

Towards the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Guidance Note Consultation of Cities and Local Governments Phase 2

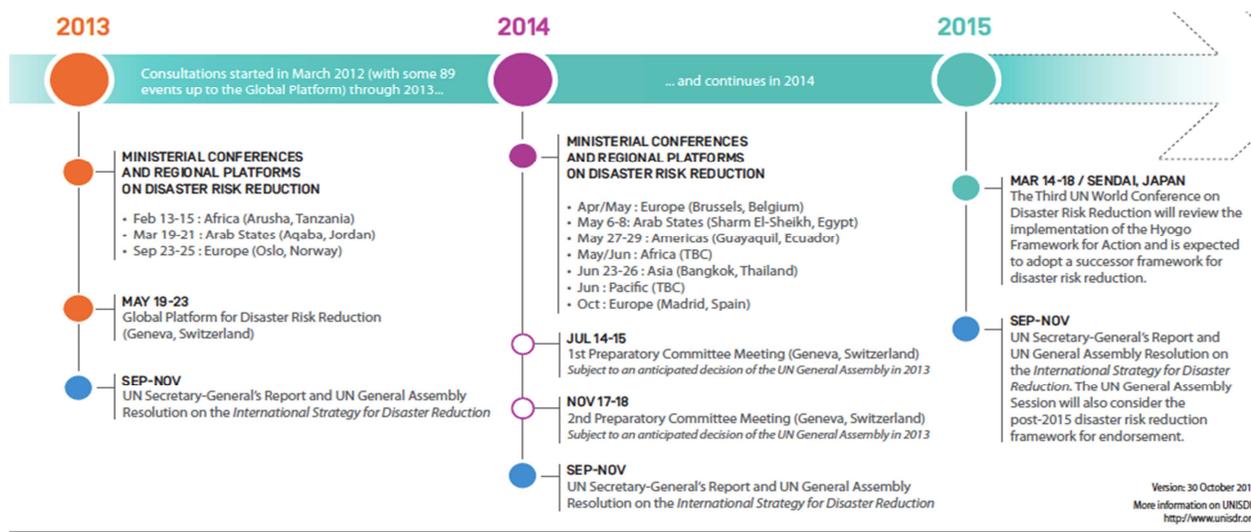
A. Background:

2015 will mark the end of the 2005-15 Hyogo Framework of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction along with the Millennium Development Goals. The process to develop a successor arrangement is well underway.

The first phase of the consultations (March 2012-May 2013) for a Post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (or HFA2) were conducted at the local, national and sub-regional level inclusive of various thematic areas which concluded with the 4th Session of Global Platform held in May 2013. This phase highlighted some of the gaps and needs in disaster risk reduction¹ for a new framework.

The next phase of consultations from July 2013 until the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Reduction in March 2015², will emphasis on the substantive areas that a new framework for disaster risk reduction needs to focus on .

B. Timeline:



¹ <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=32535>

² http://www.preventionweb.net/files/34419_savethedatewcdrr.jpg

C. HFA 2 and Local Governments:

Urbanization has profound effects on overall development. By 2050, it is expected that 80% of the world's population will live in cities or their agglomerations. The multi-faceted issues this will entail for disaster risk reduction needs to be considered and planned for.

Local Governments have a critical role in building resilience. Not only are they at the front line in enabling action to reduce risks, they also set priorities, execute plans, monitor results and engage with the private sector and communities. More importantly, Local Governments have a central role in promoting disaster risk reduction – identifying risks, deploying early warning and building resilience of communities.

Local Governments are the vital link between national governments, communities and citizens and have a fundamental role in a new global partnership. Experience tells us that even when countries have developed national policies and institutional systems for disaster risk reduction, these do not necessarily translate to actions on the ground, as there is an equal need to build the policies, institutions and capacities for reducing risks at the local level.

The 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction presented evidence that the 2005-15 Hyogo Framework of Action has not been able successful in contributing to the reduction of mortality due to disasters, but was not able to arrest the rise of economic losses due to the same disasters. These disaster losses, if left unattended, will not only threaten the development goals for reducing poverty, but will also put economic gains in both developed and developing countries at risk. These economic losses are increasing most rapidly in cities and that's because the economic strength of countries rests mainly in cities. In fact, the urban GDP represents about 80 percent of the world's GDP.

