematic and predictable solutions to building those capacities have remained elusive. This session seeks renewed commitment to address the challenges of financing and coordinating preparedness efforts that connect national to local as well as international systems, link different sectors, and anticipate multiple hazards. Between 2005 and 2010, major efforts were undertaken to prepare for a severe influenza pandemic. Diverse actors took steps to prepare for and mitigate against the potentially devastating disruption a severe pandemic could have on the vital functions of society. Those efforts included many of the same elements of more general disaster preparedness. The “Toward a Safer World” Initiative has identified and analyzed those achievements in an attempt to promote their replication in broader disaster preparedness programmes. As Dwight Eisenhower famously said, “the plan is nothing; planning is everything”.

Roundtable: Ensuring a Return on Investment in Local Action

(Tuesday 10 May 16.45 – 18.30 Room 2)

Organized in cooperation with Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction

The effective involvement of communities and local authorities in planning for a multi-hazard approach is critical for progress in disaster risk reduction. This interactive roundtable brings together different perspectives – international, national and local – to generate discussion and fresh thinking on actions required to accelerate implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action at a local level. While examining opportunities and challenges in financing local action, the roundtable will outline investments that have an impact. Audience participation will be needed to help bring out different points of view and identify specific steps to promote effective and sustainable local action.

Roundtable: Addressing Wildland Fire Risk

(Tuesday 10 May 16.45 – 18.30 Room 3+4)

Organized in cooperation with the Wildland Fire Advisory Group

Overall forest loss and degradation is costing the global economy between US\$2 trillion and US\$4.5 trillion a year in lost revenue. Wildland fires are affecting up to 350 million hectares of vegetated lands annually. Severe wildfires can result in very high economic losses in terms of livelihoods and assets, as was the case in 2010 in western Russia and Australia. Fire-induced vegetation degradation contributes to about 0.6 billion tons of permanent carbon transfer to the atmosphere. In the context of a globally increasing risk of wildland fires due to land use, climate variability and change, the roundtable will look at models and emerging challenges in reducing wildland fire risk. It will provide recommendations on how to better combine environmental protection with financial aid and ecosystem services that can protect forests, while reducing risk of wildland fires and other hazards. The roundtable will feature a video-link with the 5th International Wildland Fire Conference in South Africa.

Roundtable: Public Investment – Where Disaster Risk Reduction Really Makes a Difference

(Wednesday 11 May 11.00 – 12.45 Room 2)

Organized in cooperation with UNICEF and the World Health Organization

Governments are responsible for providing essential services to their people, especially to the poor, and for the development of infrastructure, not least in health and education. To deliver, countries must ensure that investments in public assets avoid the build up of new risks as well as reduce the existing stock of risk. Currently, only few countries systematically reflect risk in their public investment. Others struggle with limited resources and support from political leaders, financial institutions and donors. New proactive approaches to enable governments to identify cost-effective, politically feasible risk management strategies are required, particularly for essential infrastructure. Yet even where priorities for improving infrastructure safety, of schools and health facilities for example, are identified, limited financial and political support impedes implementation. The roundtable will present practical experiences and discuss policy implications of risk assessment models. The aim will be to generate commitment for developing risk-sensitive public investment systems and effective risk financing strategies.

Roundtable: Engaging the Private Sector

(Wednesday 11 May 11.00 – 12.45 Room 3+4)

Organized by the UNISDR Private Sector Advisory Group

Members of the private sector are increasingly looking to forge public-private partnerships to reduce disaster risk and build resilience at the local and community levels, especially among those most vulnerable to catastrophes. The private sector is an important conduit for the flow of capital to communities, either as investment in critical infrastructure, or as risk transfer mechanisms to help reduce exposure by communities to future shocks. The role of the private sector also goes beyond finance; expertise and knowledge, for example, can be better leveraged to support capital investments and promote the sustainable development of affected communities. This roundtable aims to stimulate commitment and identify new ways of engaging the private sector in implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Roundtable: Managing Watersheds for Urban Resilience

(Thursday 12 May 10.45- 12.30 Room 3+4)

Organized in cooperation with Partnership for Environment and Disaster Reduction

Urban expansion has resulted in watershed degradation through deforestation, wetland reclamation, river channel alterations, damming of waterways and urban pollution. Faced with increasing risks, urban policymakers and planners are called on to ensure that urban growth and investments are both sustainable and disaster resilient. Watershed management offers multiple benefits. This roundtable will examine the experiences of local authorities in this regard and seek stronger commitments towards the application of good watershed management for risk reduction.

Roundtable: Children for Resilience

(Thursday 12 May 10.45 – 12.30 Room 2)

Organized in cooperation with Children in a Changing Climate Coalition

Today's children (tomorrow's adults) will bear a disproportionate share of the impact of climate change, both in the immediate and longer term. Studies of disaster trends and the likely consequences of climate change suggest that each year, 175 million children are likely to be affected by climate-related disasters alone. The children of today will be implementing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the future. The roundtable will bring together young people from local communities who are impacted by climate change and vulnerable to disasters. The roundtable will build on recent dialogues between children and leaders at events such as the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Second Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction. Young people will challenge on their commitments and encourage key policy makers to make our future safer and to put children at the heart of efforts to build resilience.

Roundtable: Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender Sensitive

(Thursday 12 May 14.45 – 16.30 Room 3+4)

Organized by UNISDR

Women are key to making communities and nations more resilient to natural hazards and are a largely untapped resource for accelerating risk reduction. In developing countries, women are still largely responsible for securing food, water, and energy in homes. Disaster risk reduction offers an opportunity for integration of gender perspectives into the five processes associated with the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action – political, social, economic, technological and humanitarian. Gender sensitive disaster risk reduction will accelerate progress in building resilience, particularly at the local level. This roundtable is organized with the support of gender and disaster risk reduction experts with the objective of sharing information and knowledge, assessing the progress and identifying challenges and opportunities for wider and greater implementation of gender sensitive disaster risk reduction.

Roundtable: Safety Nets for Disaster Risk Reduction

(Thursday 12 May 14.45 – 16.30 Room 2)

Organized in cooperation with the World Food Programme

Even with significant gains in prevention, disaster risk cannot be eliminated. Social protection systems, including productive safety nets that can be scaled up in response to disasters, offer mechanisms to reduce the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable populations. In addition, labour-based social protection schemes can reduce risk by supporting community activities such as reforesting slopes or building embankments. Such instruments are already being delivered on a large scale beyond the reach of stand-alone disaster risk reduction projects. Experience from Italy, Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia and Mexico has shown that when social protection schemes are bolstered with public investment and effective partnerships, they become both cost-effective and powerful tools for reducing vulnerability. Too often, social protection responses to natural disasters remain ad-hoc; a longer-term, proactive approach is therefore required. The roundtable will identify measures to leverage social protection and safety net schemes in support of building resilience.

Roundtable: Mountains of Risk

(Thursday 12 May 14.45 – 16.30 Room A-CCV)

Organized in cooperation with the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Swiss Confederation

The cultural heritage and traditions of mountain communities have, for centuries, contributed to resilience in the face of earthquakes, landslides and avalanches. Now, climate change is presenting new and particular challenges in these vital regions as well as for their downstream neighbors. Glacial retreat radically transforms local hydrological systems in many communities that rely on glacial waters for agriculture and basic needs. Changes to the hydrological cycle, persistent changes to land cover, and forest degradation can amplify seismic risk by triggering landslides. This interaction of hazard risks is a shared feature in mountain systems. The roundtable will discuss the disaster risks in mountain systems and identify opportunities for cooperation and shared learning between mountain states. It will reinforce the unique contribution of mountain cultures to the practice of disaster risk reduction and resilience.



Tsunami Survivor © UN Photo - Evan Schneider

Featured Events

Featured Event: Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

(Tuesday 10 May 09.00 – 10.15 Room 1)

Organized by UNISDR

The findings of the 2011 Global Assessment Report highlight how governments are adopting innovative and successful strategies to address risk. The findings make a compelling case for action in four areas: addressing global risk drivers; taking responsibility for risks; leveraging existing development instruments; and, strengthening risk governance capacities. The presentations will include a keynote speaker, two respondents and comments by the lead author.

Featured Event: Dialogue with Parliamentarians and Mayors on Disaster Risk Reduction: From Policy to Local Action

(Tuesday 10 May 10.30 – 12.30 Room 1)

Organized by UNISDR

Parliamentarians, mayors and local government representatives can play a strategic role in bridging the gap between national governments and local authorities in understanding and knowledge about disaster risk reduction. Legislators throughout the world have developed disaster reduction legislation and overseen policy changes as well as budget allocations. Mayors and local government representatives have led efforts to enhance the sustainability and resilience of their cities, towns and communities. Panellists will demonstrate how informed legislators and mayors play an active role in supporting local action by shaping, financing and promoting risk reduction. The event will consider challenges faced along the way and engage with stakeholder in the audience to identify opportunities for working with elected officials to build resilience.

Featured Event: Education and Safe Schools

(Tuesday 10 May 12.45 – 14.15 Room 2)

Organized in cooperation with the Thematic Platform for Knowledge and Education

The closely linked issues of safe schools and education in disaster risk reduction are increasingly informing national and international debates on climate change adaptation and risk reduction. The Second Session of Global Platform called for national assessments of school safety and the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the school curricula. The featured event will therefore highlight the progress that has been made by the safe schools initiatives and present challenges met in their implementation. A concrete course of action on how to make schools safe will be developed based on good practices and effective strategies drawn from national experiences. Key stakeholders will offer national as well as international policy makers and donors their commitments and recommendations.

