

G8 Summit, L'Aquila, Italy (8-10 July, 2009)

Joint statement by the Seven Members¹ of the ISDR Management Oversight Board

The Disaster Risk Reduction Imperative: Partnerships for Progress

1. Context

Leaders of the world's eight main industrialized nations meet in L'Aquila, Italy later this week for a G8 Summit that promises much in taking forward the global disaster risk reduction imperative. The location of the meeting is significant: just three months ago – on 6 April 2009 – an earthquake struck the Abruzzo region of Italy bringing death and destruction to the citizens, their homes and the public buildings of the medieval city of L'Aquila.

The inclusion of climate change and food safety and security among key issues to be addressed at this Summit recalls the Gleneagles (UK) event in 2005 and, notably, the *G8 Response to the Indian Ocean Disaster and Future Action on Disaster Risk Reduction* which:

- Recognized the importance of effective early warning systems in tackling global geophysical events; and
- Directly linked disaster risk reduction to poverty eradication and underpinning 'hard won development gains'.

In 2009, the G8 Leaders are gathering against a background, firstly, of mounting awareness that climate change is already dramatically magnifying the disaster risks threatening developing nations, with slow-onset disasters and associated food insecurity of major concern.

Secondly, that urgent action is required to ensure disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are fully integrated into the Copenhagen negotiations and seen as central to the broader context of poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Thirdly, that success in reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change, thus protecting livelihoods, entails robust partnerships and increasing local level resources for disaster risk reduction.

2. Call to Action

Accordingly we, the Seven Members of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction Management Oversight Board, call on the partnership that is the G8 to apply its considerable influence, resources and political will as follows:

- 1) ***Helping disaster-prone countries*** in incorporating disaster risk reduction as a strategic and programmatic development instrument, integral to all national strategic initiatives such as Poverty Reduction Plans, United Nations Development Assistance Framework and Country Assistance Strategies and National Development Plans.
- 2) ***Promoting effective measures*** to reduce the number of people living with chronic food insecurity by strengthening livelihoods through enhanced risk management particularly at the community level.
- 3) ***Ensuring the research needed*** at all levels to develop, disseminate and apply climate forecast information, early warning systems and ecosystem essentials – particularly in developing countries – through improved water resource management and increased sustainable agricultural, fisheries and forestry productivity.
- 4) ***Enabling expeditiously*** a global structural and functional assessment of all schools and hospitals, coupled with firm action plans for safer health and education facilities developed and implemented in all disaster-prone countries – with disaster risk reduction included in all school curricula as standard.
- 5) ***Making unequivocal financial commitments*** to disaster risk reduction, for example to allocate a minimum of 10% of all humanitarian and reconstruction funding, at least 1% of development funding, and a sizeable portion of climate change adaptation funding to disaster risk reduction.

¹ IFRC, UNDG, UNEP, UNISDR, UNOCHA, WMO, The World Bank.

3. Conclusion

G8 Leaders, their Governments and countries additionally invited to attend the Summit are uniquely placed to establish, support and implement nationally owned disaster risk reduction plans and help address the risks associated with climate change.

Disaster risk can be readily reduced through practical action and initiatives. Solutions exist and are being promulgated in many countries.

We ask the G8 Summit to lead the way in making 2010 the Year of Initiative and Action for Disaster Risk Reduction, by investing today for a safer tomorrow.

*Geneva, Switzerland,
7 July 2009*