



Acting with Common Purpose

Proceedings of the first session of the
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Geneva, 5-7 June 2007

*Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015:
Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters*



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction



United Nations



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ISDR

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Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Opening statement by video, first session of the
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Geneva, 5-7 June 2007

Dear colleagues and friends,

It has been two and a half years since the Indian Ocean tsunami struck with deadly force across several countries in Asia and Africa. That calamity was followed by many others, including the earthquakes in Pakistan, hurricanes in the Caribbean and the Gulf Coast and typhoons in Asia. Tens of thousands of lives were lost – lives that could have been saved, had simple, cost-effective risk reduction policies been put in place.

That is why this meeting is so important. We must act with renewed commitment to save lives and livelihoods from the effects of natural hazards - particularly in developing nations, where the world's poorest are also the most vulnerable.

And we must act with even greater urgency given the impact of climate change. Scientists warn that more extreme weather is on the way, with rising sea levels and more intense storms and droughts. This could affect millions of people. Risk reduction is our front-line defence against these threats.

Risk reduction is also about common-sense practices that help protect communities when earthquakes strike or floods threaten. Practices that can save lives in mega-cities tottering close to the edge of disasters, as a result of poor land usage, unsafe buildings, over-population and environmental degradation.

In the aftermath of the tsunami, almost 170 governments joined together to create the Hyogo Framework – a plan of action to reduce our collective vulnerability to natural hazards. Let us fulfil the promise of Hyogo. Let us use this first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to act with a common purpose. In that spirit, I wish you a most productive session.



John Holmes

*United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, and
Chair of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Reduction*

Extracts from opening address

We are here today to offer our leadership and expertise to one of the increasingly urgent – but eminently solvable – challenges we face in the 21st century: namely, reducing the death and destruction wrought by natural hazards, and helping save lives and livelihoods in some of the poorest and most vulnerable parts of the globe. Over the past 30 years, the number of disasters – storms, floods and droughts – has increased threefold. Five times more people are now affected than just a generation ago. Global warming makes our task still more urgent, and our responsibility, ever more grave.

The challenge before us is formidable. But the way forward is well signposted, with the Hyogo Framework for Action as our roadmap. Created two years ago by 168 governments and numerous expert organizations, the Hyogo Framework sets clear priorities for actions to strengthen the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

I am therefore particularly pleased to welcome representatives from the more than 100 Governments who are with us today. I also welcome the many representatives – both veterans and newcomers – from UN organizations, financial and academic institutions, NGOs, and civil society. Each of your perspectives is needed. All of your contributions are welcome and necessary.

We need to move forward together, united by a sense of purpose and urgency. We have the right tool: the Hyogo Framework for Action – with the key word being that last one. Action. We have the proper international mechanism: the ISDR system. And we have the requisite knowledge and experience to reduce disaster risks from Teheran to Toronto, Lima to Lagos. What we need is precisely concerted action to make these elements count together.

Climate change is the driver of the increased urgency of risk reduction efforts. What does this mean in practice? It means national action plans for adaptation. It means strengthening public infrastructure, coastal facilities, and homes to withstand more extreme weather, flooding and rising waters. Better drought management. Better early warning systems and evacuation plans. It means stronger building codes. Improved land and water management policies. Expanded disaster education programmes for local communities. All of this backed by stronger institutions and proper funding. Disaster risk reduction is our front-line defence in adapting to the impacts of climate change and preventing future loss of life and property from extreme natural hazards.

Disaster risk reduction needs to become a top priority for Governments, municipalities, civic leaders, businesses, and local communities. Last year, 134 million people suffered from natural hazards that cost \$35 billion in damage, including devastating droughts in China and Africa and massive flooding across Asia and Africa. One of the most potent arguments for risk reduction is also the simplest: “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”.

A recent expert study in the United States showed that one dollar invested today in disaster risk reduction saved four dollars in the future cost of relief and rehabilitation - a bargain by any standard. We need to do more to publicize our arguments and to make a more convincing case for risk reduction. Disaster risk reduction is an essential insurance policy for the more disaster-prone world we expect.

But to be genuinely convincing, we also need to know what we can and must do in practice. First, we must prioritize those countries and areas at greatest risk for earthquakes, floods and other natural hazards. We must build “smarter and safer” where populations are most vulnerable. Second, we must act to protect the world’s investment in development. In 1998, Hurricane Mitch caused losses equal to 41 per cent of Honduras’s gross domestic product (GDP). In the Maldives, the equivalent of 66 per cent of its GDP was wiped out by the 2004 tsunami. We can reduce these huge losses by weaving risk reduction policies into the overall fabric of international lending and development policies. Finally, we must continue to strengthen the institutional pillars that support disaster risk reduction, through reinforcing our partnerships – amongst ISDR members, between government and non-governmental organisations, and between the public and private sectors.

Natural hazards need not lead automatically to human catastrophe. By taking simple, cost effective steps today, we can reduce risks and save lives tomorrow. Disaster risk reduction is an idea whose time has come. That is why we must combine our efforts and support investment to reduce our vulnerability. So, let us use our ISDR system and this Global Platform to make a real difference on the ground for millions of people. The time is right; the need is urgent; you, the key players, are here. What we must do is act decisively and boldly to meet the challenge.

Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters

The Hyogo Framework¹ was adopted by 168 governments at the World Conference for Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan in January 2005. It seeks to achieve a substantial reduction of disaster losses in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets.

It identifies five priorities for action:

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

¹ Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters:
<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/hfa/hfa.htm>



Sálvamo Briceño

Director, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Introduction

This first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction² held in Geneva, Switzerland, 5-7 June 2007 was convened on the basis of guidance contained in the resolution of the General Assembly on the ISDR that calls for the adoption by governments of the Hyogo Framework and that recognizes the Global Platform as a successor mechanism to the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction.

National practitioners and other stakeholders have repeatedly expressed the desire to have a mechanism through which they can exchange their experiences in disaster risk reduction and access information on how other countries addressed particular challenges in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework. The Global Platform has been set up to serve this need, and it is expected to become the main global forum for all parties involved in disaster risk reduction, namely governments, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, regional bodies, civil society, the private sector, and the scientific and academic communities. It will provide advocacy for effective action to reduce disaster risks, will expand the political space devoted to the issue, and will contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals particularly in respect to poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

Participants in this first session included representatives of 124 Member States of the United Nations, 19 of whom were of ministerial status, and 105 regional, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations that are actively engaged in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR – see box), including members of the predecessor platform, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR)³. There were 1,171 participants altogether, drawn from the various sectors, particularly the development and humanitarian fields and the environmental and scientific fields related to disaster risk reduction.

The key aims of the session were to raise awareness and commitment to reduce disaster risks, to share experience and good practice, and to provide global guidance on strategies for risk reduction at international, regional, national and local levels.

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) is a United Nations-mandated global strategy to engage a wide range of actors in a coordinated effort to reduce the risks of disasters and to build “a culture of prevention” in society as part of sustainable development. The ISDR system comprises the cooperative mechanisms, including most importantly the Global Platform, through which governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, technical institutions and networks, and civil society organizations interact, share information and collaborate on risk reduction programmes and activities. The ISDR system is supported by the ISDR secretariat.

2 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction: <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/index.html>

3 Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction: <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/task%20force/tf-functions-responsibilities-eng.htm>

The ISDR system is also growing at regional and sub-regional levels, where existing bodies are increasingly convening and co-ordinating disaster risk reduction initiatives, and at national level where a number of countries have created national platforms to advocate for and coordinate disaster risk reduction activities.

The successful organization of the Global Platform would not have been possible without extensive contributions from many ISDR partners, as follows.

An informal advisory group to the ISDR secretariat for the preparation of the first session of the Global Platform comprised government members from the ISDR Support Group plus some agencies, namely China, Argentina, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, IFRC, OCHA, UNDP, World Bank and WMO.

The session workshops were organized and supported as follows:

1. National coordination mechanisms - national platforms for disaster risk reduction. Workshop organized by the ISDR national platforms.
2. Policy and legislative systems for disaster risk reduction. Workshop organized by the United Nations Development Programme, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP/BCPR).
3. Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into national development instruments. Workshop organized by the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (WB/GFDRR).
4. From national frameworks to local action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Workshop organized by the ProVention Consortium.
5. Education for disaster risk reduction and safer schools in communities at risk. Workshop organized by the ISDR Thematic Platform for Knowledge and Education.
6. Reducing risk in health facilities and the health sector. Workshop organized by the World Health Organization (WHO).
7. Strengthening disaster risk reduction through preparedness. Workshop organized by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
8. Ecosystems and environmental management for risk reduction. Workshop organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

This first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was organized as part of the ISDR secretariat Biennial Work Plan 2006-2007, which in 2007 is supported by contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction from the following governments: Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and from the European Commission, and the World Bank through the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

Special mention is made of the Governments of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and France, who made specific contributions to sponsor the participation of delegates of governments from least developed countries and small island developing states, and to the Government of Switzerland, who made the International Conference Centre Geneva available for the meeting and provided support for the high level dialogue and other elements of the session. The contributions made by participating governments to enable their officials to attend the session and contribute to the workshops and other activities are also greatly appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge and express my personal gratitude for the commitment and positive spirit of secretariat staff from regional and headquarters units throughout the preparations and conduct of the session. It was truly a team effort. Particular credit goes to the core organizing team led by R. Glenn Mittermann and including Lars Bernd, Vanessa Buchot, Michele Cocchiglia, John Harding, Carolin Schaerpf, Anu Kittila and Beverley Coult. Helena Molin-Valdes, Deputy Director of the secretariat, provided valuable leadership while Christine Alessi, Reid Basher, Craig Duncan, Feng Min Kan and Andrew Maskrey supported in substantive areas of work, media, reporting and administration for the session.

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Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
First session, Geneva, Switzerland
5 - 7 June 2007



Session's programme

The Global Platform's three days of deliberations focused on the following three main objectives, with one full day devoted to each objective. In addition, a number of side events⁴ were organized by partners to present good practices and innovative developments in disaster risk reduction.

Day 1: Raise awareness on reducing disaster risk:

- Increase the profile of disaster risk reduction as part of development and climate change adaptation, recognizing that it is "everybody's business" and must be a multi-stakeholder undertaking, with governments playing a central role.
- Reiterate commitments to implement the Hyogo Framework.

Day 2: Share national and local experiences and good practices in disaster risk reduction:

- Learn from good practice.
- Provide practical guidance for nations and communities to reduce disaster risk.

Day 3: Assess progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework and guide the ISDR system:

- Assess progress made in implementing the Hyogo Framework, and identify obstacles, critical problems and emerging issues that must be addressed to speed up national and local implementation.
- Enhance cooperation and concerted action by the international community to support national and local implementation of disaster risk reduction, including identification of priorities for the ISDR system for 2008-2009.

The main conclusions of this session of the Global Platform are captured in the Chair's Summary, a draft of which was delivered by the Chair in the plenary on the final day. Participants discussed the draft and were invited to provide comments on the contents the week following the session. The final Chair's Summary is reproduced in the last section of the present document.

This report of the proceedings has been prepared by the ISDR secretariat and is complemented by additional data contained in the attached CD-ROM; further information is also available on the web pages of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction⁵, comprising the full programme and agenda, list of participants, full statements and presentations made at the session, reports of the session workshops and side events, information for the media as well as some publications that were made available at the session. The daily website updates and summary of the session prepared by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB), an independent reporting service, provide another source of information⁶.

⁴ For a full list of side events see Annex IV.

⁵ <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform>

⁶ <http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/gpdr1>

Regional Level

UNISDR & the WB through the GFDRR
Address drought information availability & flow problems
in Africa, initially by conducting inventory of capacities of
existing institutions and mechanisms for drought risk
reduction (AMCEN, AMCOW, ICPAC, ACMAD,
AGRYMET, DMC-Harare, etc)

Purpose: (1) Strengthen for effective assessment,
analysis and dissemination of drought data and
information to users (2) build capacity to serve as
depository and repository of drought information.

Objective:

To improve quality and quantity of data and information at resource
centres in Africa for effective planning



Section 1

Raise awareness on reducing disaster risk

(Agenda items 1-3)

The focus of the first day was on raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities in disaster risk reduction. The day included interventions by heads of delegations, which allowed them to make statements on key commitments or policy changes since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework, and a high level dialogue with invited panellists on selected key issues.

All statements are available on the Global Platform website at:
<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/gp-1st-contributions.html>

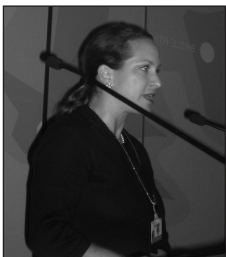
Addresses and interventions by heads of delegations

The session opened with a video message from the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the text of which is reproduced on page iii. Extracts from the keynote address by the Chair of the session, Mr. John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, are provided on page v. Additional opening addresses were provided by guest speakers as follows.



Mr. Michael Ambuhl
Secretary of State of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

The Secretary of State of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Mr. Michael Ambuhl, stated that the participation of states in the ISDR system is essential to ensure a systematic and coherent support for national implementation of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies. He added that poor countries are disproportionately affected by disasters as their capacity to prevent and minimize risks remains limited, and that investment in disaster risk reduction needs to become a political and developmental priority. He noted with interest that several states had embraced the first session of the Global Platform as well as the ISDR system.



Princess Zahra Aga Khan
Aga Khan Development Network

H.R.H. Princess Zahra Aga Khan, representing the Aga Khan Development Network, stated that the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan and northern India had made her realize that it was vital that communities living at risk be given the tools and technologies, the education and training to evaluate the safety of their own environment and to adapt this environment to implement disaster risk reduction objectives. Nevertheless, disaster risk reduction often faces man-made barriers such as administrative, political, cultural and legal constraints that hamper the development and change of social and structural systems in high-risk areas.



Mr. Michel Jarraud
Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization

The Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Mr. Michel Jarraud, recognized the benefits of the coordination provided by the Hyogo Framework, which has been adopted by the WMO as a key element of its cooperation activities with the ISDR system and other stakeholders. He added that at the fifteenth World Meteorological Congress, held this year, disaster risk reduction had been endorsed as the highest priority. The Congress also sanctioned the WMO Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan, aimed at further reducing the loss of lives, livelihoods and property in relation to weather-, water-, and climate-related hazards around the world. The Hyogo Framework was the basis for formulating further strategic priorities as well as the basis for the WMO disaster risk reduction plan.



*Mr. Jeffrey Gutman
Vice-President of Operations Policy and Country Services of the World Bank*

The Vice-President of Operations Policy and Country Services of the World Bank, Mr. Jeffrey Gutman, stated that investment in mitigation of disaster risks had steadily increased, with World Bank investment doubling from the mid-1980s to a figure approaching \$2 billion today. However, he added that more needs to be done, including creating effective mechanisms for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction at country level. He referred to the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery⁷ which had recently been launched in partnership with the ISDR and donors and that one of its main activities was to help high-risk countries undertake disaster risk reduction and climate change impact assessments and to formulate and implement risk mitigation strategies. The Facility aims to systematically target all disaster hot-spot countries by 2015.