Featured Event: Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters – Economics of Effective Prevention

(Wednesday 11 May 13.15 – 14.45 Room 2)

Organized by the World Bank

Should all disasters be prevented? Do disasters increase or decrease conflict? Does foreign aid help or hinder prevention? The answers are not what you might think. The report *Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters: Economics of Effective Prevention*, asks not only the tough questions, but also some unexpected ones. Earthquakes, droughts, floods, and storms are natural hazards, but unnatural disasters are the deaths and damages resulting from human acts of omission. Every disaster is unique, but each exposes actions that, had they been different, would have resulted in fewer deaths and less damage. The report argues that prevention is possible, and examines what it takes to do this cost-effectively. Cautious, but not alarmist, the report peers into the future and finds that growing cities and a changing climate will shape the disaster prevention landscape.

Featured Event: Protecting Public Health from Disaster Risks

(Wednesday 11 May 13.15 – 14.45 Room 3+4)

Organized in cooperation with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Save the Children, United Kingdom Health Protection Agency

The protection of public health from disasters requires joint action from all sectors at all levels of society. Disasters have immediate and long-term effects on health in terms of significant loss of life, injuries, disease, disability, damage to health facilities and disruption of health services. These impacts have profound implications for the recovery and long-term development of communities. The health sector's active involvement in disaster risk reduction, working together with other sectors, can reduce the loss and damages suffered when hazards strike. Maintaining good health status, local action, safe hospitals, resilient health systems and partnerships are essential for safer, healthier communities. Attention to health in multisectoral national disaster risk reduction programmes and the contribution of the health sector will be examined through a discussion of effective health risk reduction practices, including safer hospital programmes and community action. The overall objective of the session will be to identify actions and initiatives for a global action plan aimed at reducing risks to health and ensuring that health services continue to operate fully in disaster situations with the support of all sectors.

Featured Event: Operational Climate Services for Managing Socio-Economic Risks linked to the Changing Climate

(Thursday 12 May 13.00 – 14.30 Room 2)

Organized in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, World Health Organization, United Nations Water, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Food Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Habitat, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Every year significant economic losses linked to hydro-metrological hazards are regressing development by years if not decades. The higher frequency and severity of these hazards, linked to a changing climate and increasing vulnerabilities associated with development, are posing significant challenges to all countries and various sectors. This session explores the link between hydro-metrological extremes and socio-economic impacts in key sectors such as health, urban and infrastructure planning, agriculture, environment and water resource management. It will also address opportunities for improved risk management and decision-making based on the availability of operational climate information in the context of the Global Framework for Climate Services established by the third World Climate Conference. During this featured event, senior national officials will share their experiences and explore the challenges and opportunities for better planning based on the integration of relevant climate information in development planning processes. The event will address the importance of national and regional multi-sectoral platforms and partnerships and the use of climate services as a critical input for national socio-economic development.

Side Events

Side Event: Hyogo Hardtalk – The Challenge of Local Partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction

(Tuesday 10 May 12.15 – 13.15 Room 5)

Organized by BOND Disaster Risk Reduction Group

Hyogo Hardtalk asks hard questions of government, civil society leaders and the United Nations. What are the challenges facing local partnerships when addressing disaster risk reduction? Where are local partnerships for disaster risk reduction making a difference? And, if none, why not? Join experts and global leaders to find out more about the diplomacy behind disaster risk reduction in an interactive debate that puts the audience in the driving seat.

Side Event: Integrated Drought Risk Management

(Tuesday 10 May 12.15 – 13.15 Room 7+8)

Organized in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organisation

Building on the 2011 Global Assessment Report, the case for integrated drought risk management needs to shift from response and crisis management to proactive risk reduction. Partners in the field have been coordinating policy and research that focuses on two key strategic areas: the causes of drought risks; and the most effective tools and methods for reducing and managing drought risks, such as integrated drought management; and links to integrated water resource management, assessments, and enhanced drought early warning and monitoring systems.

Side Event: Refining the Agenda? Disaster Risk Reduction in Times of Climate Change

(Tuesday 10 May 12.15 – 13.15 Room 18)

Organized by the German National Platform (DKKV) and United Nations University-EHS

How can the disaster risk reduction community address the envisaged effects of climate-related extreme events on humanitarian and development assistance? Experts from both fields will provide their insights on what they can contribute in order to make disaster risk reduction work in the Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Concept under changing climatic conditions. Are all tools of disaster risk reduction equally important and useful in this context? Are there possibilities to enhance existing tools? Suggestions of how to address the quality aspect in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation; and how to translate concepts into action will be presented.

Side Event: Risk Identification and the National Capacity to Manage Risk

(Tuesday 10 May 13.15 – 14.15 Room C-CCV)

Organized by UNDP, WHO, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT and IFRC

Comprehensive risk information underpins the risk reduction efforts of national governments, sectoral agencies, municipal authorities, civil society and the private sector. This event is an opportunity for countries to share experiences, discuss challenges and consider new approaches to building and accessing capacities for risk identification. Presentations will showcase programmes by government and national institutions. The event will produce recommendations to help set priorities in building and maintaining risk identification capacities.

Side Event: Partners for Resilience

(Tuesday 10 May 13.15 – 14.15 Room B-CCV)

Organized by CARE, Cordaid, Wetlands International, Netherlands Red Cross, Red Cross Climate Centre

Five Netherlands-based organizations have embarked on a five-year programme in nine developing countries. The alliance is one of the first initiatives of this scale that aims to integrate community-based ecological, humanitarian and development approaches to address the increased risks of hazards, climate change and environmental degradation. Community resilience, partnership, capacity building and policy dialogues are key components of this approach and of the presentations at the side event.



Earthquake, Haiti © UN Photo Marco Dormino

Side Event: Saving Lives and Improved Coastal Risk Management through Regional Cooperation in Ocean and Marine Related Early Warning Systems in Asia

(Tuesday 10 May 13.15 – 14.15 Room 13)

Organized by World Meteorological Organization, Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNESCO-IOC, International Group on Wind-Related Disaster Risk Reduction (IG-WRRR)

Coastal regions are repeatedly affected by disasters induced by natural hazards, such as tropical cyclones, storm surges, tsunamis and coastal flooding. Thus, tackling effective disaster risk management in the coastal regions requires a multi-hazard approach. Asia has been disproportionately affected by these phenomena, experiencing massive devastation which sets back the socio-economic development of countries and coastal communities by years if not decades. Over the last few decades, a significant number of lives and livelihoods were saved through cooperation between governments, regional centres and agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector and the academic community in this region, particularly in the case of tropical cyclones, storm surges and tsunamis. This side event will demonstrate lessons learned and benefits realized through effective coordination and cooperation in early warning systems with a multi-hazard approaches, promotion of effective risk management solutions, and education.

Side Event: How can Legislation Promote Disaster Risk Reduction at the Community Level?

(Tuesday 10 May 13.15 – 14.15 Room A-CCV)

Organized by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

While the need for strong legislation is frequently mentioned in global guidance materials on risk reduction, they generally provide little detail about what a good law should contain. In particular, how can legislation best promote risk reduction at the community level? Over the last two years, the IFRC has been consulting with its members and key partners on these questions and has recently undertaken a series of case studies. This side event will present preliminary findings and open a discussion about best practice and common pitfalls.

Side Event: Views and Voices from the Frontline

(Wednesday 11 May 12.45 – 13.45 Room A-CCV)

Organized by the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction

The "Views from the Frontline" programme has gathered 50,000 views and voices from people living and working at the frontline of disasters in over 80 countries via face-to-face consultation and text messaging (SMS). All are welcome at this session where views, voices and stories will be shared during a multi-stakeholder discussion and debate about findings from the research and five pilot country consultations. Participants will explore the implications of Views from the Frontline for accelerating implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action at the local level.

Side Event: Science Meets Practice – How can Science Contribute to Risk Reduction, Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation?

(Wednesday 11 May 12.45 – 13.45 Room B-CCV)

Organized by DPRI (Kyoto University), International Disaster Reduction Conference-Global Risk Forum Davos, Integrated Research for Disaster Risk and International Council for Scientific Unions

Worldwide, people need efficient, sustainable solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Integrative risk management, vulnerability reduction, and increase resilience are topics requiring a multidisciplinary approach. How can science learn from practice and respond appropriately to practical needs? Are the practitioners ready to accept solutions from science? How can we bridge the gap between science and practice? The side event will address these questions in a plenary with scientists and practitioners, contributing to a better understanding of each other's needs and possibilities and to recommend further action.

Side Event: Securing our Common Future: An Integrated Approach to Resilience

(Wednesday 11 May 12.45 – 13.45 Room 13)

Organized by World Vision, World Food Programme, Microensure, Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (which includes: Oxfam, Save the Children, CARE, World Vision and Overseas Development Institute), and Strengthening Climate Resilience (which includes: Institute for Development Studies, Plan International and Christian Aid)

This side event will highlight the need for a more integrated approach involving climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, sustainable livelihoods and the natural environment. The main discussion will be on how to develop partnerships in the fields of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction at national, regional and global levels. Focus will be on local actions taken by government, multilateral agencies and NGO partners to integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction through projects and programmes for resilient livelihoods.

