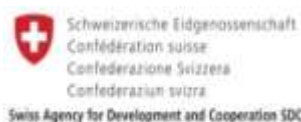




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Guidance Note for Regional consultation

Towards a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

First Arab Conference for DRR - Aqaba, Jordan, 19-21 March 2013

Mövenpick Resort & Residences

Al Murjan Hall (Working groups in Al Salam, Al Sufra, and Abu Nawas rooms)

Background

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the global blueprint for building more resilient communities and nations, is approaching the end of its ten-year timeframe (2005-2015). International trend statistics reveal that despite significant efforts to reduce disaster risk more needs to be done to reduce present and future losses due to the adverse effect of natural hazards. While progress is being made in reducing accumulated risk of disasters at national and local level through the HFA implementation, all too often new developments continue to create vulnerability and greater risk from natural hazards. Net total disaster risk is therefore continuing to increase in both developed and developing countries. Continuing population growth, rapid urbanization and climate change will make risk reduction even more challenging in the future.

To reverse the current risk trend and reenergize commitment and effort to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters, the Member States of the United Nations requested UNISDR to facilitate development of a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199.

UNISDR has launched wide consultation processes to engage various stakeholders and assess their perceptions on priorities for the Post-2015 Framework. Based on a February 2012 background paper, consultations have been and are being organized at global, regional, national and local level. These are being complemented by specific theme-based/ stakeholder-based consultations and two rounds of on-line dialogues (details can be found at <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/>). The objective of these consultations is to identify key elements to be considered for the new disaster risk reduction framework. Based on the wide range of experiences of participants in areas related to disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, consultations provide critical contributions towards adoption of a new framework by 2015. Taking place in all regions of the world, each consultation is part and parcel of a global process and contributes to shape a consensus based agreement singling out details of what should be priorities for DRR beyond 2015.

Initial Post-2015 consultations in Arab States

Two distinct national consultations in Beirut (June 2012) and Algiers (February 2013) have been held so far to discuss the post-2015 framework. Representatives of Arab civil protection authorities and mayors provided further advice on how to improve the Hyogo Framework's Priority of Action 5 on preparedness for response during a meeting of Mediterranean countries engaged in the PPPD South project (Lisbon, October 2012). Arab States delegates have also contributed to other consultations including the AfriCities meeting on urban resilience (Dakar, December 2012) and the 4th Africa Regional Platform (Arusha, February 2013).

The Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction provides the venue for the first regional consultation on the post-2015 Framework for DRR member states of the League of Arab States and other organizations working on DRR in the region.

Objectives

The objectives of the sessions are to share experiences and perceptions among Arab States and other stakeholders on main components and substantive issues in need of further action, which can be included in the post-2015 Framework for disaster risk reduction. The sessions seek to identify regional priorities for the new framework and thus provide preliminary Arab recommendations for the post-2015 Framework for disaster risk reduction.

As part of the First Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, the sessions gather key DRR stakeholders in Arab States. As such, it is a key opportunity to share, discuss and propose activities and approaches, which should be outlined in the new Framework according to Arab States. The sessions also allow country representatives and international partners to learn from each other and contrast own perceptions and priorities with what is proposed elsewhere in the region. Through its broad representation, the meeting conveys authority to the output document summarizing the Arab position towards a post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is understood and encouraged that this output document will be complemented by further reports summarizing other local, national, thematic and regional consultations that will take place in the coming two years up to 2015.

Methodology and Agenda

This first Arab States regional consultation on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is intended to be a highly participatory process. Given the importance of the topic for DRR in the Arab States, five distinct conference sessions will allow participants to exchange and define priorities for the region.