Further interventions were made in plenary session by representatives of 74 governments and 30 organizations (see list in Annex 3; all available statements can be found on the web site or accompanying CD-ROM). The key issues raised were the following:

Many interventions referred to the high levels of poverty and environmental degradation, which made communities more vulnerable to natural hazards. Some countries informed the session that they had taken initiatives to integrate disaster reduction into poverty reduction strategies. Several delegates underlined the importance of integrated disaster risk reduction and development planning, also in the context of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)⁸.

Several countries and representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGO) emphasized the importance of community-based action, particularly in the area of preparedness and rehabilitation, as well as the need for public-private partnerships. A number of countries and organizations acknowledged the vital role of NGOs in all phases of disaster preparedness, response and rehabilitation.

A number of interventions referred to the need to change the dominant disaster response-based approach to a more preventive and holistic view of disaster risk reduction. There is a need to change from a reactive to a proactive strategy.

The importance of science and technology was also underlined. In this context, some developing countries urged for transfer of appropriate technology, in particular technology related to early warning, information and risk management, preparedness and response initiatives.

Adaptation to climate change was seen as a vital element in dealing with disaster risk reduction and of increasing importance when designing policies for disaster risk reduction.

Several countries pointed out the need for regional cooperation to fill the national gaps in the response to disaster risk reduction needs. Global strategies need to be designed in collaboration with regional partners.

Several developing countries identified the lack of funding as one of the major challenges in addressing disaster risk reduction objectives, and requested that more funds be made available for better implementation of the Hyogo Framework. In this context, one country called for the establishment of a special financial mechanism that would reflect the level of political commitment of the international community and would provide funds for a basic infrastructure to address disaster risk reduction, particularly in developing countries. Other countries also appealed for increased bilateral funding.

“Only by sharing our respective experiences of challenges confronted and progress made, can we move implementation forward and make the creation of resilient societies a reality.”

*Statement by Ambassador
Glaudine J. Mtshali, Permanent
Representative of South Africa to
the United Nations.*

⁷ Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction: <http://www.worldbank.org/hazards/gfdr>

⁸ Millennium Development Goals: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

A large number of countries emphasised that there was a need for advocacy and for making the case of disaster risk reduction. The benefits of implementing disaster risk reduction policies, including the economic benefits, should be publicized in order to increase political support. Several speakers supported the idea of elaborating a cost-benefit analysis of disaster risk reduction in the design of developmental projects and strategies.

Interventions by a few specialized agencies and other international organizations focused on activities related to disaster risk reduction, carried out according to their mandates and competencies. Activities ranged from assistance in the establishment of early warning systems to the creation of institutions designed to improve coordination at all levels. Some organizations noted that disaster risk reduction was included in their programmes of activities through explicit decisions taken by their governing bodies.

“We welcome the holding of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as a multi-stakeholder mechanism with an important advocacy role. It is an ideal forum to share best practices and learn from each other’s experiences.”

*Statement by Bisweswar Bhattacharjee,
Head of the Indian Delegation*

High level dialogue

On the afternoon of 5 June, the Chair introduced item 3.2 of the agenda, namely a high level dialogue on three key areas of interest: (i) reducing disaster risk through the Hyogo Framework as a strategy for climate change adaptation, (ii) reducing disaster risk in urban settings and mega-cities, and (iii) challenges, costs and opportunities to implement disaster risk reduction. He explained that this session was designed to provide an opportunity for participants to exchange good practices and lessons learned and to provide guidance on the selected subject areas, focusing also on national and local implementation. He introduced Ms. Mishal Husain, an anchor for BBC World and BBC National News bulletins, who would chair the discussions⁹.

Reducing disaster risk through the Hyogo Framework as a strategy for climate change



Saleemul Huq

Director of the Climate Change Programme of the International Institute for Environment and Development

Saleemul Huq noted that, according to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (www.ipcc.ch), climate change is no longer a problem for the future but one of the present, as temperatures had already risen 0.5 °C in the last century. He identified the main geographical areas that would be most affected and that would need to work on adaptation activities as the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the African continent, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Asian mega deltas regions. He stressed the importance of focusing on the adaptation side of climate change, for which considerable funding was available.



Christelle Pratt

Director South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission

Christelle Pratt explained the special situation of the Pacific small islands states as being particularly vulnerable to climate change. Small island states need to cooperate with other stakeholders on disaster risk reduction as they cannot address the issue on their own. She informed that a disaster risk management partnership network was recently established for the Pacific region. She stressed that it is crucial to mainstream disaster risk management and adaptation for climate change into national planning, using an all-government and all-country approach within a sustainable development context.

⁹ The high level dialogue was organized by ISDR consultant Mr. John Horekens.



Daniel Gagnier

Chair of the Board of Directors of International Institute for Sustainable Development

Daniel Gagnier emphasized the need to establish a policy and a legal framework that best addresses disaster risk reduction. He mentioned that often the language is too technical and scientific to reach the wider public. There was much to learn from the private sector, especially the ability to create synergies and concentrate on results and performance. Among other objectives he pointed out that clear governance for disaster risk reduction is needed to retain the interest of the private sector.

Reducing disaster risk in urban areas and mega-cities

He Yongnian, Professor of Seismology and an administrative official in the management of earthquake prevention and disaster reduction in China, pointed out that mega-cities are often located in high-risk areas. He underlined the importance of shifting attention from response to prevention. In doing so, public participation was essential.

Violeta Seva, a specialist in urban management issues and former General Manager of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, emphasized the need for increasing capacity building of local communities. She underlined the need to recognize the importance of the role of mega-cities in disaster risk reduction and the need for outside financial resources and technical expertise.

Kadir Topbas, since 2004 the Mayor of Istanbul Province and an architect by profession, described the extensive activities carried out in Istanbul in the area of earthquake risk analysis and risk reduction. He stressed that the participation of NGOs and civil society is crucial for prevention as well as being an essential link to local government. The city of Istanbul has been carrying out preventive action and risk analysis for earthquakes, based on the city's own lessons learned from a powerful earthquake and its aftermath. A participant noted how Istanbul's case could be used as a model for preventive action by other cities.



L-R: Panelists He Yongnian, Disaster Reduction Society, China; Violeta Seva, Earthquake and Megacities Initiative; and Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul, on reducing disaster risks in urban settings and megacities.

Challenges, costs and opportunities to implement disaster risk reduction

Robin Burgess, a Reader in Economics at the London School of Economics and co-director of its Economic Organization and Public Policy Programme, identified lack of political will as the main problem. The challenge was to establish greater accountability and clear lines of responsibility at all levels, central, regional and local. He said that clarity in the distribution of responsibilities would increase incentives to deal with disaster risk reduction. He also pointed out that there is a need for a set of international guidelines against which the performance of each country could be measured. He finally stated that climate change had placed disaster risk reduction back in the political agenda of countries.

Dean R. Hirsh, President and Chief Executive Officer of World Vision International, highlighted the power of the “collective”. He underlined the need to strengthen capacity at local level with the participation of civil society. He warned that the MDGs would not be met unless disaster risk reduction was at the forefront of international action.

Lousewies van der Laan, a former member of the Dutch Parliament and of the European Parliament (Liberal Democrat) and environmental specialist, pointed out that there was a need for legislation on disaster risk reduction. She also underlined the importance of awareness-raising of politicians at all levels. She proposed to create a “best practices checklist” for disaster risk reduction and make it available to the media, NGOs and civil society. Disaster risk reduction must become an important election issue and be included in political campaigns.



The high level dialogue panel, moderated by Mishal Hussain (center standing).

Reto Schnarwiler, Head of the Public Sector-Business Development at Swiss Reinsurance, mentioned that insurance companies had accumulated much experience and knowledge on this subject which should be taken into account when designing disaster risk reduction strategies. He also highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in tackling increasing vulnerability to disaster risks.

Mishal Husain, moderator of the session opened the floor for discussion. The major focus was on issues related to responsibility and accountability, action at the local and community level, financial resources, political commitment and gender.

Several members of the audience identified the need to establish a clear division of responsibilities. Some countries pointed out that, even though responsibility lies primarily with national governments, their action alone does not suffice to achieve disaster risk reduction. It was recognized that local authorities and communities are in the front-line and, therefore, also bear a great responsibility. Other sectors and groups of society also have a role to play, namely, representatives of civil society, non-governmental organizations, and scientists. Leadership and action lies with the government, which should therefore be made accountable. Several participants welcomed the idea of

Roundtable of ISDR donors

In response to the calls for more investment in disaster risk reduction, and better coordination and tracking of investments, an informal roundtable of 18 donors¹⁰ was held on 6 June, 2007, chaired by Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The meeting was briefed on progress on the integration of disaster risk reduction in the external cooperation policies and programmes of donors and on the biennial work programme process of the ISDR system. This included a presentation of the work planning process of the ISDR secretariat, to be implemented over 2008-2009, and the ISDR system global level joint work programme (November 2007), the latter being presented by the Ms. Kathleen Cravero, Assistant Administrator of UNDP. Donors shared experiences on mainstreaming and thoughts on developing common practices of good donorship for risk reduction, including means to leverage each others' core competences. The importance of appropriate indicators was noted. It was agreed that further efforts should be made to secure the eligibility of disaster risk reduction as a development assistance priority, particularly in the guidelines of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee. It was proposed that donor governments should strengthen advocacy with United Nations executive boards in order to translate UN political commitment into more effective programmatic action.

¹⁰ Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, European Commission and World Bank.

elaborating a comparative table that would describe the performance of countries compared against established benchmarks. Some participants said that the broadcasting of “good stories” of governments that had actually prevented major disasters thanks to an effective disaster risk reduction action could be used as a model for others to follow.

Various interventions by developing countries emphasized that lack of resources was a major constraint on governments in addressing disaster risk reduction, given the many high priorities faced, particularly in relation to poverty reduction.

Some participants expressed interest in the elaboration and wide distribution of codes of best practices and guidelines. A representative of the ISDR secretariat stated that the secretariat had started to produce such documents; for example a publication on drought would be released the following day¹¹.

As concerned political commitment, some countries welcomed the idea of using the issue of disaster risk reduction as a subject for political campaign at the national level. Grassroots action of women was recognized as vital for prevention at all stages of disaster risk management and reduction. There is also a need to carry out research on the disproportional effects of natural hazards on women.

11 ISDR also produced a guidance document “Words Into Action: A Guide for Implementing the Hyogo Framework” as well as guidelines and good practices addressing NGOs, gender and national platforms. See ISDR website for a full overview of recent ISDR publications at: <http://www.unisdr.org/>



Section 2

Share national and local experiences and good practices in disaster risk reduction

(Agenda item 4)

Introductory plenary

The second day of the session was devoted to a set of workshops (agenda item 4) which were organized as a forum for national and local practitioners in disaster risk reduction to share their experience and to learn from other actors. The information provided at the workshops has been collected as part of a broader effort to compile good practices in disaster risk reduction and will be made available on the ISDR PreventionWeb at: <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/gp-1st-workshops.html>.

The workshops addressed eight key areas of concern in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework. Four addressed disaster risk reduction as a national priority: Exchange of experience among countries and organizations on different institutional options and processes that lead to change (4.1).

These included:

1. National coordination mechanisms - national platforms for disaster risk reduction (4.1.1)
2. Policy and legislative systems for disaster risk reduction (4.1.2)
3. Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into national development instruments (4.1.3)
4. From national frameworks to local action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) (4.1.4)

Another four addressed integrating disaster risk reduction into sector agendas which allowed different sectors to share their lessons learnt and good practices in integrating disaster risk reduction into their agendas as follows:

5. Education for disaster risk reduction and safer schools in communities at risk (4.2.1)
6. Reducing risk in health facilities and the health sector (4.2.2)
7. Strengthening disaster risk reduction through preparedness (4.2.3)
8. Ecosystems and environmental management for risk reduction (4.2.4)

National representatives as well as other stakeholders provided detailed accounts of their experiences on the above topics. All the workshops provided lively discussion; a number of priority areas emerged for future focus that were of relevance to governments and to the support functions of the international community.

This report contains the main summary of the presentations and the discussions. The workshop agendas, list of presenters, all the presentations made and the complete reports of the sessions can be downloaded from the Global Platform website or from the CD-ROM attached.

Words Into Action: A Guide for Implementing the Hyogo Framework

During the introductory plenary to the workshops, Ms. Kathleen Cravero, Assistant Administrator, UNDP, and Director of the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), launched the new guidance document "Words Into Action: A Guide for Implementing the Hyogo Framework". Prepared by the ISDR secretariat with extensive input from ISDR system partners, this provides a practical guide to help national authorities and others to implement the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework. The Guide contains a set of 22 suggested tasks, each addressing a primary area of effort for implementing disaster risk reduction with practical step-by-step advice and examples from around the world. Different users can draw on the parts of the Guide that are useful to them, adapting the tasks according to their particular needs. It is hoped that the Guide will serve as basis for systematically promoting and assisting implementation by all authorities and organizations. Interest in its use to guide training activities has been shown by development assistance authorities.

Session workshop 1:

National coordination mechanisms - national platforms for disaster risk reduction

Workshop prepared by the ISDR secretariat in partnership with ISDR national platforms¹²

Building on existing efforts, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 calls on States to “designate an appropriate national coordination mechanism for the implementation and follow-up of this Framework for Action” (Priority for Action 1). The Hyogo Framework refers in this regard particularly to national platforms for disaster risk reduction. These coordination structures should be multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder fora and include for example line ministries, national Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, NGOs, the private sector, academic and scientific institutions, donors and UN representatives.

Experiences presented

Sri Lanka

As a result of recent disasters, international NGOs, community-based organizations, donors and UN agencies increased their engagement in different aspects of disaster management to complement efforts by governmental bodies. While the Government highly welcomes this engagement, it also brought about certain challenges: a lack of overview on who is doing what, unsatisfactory cooperation and distribution of locations and a competition for resources with a certain duplication of efforts.

To tackle these challenges, which were particularly evident in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami, Sri Lanka underwent fundamental changes in its disaster-related institutional and legal set up and overall disaster risk management coordination. In 2005 a disaster management act came into force, and established the National Council for Disaster Management for the formulation of policies and programmes for disaster management, with the Management Centre as an implementation agency of the Council. In 2006, this was complemented by the setting up of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights and the development of Sri Lanka’s Road Map for Disaster Risk Management “Towards a Safer Sri Lanka”. An Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Disaster Risk Management was also set up in 2006, composed of the Disaster Management Centre and UN agencies as well as a National Advisory Committee on Disaster Management chaired by the Minister for Disaster Management and Human Rights. There is also a Coordinating Committee of Secretaries of relevant ministries chaired by the Secretary of the Disaster Management and Human Rights department.

Amidst such a diverse set of institutions, a strengthened coordination of efforts has been a particular focus in recent months. Efforts are currently being deployed to set up a multi-

European Network of National Platforms

This initiative establishes a more formal collaboration between the French, German and Swiss National Platforms to facilitate and improve exchange on good practices and national regulations. It aims at integrating disaster risk reduction into legislative systems and decision-making and to explore public-private partnerships in European countries at all levels. At the same time, the network, which invites other European countries to join, intends to influence decisions for a more strategic and harmonized approach to disaster risk reduction by the Council of Europe, European Union and other international organizations. Its members wish to promote NGOs’ standpoints and target collaboration between national platforms in Europe and in developing countries. The network plans to hold 2-3 technical meetings per year to exchange on key issues, e.g. climate change or early warning, and to disseminate findings. It is also planned to establish a systematic information exchange among its members and with the UN/ISDR secretariat.