Side Event: Engaging the Community – Volunteerism and Disaster Management

(Wednesday 11 May 12.45 – 13.45 Room C-CCV)

Organized by United Nations Volunteers

Panellists will demonstrate how community volunteers can be better integrated into disaster management planning. Participants will hear from a national agency that has enacted strategies to systematically engage volunteers in national risk reduction and recovery efforts as well as from civil society organizations who train and coordinate volunteers for community-based disaster response and recovery. The panel will discuss programmes, provide concrete recommendations, and generate discussion on how to integrate volunteers at the national and local level to ensure an effective disaster management strategy.

Side Event: Activating Africa's Adaptive Capacity – Climate Change Challenges and Lessons from the Africa Adaptation Programme

(Wednesday 11 May 13.45 – 14.45 Room 5)

Organized by UNDP Africa Adaptation Programme (funded by the Government of Japan)

Africa's extreme vulnerability to climate change is aggravated by multiple biophysical and developmental stresses coupled with low adaptive capacity. The African continent has a disproportionately high amount of climate change problems and limited resources to adapt. Countries participating in the Africa Adaptation Programme have been addressing the imbalance between climate change impacts and adaptive capacities. The side event will bring an Africa focus to the Global Platform and highlight specific challenges and lessons for enabling African nations to integrate disaster risk reduction and adaptation into a more resilient, effective development process.

Side Event: Climate Services, Catastrophe Risk and Capital Markets – How Climate Services Are Set to Become Embedded with Insurance Regulation

(Wednesday 11 May 13.45 – 14.45 Room 7+8)

Organized by World Meteorological Organization, Willis Research Network, United Kingdom Met Office, World Climate Research Programme, International Panel on Climate Change, Geneva Association, and the International Insurance Association

A new wave of regulations in a number of countries is requiring insurance companies to report on climate-related risks. This side event explores the benefits of new public-private partnerships involving the climate research community, national meteorological services, government and the private sector. The aim is to leverage resources, expertise and information to advance climate modeling and forecasting in risk modeling tools in the finance and (re)insurance sectors. The side event will also examine the relevance of climate variability and change to disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. In addition, this event will explore how the companies assess climate related risk.

Side Event: Investing in Community Leadership for the Local Implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action

(Wednesday 11 May 13.45 – 14.45 Room 6)

Organized by the Community Practitioners Platform for Resilience

This side event will bring together local leaders and policymakers to present the Community Resilience Fund, an innovative mechanism for advancing community-led local action, currently underway in 13 countries. Community practitioners and institutional partners will demonstrate effective community-led practices, strategies for engaging decision-makers and how to leverage resources. Panellists will also assess opportunities and challenges for scaling up community-driven processes. This side event will provide an opportunity to focus directly on the role of community practitioners for advancing local priorities and practices.

Side Event: Success Stories in Inter-Agency Preparedness and the Way Forward

(Wednesday 11 May 13.45 – 14.45 Room 18)

Organized by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Sub-Working Group on Preparedness

Years of concerted effort and cooperation among members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee have established a solid basis for preparedness response. Having achieved a measure of success at deploying humanitarian action, members are working together to keep pace of changes in the external environment. This side-event, organized by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Sub-Working Group on Preparedness, highlights examples of collective success in multi-hazard contingency planning, emergency simulations, early warning-early action, and development of national and local response capacities. Globally applicable recommendations will be presented for strengthening preparedness to advance the disaster risk reduction agenda and to safeguard development investments and gains.

Side Event: Risk Governance – An Operative Framework for Integrated Action

(Thursday 12 May 12.30 – 13.30 Room A-CCV)

Organized by the University of Santiago de Compostela in partnership with Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University Integrated Risk Governance Project (IHDP) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Office for El Salvador)

Risk governance is a concept that integrates risk system components, organizations and stakeholders, from local to global, to more successfully address the complexity of risk exposure, vulnerability, human-nature relationships and the uncertainty of global change. The objectives of this side event are to delineate the principal dimensions and components of risk governance, to identify the limiting factors, and to identify opportunities to make further progress. Attention will be dedicated to understanding the relevance of recent research findings.

Side Event: Global Task Force on Building Codes

(Thursday 12 May 12.30 – 13.30 Room 3+4)

Organized by the Global Task Force on Building Codes

Building codes and standards are critical for a safer tomorrow. This side event will showcase participative approaches in creating building codes and innovative compliance strategies, including standards for non-engineered buildings and retrofitting. This side event builds on the 2009 Global Platform Global Task Force on Building Codes session, which led to the establishment of a global network and resource database. Keynote briefings by specialists to improve compliance for the vulnerable majority will be followed by development of a 2011-2015 strategic action plan, through which practitioners can set objectives for mapping codes, standards resources and compliance activity and address the needs of users responsible for applying the codes.

Side Event: Looking Ahead to 2020 – A Continuing Mission to Secure a Safer Tomorrow

(Thursday 12 May 12.30 – 13.30 Room B-CCV)

Organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center was established in 1986, based on the strong belief of Founding Director Colonel Brian Ward that we need to reconsider the ways in which people view disasters, and to do more to avoid losses and damages. After 25 years, the APDC aims to redouble efforts. This side event is a dialogue with partners across the globe to focus and clarify our support by prioritizing work in empowering communities, and in cultivating a culture of safety, building safer cities and adapting to climate change.

Side Event: Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation at the Local Level

(Thursday 12 May 12.30 – 13.30 Room 13)

Organized by Duryog Nivaran

The side event will highlight the key elements of how to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the local planning level. Participants will talk about how to increase capacity. There will be a presentation on tools and frameworks for integrating disaster and climate risk into urban and rural planning at the local level.

Side Event: Integrated Use of Space Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction

(Thursday 12 May 13.30 – 14.30 Room 5)

Organized by SPIDER Global Thematic Partnership (UN-SPIDER, DLR, Asian Disaster Reduction Center, ESRI, and ISPRS)

Space-based applications are frequently used in emergency response during disasters, to monitor the state of the environment, the impacts of climate change, and for global navigation and telecommunications worldwide. The side event will showcase examples of space applications in the context of disaster risk reduction, adaptation to climate change, and recovery. The side event aims to demonstrate that investing today in the use of space-based Information will lead to a safer tomorrow.

Side Event: Desa Tangguh - Resilient Villages in Indonesia

(Thursday 12 May 13.30 – 14.30 Room 18)

Organized by Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) in partnership with community representatives

National governments need to increase disaster risk reduction efforts at the community level. The Desa Tangguh Resilient Village concept demonstrates how this can be done by government, donors and the community. Two good-practice case studies will be presented: T-Shelter Action, where community groups, local government and the Yogyakarta Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction worked together to help the villages affected by the 2006 earthquake and 2010 volcano eruption; and how the communities in Padang reconstructed safer homes after the 2009 earthquake.

Side Event: Cities and Flooding in the 21st Century – Trends, Impacts and Policy Implications

(Thursday 12 May 13.30 – 14.30 Room 7+8)

Organized by the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization and the Japan International Cooperation Agency

Urban flooding is among the top development challenges facing city managers and policy-makers in developing countries worldwide. Extensive unplanned or poorly planned urbanization is a key driver. Climate change further aggravates these risks. The side event introduces the main recommendations and findings from the Handbook on Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management produced by the session organizers. Particular attention will be given to lessons in harmonizing frameworks for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the local level.

Side Event: The European Union Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction

(Thursday 12 May 13.30 – 14.30 Room C-CCV)

Organized by the European Commission

The European Commission has developed a comprehensive and integrated approach for disaster risk reduction. The side event will present how European Union strategies contribute to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Focus will be on the implementation of the strategy, especially in the areas of risk assessment, data comparability and financing. The implementation plan of the external strategy, recently published by the Commission, will also be presented. The plan aims to position disaster risk reduction and its link to climate adaptation more strongly and systematically in the sphere of development.

Side Event: Next Steps on Chair's Summary – Implementing the Priorities

(Friday 13 May 12.45 – 14.15 Room 2)

Organized by the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction

Immediately after the Chair's Summary, an informal side event will be held to explore and share ideas on steps that participants and organizations can take on their return to their place of work. The side event will focus on what can be done in the coming days, weeks and months ahead to implement and support the Chair's Summary.



Learning by playing, Indonesia © IFRC



© Photo Claudia Castillo

Market Place Stalls

1 Strengthening Climate Resilience Consortium

The Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management approach (jointly developed by practitioners, policymakers and scientists) will present their work through publications, video, web resources and research. The market stall will present ten cases across Africa and Asia in which disaster risk reduction and climate change have been integrated in the development process.

2 Syria

Risk reduction and environmental protection efforts in Syria will be presented through posters, books, CDs, children magazines and videogames on disasters.

3 Hungary

The market stall will highlight some of the most interesting aspects of the emergency and recovery intervention following the red sludge disaster that recently affected three counties in Hungary.

4 Huairou Commission, GROOTS

The organizers will display information on the Community Practitioner's Platform and its achievements, the Community Resilience Fund, a financing mechanism to channel disaster risk reduction funds to community representatives, and the results of the "Women's Views from the Frontline" research.

