



INFORMATION NOTE: JANUARY 2013

CONSULTATIONS IN SUPPORT OF A POST-2015 FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE

Background

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/199, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) is facilitating the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction through a consultation process that is broad (multi-stakeholder), flexible and efficient. The consultation process was launched in Geneva in March 2012 by the UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG), Margareta Wahlström and his Excellency Yoichi Otabe, the Japanese Ambassador to the International Organizations in Geneva.

Context

A number of processes will help to shape the context and substance of the consultations. The *Mid Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 (HFA): Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* released in 2011 identified key areas of focus for the second HFA framework. Debates Global and Regional Platforms, the findings of Global Assessment Reports, and the national monitoring reports of the HFA have all identified achievements, gaps, challenges as well as generated new thinking around disaster risk reduction and resilience. Based upon this body of knowledge, UNISDR circulated a Background Paper in March 2012 *Towards a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* to help frame the consultations. Regular information notes, updates, key documents, upcoming events, and reports from consultation meetings can be found on the <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/> website.

Consultation Architecture

A broad range of actors are committed to building the resilience of their own communities to manage disaster risk. The consultations around a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) must harness inputs and ideas from stakeholders including national governments, mayors, local governments and their communities, academics and scientists, NGOs, the private sector, international agencies, and regional intergovernmental bodies.

Regional and sub-regional platforms are particularly important events because they bring together all regional stakeholders for substantive dialogue on the HFA2. National level consultations will also be critical to the process, and support for meetings of national platforms is particularly encouraged. The Global Platform in May 2013 will bring together stakeholders at a global level, and will be a pivotal event in the consultations.

Several bodies have been established to support the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to facilitate the consultations including: the SRSG Advisory Group on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Private Sector Advisory Group, the Science and Technology Committee, the Network of Mayors (through the *Making Cities Resilient* campaign), NGO and local community networks, and a Parliamentary Advisory Group.

Progress to date

The Rio+20 Summit in June 2012 was the first global event to demonstrate why reducing the risks of disasters is so fundamental to sustainable development. The outcome document *'The Future We Want'* specifically refers to the need to manage disaster risk as part of the sustainable development agenda.

At the regional level, five regional and sub-regional consultations were organized in 2012 (Europe, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean, and Pacific). Africa will organize its Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Platform 13-15 February 2013 in Arusha, Tanzania. The Regional Platform for the Arab States and a regional meeting in Central Asia and the Caucasus are both planned for March 2013. A number of national consultations are taking shape. For example, a dialogue among Government and academic agencies on disaster risk priorities including for HFA2 was held in the Republic of Korea in December 2012.

UNISDR has facilitated a series of on-line dialogues, which will continue intermittently throughout the consultation period. Additional events are planned for early 2013, for example a conference organized by the Global Network of Community Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2013). There are also close linkages between the HFA2 process and other consultations like the post-2015 development agenda.

UN agencies have been consulted through the High Level Committee on Programmes, and the Chief Executives Board. A High Level Retreat was held on 19-20 November in Paris, where 20 UN agencies defined areas of convergence for the UN on disaster risk management. These consultations will continue in early 2013.

Outcomes to date

A number of issues and elements have started to emerge from the first phase of consultations. A main message arising from the discussions so far is that the HFA2 should build on successes and lessons learned under the current HFA.

Another clear message is the need for much stronger political commitment to tackle emerging disaster risks, including extreme events stemming from climate change, as well as increasing expose and vulnerability to multi-hazards events. The desire for a bottom-up, people-centered HFA2, that engages all stakeholders and strengthens the resilience of local communities to better manage disaster risks, also features in all discussions.

All stakeholders want to have a stronger set of accountability measures to monitor and track implementation. Many stakeholders raise the need for more guidance on "how to" address

the practical consequences of the fact that climate change and disaster risk are integrated in their consequences and impact. A number of issues around governance, building capacity and transfer of resources to communities need to be reflected. Businesses are keen that risk management and risk transfer between the public and private sector are reviewed. Indeed, there is much more focus on the economic and investment case for disaster risk reduction and resilience. In addition, there are calls for: education and public awareness campaigns to ensure a stronger prevention and preparedness approach to disasters; enhanced public access to information on risks; and the use of evidence and application of science to policy making.

Process moving forward

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled for 19-23 May 2013 in Geneva will mark the end of the first consultation phase and will shape the key elements of a HFA2. The Global Platform will thus set the stage for the second consultation phase which will lead up to the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in early 2015.

A draft will be produced towards the end of 2013 integrating the outcomes from the Global Platform, and a further round of consultations will need to be undertaken over 2013 and 2014. Major international processes and events, like the Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) Conference in 2014 and the post-2015 development agenda, and meetings of the intergovernmental organizations (such as ASEAN, APEC, SAARC, SOPAC, CEPREDENAC, and the Africa Union) will be important reflection points.

In early 2015, the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan will bring together the many stakeholders that have participated in the three-year consultative process, to secure consensus on the HFA2. In the third quarter of 2015, the UN Secretary General's report on the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction will be tabled at the UN General Assembly with a recommendation to endorse the successor framework.

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