¹² As at July 2007, 39 national platforms for disaster risk reduction have been registered with the ISDR secretariat: Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, Seychelles, Spain, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia. For further information on national platforms see: <http://www.unisdr.org/guidelines-np-drr-eng>

stakeholder National Disaster Management Coordination Committee. This forum for disaster management actors aims to facilitate information exchange (including good practices and lessons learned), influence national policy in a more effective manner and overall to assist in coordinating disaster risk management among all actors for successful implementation of the “Road Map”.

Islamic Republic of Iran

Set up in early 2005, the Iranian National Platform for disaster risk reduction provides strategic direction to national stakeholders in disaster risk reduction. Administratively it works under the supervision of the National Disaster Task Force of the Ministry of Interior and is chaired by the Deputy Minister of the Interior. It is a multi-sectoral National Platform, with designated responsibilities at the national and local level to facilitate co-ordination between different stakeholders. There are almost 30 organizations involved in the Platform, including 13 ministries, the media, NGOs, the Red Crescent Society, scientific institutes and the private sector. Eight technical committees have been set up.

Iran’s National Platform seeks to enhance collaboration and coordination among disaster risk reduction stakeholders, to create an enabling environment for developing a culture of prevention and to integrate disaster risk reduction into development plans. After developing a 10-year Plan of Action, the Platform has been instrumental in revising regulations and by-laws pertaining to risk reduction. It has established earthquake and flood early warning systems and mapped related risks at provincial level. The Platform also played a key role in integrating risk education at different education levels. The National Platform collaborates with the Asian Seismic Risk Reduction Centre, which was established by Iran following the country’s exposure to seismic risks and disasters (in particular the 2003 Bam earthquake).

Despite its achievements, the main challenge facing the Iranian National Platform still lies in shifting from response to risk reduction among key players and stakeholders and to ensure that risk reduction is a national and local priority. To obtain strong buy-in and political commitment by all actors, it would be preferable that the decision to set up a National Platform is taken at the highest political level.

Costa Rica

A first national emergency law adopted in 1969 established the National Emergency Commission, which became the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Management following revision of the Emergency Law in 1999. The National commission, officially declared as National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, has the mandate to declare a “state of exception“, which allows for the use of public funding, in particular from the National Emergency Fund. This fund was set up as one of the first in Latin America.

In the 2006 second law reform, thanks to intensive negotiation and awareness-raising, the disaster risk reduction community obtained political support and agreement that risk reduction and prevention cannot be postponed and must become the focus of activity. As a consequence, the reformed law attributed a risk reduction role to the State and the National Commission and defines risk reduction as a cross-cutting issue of the country’s development policy. All public institutions are requested to take risk reduction into account in line with the National Platform for disaster risk management. The new law spells out details of the national risk reduction system and attributes the respective coordination roles. Significantly, it foresees an attribution of three per cent of the country’s surplus to maintain the above-mentioned Emergency Fund for preventive work.

The National Commission has an annual budget of \$10 million, while \$20 million are for emergency management, including prevention and recovery. In 2006, \$4.9 million have been spent on prevention measures including early warning, focusing on 30 out of 82 municipalities which are at highest risk. In addition, 20 per cent of the Commission’s investments went into preventive construction. The revised law assigns a key role to the National Commission, which serves as a technical forum of exchange and draws up policies, which are submitted to the Legislative Assembly for approval. The Commission also submits periodic reports to the Government Council, estimating also the economic impact of emergencies. In particular also in charge of public awareness-raising for risk reduction, the overall supervision of the Commission is carried out by several line Ministries and the country’s Presidency and the Red Cross. The implementation of risk reduction has had some setbacks. At times, for example, construction permits continue to be issued for settlements in hazard prone areas. Some construction regulations also

date back to the 1960s and need to be revised. The mobilization of youth as change agents is particularly important. The Commission has trained some 16,000 volunteers and helped set up 500 energetic community committees working with the Red Cross and Fire Departments. In 2006 alone, the Commission reviewed the vulnerability of 50 communities, which greatly helped to increase preparedness. It also forecasted hurricanes.

Madagascar

Risk reduction has gained the recognition of the Malagasy Government, who agreed to integrate disaster risk reduction in the national development plan, the Madagascar Action Plan and to set up a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. This Platform serves as a think-tank for stakeholders on necessary action on risk reduction. It has a true multi-stakeholder composition and includes government services, local and national NGOs and the United Nations country team. It works with several thematic commissions, including those on health, education, logistics and information. Though the National Platform gathers participants for brainstorming, all participants are also involved in operations. As such, there is mostly a direct link between debate and action. In terms of risk reduction measures, a particular focus has been set on the setting up of a national early warning system for tsunamis and other hazards. Another key activity has been the development of school curricula and a teacher handbook for risk reduction in schools. Teachers in some 500 schools are using these tools to educate pupils on risk reduction. Emergency drills at community level and the development of risk maps and contingency plans complement this activity. With the 2003 new legal requirements, schools and hospitals henceforth have to be built to resist earthquakes and winds up to 275 km/h. Despite these achievements and the close cooperation with the international community, the mobilization of resources for prevention, mitigation and preparedness remains a real problem. It is still much easier to obtain necessary funding for the coordination of emergency response, which the national Emergency Relief Platform has supported since 1996.

Mainstreaming gender in disaster risk reduction

Women should participate in disaster risk reduction at all levels. A mapping exercise of women organizations, gender-disaggregated data collection and gender-sensitive plans and strategies and related benchmarks and indicators will be concrete steps for gender mainstreaming, especially if complemented by direct support to women and girls to assume leadership roles. Disaster risk reduction actors should use the strong empirical evidences and practical tools developed for mainstreaming gender issues in disaster risk reduction, and use the opportunity provided by the Global Platform to interact and renew the commitment for a safer world for women and men.

France

In France concerted action has been taken for 30 years to prevent and mitigate risks. The country has included sustainable development and environmental protection and risk reduction in key regulatory documents. The orientation council for prevention of major natural risks ensures a coordinated approach on the issue. The French association for the prevention of disasters is part of this council and adds a civil society dimension to risk reduction coordination. The Council focuses on a multitude of activities including risk mapping in all French departments, land-use planning, awareness-raising and early warning, and commissions thematic studies. France is also an important player in international risk reduction, for example in the Euro-Mediterranean partnership context, the Association of French-speaking countries and the European Network of National Platforms.

Germany

Founded in 2000 as a German follow-up arrangement to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), the German Committee for Disaster Prevention (DKKV) is the official National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Legally registered as an NGO, DKKV represents 70 members from development and humanitarian aid organizations and NGO's/NGO-networks, civil protection organizations, scientific institutions, the media, insurance companies (including the association of insurance companies in Germany) and governmental agencies.

Members gather occasionally and are otherwise represented by the DKKV secretariat, the governing board and the technical advisory board elected on a three year term. The Committee assumes the responsibility for firmly establishing disaster reduction in the minds and action of policy-makers, private enterprises and administration. As such, it aims at rendering society capable of dealing with disaster risk and to prevent human, social, economic and ecological losses. The Platform tries to improve expertise and knowledge, strengthen existing capacities, create a better environment for exchange between science and practice, national and international, and develop synergies and links among sectors. It also intends to bridge the gap between national implementation and international concepts to improve advocacy capacities at regional and international level and to become a partner in regional structures.

Switzerland

Switzerland is highly exposed to the adverse effects of natural hazards, with a mean annual damage potential of \square 1.3 billion and annual expenditures and investments for protection of \square 1.7 billion. The setting up of the National Platform for Natural Hazards (PLANAT) in 1997 seemed a logical follow-up to tackle disaster risks more strategically. Composed of 20 representatives at all government levels, in addition to the research community, professional associations, the private sector and insurance companies, PLANAT aims to advocate a move towards a culture of risk prevention. Beside its work on awareness-raising, the national platform is a key in facilitating synergies among different stakeholders' work on disaster risk reduction and it contributes to protect assets, the population and the environment through some 20 projects mentioned in their plan of action. The Platform engages in cooperation at the regional level in Europe and with other partners as a crucial focus of its work.

Summary of the discussions

Value added by national platforms as forums for coordination

Participants confirmed the need for strong national coordination in order to advocate the inclusion of risk reduction in development plans, and to avoid duplication and competition among the various actors with related losses in efficiency and effectiveness. There should be one national approach to build resilience to disasters. To bring all players together and define responsibilities from the national down to the community level is critical to make a lasting change on a larger scale.

The presentations and subsequent discussion illustrated the wide range of institutional arrangements for national platforms, from inter-ministerial platforms to NGOs with coordinating function. Some are involved in direct operations, whereas others serve as a think tank to prepare for subsequent decision-making and action by partners. It was noted that national platforms do not always have a clear legal status.

In terms of composition of national coordination authorities, several participants stressed the benefits of involving the Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, UN agencies, the scientific community and national and international NGOs, despite all the challenges to put together and maintain large multi-stakeholder arrangements. Exchanges with existing professional associations and NGO coordination bodies can help in selecting non-partisan representatives. The signing of memoranda of understanding (as in Sri Lanka) can further contribute to build a fruitful collaboration. Overall, cooperation and coordination through a national platform will reduce transaction costs.

Participants also noted the need for further capacity-building of disaster risk management structures. Enlargement of national systems in terms of actors and scope of action – to embrace the whole set of activities of the disaster management cycle – was considered by some as important task. It could contribute to raise the profile of and commitment to national platforms among decision makers.

Funding for national coordination mechanisms and disaster risk reduction

The absence of a sustained funding base for risk reduction remains a key challenge for many disaster risk reduction authorities. In developing countries in particular, longer-term funding commitments for risk reduction activities – such as operational cost – are still the exception. The inclusion of project proposals in disaster risk reduction plans was highlighted as a potential approach to mobilize resources. International donors continue to provide a major share of support of risk reduction, while national budgets often still focus on disaster response and recovery. An important positive exception to this rule is the Costa Rican cases with its 3 per cent national excess funding managed by the national platform.

Regional cooperation

Participants stressed the advantages of regional cooperation, referring to the newly created European Network of National Platforms and other existing regional partnerships such as the Coordination Center for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC). The exchange of experiences on dealing with the same hazards, along with concrete regional policies to further sustained funding for disaster risk reduction at national level, were identified as potential key contributions of such regional cooperation structures. Regional cooperation, where possible built on existing networks, can play a role in raising political commitment and investment in risk reduction, including as a means to protect livelihoods.

Conclusions

The session workshop formulated the following recommendations on specific actions that governments and the international community should address:

- Through the UN System, more governments need assistance to organize national platforms, if no appropriate national authority for disaster risk reduction is in place. The international community can encourage developments, but should not take the lead.
- Examples of best practices should be collected and shared.
- Disaster risk reduction should aim to achieve more than purely life-saving activities because the population affected relies on a number of resources also under threat by hazards.
- Schemes to secure the livelihood of the population need to be developed.
- Gender as an important aspect needs to be incorporated into the design of disaster risk reduction measures.

Session workshop 2: Policy and legislative systems for disaster risk reduction

Session workshop facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP/BCPR)

Good governance is an important prerequisite for the long-term success of disaster risk reduction efforts. The development and promotion of sound disaster related policy, legislation and regulatory frameworks are crucial for creating an enabling environment for disaster risk reduction efforts. They set out both the legal rights of citizens as well as the duties of the state and other stakeholders in giving them protection. Despite considerable progress in this area, many countries are still facing critical challenges. Policy setting is often undermined by lack of legal backing. Accountability is more easily reinforced when appropriate legislation is in place. The effectiveness of legislation further depends upon national administrative capacity and the acceptance and awareness of rules and norms by the population. The success of both policy and legislation is ultimately dependent upon the ability to articulate them at the local level.

The session on "Policy and legislative systems for disaster risk reduction" drew upon the experiences of a range of actors to take stock of the progress achieved in building sustainable institutions for disaster risk reduction as well as the contribution made by legislative and policy reforms. The case studies highlighted key processes and milestones in bringing about policy and legislative change and identify key challenges and pitfalls.

Experiences presented

Bangladesh

Bangladesh has undertaken extensive measures to mainstream disaster risk management through policy and institutional reform, spearheaded by the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme. Building knowledge and changing political and professional cultures are just a few of the challenges toward achieving a comprehensive risk reduction. A national framework that articulates all the major elements of the national strategy is key to successful mainstreaming. Equally important is to create an enabling environment – appropriate policy, and adequate institutional capacity – to operationalize the framework. Bangladesh now has a Disaster Management Act ready for Parliament endorsement and enactment along with an approved National Plan for Disaster Management 2007-2015. Disaster management has also been integrated in the National Poverty Reduction Strategy. The roles and responsibilities of Bangladesh's disaster management committees at district, Upazila (sub-district) and Union (local government) level are being revised, a monitoring and evaluation system established and extensive capacity training conducted for functionaries in these committees. The main challenges are: building a relationship of "trust" with stakeholders in the reform process, agreeing on uniform methodologies, building and maintaining a knowledge base, and institutional capacity. Significant level of knowledge, skills, sustained technical assistance and leadership is needed to drive policy and institutional reforms. Frequent training is required to establish and sustain institutional effectiveness. It necessitates partnerships across different levels of the government, NGOs and the private sector.

Nicaragua

The legal base for disaster management in Nicaragua is Law 337 of 2000, which created the National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System. The law and subsequent reforms evolved after Hurricane Mitch, which brought to light institutional weaknesses, short-sighted development processes, and the inadequacy of the previous disaster management model which focused on forecasting, preparedness and response. Following the event, discussions on disaster management became more complex. A set of studies were completed to analyse the Nicaraguan legal framework. It was found necessary to improve inter-institutional co-ordination and include a greater number of stakeholders to sustain disaster reduction as an integral part of the development process. The law set out the principles, standards, and instruments that would guide the establishment of a nation-wide system aimed at preventing, mitigating, and responding to natural hazards and man-made disasters. Immediately after the law was approved, the President of Nicaragua established the "National System for Natural Disaster Attention, Mitigation and Prevention", with the vice-presidency as the actual body in charge. An Executive

Secretariat, responsible for the co-ordination and articulation of the National System was also established. The preparatory assistance programme supported the negotiations, which allowed constant support to the process.