5 Gender and Disaster Network

The Gender and Disaster Network will showcase publications and interactive materials on mainstreaming gender considerations into disaster risk reduction policies and practices. The Network will collect recommendations, ideas and experiences of the Global Platform participants on gender and disaster risk reduction.

6 Disaster Risk Reduction for Health

The organizing institutions will present communication and operative materials on safe hospitals, health sector risk and capacity assessment, as well as guidance tools for designing health risk reduction and climate change adaptation programmes.

7 Food Security and Agriculture

The market stall will highlight disaster risk reduction issues relating to agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food security in the context of a changing climate. E-learning tools and posters will be presented and a "discussion corner" will be organized at certain times of the day.

8 Environment

The organizers will present practical examples of their work on promoting integrated solutions for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction through ecosystem management and restoration. Publications, multimedia and interactive materials will illustrate concrete cases and projects.

9 International Recovery Platform

The International Recovery Platform will showcase products and services for national governments to facilitate resilient long-term post-disaster recovery. Capacity-building modules, lessons learned and thematic reports will be presented alongside the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment workspace, videos and games on recovery operations.

10 Google

The organizer will present disaster risk reduction applications of its Map Maker service that allows users to add detailed, location-specific information to Google Maps. By providing good public basemaps and displaying location of critical or vulnerable structures and services, Map Maker allows for improved risk identification and preparedness.

11 Global Risk Forum

The Global Risk Forum will promote the International Disaster and Risk Conference and present the activities of its Risk Academy and Platform for Network. The Global Risk Forum also aims to evaluate the visitors' need for tools and support for disaster risk reduction.

12 Indonesia

The Government of Indonesia and its partners (donors, local governments, community platforms and universities) will be showcasing their work on disaster management, risk reduction and recovery in the country. Also featured is the Tsunami and Disaster Mitigation Research Center (TDMRC).

13 European Commission

The European Commission will feature its integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, both within the Union and in other countries. The market stall will promote exchange on and the dissemination of know-how, lessons learnt and best practices amongst the members of the disaster risk reduction community.

14 France

The stall will provide an overview of French institutions' and NGOs' activities on disaster risk reduction. The focus is on cultural and natural heritage and risk, risk and land-use planning, measures for structural vulnerability reduction, risk information and education, and international cooperation for reconstruction and recovery.

15 Japan

Japan will showcase risk reduction tools, technologies and methodologies that can possibly be transferred to other countries. Concrete cases and good practices in international cooperation will also be presented.

16 Global Design Village

The Global Design Village will launch a competition to find the best and most innovative design-focused solutions to reduce the impact of disasters which is open to students, professionals and the general public. A case study elaborated with Aalto University and the Peruvian Government will also be presented.

17 Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network

The market stall will present disaster risk management initiatives currently undertaken in the Pacific region. Topics include regional and national disaster risk management strategies, tools and guidelines, awareness material and information brochures, and the Pacific Disaster Net.

18 Latin America and Caribbean

The organizing agencies, comprising Latin America and Caribbean states actively engaged in comprehensive disaster management, will highlight the main achievements in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action in the region.

19 Save the Children – Drought Risk Reduction in Africa

Save the Children will present its experiences on protecting vulnerable groups from the impacts of drought, with a focus on children in African countries. Films, photographs, publications and educational and operative tools will highlight the role that social protection can play in promoting sustainable, drought resilient livelihoods.

20 International Organization for Migration

The organizer will display movies, publications and interactive materials concerning its latest experiences on risk reduction and human mobility, as well as policies and programmes to support communities displaced by disasters or climate change.

21 Asian Initiatives

The market stall will showcase disaster risk reduction activities in Asia including the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme, the Disaster Risk Reduction Project Portal, and the thematic areas of climate change, disaster risk reduction in conflict areas, accountability and overcoming cultural/language barriers in disseminating disaster risk reduction.

22 Germany

The market stall will provide an overview of Germany's best practice in disaster risk reduction in policy-making, development, science and the business sectors. Special focus will be on links made between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, economic profiles disaster risk reduction and education.

23 Africa

The market stall will provide an overview of some of the best practices, policies, and projects African institutions and organizations are currently implementing in disaster risk reduction. Several activities will be presented, representing different operative scales, types of organizations, countries and geographical settings.

24 Children and Disaster Risk Reduction

Studies and good practices on disaster risk reduction and children will be highlighted, including the impact of disasters on children as well as advocacy and communication materials, such as posters, videos and educational board and video games.

25 UNDP and WMO

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) will present initiatives and products that improve institutional capacities, including Post-Disaster Needs Assessments, meteorological, hydrological and climate services for early warning, and tools for mainstreaming risk reduction and adaptation into Development Assistance Frameworks and into national development planning and reconstruction.

26 Global Hand

Global Hand will present its research papers on public-private partnerships in disaster risk reduction. A questionnaire to gather input for a CEO brief on the business case for disaster risk reduction will also be circulated.

27 Switzerland

Switzerland's engagement in disaster risk reduction will be highlighted, including the programmes and projects of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the disaster risk reduction activities of the University of Geneva.

28 World Bank - Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

The stall will showcase decision-making support tools and initiatives, with a specific focus on hazard, disaster, and risk data collection, risk assessment, remote sensing, community-based and open source technologies. It will also display some of its latest knowledge products on the economic aspects of disaster impacts and risk financing.

29 Global Network of Civil Society Organizations

The Network will present the findings of the latest Views from the Frontline research, including information from over 50,000 people around the world collected by 620 grass-roots community groups. The showcased material will focus on voices and stories from people living and working at the frontline of disaster risk reduction.

30 IFRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

IFRC will illustrate lessons learnt in making communities more resilient to natural hazards, drawing on concrete examples of early warning and preparedness projects in national contexts. Special emphasis will be given to local action to save lives and livelihoods.

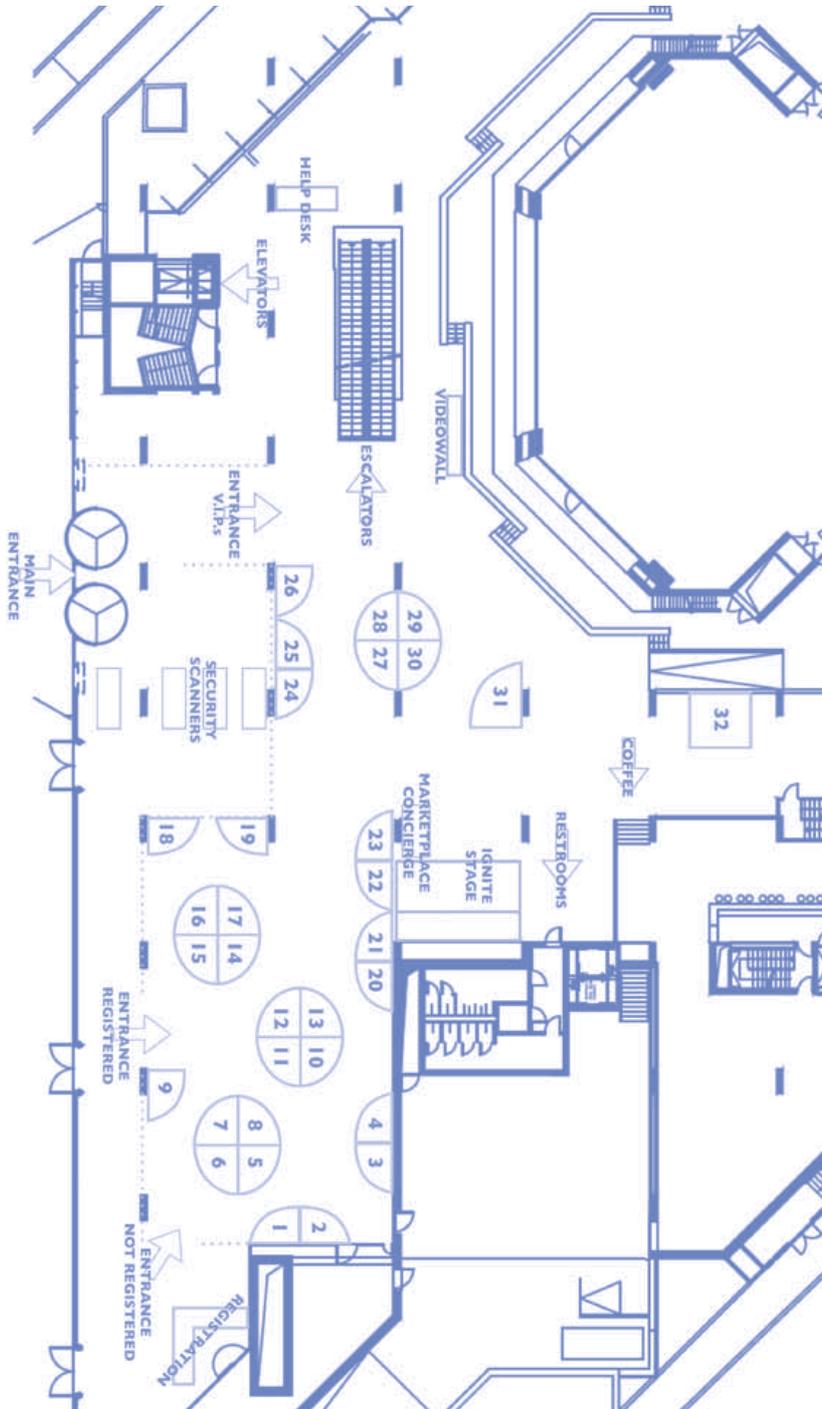
31 Making Cities Resilient

The "Making Cities Resilient" campaign aims to mobilize action by local governments to strengthen the resilience of urban communities. Role model cities and partners will present their projects, tools and good practices. The organizers will collect and experiences and information on the implementation of the ten essentials for local governments. The Asian regional thematic platform on Urban Risk Reduction will also be featured.