D. Feedback from Local Governments

Consultations and the outcomes of the Fourth Session of the Global Platform held in May 2013 highlighted the high interest and recognized the pivotal role of local governments in disaster risk reduction³. These consultations reaffirmed that local action is fundamental to successfully reducing disaster risks with stronger linkages between national and local governments including the alignment of national policies to local needs. The consultations also underlined the following issues:

- Efforts should be made to promote decentralization of responsibilities and resources to local governments with particular attention given to improved regulation, mechanism for financing.
- HFA2 should be designed with local actors in mind as a primary implementer. This would help them to understand the importance of disaster risk reduction, successful implementation strategies, and how to build their capacities and leverage their existing resources in the most cost effective way.

³ A detailed report from 2013 Global Platform Consultations is available at <http://preventionweb.net/go/35070>

- Efforts to clearly demarcate the responsibilities at the central, provincial, district or municipal levels, and to strengthen the processes of decentralization of responsibilities including resources to local government, through improved regulation and mechanisms for accessing resources.
- HFA2 to ensure that disaster risk reduction is made a core function of the Local Governments, with consistent budget allocation and staffing. Institutional and legislative arrangements at national level developed to manage disaster risk have largely taken the form of disaster-focused organization and systems.
- Stronger linkages between national and local government – including the alignment of national policies with local needs.
- Greater emphasis on monitoring and accountability instruments to guarantee law enforcement. Progress should be measured on the impact and not the activities.
- More support for capacity- building and awareness at the local level for the HFA2, including further training of local government and communities and ensuring access to available tools and knowledge
- Ensuring community involvement in decision-making processes and building partnerships with community-based or grassroots associations.

Continuing feedback from consultations suggests that a successful post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework must address underlying risk factors over a longer timeframe and engage with all actors and stakeholders including Mayors, local government leaders and the private sector.

There is an opportunity now to develop new strategies for disaster risk reduction to reduce the exposure of people and assets from hazards, while accelerating vulnerability reduction with a practical and effective governance model. Hence, cities and local Governments may need to focus on -

- Tackling exposure, economic losses and future risks.
- Scaling up vulnerability reduction at acceptable costs.
- Promoting effective governance and accountability.

To assist the consultations, below are indicative set of areas and questions that could facilitate the discussion. Partners, cities and facilitators are welcome to add more question and areas depending on the priorities and concerns.

E. Guiding principles and questions

(i) Local actions to reduce future exposure and losses

How can cities (and local government) reduce future economic losses due to disasters?

Underlying questions:

- How can instruments like urban and land use planning be improved and implemented to reduce future exposure to hazards thus reducing future risks?
- What can you do (or should be done) differently in implementation of these instruments?

(ii) Accelerating vulnerability reduction

How can cities and local governments accelerate vulnerability reduction at acceptable costs?

Underlying questions:

- How to improve the implementation and enforcement of building codes? In many countries, the lack of proper implementation of these codes is a common practice, which often leads not only to more people dying in disasters, but also increases economic losses.
- How do you ensure adequate engagement of communities in disaster risk reduction decision-making?
- What are some measures at local level that reduce vulnerability (including social protection programmes, supplementary incomes or in-kind transfer programmes, food-for-work programmes, rural employment guarantee schemes and labor-intensive public works programmes)?

(iii) Governance and accountability

How can decision-making and accountability be improved to reduce exposure systematically to risks of disasters?

Underlying questions:

- What can you do to improve accountability and interest of political leaders in Cities to invest for risk reduction?
- How can the Local Government Self-Assessment Tool (LGSAT)⁴ be further strengthened as a means of measuring progress?

F. Further Guidance and Contacts

For further assistance and queries concerning the engagement of Cities, Local Governments and partners in the HFA 2 process, please contact the UNISDR regional office nearest you:

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⁴ <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/hfa-monitoring/local/>