Mozambique

Mozambique's disaster management is now based on the Disaster Management Plan 2006-2009, which is complementary to the Poverty Reduction Action Plan II (2006-2009). The Plan lays out roles and responsibilities for coordination and implementation, from the high level Council for Disaster Management of the implementing Ministries, to the Technical Council of Disaster Management of the national directorates and agencies, down to the National Operational Center for Emergency (CENOE) with the technical departments and agencies. At the district level, the risk reduction committees provide the forum for coordination between the provincial council for emergency and district directorates, agencies and civil society. The flood events in 2007 provided key milestones in testing Mozambique's disaster management. Prior to the disaster, a contingency plan had been prepared which included the establishment of CENOE to provide monitoring and event forecasting. The National Civil Protection Agencies were set up, financial resources allocated and resources stocked at critical sites. When red alert was declared, early warnings were issued, the CENOE and the National Civil Protection Agencies were activated and resources disbursed. Decentralization, coordination and commitment of Government and partner agencies proved to be crucial. A key lesson has been that short-term contingency plans need to be linked with the medium- and long-term master plan of the Poverty Reduction Action Plan and MDGs. Mozambique is still highly vulnerable due to its low Human Development Index¹³, vulnerable infrastructure including roads, supply systems and its high dependency on financial support and capacity of external agencies. It is recommended to approve the National Disaster Act, consolidate planning and coordination role and resource mobilization, and proceed with the ongoing decentralization process. Further, the establishment of early warning systems and stocking of resources should be continued, while rehabilitation and construction of infrastructures for drought and flood mitigation and reforestation need to receive greater attention.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Bosnia-Herzegovina is currently undergoing a process of establishing better structures for disaster management. The focus at this point is still on improving preparedness for response and not so much disaster risk reduction. The main State Law on Protection and Rescue of people and material goods against natural and other disasters is under preparation. It will provide a framework for all activities of the institutions related to the system of protection and rescue in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will be harmonized with United Nations and European Union standards. It will establish a State Disaster Management Body and a State Emergency Center. Developing and building the capacity of lower structures of the protection and rescue system and government institutions that directly or indirectly deal with the protection and rescue will be a main priority.

South Africa

South Africa's experience on the role of legislation in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction across multiple sectors and disciplines has generated interest as an example of best practice. The reform process underwent three distinct phases from policy re-orientation (Green and White paper on Disaster Management from 1994-1999), to legislative reform (Disaster Management Bills and Disaster Management Act in 2003) to implementation (National Disaster Management Framework 2005). A number of enabling factors contributed to the reform process, including the political and legal reform context after the end of apartheid; intensifying disaster risk; a new professional and international emphasis on disaster management (UNDP's disaster management training programme, International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and ISDR); and the dedication of a small group of skilled disaster management practitioners and political champions (member of parliament and parliamentary committee chairperson). However, mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into all organs of state at all levels has not significantly progressed. The case of South Africa demonstrates that reform requires long-term perseverance and sustained, high level political support, skilled and insightful political stewardship, and coherent and consistent messages from international partners. The leadership of the reform process must be explicitly committed to broad stakeholder consultation and those involved should be linked to disaster risk reduction

13 For more information on the Human Development Index see the UNDP Human Development Reports website at: <http://hdr.undp.org/>

constituencies. Further, implementation plan should be developed already during the development of legislation and explicitly state outcomes at the community level. Legislation should result in reform at the lowest administrative level along with investment of financial resources in local level activities.

Summary of discussions

Governance is at the heart of national level disaster risk reduction efforts

The case examples clearly illustrated that good governance is a pre-requisite for effective disaster risk reduction. The characteristics of good governance – participation, rule of law, transparency, responsiveness, consensus orientation, equity, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and strategic vision – are as applicable to disaster risk reduction as they are to sustainable development. As such, it is a long-term undertaking. The case examples at the workshop highlighted that countries that have inherently weak planning and implementation structures also have problems in implementing their disaster risk reduction plans. In such cases, it would be important to strengthen capacities for planning – not just disaster reduction planning but overall development planning – at all levels.

Allocate resources for disaster risk reduction

Developments in the legislative and policy frameworks need to be backed by adequate and sustained allocation of financial resources at all levels. It is important that a vision for the implementation of the provision of new laws is developed alongside the process of enactment of the law itself. There are numerous examples where very forward-looking legislative arrangements have not been able to achieve significant risk reduction on the ground in the absence of adequate resources for the implementation of the provisions of the law.

Mobilize popular participation to inform the legislation

The development of legislation often tends to involve only high-level policy and decision makers. There is a need to devise mechanisms so that the popular participation can be mobilized to inform the process of enactment of new laws and policies. While governments bear the primary responsibility for bringing about policy and legislative reforms, they cannot and should not shoulder these tasks alone. Civil society, women's organizations, and the academia can play an important role in ensuring that concerns of the vulnerable groups including women and children are reflected in the formulation of legislation.

Complement strong legislation with strong regulatory framework

It has been observed that the regulatory framework to implement the provisions of the law is often weak. In order to ensure that the law has sufficient force, it is important that adequate attention is paid to developing strong regulatory frameworks.

Transition from command-and-control type organizations to developmental set-ups

Over the past ten years, a paradigm shift from “preparedness for response” to “disaster risk reduction” has meant that the national level institutions have had to evolve from being primarily command-and-control type – often with para-military or civil defence background – to more cross-sectoral and developmental organizations. This transition has not always been smooth. Some countries national institutions still predominantly retain the characteristics of an emergency management institution.

Strengthening the role of civil service

While considerable emphasis has been placed on enhancing the political will for disaster risk reduction to make it a national priority, not enough has been done to enhance the bureaucratic will and capacities to effectively implement the provisions of new laws and policies. In a number of countries there is a lack of adequate professional expertise and capacities to look at

disaster risk reduction in a comprehensive manner across all development sectors. Significant investment needs to be made in this direction.

Enhancing the understanding of disaster risk

At the national level, the understanding of existing and emerging patterns of disaster risk continues to be inadequate. It is largely based on perceptions and past major events. In that context, policy and decision making is based largely on perception rather than on solid evidence. It is important that investment is made in coming up with rigorous but easily understandable and usable analyses of disaster risk. This will assist in not only sustaining the political will but also in making informed decision making.

Must not “reinvent the wheel”

Several workshop participants reiterated the point that development in legislation, policies and institutional frameworks should build upon existing capacities and structures at the national level. Reinventing the proverbial wheel by setting up parallel structures is not a good use of resources and may in fact dilute the focus on disaster risk reduction at the local level.

Regional implications of national legislation

Development of legislation and policies is essentially an internal process in sovereign states. However, as some of the workshop participants highlighted, sometimes national legislation has regional implications. This is particularly relevant in situations where trans-boundary hazards are involved. Regional dialogue can inform the process of formulation of national legislation to ensure that it also contributes towards reducing disaster risk at the regional level.

Define desired disaster risk reduction outcomes at the local level

Enactment of new legislation or formulation is not an end in itself. There are numerous examples where in spite of a good legislative framework, risk reduction has not been achieved. It is important, therefore, to set benchmarks for desired risk reduction outcomes at the local level.

Conclusions

The session recognized that strengthened governance systems are key to achieving risk reduction at the national level. Two main issues and areas for action were identified.

First, there is a need to move from “command and control” structures for risk management to more developmental approaches. This shift has been previously achieved across national contexts by identifying champions who have an understanding of risk contexts and priorities for action. This understanding needs to be translated into institutional action by building knowledge and capacities of relevant ministries or civil services. The session concluded that countries should learn by comparing experiences, and avoid a “one size fits all” approach.

Second, legislative frameworks were recognized as being crucial. However, they need to be complemented by strong regulatory frameworks which enforce compliance. Key factors identified for feasible implementation of such national frameworks are: allocation of financial and human resources in order to strengthen planning processes at all levels, ensuring popular participation and civil engagement in developing policy and legislations, and setting benchmarks for outcomes in terms of risk reduction for all vulnerable groups including women and children. Legislations should take into account regional implications of national planning and potential trans-boundary risks, through regional coordination and planning.

Session workshop 3:

Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into national development instruments

Session workshop facilitated by the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (WB/GFDRR)

In January 2005, the World Conference for Disaster Reduction called for a stronger link between international development goals and disaster risk reduction. Recognizing the growing development losses resulting from disasters related to natural hazards, 168 nations collectively called upon international financial institutions and other stakeholders through the Hyogo Framework for Action: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters 2005-15 “to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into development assistance frameworks and poverty reduction strategies.” One of the strategic goals of the Hyogo Framework is to strengthen the “integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and vulnerability reduction.”

Focus during the session was on the enabling factors that generated commitment for disaster risk reduction among Ministries of Planning and Finance and the concrete steps that have been taken to translate poverty reduction and other strategies into action.

Experiences presented

Pakistan

Before the October 2005 earthquake occurred, no comprehensive structure existed for disaster management. During the crisis, a mandate was given to a federal relief commissioner to coordinate all actions taken, from civil to military. This was possible due to strong political support. In 2006, a National Disaster Management Authority was created, whose aim is to manage the complete spectrum of disaster management, define guidelines, and address vulnerability and risk. The National Disaster Management Authority has drafted a National Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction that highlights priority areas for integrating disaster risk reduction, such as training and education, community planning and hazard mapping.

Mozambique

In Mozambique, since 2006, the integration of the Hyogo Framework has been tied to the National Institute for Disaster Management, which has been shifted from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Home Affairs. This shift has placed greater emphasis on the need for mainstreaming risk reduction at the national level, as opposed to requesting external support following a disaster. The starting point for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction has been through macro-economic development and contingency planning channels. Mainstreaming has been a process over time that includes the integration of climate change aspects. In 2006, a national centre was created to deal specifically with preparedness, search and rescue, as well as rapid post-disaster recovery. By 2009, full incorporation of disaster risk reduction and climate change issues will be targeted, which is important because Mozambique faces droughts, floods and cyclones on a regular basis.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The experience from St. Vincent and the Grenadines highlighted the small island state’s perspective of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development, including how the country leverages knowledge through regional organizations, such as Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency. The Caribbean has a comprehensive disaster management strategy that was developed in 2001 and comprises four key areas: (i) enhancement of institutional support (national/regional levels), (ii) effective mechanism and programmes for management (educational curriculum), (iii) community resilience, and (iv) mainstreaming disaster risk reduction at the national level and in sectoral policies and programmes. This strategy has been accepted by the state governments of the Caribbean. To transfer the risks that cannot be sufficiently mitigated, the Government of St Vincent has joined the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance

Facility, which consists of \$444 million in funding that is dispersed on the basis of parameters established for earthquakes and hurricanes.

Malawi

The Government of Malawi presented its experience with mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development. Prior to 2006, the Government primarily focused on disaster response, with a shift towards a disaster risk reduction strategy integrating the Hyogo Framework. Disaster risk reduction has not yet been integrated into other government ministries, other than the Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs. Implementation of disaster risk reduction has been advancing, especially at the departmental and district levels; however, to implement programmes, these groups require resources from the national government. A challenge at the national level is that the national disaster preparedness and relief committee does not include UN and donor representation. In Malawi, areas which are currently under development include a disaster risk reduction policy and creation of early warning systems.

Philippines

The Government of the Philippines gave a joint presentation with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) about the Regional Consultative Committee Program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Policy, Planning and Implementation in Asia. The Philippines case study illustrated how disaster risk reduction has been mainstreamed into guidelines for the infrastructure sector (e.g. roads). Programme implementation began in 2006, and it includes a technical oversight group composed of various national stakeholders (ministries, research centres, NGOs) to monitor performance. Although the programme is in the first phase of implementation, it was noted that there is a standards discrepancy between projects paid by foreign funds versus local projects paid by government funds, which the Government should address. ADPC noted the importance for governments to have clear budget lines for disaster risk reduction, and that investing in risk reduction is aligned with prudent public governance and investment, for example building to higher standards costs more but saves lives. Regional collaboration and knowledge sharing on guidelines for mainstreaming, advocacy, and research were highlighted as important contributions to mainstreaming risk reduction at the national level.

Summary of the discussions

Overarching issues that were cited as challenges to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction included:

- The occurrence of an adverse impact, which initiates the rush to rebuild, resulting in unsound reconstruction practices.
- The difficulty of changing cultural mindsets and perceptions of risk.
- The need to bring greater focus to several initiatives, such as information sharing, capacity-building for managing and monitoring disaster risk reduction mainstreaming progress.

In addition, opportunities for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction were discussed, including:

- Better use of analyses of previous catastrophes.
- More proactive involvement of international finance institutions.
- Engagement of the construction sector.
- Tax incentives for mitigation investments.

Participants emphasized the need to engage decision makers – such as heads of state, and the ministers of finance and planning – in their own language to highlight the economic development benefits of disaster risk reduction. International finance institutions, such as the World Bank, can assist the ISDR to facilitate this process.

Fora and platforms for disaster risk reduction, such as this Global Platform, should include members of these key agencies to increase their understanding of mainstreaming issues. The private sector, especially the construction sector, also has an important role to play. In addition, donors, governments, the private sector, and NGOs should use common definitions of mainstreaming to enable coordinated action.

It was noted that mainstreaming efforts should include communities directly and should consider the role that NGOs can play to link communities and governments. It was also recommended that planners ensure that disaster risk reduction measures do not further marginalize vulnerable groups and the poor.

Governments need to prioritize mainstreaming efforts and focus on key sectors, such as infrastructure, health and education. The importance of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the education sector was also highlighted, both for safer construction of schools and heightened awareness of disaster risks. Finally, participants noted the importance of capitalizing on opportunities presented by a disaster to integrate disaster risk reduction into development instruments through a multi-hazard approach.

Conclusions

ISDR should develop international standards or benchmarks for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development to assist governments to focus on more than awareness-raising. Donors must be convinced of the importance of disaster risk reduction; it is essential that new investment projects do not create new vulnerability to disasters; donors should be sensitized to this and this approach should be reflected in the projects they finance.

To this end, the international community should support the creation and dissemination of good practice examples, guidelines, and standards for mainstreaming that are useful to governments.

Session workshop 4: From national frameworks to local action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

Session workshop facilitated by the ProVention Consortium

The Hyogo Framework places great emphasis on community participation and the need to integrate gender in all aspects of effective disaster risk reduction – noting that vulnerable groups and high-risk communities must be engaged in the design and implementation of plans and activities. Community experiences from hazard prone areas around the world have demonstrated that community-based organizations are key actors in disaster reduction. Their efforts have improved development outcomes and increased the capacities of high-risk communities to cope with disasters. To concretize the innovation and value addition communities bring to disaster risk reduction, this working group analysed locally focused, community-based risk reduction strategies, tracked emerging good practices and the range of actors who are initiating and implementing them. Case study presentations identified effective actions undertaken by grassroots residents of disaster prone poor communities – in Peru, Jamaica, India and Malawi.

“We have capacities to fight, work and get things done if we have the resources. We know what is coming with climate change and natural disasters. We can help our children and families survive and be resilient.”

Olga Ramirez, Mujeres Unidas Para un Pueblo Mejor

Experiences presented

Peru

Omar Marcos Arteaga, Mayor of Ventanilla (on the outskirts of Lima), highlighted the benefits of working in partnership with communities and NGOs. An example of the low-cost construction technologies developed with informal settlements was presented by Marilu Sanchez of the NGO Estrategia. Based on this programme, Ventanilla municipality is planning to launch a low-income housing programme which focuses on low-cost secure housing for poor neighbourhoods and has the potential to be replicated at the national level.