32 Kokusai Kogyo Holdings

The organizer will exhibit its "Tangible Earth", an interactive digital globe that visitors can interact with to observe any region of the planet and where they can search through local information. Near real-time aspects are provided via the Internet, seeking and updating the latest weather data.

Market Place Stalls



- 1 Strengthening Climate Resilience Consortium
- 2 Syria
- 3 Hungary
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- 5 Gender and Disaster Network
- 6 Disaster Risk Reduction for Health
- 7 Food Security and Agriculture
- 8 Environment
- 9 International Recovery Platform
- 10 Google
- 11 Global Risk Forum
- 12 Indonesia
- 13 European Commission
- 14 France
- 15 Japan
- 16 Global Design Village
- 17 Pacific DRM Partnership Network
- 18 Latin America and Caribbean
- 19 Save the Children - Drought Risk Reduction in Africa
- 20 International Organization for Migration
- 21 Asian Initiatives
- 22 Germany
- 23 Africa
- 24 Children and Disaster Risk Reduction
- 25 UNDP and WMO
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- 27 Switzerland
- 28 World Bank - GFDRR
- 29 Global Network of Civil Society Organisations
- 30 IFRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- 31 Making Cities Resilient
- 32 Kokusai Kogyo Holdings

Marketplace

Chair's Summary of the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

(June 2009)

This summary provides the Chair's assessment of the main thrusts of the deliberations at the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was attended by 152 Governments, 137 organizations, and 1688 participants in total. A draft of the summary was discussed in the final informal plenary and thereafter a revised draft was made available to participants for two weeks for further feedback, which has been considered in this final summary. More information on the meeting can be found at <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2009/>

Disaster risk and the Global Platform

1. The second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in a context of growing alarm about global climate change and increasing disaster risks. In the opening high-level panel of the Global Platform, political leaders, including heads of State and heads of Governments, highlighted in stark, unequivocal terms that reducing disaster risk is critical to managing the impacts of climate change and avoiding an erosion of social and economic welfare.
2. Since the first session of the Global Platform in 2007 there has been a dramatic increase in political will in all regions to address disaster risk, across both developed and developing nations and both Governments and civil society organizations. This increase has been driven from the bottom up as communities recognize the dangers they face and the need for action. The energy and leadership in disaster risk reduction are increasingly coming from the South.
3. The Global Platform recognized that significant progress has been achieved since the Hyogo Framework for Action was endorsed by UN Member States in 2005, as reported in the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, particularly in terms of life-saving measures such as improved disaster preparedness and response, but that much more needed to be done. Governments, NGOs and other partners were united in the belief that greater urgency is now required to address the factors that are driving the increase in disaster risk, such as rural poverty and vulnerability, unplanned and poorly managed urban growth and declining ecosystems. Urgent action is necessary not only to reduce disaster risk, but also to maintain momentum in Millennium Development Goal achievement, including poverty reduction, adaptation to climate change and better health outcomes.
4. As the deliberations of the Global Platform progressed it became clear that innovative approaches and tools have been developed and applied in many key areas such as: the management of urban risks; the application of cost benefit analysis; community-based and local level strategies; early warning; and ensuring the security of facilities such as schools and hospitals.
5. The Global Platform highlighted the importance of education and sharing knowledge, including indigenous and traditional knowledge, and ensuring easy and systematic access to best practice and tools and international standards, tailored to specific sectors, and to necessary cross-border data. It also stressed the necessity for investment in research and development and higher education, and for the more effective integration of science and technical information into policy and practice.
6. Risk-prone countries are now giving high priority to disaster risk reduction and wish to move ahead quickly in the design and adoption of policies and strategies to address their risks. Increasingly, the urgency for this movement is coming from the vulnerable developing countries, which are likely to bear an increasingly disproportionate share of disaster impacts in times to come. A variety of national and regional platforms and organizations are being rapidly developed or strengthened to guide and coordinate this action. The international community needs to support these initiatives and facilitate better access to resources, assistance and expertise as a matter of urgency.
7. The following areas are considered critical to future progress.

Climate change

8. Climate change is already dramatically magnifying the disaster risks threatening many developing nations. Some countries reported that an increasing scale and frequency of humanitarian emergencies is stretching both national and international humanitarian capacities. In the case of some small island states, increasing risk levels are undermining their continued social and economic viability as nations. Slow-onset disasters and associated food insecurity are a major concern. At the Global Platform it was recognised that addressing the underlying drivers of disaster risk therefore offers the potential for a triple win – for adaptation, disaster risk reduction and poverty reduction.
9. The overwhelming view of the Global Platform is that urgent action is required to harmonise and link the frameworks and policies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and to do so within the broader context of poverty reduction and sustainable development. A priority is to incorporate both disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as core policy and programmatic objectives in national development plans and supporting poverty reduction strategies and country assistance plans. Better preparedness for the humanitarian consequences of climate change is needed, including through early warning systems and local level adaptation. It was stressed that disaster risk reduction must be a concrete part of the deal on climate change that is sealed at the United Nations Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.
10. Disaster risk reduction policies also need to take account of climate change. A number of countries put forward concrete proposals to integrate or coordinate their efforts in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. It was emphasised that ecosystem management approaches can provide multiple benefits, including risk reduction, and thus should be a central part of such strategies. One group of countries proposed that a minimum of 30% of the adaptation finance available to developing countries should be applied to weather- and climate-related risk reduction projects. At the same time, disaster risk reduction policies must not neglect the geological hazards, such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions, which are responsible for a large proportion of disaster mortality.

Reduced risk for all

11. The Global Platform highlighted a plethora of successful experiences in managing and reducing disaster risk at the community and local level and emphasised the key role of women as drivers and leaders of change in many of these processes, and the important roles of communities at high risk and indigenous communities. Children were also seen as strong agents for change who should be involved in the decision-making process. At the same time, it was highlighted that participatory and grassroots processes often were not adequately supported by central or local governments and that the methods, knowledge and tools generated are not being adequately brought into the mainstream of policy and implementation.
12. The Global Platform emphasised that success in reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change, and in achieving sustainable livelihoods, requires extensive collaboration and partnerships that reflect the mutual dependence of central and local governments and civil society actors. These should provide necessary resources at the local level, involve civil society in monitoring progress on disaster risk reduction, and include mechanisms for increased accountability.
13. There is a pressing need to build institutions, including legal frameworks, to sustain disaster risk reduction action as an ongoing concern, and several countries stressed the need for technical assistance, to help grow their capacities. The development of platforms for disaster risk reduction at both national and sub-national levels needs to be accelerated in order to create an enabling environment, and to inclusively engage varied government and civil society interests and address cross-cutting issues.

Setting targets for disaster risk reduction

14. The Global Platform highlighted that the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action must now accelerate rapidly from isolated actions and pilot projects to comprehensive programmes of action, and that the setting of targets in specific areas can help to achieve the necessary momentum.

15. For example, it was proposed that by 2011 national assessments of the safety of existing education and health facilities should be undertaken, and that by 2015 concrete action plans for safer schools and hospitals should be developed and implemented in all disaster prone countries. Similarly, disaster risk reduction should be included in all school curricula by the same year. These targets have emerged out of the 2008-2009 World Disaster Reduction Campaign on Hospitals Safe from Disasters.
16. Another proposal was that by 2015, all major cities in disaster-prone areas should include and enforce disaster risk reduction measures in their building and land use codes. Targets were also proposed for such things as national risk assessments, municipal disaster recovery plans, early warning systems, water risks, and the enforcement of building codes. The United Nations Secretary-General, BAN Ki-moon, called for a target to halve the losses of lives from disasters by 2015, when the term of the Hyogo Framework for Action ends.

Financing disaster risk reduction

17. The Global Platform recognised a drastic mismatch between the resources required to address disaster risk in developing countries and those actually available. A massive scaling up of action is needed. Put bluntly, many countries must dedicate substantially more funds from national budgets – or increasingly suffer the consequences. This is also a must for the international community, since some countries suffer from institutional and capacity weaknesses and unless their capacities are strengthened implementation will not succeed.
18. A variety of innovations, such as incentives for retrofitting, risk transfer tools, risk-sensitive development, private sector involvement, debt swaps to finance disaster reduction measures and linkages with adaptation financing were proposed at the Global Platform. Institutional innovations proposed included more direct resourcing of local initiatives and groups that are effective in reducing risks, such as grassroots women's organizations. More explicit information is needed on the effectiveness and cost of specific measures and on the patterns of current investments in disaster risk reduction.
19. There is support by many participants to target the equivalent of 10% of humanitarian relief funds to disaster risk reduction work. Similarly, a 10% figure has been proposed as a target share of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery projects and national preparedness and response plans. Calls also were made for at least 1% of all national development funding and all development assistance funding to be allocated to risk reduction measures, with due regard for quality of impact. For its part the European Union has recently adopted a Union-wide strategy to support disaster risk reduction in developing countries.

