

Extracts Related to “Natural Disasters” in the Political Declaration of Johannesburg¹

Presented by President Mbeki of South Africa
Adopted in Johannesburg, 4 September 2002

The Political declaration is a document of 37 paragraphs to convey the political commitment of Heads of States for the Plan of implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development. It does not include any specific details of action in any area. It was prepared by South Africa in consultation with countries in Johannesburg and based on the agreements in the Plan of implementation. With its corrigendum it was unanimously adopted at the closure of the Summit 4 September 2002.

The adopted texts in both the Declaration and the Plan of Implementation will be helpful to pursue increased commitment to disaster risk reduction, and in particular, to link the subject to sustainable development, in particular to sound wildland fire management and to combat the adverse impact of climate change.

For easy reference, here are the sections related to “natural disasters” in the political declaration:

In the section:

“The Challenges we Face

13.- The global environment continues to suffer. Loss of biodiversity continues, fish stocks continue to be depleted, desertification claims more and more fertile land, **the adverse effects of climate change are already evident, natural disasters are more frequent and more devastating and developing countries are more vulnerable,** and air, water and marine pollution continue to rob millions of a decent life

In the section:

Our Commitment to Sustainable Development

19.- **We reaffirm our pledge to place particular focus on, and give priority attention to, the fight against the world wide conditions that pose severe threats to sustainable development of our people. Among these conditions are:** chronic hunger; malnutrition; foreign occupation; armed conflicts; illicit drug problems; organized crime; corruption; **natural disasters**; illicit arms trafficking; trafficking in persons; terrorism; intolerance and incitement to racial, ethnic, religious and other hatreds; xenophobia; and endemic, communicable and chronic diseases; in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.”

¹ Prepared by the ISDR Secretariat and amended by the Working Group on Wildland Fire