Olga Ramirez, of “Mujeres Unidas Para un Pueblo Mejor”, which represents women from 70 highly disaster prone towns around Lima, explained that community members have been trained in earthquake safe construction since 1990 by Estrategia and now have a group of community leaders who can train others. She emphasized that communities have knowledge and skills to reduce risk in their communities and they need partners to recognize the contributions of women, raise resources that enable women to work in partnership with local authorities to use their construction skills.

India

Vellamadam Chodalamuthupillai Nadarajan of the Covenant Center for Development (CCD) in Tamil Nadu, described the strategies used to restore, upgrade and diversify livelihoods of fishing communities, farmers and crafts persons while conserving the natural resource base in tsunami-hit areas. Today, CCD supports five federations of coastal livelihoods groups which cover 10,000 families – and indirectly impact 250,000 families.

Sivaperumal Manimekalai an award-winning village council leader, shared her own experience as village council president and tsunami survivor with accessing entitlements for her community in Nagapattinam district and the thousands of tsunami survivors. Following the tsunami she organized women into a fish-vendors federation in spite of resistance from men. Already this federation has saved over \$50 million and repaid loans worth millions, contradicting the post-tsunami climate in which communities were being showered with grants.

Finally, Dhar Chakrabarti from the National Institute of Disaster Management and Government of India, complemented these presentations by emphasizing the importance of building on community coping strategies. He pointed out that the Government is not romanticizing community initiatives, and that communities need government

support to institutionalize and scale-up their work. He noted that in the second phase of this disaster risk management programme, implementers are faced with the challenges of ensuring community ownership in order to sustain and ensure the quality of the programme.

Jamaica

The Construction Resource and Development Center (CRDC) is the only NGO in Jamaica to train women in safe, low-cost, hurricane resistant construction. Carmen Griffiths of CRDC summarized the many years of experience this organization has in developing large-scale campaigns to educate communities on low-cost hurricane-safe roofing techniques. Marcia Christian, a community leader, presented the community risk mapping processes that she is leading in St. Thomas. CRDC is using a triangulation process to verify information in the community maps.

Franklin MacDonald, member of the National Climate Change Committee said that “communities have much more knowledge of how to cope (with disaster) than the Public Works Departments” and that professionals are now beginning to learn from these. He pointed out that in recognition of its pioneering work in promoting community friendly technologies and community-based disaster risk reduction strategies CRDC had been invited by the Government of Jamaica to join the National Climate Change Committee.

In addition to the three country panel presentations, Ms. Diana Rubiano, co-chair of the working group session and Head of the Direction for Prevention and Attention to Emergencies of Bogotá, highlighted the experience of her municipality and the importance of effective decentralization and devolution of roles and resources related to disaster risk reduction.

In addition, Tearfund screened a short film from its Malawi disaster risk reduction programme depicting the government/NGO partnership which includes national level participation linking government policies into district level practises, and demonstrates the capacity of the local community to reduce flood risk.

Summary of the discussions

Discussions focused on the need to strengthen, sustain and scale-up community-led disaster risk reduction efforts while maintaining the quality of work and countering dependency. There was a consensus on the need to scale-up community-led strategies with the support of local and national government. However, participants also recognized the challenges of sustaining quality, effectiveness and dynamic community involvement and ownership.

Existing policies and programmes do not adequately value the efforts of women and their communities in coping with disasters. Nor do they build on lessons learned from community actions to cope with disasters. Participants agreed that education on disaster risk reduction is not a one way process in which communities are educated by outsiders, but should be a process that builds on the knowledge and skills of communities.

Also emerging from the discussions was the need for disaster risk reduction to go beyond emergency response and preparedness. The entire development process must be addressed comprehensively if disaster risk reduction strategies are to succeed.

Conclusions

Designate funds

Establish a global financing mechanism to provide direct support to hazard prone, at risk, poor communities and their local authorities to demonstrate and scale-up disaster risk reduction strategies and enable their active participation in realizing the Hyogo Framework.

Engage local community innovators as technical experts in risk and vulnerability reduction

Establish community-to-community exchange and networking mechanisms and technical assistance protocols that enable community experts to train and transfer their knowledge and skills. Transferring bottom-up sustainable livelihoods, safe and affordable construction methods, asset protection, food security, community-wide information sharing and mobilization approaches will capacitate community-based organizations to partner with local authorities and take ownership of the Hyogo Framework.

Establish measurable targets for community participation and local action in reducing risks

Declare and commit 20 per cent of all global and national disaster risk reduction resources for community-based implementation and monitoring initiatives in 2008 and that by 2013 the share will have increased to 30 per cent of global and national disaster risk reduction investment.

Promote local partnerships

Establish local partnerships among community-based organizations and local governments that inform regional, national and global efforts to implement the Hyogo Framework.

Session workshop 5:

Education for disaster risk reduction and safer schools in communities at risk

Session workshop facilitated by the ISDR Thematic Platform for Knowledge and Education

The workshop focused on priority 3 of the Hyogo Framework covering:

- Development and sharing of content and strategies for teaching disaster risk reduction to children, in and out of school.
- Schools as hubs or centres for community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives.
- Physical safety of schools facilities and school disaster management.
- Outreach and use of mass media and campaigns.

Case studies and good practices both presented by panellists and raised by activists from the floor revealed that:

- Stakeholders throughout the world have made the “Disaster Risk Reduction Begins in Schools” campaign their own. The ISDR publication "Let Our Children Teach Us" has been used as a base for this.
- Efforts leading to school safety have been documented in approximately 20 countries, many undergoing post-disaster reconstruction.
- Disaster risk reduction education has been documented in 70 countries. (However none are yet multi-hazard, nationwide, and fully integrated into school systems).

Experiences presented

Islamic Republic of Iran

A leading teaching and learning institution has dedicated staff to this objective for 17 years, and as a result now has 20 school textbooks at every level and every subject, trains teachers, holds annual national drills for 15 million children, essay writing and poster competitions, workshop with 12-18 year olds. They have also begun a weekly television broadcast, and published new training materials for Kindergarten teachers. Ten years of campaigning has led to consumer demand and finally political will: the Government has now responded with \$4 billion for strengthening of 100,000 unsafe schools within 4 years and \$4 billion for safe new school construction.

Launch of the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative

The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) was officially launched on 6 July 2007 at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. CADRI is a joint initiative prepared by UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. CADRI's goal is to advance the generation of knowledge and related experience pertinent to developing sustainable capacity for disaster risk reduction.

Within the context of the ISDR system, CADRI is the nucleus of a thematic platform for interests and institutions to enhance capacity for disaster risk reduction. It has identified the following objectives and is currently developing a work plan of supporting activities to:

1. Assist selected countries to enhance their capacity to make disaster risk reduction a national and local priority, with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
2. Stimulate expanded collaboration, innovation and the wider access or exchange of experience amongst disaster risk reduction training providers and organizations.
3. Expand the mutual exchange of disaster risk reduction in higher education, academia and formalized learning through structured networking.
4. Provide knowledge products (educational and learning materials, methodological tools and resources) for capacity development to advance the implementation of the Hyogo Framework and to increase the adoption of results-oriented approaches for capacity development.

Vietnam, Costa Rica and others

NGOs in partnership with Ministries of Education have used a cascading model to reach trainers of trainers, trainers and hundreds of thousands of school children with disaster risk reduction education.

Turkey

Distance learning tools have enabled cost-effective scale-up of cascading models of instruction to reach tens of thousands of teachers and millions of students.

Madagascar

The National Office of Disasters and Risks Management of the Government of Madagascar has partnered with the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research to develop a practical manual and a handbook for teachers.

Russian Federation

The Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of the Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM) is distributing electronic versions of textbooks and is training 9,000 teachers per year in civil defence and disaster response skills, which nevertheless only satisfies 63 per cent of the demand.

Germany

Fifteen of the seventeen heterogeneous disaster management programmes at the post-secondary level are less than five years old.

Japan

Building code enforcement has improved since the Kobe earthquake. In-service training is being made use of by individual districts for teacher training.

Nepal

Curriculum mapping has been done to identify entry points for disaster risk reduction educational content.

Central America

Joint efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Central America Cultural and Education Coordinators (CECC), Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and ISDR, are underway to prioritize safe school construction in all Central American countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. OAS in particular is working in a School Retrofitting Program.

Philippines, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka

Priority Implementation Partnerships are at work in the Philippines, Cambodia, Lao and Sri Lanka, bringing together Ministry of Education, national disaster management organizations, and a wealth of in-country materials with pilot testing of materials to be integrated throughout the curriculum.

Italy

Researchers have articulated a prioritization scheme for seismic intervention in school buildings using a framework which includes studies, vulnerability rating by visual inspection, and a simplified mechanics-based structural assessment, leading to assignment of priorities and timescales for retrofit.

India

In Gujarat the School Earthquake Safety Initiative launched in late 2006 has reached out to school principals, school teachers, parents and children. The State Government has committed to achieving zero mortality of children in disasters in 32,000 schools by 2010 with a series of immediate and medium-term action steps.

United States of America

Curriculum materials have been designed for integration into existing school curricula, with lesson plans, classroom activities, check lists and other materials. Major stakeholders have renewed efforts to build a standardized approach to outreach campaigns with a toolkit to engage mass media. The focus is on unified, easily understood messages, tailored to different end-users and with empowering action-orientation.

Summary of the discussions

Since 2005, new steps are being taken to integrate disaster risk reduction education into standards, and toolkits. Post-secondary programs are emerging to fill new needs. International conferences and regional gathering of experts in education and risk management have provided advocates with important opportunities for collaboration. Advocates are advancing the goal of "Zero Mortality of Children in Schools from Preventable Disasters by the year 2015". Some nations and regions – not necessarily the richest ones – have responded with a commitment to meet this goal even earlier.

Many challenges identified:

- Unsafe schools are still being built with donor funds.
- Initiatives and efforts taking place at the local, district and national levels are not sufficiently catalogued.
- Mass media need to be engaged to respond even at short notice to provide critical life-saving information.
- Efforts have concentrated on children, but not sufficiently on teachers, and not the teacher-training institutions. It is important to move from pilot projects and projects sustained by NGOs to standardized materials supported by teacher training that have an ongoing place in school curricula.
- Educational materials should be active, participatory, and empowering rather than prescriptive. They need to make technical information useful to bridge knowledge and practice. Materials need to be tested, learning from shortcomings and continuously improve. This includes moving from single-hazard focus to multi-hazard, moving from risk awareness and response to active risk reduction.
- Distance learning tools should be used, cascading models of instruction, knowledge networks and learning circles. As well as mass media, electronic media, web-based resources, games, YouTube and podcasts to reach out to youth and Web 2.0 tools to harness collective intelligence through open systems for review, commentary and evaluation.
- It was suggested to engage in a high profile project to work with three to five countries engaging education and disaster risk reduction players in identifying, translating, adapting and testing high quality educational materials focused on developing core competencies.

Conclusions

Disaster risk reduction education can only be accomplished across public, private, civil sector boundaries engaging family, home, school principals and teachers, government bureaucrats and politicians, civil society leaders and local community activists, ministries and boards of education, disaster management authorities, Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies, dedicated disaster risk reduction champions, international and local NGOs, businesses large and small, opinion leaders and mass media producers.

The greatest challenge lies in multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation. Professional, public and political will are required. Our continued focus on education is developing the widespread consciousness that in turn leads to consumer demand for both knowledge and safety, for policy, resources and action. It is therefore incumbent upon us to continue to reach out to the broadest possible public, and to create stronger multi-stakeholder networks.

It is recommended that donors and governments set aside a substantial percentage of funds for this investment in education for risk reduction.

A core priority in disaster risk reduction is to establish a worldwide culture of safety, partnering with school systems and communities to educate children to think critically and analytically, to draw upon old wisdom, to seek current scientific and technical knowledge, to assess both vulnerabilities and capacities, to problem-solve and to be proactive to reduce disaster risks. This investment in primary prevention is guaranteed to yield the highest rates of cost-benefit and assure longest-term sustainability.

Session workshop 6: Reducing risk in health facilities and the health sector

Session workshop facilitated by the World Health Organization (WHO)

In 2005, the Hyogo Framework called on countries to promote "the goal of hospitals safe from disasters by ensuring that all new hospitals are built with a level of resilience that strengthens their capacity to remain functional in emergency and disaster situations and implement mitigation measures to reinforce existing health facilities." Given the critical importance of this issue, the ISDR has selected the topic of "safe hospitals" as the theme of the upcoming two-year global world disaster reduction campaign¹⁴.

The objective of the workshop is to look at where the health sector is today in terms of emergency preparedness and risk reduction, highlight examples of best practices that have reduced risk, and prepare a broad outline of how nations work together to safeguard and guarantee the functionality and the emergency responsiveness of their hospitals and health facilities.

Experiences presented

Nepal

Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director of the National Society for Earthquake Technology presented lessons learned from the impact of disasters on health facilities and why risk reduction measures must be incorporated into the planning, recovery and rehabilitation of health facilities.

Philippines

Carmencita Alberto-Banatin from the Health Emergency Management Staff Department of Health explained that if health facilities and health personnel are unable to function in the aftermath of crises, it has just as serious an impact as the physical loss of a structure. Governments are taking steps to reduce the risk of failing health services at a time when they are most needed.

Grenada/Barbados

Tony Gibbs presented the Hospital Safety Index - a low-cost, high-impact tool or scorecard to measure and rank a health facility's level of safety in terms of its structural, non-structural and functional aspects.

Summary of the discussions

Health is a unifying force for action on disaster risk reduction.

In the last 20 years, disasters caused an average of 205 deaths a day worldwide. In the same period, traffic accidents were the cause of 3,287 deaths a day, that is, 16 times the number of deaths compared to natural hazards. Communicable diseases ended the life of 36,438 persons a day, which is 11 times compared to traffic accidents and 177 times when compared to natural hazards.

Health care is an essential service for all women and men anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. In disaster situations its main responsibility is to save lives, provide urgent health care to the injured and reduce the risk of communicable diseases and other health risks. This responsibility can only be performed if the health facilities and services are fully operational.

¹⁴ The 2008-2009 ISDR World Disaster Reduction Campaign will be on Safe Hospitals. More information will be found soon on ISDR website at: <http://www.unisdr.org/>

Even though structure is of the utmost importance, thousands of health services went out of service during disasters mainly due to the loss of basic services as well as due to organizational and functional collapse. The most expensive hospital is the one that fails and no country can afford to have an expensive hospital. It costs the same to build a safe hospital, therefore it is politically, economically or ethically unacceptable to continue building health facilities that may not function when they are most needed.

Health is, de facto, a key actor in disaster risk reduction and response, but it is frequently not part of the initial planning and decision making processes.

Conclusions

- Health is a unifying force for action on disaster risk reduction.
- Health is the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Therefore, the health sector must have a pivotal role in disaster reduction at local, national and international levels for many reasons, including the protection of infrastructure and delivery of health care when they are most needed.
- Within the Hyogo Framework, which calls on nations to ensure that all health facilities, large and small, new and existing, remain functional in case of disasters, there is a need to foster collaboration for a strong multi-sectoral approach in the implementation of the 2008-2009 ISDR World Disaster Reduction Campaign on Safe Hospitals.
- The health sector recognizes the importance of incorporating all five Hyogo Framework priority areas into its disaster risk reduction planning.
- There is an urgent need for all actors represented in this session of the Global Platform to jointly develop guidelines for an integrated common community approach to disaster risk reduction rather than many sector-specific approaches.