The future

20. The movement to reduce disaster risks is accelerating worldwide. The Global Platform acknowledged the important supporting role of the ISDR system and its various platforms and partnerships. With the term of the Hyogo Framework for Action approaching the halfway point, a Mid-Term Review is being planned to address strategic and fundamental matters concerning its implementation to 2015 and beyond. This will require leadership from Governments, close involvement of community stakeholders, strengthened regional capacities for coordination and programme support, and support from the UNISDR and ISDR partners.
21. We know how to move ahead. We can close the gaps and engage those who most need it. We can save lives, protect livelihoods, make our schools and hospitals safe, and help address the climate change issue. With strong advocacy, and stronger commitment, greater public awareness and support, and appropriate funds, we can substantially reduce the losses from disasters, as well as contributing to resilient social and economic development.
22. The Global Platform thus has a clear and simple message – that disaster risk can be readily reduced through practical action. Solutions exist and are being put into action in many countries. We can invest today for a safer tomorrow.

**Geneva, Switzerland
19 June 2009**

Discussion Paper for the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Reconstruction Conference

8-13 May 2011, Geneva

Introduction

The ISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is the world's foremost gathering of stakeholders who are committed to reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations. The Third Session, convened in conjunction with the World Reconstruction Conference, will build on existing commitments and set priorities and actions that will help to strengthen resilience to disaster at the local level.

The Third Session of the Global Platform will also reflect on the outcomes of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action and start setting priorities and processes for meeting the recommendations. The 2011 Global Assessment Report will provide evidence on which to base disaster risk reduction priorities. The joint World Bank/UN publication *Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters, the Economics of Effective Prevention* (2010) will also contribute to discussions on how to build momentum for risk reduction.

The theme of the Third Session of the Global Platform is: "Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow—Increase Investment in Local Action." An important component of disaster risk reduction, and an explicit requirement of the Hyogo Framework for Action, is the effective involvement of communities and local authorities in planning integrated, multi-hazard approaches to disasters. A key observation from both the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action and the 2011 Global Assessment Report is that national institutional arrangements are not enough to promote effective action when resources do not reach local communities.

The local level is where the impact of disasters is most felt and where risk reduction impact and results must be realized. More effective support is required to empower local communities. Local authorities (including Mayors, city administrators and other civic leaders) play an essential role in ensuring their cities are made more resilient to disaster. A main objective for the Third Session will be to encourage stronger political commitment to local action. Additionally, the role of the private sector, especially in the local setting, is a key feature at the Global Platform in 2011.

Several other topics have also emerged that deserve attention at the Global Platform including infrastructure and reconstruction; the economics of disaster risk reduction; and building alliances and partnerships in climate adaptation action. Another key outcome for the Global Platform will be to consider how to make progress in the integration of disaster risk reduction into development planning, whether in finance, health, education, public works, agriculture, watershed or forest management.

Finally, this Discussion Paper suggests some areas to guide potential action and outcomes for the Third Session. The suggestions are consistent with the key findings and observations of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action and the 2011 Global Assessment Report.

Progress and challenges since the Second Session in 2009

The Chair's Summary of the 2009 Global Platform established common directions for disaster risk reduction in areas of climate change adaptation, protecting the most vulnerable, and set some targets for financing risk reduction.

Recalling Commitments from the Second Session of the Global Platform 2009

Setting targets for disaster risk reduction

- By 2011, national assessments of the safety of existing education and health facilities should be undertaken.
- By 2015, concrete action plans for safer schools and hospitals should be developed and implemented in all disaster prone countries.
- Disaster risk reduction should be included in all school curricula by the same year.
- By 2015, all major cities in disaster-prone areas should include and enforce disaster risk reduction measures in their building and land use codes.
- Targets also proposed for: national risk assessments, municipal disaster recovery plans, early warning systems, water risks and the enforcement of building codes.
- The UN Secretary-General called for a target to halve the losses of lives from disasters by 2015, when the term of the Hyogo Framework for Action ends.

Financing disaster risk reduction

- 10 per cent of humanitarian relief funds to disaster risk reduction work.
- 10 per cent as a target share of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery projects and national preparedness and response plans.
- At least 1 per cent of all national development funding and all development assistance funding to be allocated to risk reduction measures, with due regard for quality of impact.

Progress at regional and national level

Several regional and sub-regional platforms for disaster risk reduction have convened over the past two years in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States, Europe, and the Americas. The development of regional platforms has contributed to the definition and adoption of important political statements at Ministerial and Heads of State level and culminated in regional disaster risk reduction strategies and plans of action which will play an important role to shape the discussions and outcomes of the Global Platform 2011. In addition, global and regional groupings of parliamentarians have issued declarations of support for the implementation of disaster risk reduction in their countries and regions; coalitions of mayors have assumed new leadership in disaster management and building resilience in communities, and national governments have significantly increased attention to disaster risk reduction and prepared detailed information on their progress, many of which are reflected in the Global Assessment Report.

Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action

The findings of the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action will be central to the considerations at the Third Session of the Global Platform. Political momentum for disaster risk reduction, generated over the past five years, reflects the growing impact of the Hyogo Framework of Action. There will be time devoted in the Informal Plenary sessions of the Global Platform to discuss the conclusions of the Mid-Term Review, in order to ensure that outcomes and actions from the Third Session are consistent with the Review's findings and recommendations. The Third Session provides an opportunity to identify immediate paths for action relating to the Mid-Term Review recommendations and start early thinking about a successor to the Hyogo Framework of Action, which is due to expire in 2015.

UN General Assembly: Informal Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction

A recent example of growing political momentum is the Thematic Debate on disaster risk reduction held on 9 February 2011 by the United Nations General Assembly in New York. In the informal debate, Member States were called on to make use of shared experiences, conduct advanced planning and prevention, engage in community-based participation to mobilize investments and other resources, enhance data collection, scale-up efforts in education, engage in better urban planning, and to share information and technology. There was also a consistent call for continuous awareness-raising to ensure that the needs of victims after specific, high-impact disasters stayed on the international agenda long after it had dropped from the news headlines.

Key challenges and messages

Several messages emerging from consultations, processes and reports will be part of the discussion at the Global Platform.

The first message is to continue striving for a substantial reduction in disaster losses, in terms of lives as well as social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries. One structural obstacle preventing this goal from being reached is that disaster risk reduction is being carried out through relief and humanitarian mechanisms and instruments. Disaster risk reduction should be repositioned as a development activity, and be included in poverty reduction and "sector planning" (e.g. finance, health, education, agriculture, transport, public works, watershed and forest management).

Another key message is that, despite remaining gaps and a lack of universal coverage, investments in early warning systems and preparedness appear to be working. According to the 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, mortality risk for weather-related hazards such as floods and tropical cyclones is declining, particularly in Asia. The risk of being killed by a major river flood or cyclone in East Asia today is only half of what it was 20 years ago. What is especially encouraging is that this downward trend is happening despite the fact that more people are moving to flood plains and risk-prone coastal areas.

On the other hand, evidence from the Global Assessment Report is pointing to the rapid economic growth in many low and middle income countries resulting in an increase in assets at risk. This means that while the benefits of economic growth are slowly reducing vulnerability, growth that is largely unplanned is exposing an increasing amount of public and private infrastructure to risk. The most dramatic result is large-scale damage to housing, schools, health facilities, critical infrastructure (such as roads, bridges, water management infrastructure) and impacts on businesses in all regions and across income groups. A key consideration may therefore be to reinforce and seek stronger commitments to building safe infrastructure.

Finally, in terms of the post-disaster reconstruction and recovery efforts, there is a growing concern that scarce resources, originally intended for development programmes, are all too often diverted. Without institutional capacity, coherent planning and coordination among all parties, the chance for development is lost, funds are wasted and affected populations are left additionally burdened. Increased investment in local action can offer affected communities the tools and means to respond more quickly to disaster events, to mitigate risk after such events occur and to take more responsibility for their own safety.

Theme of the Third Session: Increase Investment in Local Action

The Third Session of the Global Platform provides the opportunity to further reinforce the resilience of communities. Underpinning this discussion is the 2010-2011 World Disaster Reduction Campaign, “Making Cities Resilient,” which has been focused on addressing issues concerning local governance and urban risk. The campaign draws on previous ISDR campaigns, including the Safer Schools and Hospitals pledging initiative, as well as on the urbanization principles developed by the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign 2009-2013. The Making Cities Resilient campaign urges cities and local governments to be ready to face challenges posed by natural hazards by reducing risks and becoming resilient to disasters.

