



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Secretariat, Geneva

Tel. : (+41 22) 917 8908/8907
Fax : (+41 22) 917 8964
isdr@un.org
www.unisdr.org

International Environment House II
7-9 Chemin de Balexert
CH 1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

Postal Address:
Palais des Nations, CH-1211
Geneva, Switzerland

NOTE VERBALE

The secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR secretariat) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva.

In accordance with the recommendations of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters* (HFA) the UN/ISDR secretariat is facilitating biennial reviews to monitor progress on implementation of the HFA at the national, regional and international levels; the current period is 2007 – 2009. The interim results will be presented at the second session of the *Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction* scheduled in Geneva for the week 15-19 June 2009.

To facilitate the preparation of national progress reports, UN/ISDR secretariat has designed an online tool, the '*HFA Monitor*', which is based on the goals and priorities set out in the HFA, using generic indicators. By using the '*HFA Monitor*' input sheets to review progress, national platforms or other national authorities will be able to build on existing national disaster risk information and facilitate monitoring trends in progress across the years. If this information is shared with the UN/ISDR secretariat it will also contribute to the global assessment of disaster risk trends, and progress in implementation of the HFA.

By means of this communication, the UN/ISDR secretariat requests the Permanent Mission to share this information with the designated national authorities/ Ministerial focal points with the view to assist them in organizing national consultations and preparation of the national progress review, as needed.

The '*HFA Monitor*' tool will be accessible online on PreventionWeb (www.preventionweb.net) in May 2008. The inputs from countries will be managed by the designated national authority or HFA focal point. The designated focal points will receive an email notification with a user id and password from the UN/ISDR secretariat in late April 2008 which will enable access to the online tool in May 2008. Attached find a sample template of the online '*HFA Monitor*', which can help facilitate national consultations to compile the progress reviews.

The information from national progress reviews contributed online or in other formats shared directly with the UN/ISDR secretariat before **28th July 2008** will be analysed to highlight key national trends in progress and challenges in implementation of the HFA in the *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*. This important report will be launched in 2009, and will be available at the *Second Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*. It will include a global risk-update and analysis of global risk trends; thematic analysis with a focus on the links between poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction; and an analysis of progress and key trends in the implementation of the HFA across countries and regions. Based on this review, the global assessment report will identify gaps and provide key recommendations to guide ISDR system partners.

An additional resource to guide the review process, and in response to the request to ISDR in the HFA, the UN/ISDR secretariat is pleased to announce that the document "*Indicators of Progress: Guidance on Measuring the Reduction of Disaster Risks and the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action*" is now available on our website: http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/isdr-publications/15-indicator-of-progress/Indicators_of_Progress_HFA.pdf. You may request hard copies in English.

In the eventuality that your country has not designated an HFA focal point, or where the focal point has changed in the past year and the change has not yet been communicated to the ISDR secretariat, we look forward to a confirmation to that effect. For any inquiry or designation of an HFA focal point, please contact Ms Ana-Christina Thorlund at thorlund@un.org.

The Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva the expression of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 14 March 2008

To:

Permanent Missions in Geneva

Enclosed:

1. *Guidance for reporting progress on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action*
2. *HFA Monitor sample template*

cc: HFA national focal points