Session workshop 7: Strengthening disaster risk reduction through preparedness

Session workshop facilitated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

The workshop addressed strengthening disaster risk reduction through preparedness from the perspective of best practices at the local and national level and strategies to enhance, replicate or scale-up such initiatives.

Experiences presented

Ecuador

Ecuador insisted on the need to have good, transparent sharing of information, community-based approaches, local networks and the importance of building political and technical platforms. The principle of “subsidiarity” was outlined, meaning that national capacities should be put at the disposal of the local level when the latter’s coping capacity has been exceeded. It is important to make use of existing platforms that are well integrated into the communities instead of creating new ones. The need for expedited procedures for emergency projects was identified as a key element.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

IFRC presented a community-based preparedness project in Jamaica and how it had mitigated the impacts of hurricane Ivan. The main features included participatory assessment processes, risk analysis, early warning, evacuation, retrofitting of houses and the development of local disaster response plans. The system has self-duplicated as other communities have requested assistance in creating similar structures. The use of the Red Cross movement was useful in avoiding confusion between social and political action.

Kenya

Kenya presented its innovative multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional approach to disaster management where all relevant ministries, departments, agencies, NGOs, civil society and international partners are incorporated. The Government has created a one-stop shop data centre of national inventory of resources and capacities available to all institutions. Disaster risk reduction has been mainstreamed into ministerial planning and budget process. Alternative farming strategies, resistant crops, etc. was highlighted as a means of mitigation and preparedness. The key element of this approach remains community-based.

Germany

Germany gave a report on the Global Wild Land Fire Project, its activities and achievements and the specificities of fire hazards. It is a project for defining fire management strategies with community participation with the inclusion of training and the promotion of a self-sufficient local mechanism. Benefits for the communities need to be identified and understood.



“Experience tells us clearly that if preparedness does not consider overall risk reduction aspects, at the time of a disaster, relief operations can take place in such a way that we actually end up exacerbating vulnerabilities instead of eliminating or reducing them.”

*Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom,
Deputy Emergency Relief
Coordinator and Assistant
Secretary-General, at the
opening of the session workshop
on Strengthening Disaster Risk
Reduction through Preparedness.*

European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO)

ECHO presented the donor perspective and their approaches and the importance of including preparedness into relief and into development and early recovery. Around 10 per cent of its relief budget is dedicated to preparedness activities, through advocacy activities, mainstreaming and specific projects against drought. She also highlighted the challenge of mainstreaming small local community-based initiatives into national and international systems. The regional level should not be seen as a substitute for the national level.

Switzerland

Switzerland made a presentation on the Turkish neighbourhood disaster volunteer project. This project has trained 2,653 people in 62 neighbourhoods in Istanbul. It was difficult to build such projects in urban rather than rural areas as Istanbul has 14 million people. The volunteers are certified for first assistance and could assist professional search and rescue teams when they arrive. They undertake public awareness and are now organizing their own training and other social service activities. The equipment provided to the teams is adjusted to the community needs and capacity.

Tajikistan

Tajikistan gave a regional risk scenario presentation based on threats to the natural dam of the Lake Sarez, which potentially have implications for neighbouring countries. They also gave details of the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) as a best practice on how governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the international community, can work together.

India

India pointed out the need to stay tuned to the Hyogo Framework, and stressed the fact that governments should undertake a paradigm shift to a holistic disaster risk reduction approach, ensuring inclusive and participatory processes and assigning greater importance to prevention, mitigation and preparedness. Putting in place legal and institutional frameworks is crucial to achieve efficient disaster management. However, the ownership of preparedness activities should remain with the community.

Summary of the discussions

Community-based approaches were identified as the key element to ensure successful preparedness. Indeed, communities constitute the first responders and are also the ones that know their specificities and needs best.

- However, in order to be sustainable and to reach an acceptable national level of preparedness, political commitment and support to these initiatives is vital, otherwise they will remain scattered. It involves the development of local networks and building political and technical platforms using, where possible, existing structures. Adequate legal and institutional frameworks were also recognized as an enabling factor.
- Most experiences of successful preparedness activities relate to rural and limited community settings. The participants stressed the need to replicate these best practices in highly vulnerable urban settings where it is more difficult. Scaling up such projects has been recognized as a real challenge for preparedness implementation.
- Governments, humanitarian and other organizations pointed out the difficulty of committing funds as preparedness shows benefits only after disasters, and other needs tend to get priority. Indeed, preparedness is often not included in humanitarian and other projects.

There is some tension between preparedness measures and political and economic costs. Therefore preparedness needs to be more manifest and show positive investment. It is important to create political space in order to promote Disaster Risk Reduction.

Conclusions

Efforts from stakeholders should focus on mainstreaming preparedness into all aspects of disaster management and to create political space to promote disaster preparedness. Indeed, advocacy for disaster preparedness is vital, and should highlight the benefits of such initiatives and projects, which aim at limiting the adverse impact of a disaster, and usually make the relief phase less costly.

- It is important to include preparedness activities into humanitarian projects, but it should not remain limited to this area. Indeed, preparedness should be approached with a longer-term perspective than the actual relief phase, and incorporated into early recovery and development projects as well.
- A focused effort from the international humanitarian and donor community should be adopted, particularly to assist the “high-risk, low-capacity countries”. Best practices should be replicated into highly concentrated urban areas, where risks are often greater and preparedness activities less easy to implement. International organizations as well as donors should highly support such projects.
- A strong involvement of the local population as well as civil society is crucial for implementing successful and sustainable preparedness projects. Therefore, such projects should always have a multi-dimensional approach, supporting collaboration between civil society, public and private actors.
- A serious and continuous commitment of all stakeholders is central to success. Political will from governments as well as the inter-agency community’s support towards Hyogo Framework priority 5 is crucial.

Session workshop 8: Ecosystems and environmental management for risk reduction

Session workshop facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN)

The Hyogo Framework, the Millennium Declaration and the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment have different points of departure but reach the same conclusion that environmental degradation, poverty and disaster risk share common causes as well as common consequences for human security and well-being.

Ecosystem services, environmental management and environmental information offer opportunities to reduce risk, decrease poverty and achieve sustainable development. These services and skills will be increasingly valuable as vulnerable communities adapt to a changing climate in which more frequent and intense hazards threaten hard won development gains.

That environment, development and disasters are connected is rarely disputed, but the multi-dimensional role of environment has caused considerable confusion. While it is often recognized that ecosystems are affected by disasters, it is forgotten that protecting ecosystem services can both save lives and protect livelihoods. The ISDR Working Group on Environment and Disaster Reduction produced a guidance paper on issues and opportunities for environmental management in disaster risk reduction.

The key opportunities identified in this paper include:

- Engage environmental managers fully in national disaster risk management mechanisms.
- Include risk reduction criteria in environmental regulatory frameworks.
- Assess environmental change as a parameter of risk.
- Utilize local knowledge in community-based disaster risk management.
- Engage the scientific community to promote environmental research and innovation.
- Protect and value ecosystem services.
- Consider environmental technologies and designs for structural defences.
- Integrate environmental and disaster risk considerations in spatial planning.
- Prepare for environmental emergencies.
- Strengthen capacities for environmental recovery.

The paper was distributed at the workshop and is available online at:
http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/env_vulnerability.pdf

In this context the specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- Introduce the experiences of environmental managers in support of disaster reduction.
- Stimulate discussions of priorities directions for strengthening the role of environment and environmental management in disaster reduction.

Experiences presented

Jamaica

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) in Jamaica were initiated in the 1970s and detailed consideration of risk in development planning and project preparation, were addressed over two decades ago. New laws and changing national and regional environmental agendas, as well as new challenges such as climate change and new

development, have given cause to review and adapt the EIA process. The Caribbean Development Bank is now using this method to assess the impact of proposed projects on environment. The assessments play a vital role as mechanisms for disaster reduction, with some limitations as they are not substitute for comprehensive risk identification.

Denmark

The role of environmental science and information for disaster risk reduction was discussed on the basis of several practical examples. The importance of information technology for preparedness planning was presented for various timescales: for long-term (spatial, economic, and environmental planning), medium-term (management plans and development control) and short-term (contingency planning and recovery management) measures. For all three time perspectives, ecosystems management is a key concern from the broad perspective of sustainable development. Enhanced preparedness at all three levels requires integrated and coordinated efforts with participation from all stakeholders to ensure that all capabilities are applied. There is also a need for decision support, enhancing risk awareness and strengthening enforcement at all levels.

Indonesia

The relevance of decision support systems for integrating environment and disaster risk information was presented on the basis of four case studies. Recommendations for collaborative activities include the development of detailed risk and vulnerability maps for hazard prone areas, review of existing laws and legal instruments, strengthening of national disaster reduction mechanisms, and encouraging the adoption and enhancement of land-use plans, and building codes to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. Furthermore, the importance of encouraging and enabling community-based hazard identification and risk assessment from a multi-hazard perspective was highlighted. Finally, other measures were mentioned, including support for interdisciplinary research and knowledge transfer, establishing expert committees, ensuring that disaster warning systems are activated, promoting preventive measures, and implementing plans for establishing an effective and usable information system were mentioned.

Andean Region

The impact of rapid glacier retreat in the tropical Andes was presented. Continuing glacier retreat will significantly affect drinking water supply in developing countries. Various measures are urgently needed in different sectors. To ensure water storage capacity, it is important to build and operate small ponds to cope with water scarcity induced by glacier retreat and to invest in reforestation measures. In the agriculture sector, irrigation infrastructure needs to be upgraded and production needs to be increased to ensure food security. For basic rural and urban sanitation, drinking water, sewage, treatment of residual waters and environmental management of solid wastes is an important measure. The energy sector needs to protect and conserve the hydrological system of glaciers and associated reservoirs and the hydraulic conditions of river basins as well as maintaining the infrastructure.

United Republic of Tanzania

The role of environmental management for disaster risk reduction in Tanzania was presented. Several factors affect environmental degradation including illegal human activities related to agriculture and human settlement, deforestation and wild fires. Furthermore, unsustainable small and large-scale irrigation projects and programmes have negative consequences on biodiversity and general water availability. All these factors lead to desertification and drought in many parts of the country. Public awareness and involvement in environmental protection and sustainable utilization of natural resources is urgently needed. Land-use planning is an important tool for environmental conservation and participatory land-use plans need to address livestock carrying capacities in villages and districts is needed. Financial support for Tanzania's efforts to integrate environment and disaster risk reduction in the land-use planning process and other development programmes is needed and it was recommended that international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the European Union to streamline land-use planning for environmental issues and disaster risk management in their projects.

Sri Lanka

The link between coastal hazards, environmental impacts and disaster risk reduction in Sri Lanka was presented. It included the need for a multi-hazard coastal risk assessment framework. The functionality and advantages of various natural measures to protect coastal areas was discussed. These measures include coral reefs, sand dunes and mangroves. The combinations of different natural measures, the so called “hybrid” measures can be most effective and guidelines on such measures should be drawn up.

Summary of discussions

Participants highlighted the importance of moving from science and programmes to action as well as the general need for practical tools, guidelines and manuals on environment and disaster risk reduction issues. Other key themes that emerged in the presentations and subsequent discussions, including:

- Ecosystem services, environmental management and environmental information offer major opportunities to reduce risk, to decrease poverty and achieve sustainable development - ecosystems can provide services that save lives and reduce disaster risk.
- Gender issues need to be addressed in environment and disaster reduction work. Greater emphasis must be given to the role of women's knowledge.
- Indigenous knowledge must also continue to play an important role in environment and disaster reduction. This knowledge may be lost as urban migration continues. Steps should be taken to verify and apply traditional knowledge.
- Few finance ministries are aware of the huge impact of disasters in terms of economic loss. Standardized measures to capture figures need to be developed to raise awareness among decision makers and among the private sector in general.
- Environmental principles need to be included into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and Development Assistance Framework and results of environmental impact assessments need to be applied in development plans. Strong environment laws need to be formalized and applied.

The workshop strongly endorsed efforts to actively engage civil society, NGOs, the scientific community and the private sector. In this context, it was agreed that there is a need to clarify the roles of different sectors.

Conclusions

The practical role of ecosystem services in reducing risk and strengthening community resilience must be better understood. Disaster reduction infrastructure should be made more environmentally friendly. Multidisciplinary science using gender-sensitive local knowledge is essential to achieve this.

Policy and planning frameworks that integrate environment and disaster risk reduction are essential for climate change adaptation and sustainable development. Existing frameworks and mechanisms such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) should be strengthened accordingly. Environmental management tools such as strategic environmental assessment, environmental impact assessment and land and natural resource use planning offer practical opportunities in this regard.

Engage environmental stakeholders in disaster risk reduction. Environmental authorities, NGOs, local communities, professional associations and private sector each bring valuable skills and capacities. Innovative and effective partnerships need to be fostered.

Encourage the international community to integrate environment in disaster risk reduction and assist in building corresponding national level capacity.



Section 3

Assess progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework and guide the ISDR system

(Agenda item 5-8)

Introduction to reporting on progress

On the morning session of Thursday, 7 June 2007, Mr. Holmes, Chair of the first session of the Global Platform, explained that the session would address agenda item 5 on assessment of progress and gaps in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, and that it would consider an introduction on the reporting process, a global overview of implementation, a review of progress in different regions, and progress on implementation in thematic areas or activity.

Sálvano Briceño, Director of the ISDR secretariat, explained that the Hyogo Framework mandated the secretariat of the ISDR system to monitor the progress of the framework's implementation and to provide guidance as appropriate. He mentioned that a matrix describing the distribution of responsibilities had been elaborated and was available on the secretariat's website. He added that the secretariat is in the process of developing indicators which would initially be of a generic nature and would gradually evolve into more detailed format. Another function of the secretariat includes the assembling of information on hazards, vulnerabilities and impacts, identification of gaps for implementation as well as reporting this information to the General Assembly.

Mr. Briceño mentioned that the draft report on the Hyogo Framework implementation progress (ISDR/GP/2007/3) would be revised to reflect the Global Platform's discussions, and that key conclusions would be presented to the UN General Assembly in October 2007. He described the reporting process and said that 70 per cent of those who had been contacted had responded with a report. In some cases, the reporting process had stimulated significant internal dialogue at the country level, and the secretariat was working on developing further the reporting process with a view to develop capacities at the country level. He also said that the ISDR secretariat recommended making these reports¹⁵ widely accessible as they are a valuable tool to identify progress and gaps and to promote disaster risk reduction.

Regional and global overview of implementation – progress and gaps

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on regional activities. The representative of the African Union stated that countries in his region were in the process of establishing a regional strategy and programme of action with specific objectives, as well as reviewing their national strategies, with the regional strategy and programme of action as reference. He mentioned that their first consultative meeting had been held in April 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya and that the recommendations of this meeting had been endorsed by African ministers¹⁶.