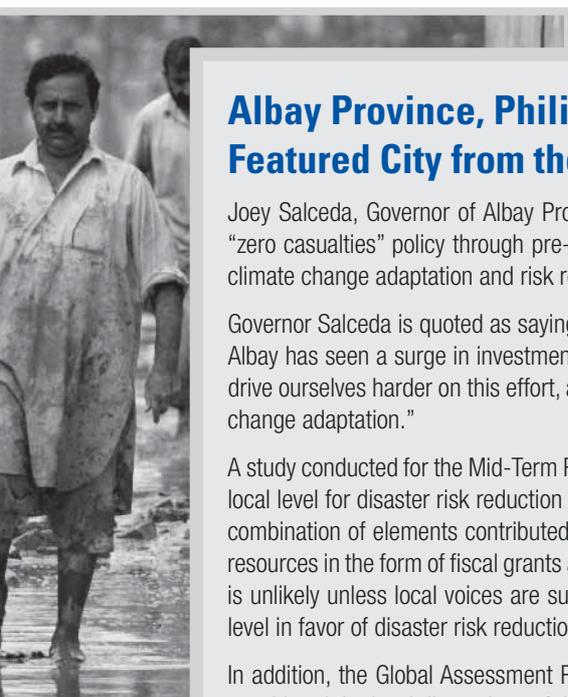
The vision behind the campaign is to achieve resilient, sustainable communities. “My city is getting ready!”— is a rallying call for all Mayors and local governments to make as many cities as possible as resilient as possible. It is also a call for local community groups, citizens, planners, academia and the private sector to join these efforts. Mobilizing these important actors in the disaster risk reduction process is essential for making cities resilient.

The Making Cities Resilient Campaign pursues three key objectives:

Know more – raise the awareness of citizens and governments at all levels of the benefits of reducing urban risks.

Invest wisely – identify budget allocations within local government funding plans to invest in disaster risk reduction activities.

Build more safely – include disaster risk reduction in participatory urban development planning processes and protect critical infrastructure.



Albay Province, Philippines Featured City from the Making Cities Resilient Campaign

Joey Salceda, Governor of Albay Province, Philippines and the first Campaign Champion pioneered a “zero casualties” policy through pre-emptive evacuation during disasters, and by dedicating 9 per cent of the budget to climate change adaptation and risk reduction.

Governor Salceda is quoted as saying: “Disaster risk reduction is an investment; not a cost. It increases business returns. Albay has seen a surge in investments even after typhoons and volcanic eruption. We want to push ourselves higher and drive ourselves harder on this effort, and to push the envelope on development through disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.”

A study conducted for the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action on financial mechanisms at the national and local level for disaster risk reduction highlighted the case of the Albay Province in the Philippines. Findings indicate that a combination of elements contributed to decisive action at the local level: decentralized responsibilities, and discretionary resources in the form of fiscal grants and the social demand for disaster risk reduction. The study noted that effective action is unlikely unless local voices are sufficiently strong to advocate for a prioritization of resources at the local government level in favor of disaster risk reduction.

In addition, the Global Assessment Report 2011 and the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action has also considered the local dimensions of disaster reduction and identified factors contributing to reduced risk.



Understanding risk at the local level

Information on risk — including on the hazards and vulnerabilities that contribute to risk and knowing the options for reducing risk — is essential for guiding investment decisions that lead to safer infrastructure, early warning and preparedness, and generating public demand for support in building resilience. Yet, according to reports on progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework of Action, Member States have made uneven progress in identifying patterns and drivers of risk, particularly at the local level.

In some provinces, comprehensive assessments are regularly updated, while other localities find it difficult to assess their risk to individual hazards and to ascertain their vulnerabilities and capacities. Most countries report a limited availability of data on local losses and difficulties in connecting local assessments with national loss. In addition, they lack the ability to update data on losses and risk information needs of local communities. Information on risk is seldom sufficiently formulated or easily accessible to those who need it.

The balance of responsibility

Where the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action points to greater acceptance and awareness by national governments of their responsibilities for reducing risk, it also points to a persistent disconnect between national policies and local processes. Local authorities and local multi-stakeholder partnerships continue to search for sustainable sources of financial and technical resources to invest in safe infrastructure, and to promote early warning and preparedness measures best suited to their respective localities.

Some countries seek to build resilience at the local level through decentralizing authority and resources. Forty-eight of the 81 countries that submitted reports in 2010 on their progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework of Action confirmed that legal responsibility for disaster risk reduction is vested in local governments. However, only 24 per cent confirmed budgetary allocation for disaster risk reduction and management. Without adequate resources or technical expertise, it is unlikely that local authorities can fulfill decentralized responsibilities for disaster risk reduction.

As evidence of success, some governments identified disaster risk reduction and management functions that have been decentralized in their country. Owing to economies of scale, some functions are better situated within central planning bodies at the national level or even sub-regional (international) level, particularly those related to public investment in infrastructure such as safe schools and hospitals, or in developing and maintaining certain aspects of early warning systems.

Creating public awareness

Creating public awareness to enable disaster risk reduction at all levels and across all sectors remains a challenge around the world. Legislation, good administration and planning, a free press and active media and social audits can all contribute to improved accountability and to create awareness of rights and obligations on all sides. Supporting the role of women and children in disaster risk reduction is another way to increase visibility and awareness of inherent dangers, while building the capacity of local governments leads to greater transparency of decision making and resource allocation.

Increasing awareness on the importance of disaster risk reduction, especially at the local level, is closely linked to an effective consultative process and regular involvement of community organizations. Partnerships that bring together networks and consortia of expert institutions and civil society organizations can be a powerful tool to leverage support within government for local level disaster risk reduction and management initiatives. Academic institutions and NGOs play a key role in building the capacity of local governments. For example, the increased political pressure caused by increased awareness of the public in the aftermath of major disasters has often led to a revision of the legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction in a country.

Countries that experience more disasters have become more safety conscious and have internalized the need to ensure that disaster lessons are not forgotten, as Japan does with its National Day of Earthquake Remembrance and National Disaster Risk Reduction Day. However, a literature review carried out for the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action generally found little evidence of integrated national strategies for public awareness, education, and knowledge management, and the 2011 Global Assessment Report noted extensive gaps in awareness of the gendered aspects of disaster risk reduction.

Questions for consideration

What can national governments do to promote public awareness and involvement of local actors in risk reduction?

What steps can be taken to ensure that risk information is sufficiently available to guide development investments and risk reduction measures that benefit local action?

Who is responsible for ensuring that schools, hospitals and other infrastructure are safe from natural hazards?

These issues and challenges will be examined at the Third Session of the Global Platform and the World Reconstruction Conference in three broad decision making and planning contexts: A) Recovering and reducing risk after disasters; B) Economics of disaster risk reduction; and, C) Alliances with climate change adaptation and development.

Topic A

Recovering and Reducing Risks after Natural Disasters - World Reconstruction Conference

When catastrophic events occur, the response and recovery efforts of the affected country as well as those of the international community often appear to be ad hoc and improvised. Systemic challenges cause the same problems to arise in recovery and reconstruction programmes around the world. While guides and analyses to overcome such challenges do exist at the operational level, they are not necessarily embedded in larger recovery policies and strategy formulations.

These challenges are compounded when resource promises and commitments are not fully delivered. The Second Session of the Global Platform in 2009 called for the allocation of 10 per cent of recovery financing to disaster risk reduction. Some countries have already taken important steps to heed this call. Yet the delivery of promised recovery financing appears challenged by donor fatigue or inefficiencies in the international development architecture.

Once the international community has delivered its support, the effectiveness of that support must be gauged in the context of whether and how local recovery and reconstruction needs are met. The Indian Ocean tsunami experience showed that ownership by, and accountability to, the affected populations, contributed to a sustainable recovery after the disaster. The aim of recovery efforts, therefore, should be to enable and empower countries and local communities to meet their needs based on informed choices and to demand accountability from themselves and their partners. International recovery support is more effective when provided in tandem with local and national initiatives, and works best when local communities and authorities lead, or are involved in, the planning, management and implementation of programmes. An understanding of local context, and collaboration with local and national structures, is all-important.

Further, the possibility of strengthening a local community's resilience to disasters can be achieved through the integration of humanitarian community work in disaster risk reduction and to emphasize the importance of linking humanitarian action to reconstruction and development. Empowering countries and communities can be achieved when national and local authorities take the lead in recovery and reconstruction after major headline disasters, as well as after frequent but less intensive disasters. However, in some cases, authorities may lack the capacity to lead recovery efforts internally, and could find it difficult to coordinate the plethora of international actors and manage resources that arrive following large-scale disasters. The feasibility of delivering effective recovery and reconstruction may, in the end, depend on building local recovery capacity and planning before a disaster strikes.

Opportunities to strengthen and build local capacity for recovery management and to integrate risk reduction into recovery are often missed and inclusive stakeholder consultation limited. It is not simply a question of supplying resources but also of ensuring support is provided in a coherent and coordinated manner that meets needs and improves local capacity. To face these challenges, shared principles and priorities for recovery and reconstruction could be agreed through an international framework and could be investigated fully. At a time of increasing frequency and intensity of disasters, it may be appropriate to explore a common vision that might cover areas such as cooperation among different actors, more efficient coordination efforts and stronger accountability measures, while at the same time supporting the capacities of national and local authorities to lead domestic recovery.

Questions for consideration

What are the recovery and reconstruction challenges and lessons of the past and how do we move forward?

Why are communities not receiving what they need for sustainable recovery?

What is preventing proactive investment to make communities safer?

What is needed from the international system for effective, well-resourced and sustainable recovery and reconstruction?

Topic B

Economics of Disaster Risk Reduction

Unsafe infrastructure can turn poverty into disaster risks; lack of access to social protection and risk transfer mechanisms can turn disasters into poverty. Economic choices, investment decisions and the allocation of financial resources in the end have an enormous impact on how to approach risk reduction.

The joint World Bank/United Nations report *Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters, the Economics of Effective Prevention* (2010) noted that, generally, government expenditures are lower on prevention than on relief spending. The same report recognizes that some interventions such as early warning and preparedness systems, hydro-meteorological forecasts and structural protection require a substantial financial commitment. At the same time, a great deal can be achieved via modest investments in national, sub-national and local capacities in all sectors.

Public sector investments in schools, hospitals and other critical infrastructure constitute a major stream of financial flows. And with more robust risk information, local authorities can identify and implement risk-reducing modifications to their public sector investments. As studies conducted for the 2011 Global Assessment Report show, historical damage and loss information can contribute to recognizing these investments as savings rather than as costs.

Regardless of the specific priorities chosen for implementation, local authorities have become more capable in articulating the urgency of adequate resourcing for risk reduction. Organized through their own networks, local governments increasingly formulate convincing arguments and clear demands, particularly in relation to financing needs to address the challenges of development in a changing climate. At the launch of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign in Bonn in 2010, the Mayor's Adaptation Forum presented a declaration and called for direct access to financing mechanisms and technical resources from all levels — multilateral, national and local — in order to implement strategies and initiatives to manage the changing climate. Responding to the lack of policy and financial support for local implementation recognized at the First Session of the Global Platform in 2007, successful community development resilience funds have been established in India, Guatemala and Honduras to channel funds directly to community-based organizations.

Another factor to increase investment in local action is to make sure that the right mechanisms are being utilized. A literature review carried out for the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action suggests that while there is evidence of greater investment in disaster risk reduction, the problem is that it has not been integrated into the standard business processes of development planning ministries across sectors, and financial institutions. Without such integration, disaster risk reduction investments may not be long-term or sustainable.

Finally, the question is how much financial resources should flow to disaster risk reduction? Several targets have been set (see Box on Recalling Commitments at the Second Session of the Global Platform 2009) and have proven useful in guiding public resources decisions. Significant progress has been made, but it is too early to determine the impact of the targets. Rather than setting new resource targets, it will be more important to seek new opportunities (for example the 2012 World Conference on Sustainable Development Rio + 20) to reaffirm resource targets to achieve development goals in hazard prone areas.

In advancing local action, the private sector is a sorely under-utilized stakeholder group. Notwithstanding important contributions that reflect corporate social responsibility, private sector investment accounts for a good proportion of development financing. The private sector can also offer knowledge and information to help build resilience. Their expertise lies in balancing complex financial flows with multiple stakeholder demands that require constant risk assessment, innovation and solutions, which has clear relevance in disaster risk reduction. For this reason, innovative partnerships between public and private sector institutions are increasingly being sought out and strengthened.

There are several ways through which the private sector plays a direct role in financing the development expenditures of local governments. Business fees and taxes, for example, are often-neglected mechanisms through which the private sector provides resources for local governments. These are not only a source of direct funding for local expenditure, but they also help to generate the revenues necessary to repay local government borrowing.

In this regard, private sector involvement is a means to a better end. The private sector has much to offer in terms of investment in local disaster risk reduction efforts, participating in the development of contingency plans, ensuring the people they employ are aware of potential disaster risks facing their local communities, and cooperating with local leaders to build resilience among local populations.

Questions for consideration

What are some examples and new ways of investing smarter in building resilience?

What can be done to ensure that local authorities and communities have access to resources for risk reduction?

How can we unlock private sector investment in risk reduction?



Rising awareness activities in the Philippines © UNISDR

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Topic C

Alliances with Climate Adaptation and Development

As the Chair's Summary of the Second Session of the Global Platform in 2009 outlined, climate change increases the risk to disasters at a time where national and international humanitarian capacities are being stretched by the growing scale and frequency of humanitarian emergencies worldwide. Decisions regarding the formulation, financing and implementation of climate change adaptation provide crucial opportunities to build the resilience of communities through risk reduction measures. For this reason the Chair's Summary of the Second Session referenced the need for collaboration, partnerships and coordination.

However, even though the need for integration between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is well recognized, functional links in policy and practice remain inadequate at the local and national levels. Resources and implementation mechanisms also remain largely separate. The absence of a common planning instrument will continue to limit efforts to integrate climate change and disaster concerns into development planning processes. Planning for resilience can help sustainable development in hazard prone areas.

Some national governments are already putting in place legal and institutional measures to merge disaster risk reduction and adaptation mechanisms: amongst them, the governments of Viet Nam, Philippines, Colombia and South Africa. Important regional initiatives are also relevant. The Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment in December 2010 emphasizes the leadership role taken by the League of Arab States in promoting the integration of disaster risk reduction measures in regional policies on sustainable development, climate change adaptation, environment, and disaster management coordination mechanisms. The Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in October 2010, also called for joint and integrated action at all levels in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

The latest round of negotiations of the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Cancun established clear commitments on financing and implementing climate change adaptation. Disaster risk reduction was identified as central to this work. Where partnerships between climate adaptation authorities and the existing national and local mechanisms for disaster risk reduction have been actively sought out and promoted, real progress has been achieved. The Adaptation Partnership (chaired by Costa Rica, Spain and the United States), for instance has already launched a Community of Practice to Support Implementation and Learning and presents further opportunity for cooperation in disaster reduction.

Similarly, a new Global Framework for Climate Information Services agreed that a stronger alliance is required between providers of risk information, particularly hydro-meteorological agencies, and decision makers responsible for building resilience. Accordingly, the High Level Task Force for the Global Framework for Climate Services has called for greater cooperation in hydro-meteorological observing systems and a greater partnership between the users and producers of climate information.

The use of such climate information has already proven successful. For example, the climate forecast applications programme in Bangladesh has strengthened partnerships among national hydro-meteorological services, agricultural extensions units in rural districts and local farmers associations. The involvement of local players in macro-level climate initiatives is an effective step toward building resilience, and as the 2011 Global Assessment Report notes, effective planning results in a benefit to cost ratio of 3:1. However, as current local level planning processes rarely include disaster or climate risk information, the need to forge partnerships should be pursued and encouraged.

In 2010, UNISDR conducted a review of upcoming challenges for early warning systems. The study recognized that the critical value of early warning could increase further by strengthening the links between disaster risk reduction and climate change, particularly in the context of expanding urban development under stress from environmental changes. Integrating knowledge about forthcoming changes and accounting for scientific, technical and social developments will further strengthen early warning systems as a key component of disaster risk reduction.

Disaster risk reduction directly supports development and can reduce the impact of disaster and the scale of humanitarian interventions required. While the tendency has been to treat these issues in isolation, the experience of risk reduction over the last

few years has reinforced the need for harmonizing and integrating frameworks and policies for both climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction within the broader context of poverty reduction and sustainable development approaches and in particular with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The conceptual links between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development has already been made. The aim for the Third Session of the Global Platform should not be to repeat the need for these links, but to concretely identify and nurture alliances and partnerships that have proved to be effective in order for them to become role models for repetition worldwide.

Questions for consideration

What steps can countries take to harmonize policies for disaster risk reduction with those of climate change and development?

What is the role of local authorities in linking risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development?

What steps can countries take to develop, strengthen and support partnerships between disaster risk reduction authorities and those responsible for climate change adaptation?



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The Way Forward - Potential Outcomes and Actions

In 2009, the Chair's Summary for the Second Session concluded that disaster risk can be readily reduced through practical action. The will to address disaster risk continues to build, driven by communities that recognize the dangers presented by disasters and the need for themselves to play a key role in global efforts to increase resilience. The 2009 Chair's Summary noted that innovative approaches and tools had been developed and applied in many key areas to be discussed at the Third Session of the Global Platform: the cost benefit analysis of risk reduction efforts; community-based and local level strategies; and ensuring the security of facilities such as schools and hospitals, among other issues.

Keeping in mind the recommendations from 2009, findings and consultations from the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action, the 2011 Global Assessment as well as the discussions around the theme and topics of the Third Session of the Global Platform, the following are key areas to guide potential action and outcomes in 2011:

- (i) Commit to investing in local action and protecting the most vulnerable. Implement strategies to support the local level.
- (ii) Prioritize investments in:
 - Compiling national disaster loss information and comprehensive risk assessments;
 - Building safe infrastructure;
 - Increasing public awareness; and
 - Strengthening early warning and preparedness.
- (iii) Scale up advocacy in disaster risk reduction, for example through the Making Cities Resilient campaign.
- (iv) Develop practical guidance on implementing disaster risk reduction.
- (v) Engage and encourage the private sector:
 - Benefit from private sector expertise in building resilience;
 - Launch a business partnership for disaster risk reduction with a focus on investing in local action;
 - Develop a list of essentials for business in disaster risk reduction; and
 - Develop and open-source a risk modeling and planning tool.
- (vi) Acknowledge disaster risk reduction is primarily a development issue. Support national government efforts across different ministries to encourage building back safer and meet risk reduction objectives.
- (vii) Harmonize and develop cooperation in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- (viii) Develop a common resilience plan to support sustainable development in hazard prone areas.
- (ix) Instigate a debate and consultative process on targets for disaster risk reduction and consider defining, implementing, and monitoring targets at national level, to complement the growing commitment at regional level to support the Hyogo Framework of Action.
- (x) Promote effective disaster recovery and reconstruction through:
 - Coordinated, comprehensive, inclusive and transparent processes;
 - A proposed global framework to promote principles and establish priorities for maximizing investments and preventing damage of physical structure; and
 - Innovative mechanisms and instruments that could provide developing countries with access to immediate and reliable reconstruction financing.

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