The representative of the Organization of American States described some of the most important activities carried out at the regional level, namely, reporting, promoting the establishment of national platforms, establishment of networks and the elaboration of case studies, guidelines and materials. A matrix based on reports by 25 countries had been developed; he also mentioned that efforts in promoting the elaboration of reports frequently led to the establishment of national platforms¹⁷.

The representative of the Asia and the Pacific region pointed out the need for establishing a strong regional platform as well as for creating cross-regional exchanges. She also mentioned that multi-hazard frameworks, including tsunami detection systems, needed to be financed and further developed. Finally, she underlined the importance of indicators and particularly the inclusion of disaster risk reduction into the planning and development of indicators for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals¹⁸.

The representative of the Council of Europe highlighted several challenges among which the introduction of disaster risk reduction into development planning and the coordination at regional, national and local level were emphasized. He also mentioned that the council was focusing on the interaction between scientists and policymakers¹⁹.

The representative of the West Asia and North African region described the activities on disaster risk reduction carried out at the regional level and underlined the importance of regional coordination. He announced the opening of the ISDR outreach office in Cairo and stressed the need for further financial support²⁰.

15 National Progress Reports on the Implementation of the HFA will be made available at PreventionWeb at: <http://www.preventionweb.net/hfareports>

16 ISDR/GP/2007/Inf.4

17 ISDR/GP/2007/Inf.7

18 ISDR/GP/2007/Inf.5

19 ISDR/GP/2007/Inf.6

20 ISDR/GP/2007/Inf.8

A representative of the ISDR secretariat presented the findings of the “Disaster Risk Reduction: 2007 Global Review”²¹. He noted that the report was based on 82 national and six regional reports. He mentioned that loss of life seemed to be decreasing, while economic loss seemed to be rapidly rising. In the case of climatic risks, developing countries seemed to suffer greater loss of life while economic loss was predominant in developed countries. He mentioned that, in the case of earthquakes, the linkages between development and loss of life were less clear as mortality rates were more unpredictable. He underlined the impact of numerous small disaster events that affect extensive areas, these being the most “development erosive”.

Regarding the priorities of the Hyogo Framework, he noted that there existed political momentum at national and regional levels; however, there was little involvement of development sectors and lack of financial resources supporting institutions; insufficient implementation of legislation was also a problem. He pointed out that there was weak coordination with hydrological and meteorological centres, which are tasked to provide basic information for decision making. Much of the work seemed to concentrate on preparedness and response, with less effort on the development perspective. Insufficient work had been undertaken to integrate disaster risk reduction into development and poverty reduction planning. In this regard, he said that civil society needed to be more organized. He also stated that efforts and resources devoted to climate change needed to be integrated into disaster risk reduction and development planning in order for them to be effective.

ISDR system action 2008-2009 to advance the implementation of the Hyogo Framework

The Chair, Mr. Holmes, introduced agenda item 6, and briefly described the historical background of the ISDR system up to the establishment of the Global Platform. He emphasized the good work carried out by many parties to develop the system, particularly through the ISDR Support Group²² and the Reference Group²³ and mentioned that the Global Platform is the fruit of these efforts.

The UNDP Assistant Administrator, Ms. Kathleen Cravero, announced that the draft Joint Planning Framework, a key basis for the enhanced UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction, would be completed by late 2007. She said that the document would include efforts to support better reporting on disaster risk reduction progress. The agencies represented in the ISDR Management Oversight Board²⁴ have already committed to the process, as have the agencies represented on the Reference Group, and additional key agencies have also expressed interest in joining²⁵. Among other things, this work planning process will address the concerns highlighted in the interventions of Heads of Delegations, and by other participants, calling for investment in risk reduction to be substantially increased.

A joint statement of support and intent prepared by the members of the ISDR Management Oversight Board was read on their behalf by the representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. This emphasized that urgent action was needed at every level of society to move the risk reduction agenda forward, and it assured the session of their commitment to support the ISDR system, strengthen its impact, and broaden its reach among a new circle of partners, through raising the profile of disaster risk reduction, strengthening advocacy with key decision makers, mainstreaming risk reduction in the development agenda, and harnessing the expertise of a multiplicity of actors.

James Lee Witt, former head of the United States of America Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), presented an account of experiences with United States disaster risk reduction policies and projects, providing examples of the success of community engagement and involvement of the private sector in raising public awareness about the need for preparedness and community level empowerment.

21 ISDR/GP/2007/3

22 The ISDR Support Group has open membership to Governments that have a special interest in supporting the ISDR secretariat and the ISDR system. It evolved from a donor support group and it is not a formal part of the ISDR system. It was chaired by Switzerland until June 2007, at which point Argentina took over as Chair.

23 The Reference Group members were UNDP, OCHA, UNESCO, WMO, UNEP, UNICEF, World Bank, ProVention Consortium, IFRC, ISDR secretariat, Government of Switzerland (as Chair of ISDR Support Group), African Union Commission, ActionAid, and InterAmerican Development Bank.

24 Current members are UNDP (representing the UN Development Group), OCHA, WMO, UNEP, IFRC, World Bank.

25 FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

Finally, the Chair summarized his impressions of the first Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. He recalled that the session's aims were to raise awareness on reducing disaster risk, share experiences and learn from good practice, assess progress made in implementing the Hyogo Framework, reiterate commitments to its implementation, and identify actions to accelerate national and local implementation.

He tabled a draft Chair's Summary of the session for discussion, noting that he would also keep it open for written feedback in the week following the session. The draft summary was opened for discussion, and then following interventions by participants, Mr. Holmes closed the session.

Chair's Summary

First Session, Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, 5-7 June 2007

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction met in session for the first time in Geneva, 5-7 June 2007 as a global forum of stakeholders concerned with reducing disaster risks, with participants from Governments, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, regional bodies, civil society, the private sector, and the scientific and academic communities. The session's aims were to raise awareness on reducing disaster risk, share experience and learn from good practice, assess progress made in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action, reiterate commitments to its implementation, and identify actions to accelerate national and local implementation.

This is the Chair's summary of the session, grouped under three broad topics. Participants had an opportunity to comments on a first draft, but it is not a report agreed by the participants and it has no status beyond that of the Chair's own assessment of the key views expressed during the session.

Supporting country efforts

1. Participants expressed considerable concern about the growing risk of disasters, especially in highly vulnerable regions, and about the relatively slow progress being made to address the problem and to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action. We are not on track to achieve the Hyogo Framework's sought-after outcome of a substantial reduction in disaster losses by 2015. The need for action is more urgent than ever.
2. Many countries face a steep learning curve to build their basic institutional capacities, to develop or revise legislation and policy frameworks, to provide budgets, and to implement national platforms and action plans. Other countries, however, have made considerable progress and have a wealth of experience; they are encouraged to help significantly by sharing their knowledge and best practices, particularly on legislation and institution building, and by donating expertise and funds. The ISDR system should support the achievement of a target number of national platforms for disaster risk reduction.
3. Investment in risk reduction needs to be substantially increased. National and local government budgets should adopt targets such as a certain percentage of sector budgets. International funding should be better coordinated and tracked to ensure that development projects do not inadvertently increase risks, as well as to monitor the volume of investment in risk reduction and to measure the performance of investments in reducing risks. Governments and donors should give consideration to establishing funding targets for community-level implementation and special mechanisms to channel funding directly to at-risk poor communities and local authorities. Donors should develop common practices of good donorship for risk reduction, including making long-term commitments such as investing target percentages of humanitarian budgets.
4. Countries need to quickly establish systems to monitor and report on their risk profiles and on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including best practice codes, verifiable indicators, benchmarks and targets, in order to guide action and improve accountability for results. As one example, some nations have committed to achieving zero mortality in schools by 2015. Stakeholders at regional and international levels should similarly establish systems of accountability for their activities.
5. The private sector should recognize their key role in the creation and reduction of disaster risks, and should be engaged and challenged by governments and civil society to provide better financial tools to manage disaster risks, and to contribute to risk reduction through participation in public policy debate and in public-private partnerships.
6. Some progress is being made to integrate disaster risk reduction into sustainable development and poverty reduction frameworks and mechanisms and into environmental management tools. This is a long-term task. ISDR system partners should seek innovative ways to increase the involvement and commitment of development and environmental stakeholders, including civil society and community actors. They should also develop practical tools, for example to screen for high-risk factors and to implement multi-hazard approaches.

7. Focus and selection is necessary. International efforts should concentrate on countries that are particularly prone to natural hazards. Mainstreaming efforts should target sectors, communities and groups that are particularly vulnerable, such as infrastructure, health and education sectors, and low-income and other marginal groups.

Programme focus

8. Climate change is likely to increase the frequency or intensity of extreme weather events. ISDR system partners should actively disseminate and apply relevant disaster reduction tools to support adaptation to climate change, with special attention to countries identified to be most vulnerable, and should work closely with climate change policymakers to develop synergies between the Hyogo Framework for Action and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change processes, especially concerning national implementation. They should also encourage NGO and other civil society organizations to link their risk reduction and adaptation activities. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and ISDR system should collaborate on the preparation of a special report on adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.
9. Many cities and urban areas are crucibles of growing disaster risk, but few have active risk reduction or risk management plans. Half of the world's population live in cities, and many cities are highly vulnerable to earthquakes and storms. Some cities and local authorities have implemented risk reduction programmes, for example for seismic risk assessments and in urban development plans. These need to be documented and widely publicized by the ISDR system. All cities and local authorities should create and implement a disaster risk reduction plan, including multi-sectoral disaster preparedness plans with strong civil society participation.
10. There is a great need for advocacy and education, with clear and consistent messages, to stimulate awareness and active support by political leaders, managers, professional groups, and the general public. Partners in the ISDR system should strengthen their advocacy and educational activities. They should actively contribute to the multi-sectoral implementation of the 2008-2009 ISDR world disaster reduction campaign on safe hospitals that builds on the education and safe schools campaign of 2006-2007. A critical assessment of the economic and social costs and benefits of different risk reduction measures should be undertaken, drawing on ISDR partner networks, in order to provide decision makers with compelling evidence for investing in disaster risk reduction.
11. Women have played important roles in building a culture of disaster prevention, especially at community level, but this is not well recognized and their potential to reduce risks is largely untapped. Moreover, women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters. ISDR system partners should undertake awareness-raising and action to address gender factors in disaster risk and in particular should actively promote women's participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction.
12. A core challenge in disaster risk reduction is to scale-up proven practices, so that they are applied to all vulnerable people and situations, nationwide, and world wide. Governments, donors, technical and professional communities, non-governmental organizations, and grassroots organizations should cooperate to build the new level of systematic approaches that are needed. Regional cooperation and multi-stakeholder voluntary guidelines and codes of practice can play a major role in this task.
13. Scaled-up action needs to be based on a strong foundation of scientific and technical data and knowledge on patterns and trends in hazards and vulnerabilities and a well-tested set of risk reduction methodologies and practical actions. ISDR system partners should collaborate to build these foundations including through research and formal scientific and technical advisory and assessment processes.

ISDR system development

14. The ISDR system should continue to be developed as a multi-stakeholder vehicle for promoting and catalysing widespread engagement and partnerships in disaster risk reduction and for achieving commitment and international coordination and guidance to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action. Some have described it as a global movement. More effort should be made to engage development partners and other key constituencies, such as the private sector, local authorities, and communities.

15. An important task is to develop the ISDR system's regional mechanisms and thematic capacities to stimulate greater contribution to disaster risk reduction, and to provide better guidance and support for national and local actors. Thematic networks and civil society networks should be encouraged and linked together to achieve rapid global exchange of ideas, viewpoints and good practices.
16. ISDR system partners need to lead the way by making commitments and by planning and implementing coherent joint activities to support risk reduction by governments and others. The Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction should be used to support ISDR system joint work. Given the increased recognition of the need for disaster risk reduction by UN Member States, support should be given to the secretariat from the UN regular budget, and not only from extra-budgetary sources.
17. This first Global Platform has proved to be a valuable mechanism to advance understanding, share experience, assess progress and renew commitments. It should be convened every two years, and should focus on particular themes each session. The next session should formally review progress on addressing the gaps and challenges identified at this Global Platform, including on setting and achieving specific targets.
18. The Chair and the secretariat will actively follow-up on the views expressed at the session through existing mechanisms, including by reporting to the General Assembly and supporting UN Member States as required. They will continue to strengthen the ISDR system, by coordinating further action on the following elements: an advisory mechanism to steer the ISDR system in the next inter-sessional period; the joint planning framework; the scientific and technical advisory mechanism; and the enhancement of regional and thematic processes and mechanisms. The ISDR secretariat will continue its effort to develop and disseminate information and guidance materials requested by governments and other ISDR system partners.



Annexes

Annex I: Agenda of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduciton

Annex II: List of participating countries and organizations

Annex III: List of statements

Annex IV: List of side events

Annex I:

Agenda of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduciton

Tuesday 5 June 2007

Plenary

- 10.00-13.00
1. Opening,
 2. Organization of the Session
 - 2.1 Adoption of the agenda
 - 2.2 Introduction of timetable and documentation
 3. Challenges and opportunities in disaster risk reduction
 - 3.1 Interventions by heads of delegations and high level participants
- 15.00-18.00
- 3.2 High level dialogue
 - Reducing disaster risk through the Hyogo Framework for Action as a strategy for climate change adaptation
 - Reducing disaster risk in urban settings and mega cities
 - Challenges, costs and opportunities to implement disaster risk reduction

Side events

- 13.15-14.45
- Networking for Drought Risk Reduction
 - Catastrophic Risk Financing: Tools and Products
 - The State of Disaster Risk Globally
 - Global Wildland Fire Network
 - Building Code Enforcement and Dissemination - Safer Buildings for Sustainable Habitat
 - Hyogo HARD Talk with Ian Davis

Parallel meetings

- 8.00-10.00 National mechanisms workshop preparatory meeting (by invitation)

Media training

- 9.00-17.00 Media Training on Prevention and Climate Change

Press

- 13.15-13.45 Press conference
- 18.30 Reception hosted by the Swiss Government

Wednesday 6 June 2007

Plenary

- 10.00-12.30 3.1 Interventions by heads of delegations and high level participants (continued)

Session workshops

- 9.30-10.00 Plenary introduction to National Mechanisms Workshop 4.1
- 10.00-12.30
- 4.1.1 National coordination mechanisms-national platforms for disaster risk reduction
 - 4.1.2 Policy and legislation for sustainable disaster risk reduction
 - 4.1.3 Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in PRSPs and national development instruments
 - 4.1.4 From national frameworks to local action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

14.30-16.30	4.1.1 National coordination mechanisms-national platforms for disaster risk reduction 4.1.2 Policy and legislation for sustainable disaster risk reduction 4.1.3 Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in PRSPs and national development instruments 4.1.4 From national frameworks to local action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)
16.30-18.00	Plenary Meeting National Mechanisms Workshop
9.30-12.30	4.2.1 Education for disaster risk reduction and safer schools in communities at risk 4.2.4 Ecosystems and environmental management for risk reduction
14.30-17.30	4.2.2 Reducing risk in health facilities and the health sector 4.2.3 Strengthening disaster risk reduction through preparedness

Side events

12.45-14.15	- The International Recovery Platform – a Global Catalyst for Better Recovery - Multi-Agency Partnership for Development and Implementation of Operational Early Warning Systems with Multi-Hazard Approach at National and Regional Levels: Towards a Global Coverage - Disaster risk reduction and Climate Change - The use of satellite imagery and GIS for disaster reduction at local level - Reducing Disaster Risks and Building resilience to Disasters in cities
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Parallel meetings

9.00-11.00	Donor group meeting (by invitation)
14.30-15.30	IEWP Consultation meeting (by invitation)
18.00-19.00	Launch of the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative
18.30-19.30	ProVention Consortium meeting (by invitation)

Media training

9.00-17.00	Media Training on Prevention and Climate Change (by invitation)
11.15-13.30	Media Round-Table

Thursday 7 June 2007

Plenary

9.30-12.30	5. Assessment of progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 5.1. Regional and global overview of implementation - progress and gaps 5.2. Implementation in thematic areas - progress and gaps
14.30-17.30	6. ISDR system action 2008-2009 to advance implementation of the Hyogo Framework 6.1 ISDR system development 6.2 Collaborative planning and key results for the ISDR system 2008-2009 6.3. Public private partnerships
	7. Other business
	8. Wrap up by the Chair and close of session

Side events

9.00-10.30	- South Asian regional plan of action for risk mitigation programs and investments
9.30-11.00	- Weather-Indexed Early Warning and Livelihood Protection – an Example from Ethiopia
11.15-12.45	- Ways and Means for Reducing Flood Risks in Arid Zones + Global Flash Flood System - Working Towards Community Resilience in Asia-Pacific: Innovative Efforts of IAP Members and Other Stakeholders
12.45-14.15	- Information management tools for Disaster Risk Reduction - Multi-agency early warning and contingency planning

- 12.45-14.15 - PLANAT - Swiss National Platform for Natural Hazards - 10 Years of Experience how to create and run a platform
- Implementing the HFA in the Caribbean - Focus on national platforms
- 13.00-14.30 - Increased Disaster Risk Reduction for West Asia and North Africa (WANA)
- Integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Issues into Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action
- 14.30-16.30 - Preparedness for livelihood recovery
- 14.45-16.15 - Why risk reduction for livestock helps reduce poverty and hunger

Parallel meetings:

- 13.00-15.00 ISDR Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (by invitation)
14.30-16.30 ISDR thematic cluster/platform on knowledge and education (by invitation)

Media

- 9.00-17.00 Media Training on Prevention and Climate Change (by invitation)

Press

- 13.00-13.30 Press conference

Annex II:

List of participating countries and organizations

States and regional governments

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

UN Agencies, Organizations and Programmes

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 International Finance Corporation (IFI)
 International Labour Organization (ILO)
 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
 Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
 United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)
 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
 United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
 United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU - EHS)
 United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

World Bank
 World Food Programme (WFP)
 World Health Organization (WHO)
 World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
 United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Regional Entities

African Union Commission (AU)
 Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
 Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)
 Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Interstate Council, represented by EMERCOM
 Association of Ibero-American Association of Civil Defence and Civil Protection Organizations
 Council of Europe (CoE)
 European Commission (EC)
 Organization of American States-Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (OAS-IACNDR)
 Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)
 South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)

Civil Society Organizations

ActionAid International
Action by Churches Together (ACT) International
Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)
Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI)
Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre, Greater Horn of Africa (ICPAC)
International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU)
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Additional expert organizations

African Development Bank (AfDB)
Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)
All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)
Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network (ADRRN)
Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC)
British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND)
Disaster Risk Reduction Group
Care International
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Christian Aid
Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP)
Centro Internacional para la Investigacion del Fenomeno El Niño (CIIFEN)
CityNet
Coalition for Global School Safety (COGSS)
Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC)
Comité Andino para la Prevención y Atención de Desastres (CAPRADE)
Commonwealth Secretariat
Concern Worldwide
Consortium of Universities for Research in Earthquake Engineering (CUREE)

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
Development Workshop France (DWF)
Duryog Nivaran
Gender and Disaster Network (GDN)
Group on Earth Observations (GEO)
Groots International
Huairou Commission
Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET)
InterAction
Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
International Association for Earthquake Engineering (IAEE)
International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO)
International Consortium on Landslides (ICL)
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA/WV)
International Finance Corporation (IFC)
International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICCHARM)
International Development Research Center (IDRC)
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)
International Medical Corps (IMC)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA)
Intervida World Alliance
Institute of Development Studies (IDS)
Japan Platform (JPF)
Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)
Media 21

Mercy Corps	Tearfund
National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET)	United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
NGO Committee of Mental Health	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Oxfam International	United Nations Pandemic Influenza Contingency (UNSIC)
Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Plan International	United Nations Regional Economic and Social Commissions for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Practical Action (former ITDG)	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
ProAct Network	Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE)/EU-CORD
ProVention Consortium	World Economic Forum (WEF)
RADIX and the DRR knowledge-sharing network	World Institute for Disaster Risk Management (DRM)
Risk Red	World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
The Royal Institute for Chartered Surveyors in London (RICS)	
Save the Children	
The World Conservation Union (IUCN)	

Annex III:

List of statements

Made by countries and organizations under agenda item 3.1: Interventions by heads of delegations and high level participants

Algeria:	Written statement
Angola:	S.E.M. Junior Kotingo Wandick Kavanack, Vice-Minister of the Interior
Argentina:	Luis Tibiletti, Secretario de Seguridad Interior
Australia:	Carolyn Millar, Ambassador
Bangladesh:	Dhiraj Malakar, Secretary in-charge of the Bangladesh Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
Botswana:	Written statement
Brazil:	Luciana Mancini, Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva
Burundi:	Général Major Evariste Ndayishimiye, Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité Publique
Cameroun:	Emmanuel Edou, Ministre de l'Administration Territoriale et de la Décentralisation chargé des Collectivités territoriales décentralisées
Canada:	Written statement
China:	Jihua Song, Director General, Department of Disaster and Social Relief, Ministry of Civil Affairs
Colombia:	Diana Marcela Rubiano, Director of the Colombian Direction for Prevention and Attention to Emergencies in Bogotá
Comores:	Written statement
Congo (Republic of):	Written statement
Denmark:	Marie-Louise Overvad, Ambassador
Djibouti:	Yaein Elmi Bouh, Ministre de l'Intérieur de Djibouti
Ecuador:	Lorena Cajas, Vice Minister, Subsecretaria de Gestion de Riesgos del Ministerio Coordinador de Seguridad de los Frentes Interno y Externo
Egypt:	Mohamed Fawzi Director, Crisis and Disaster Management Sector, Information and Decision Support Center of the Cabinet of Ministers
El Salvador:	Elda Godoy, Director General, Ministry of Environment
Finland:	Hannu Kyröläinen, Director General, Department for Global Affairs in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs
France:	Louise Avon, Délégué à l'action humanitaire, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Germany:	Ursula Müller, Head of Federal Foreign Ministry, Task Force Humanitarian Aid
Ghana:	Kann Dapaah Minister, Ministry of the Interior
Guinea (Republic of):	Mahmoud Camara, Ministre de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage, de l'Environnement et des Eaux et Forets
Haiti:	Marie Aata Jean-Baptiste, Directrice de la Protection Civile
Honduras:	Hanum Urbizo, Ambassador

Hungary:	Written statement
India:	Bisweswar Bhattachajee, Member of the National Disaster Management Authority
Indonesia:	Siti Aini Hanum, Deputy Assistant for Data and Environmental Information, Ministry of State for Environment
Iran (Islamic Republic of):	Seyed Mohammad Hashemi, Deputy Minister of Development and Interior
Iraq:	Ahmed Abad Alzahra, Director in Ministry of Environment of Iraq
Italy:	Mainardo Benardelli, Counsellor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Japan:	Makio Miyagawa, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Japan
Japan:	Toshizo Ido, Governor, Hyogo Prefecture
Jordan:	Hashim Al-Edwan, Governor, Ministry of Interior
Lao People's Democratic Republic:	Written statement
Lesotho:	Motloheloa Phooko, Minister for Health and Social Welfare
Luxembourg:	Written statement
Malaysia:	Abdul Aziz Mohamed Nazari, Minister, Prime Minister's department
Maldives (Republic of):	Ismail Shafeeu, Minister of Defense
Mongolia:	Written statement
Morocco:	M'Hamed Sid El Khir, Conseiller de Monsieur l'Ambassadeur
Mozambique:	Carmelita Namashulua, Deputy Minister of State Administration
Nepal:	Umesh Prasad Mainali Home Secretary, Government of Nepal
Niger:	Written statement
Nigeria:	Martin Uhomoibhi, Ambassador
Norway:	Bjorn Johannessen, Senior Adviser, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Pakistan:	General Farooq Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority, Prime Minister's Secretariat
Panama:	Vivian Fernandez de Torrijos, First Lady of Panama (Video)
Peru:	General Luis Palomino Rodríguez, Organización y Fortalecimiento de las Plataformas Regionales, desde la Perspectiva de las Plataformas Nacionales
Philippines:	Glenn Rabonza Administrator, Office of Civil Defense and Executive Officer of the National Disaster Coordinating Council
Republic of Tanzania:	Luke J. Siyame, Deputy Minister's Office, Disaster and HIV/AIDS
Romania:	Victor Paul Dobre Minister, State Secretary, Ministry of the Interior and of the Administration Reform
Senegal:	Written statement
South Africa:	Glaudine J. Mtshali, Ambassador
Spain:	Juan Pedro Lahore, Representative of the Spanish Committee for Disaster Reduction
Sudan:	Hussabu Mohammed Abdelrahman, General Commission
Sweden:	Jan Knutson, Director General, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs
Thailand:	Apichai Chuajarerhpun, Director General, Department of Mineral Resources

Togo:	Written statement
Turkey:	Mustafa Taymaz, General Director of Disaster Affairs
Uganda:	Musa Ecweru, Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Office of the Prime Minister
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:	Moazzam Malik, Head of the Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department in the UK Department for International Development (DFID)
United States of America:	James Devine, Senior Adviser to the US Geological Survey
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of):	Coronel Antonio Rivero, Director for Civil Protection and Disaster Management
Action Aid:	Written statement
ADPC:	Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director a.i.
ADPC:	Aloysius Rego, Director, Disaster Management Systems
African Union:	Rosebud Kurwijila, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the Commission of the African Union
Care:	Written statement
CGLU, ICLEI, CITYNET and EMI:	Written statement
Duryog Nivaran:	Written statement
EU:	Eckart Guth, Ambassador
Gender and Disaster Network (GDN):	Maureen Fordham, Senior Lecturer, UK Disaster and Development Centre
GEO:	Giovanni Rum, Senior Programme Officer, Group on Earth Observation secretariat
ICSU:	Gordon McBean, Professor, International Council of Scientific Union, Planning Group on Natural and Human-induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters
IFRC:	Ibrahim Osman, Deputy Secretary-General
ILO:	Alfredo Lazarte Hoyle, Director of the International Labour Organization Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction
IAEE:	Hirokazu Iemura, Secretary General and Mohsen Ghafory Ashtiany, Director of International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES)
ICDO:	Eugene Vasiliev, Deputy Secretary-General
NGO Committee on Mental Health:	Written statement
NGO network:	Suranjana Gupta, Representative of Global NGO Network
SOPAC:	Written statement
UNCCD:	Arnaud de Vanssay, Associate Expert, Committee on Science and Technology (CST)
UNEP:	Ibrahim Thiaw, Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)
UNESCO IOC:	Patricio Bernal, Assistant Director General and Executive Secretary of Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
UNESCO:	Badaoui Rouhban, Chief of Section for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNFCCC secretariat:	Roberto Acosta, on behalf of Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change
UN-HABITAT:	Abdalla Abbas, Director, Geneva Office
UNICEF:	Frederic Spielberg, Emergency Programmes, Early Warning and Preparedness
UNITAR:	Alain Retiere, Principal Coordinator, UNOSAT programme
UNV:	Deborah Verzuu, United Nations Volunteers Liaison Officer, Geneva
WFP:	Daly Belgasmi, Director, World Food Programme, Geneva
WHO:	Samir Ben Yahmed, World Health Organization, Health Action in Crises, Geneva
WSPA:	Larry Winter Roeder, United Nations Affairs Director

Annex IV:

List of side events (with contacts of organizer for each event)

Tuesday 5 June 2007

- Building Code Enforcement and Dissemination - Safer Buildings for Sustainable Habitat (Shoichi Ando, UNCRD)
- The State of Disaster Risk Globally (Maxx Dilley, UNDP)
- Catastrophic Risk Financing: Tools and Products (Saroj Kumar Jha and Francis Ghesquiere, World Bank)
- Global Wildland Fire Network (Johann Goldammer, GFMC)
- Hyogo HARDTalk with Ian Davis (Jack Campbell, ActionAid)
- Networking for Drought Risk Reduction (Eric Patrick, UNDP and Pedro Basabe, ISDR secretariat)

Wednesday 6 June 2007

- Multi-Agency Partnership for Development and Implementation of Operational Early Warning Systems with Multi-Hazard Approach at National and Regional Levels: Towards a Global Coverage (Maryam Golnaraghi, WMO and Douglas Pattie, PPEW)
- The International Recovery Platform - a Global Catalyst for Better Recovery (Anil Sinha, IRP)
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change (Antony Spalton, IFRC)
- Reducing Disaster Risks and Building Resilience to Disasters in Cities (Hossein Kalali, UNDP)
- The Use of Satellite Imagery and GIS for Disaster Reduction at Local Level (Olivier van Damme, UNOSAT)

Thursday 7 June 2007

- South Asian Regional Plan of Action for Risk Mitigation Programs and Investments (Chakrabarti, SAARC and Christoph Pusch, World Bank)
- Weather-Indexed Early Warning and Livelihood Protection - an Example from Ethiopia (Henri Josserand, FAO and Menghestab Haile, WFP)
- Working Towards Community Resilience in Asia-Pacific: Innovative Efforts of IAP Members and other Stakeholders (Christel Rose, ISDR secretariat)
- Ways and Means for Reducing Flood Risks in Arid Zones and Global Flash Flood System (Maryam Golnaraghi, WMO and Mohammad Sadatinejad, ISDR secretariat)
- Information Management Tools for Disaster Risk Reduction (Craig Duncan, ISDR secretariat)
- Implementing the HIFA in the Caribbean - Focus on national platforms (Haris Sanahuja, ISDR secretariat)

- PLANAT - Swiss National Platform for Natural Hazards - 10 Years of Experience, How to Create and Run a Platform (Walter J. Ammann, WSL)
- Multi-Agency Early Warning and Contingency Planning (Everett Ressler, UNICEF and Iain McDonald, WFP)
- Increased Disaster Risk Reduction for West Asia and North Africa (WANA) (Mostafa Mohaghegh and Tine Ramstad, ISDR secretariat)
- Integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Issues into Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action (Judy Kuriansky, CONGO)
- Preparedness for Livelihood Recovery (Donato Kiniger-Passigli, ILO)
- Why Risk Reduction for Livestock Helps Reduce Poverty and Hunger (Larry Roeder, WSPA)



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