The agenda foresees three main panels focusing on substantial aspects for resilience building identified in the 2010 Hyogo Framework for Action Mid-term Review and key findings of the 2009 and 2011 Global Assessment Reports on DRR. The first three sessions are introduced by short panel presentations; each session is followed by a plenary debate and/or questions & answers from the audience. The two final sessions are comprised of a) one working group session with guiding questions provided and b) a plenary session to consider and adopt recommendations (details below). They will define the Arab States position on the post-HFA framework based on member states contribution. Participants will be guided by general and specific introductory questions, which serve as a reference for plenary discussions and working groups (see below).

General Guiding Questions

The following questions should guide all session interventions:

- A. What are the key successes (achievements) in disaster risk reduction since implementation of the HFA in 2005 and what contributed to the successes?
- B. What are the major bottlenecks to achieve the HFA objectives for DRR?
- C. What needs consequently to be included in the post-2015 Framework for DRR?

The first session “**Process, Emerging Issues and Governance**” includes an introductory presentation to familiarize participants with the consultation process, including possibilities for synergy with processes to define the post-Millennium Development Goals (post-MDG) framework for sustainable development. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, will also share first hand experience and key issues emerging from global and regional consultations. This is complemented by two country interventions from Algeria and Lebanon to share information on process and results of their national consultations. A presentation by Dr. Fatma Mallah, Member of the High-Level Advisory Group on post-HFA introduces the issue of institutional mechanisms, governance and accountability for DRR. (Tuesday, 14.00 – 15.30 h)

Guiding Questions Session 1: “Process, Emerging Issues and Governance”

- 1) What key elements do you think are missing in the post-2015 consultation process?
- 2) What are the opportunities and challenges in the national consultation process?
- 3) How would you incorporate more accountability in disaster risk reduction?

The second session on “**Climate and Local Resilience**” addresses climate change and local level intervention as key factors in building resilience to disasters. The session is introduced by several panelists addressing the topic from various perspectives to illustrate DRR and resilience in the context of climate change and local perspectives and experiences in achieving resilience. Each presentation combines both lessons learned and expectations for the future framework. (*Tuesday, 16.00–17.15 h*).

Guiding Questions Session 2: “Climate and Local Resilience”

- 4) What progress has been made in linking disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation?
- 5) What needs to be done differently to ensure more synergies between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation on the ground?
- 6) How to improve resilience of local communities to disasters?

Session three “**Disaster Risk Reduction and Development Planning**” focuses on the critical aspects of assessing the impact of disasters, integrating DRR into development planning and investing in DRR. Panelists will introduce the topic by sharing international perspectives both by UNISDR and UNDP and good practices from Japan and India. (*Wednesday, 9.30 – 11.00 h*)

Guiding Questions Session 3 “Disaster Risk Reduction and Development Planning”

- 7) Emphasis has been placed in the HFA on the integration of DRR into development planning and associated sectors, with due regard to risk assessments. Has this been successful? What should be reflected in the post-2015 Framework to make it more successful?
- 8) How do you see disaster risk reduction featuring in the post-2015 development agenda (Post-Millennium Development Goals framework) Previous Global Platform sessions ended with calls to increase investment in DRR. Has this been successful? How could this be improved in the post-2015 Framework for DRR?

The fourth session “**Challenges and opportunities for DRR in the region and expectations from the post-HFA process**” will be addressed through five working groups to allow national delegations to review progress and bottlenecks, but most importantly define what needs to be reflected in the post-2015 agenda for disaster risk reduction. (*Wednesday, 11.30–12.30 h*)

Working Group - Session 4: “Challenges and opportunities for DRR in the region and expectations from the post-HFA process”

Five Working groups will be organized. Each group will address the below questions with each addressing one of the five following themes separately. These are: (1) *Institutional Mechanisms, Governance and Accountability*; (2) *Climate Resilience*; (3) *DRR at Local Level*; (4) *Economics of DRR and Investment*, and: (5) *Integrating DRR into Development Planning*.

- 9) What are the challenges for DRR in Arab States and how to overcome them?
- 10) What are the top three significant elements that should be addressed in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, bearing in mind the characteristics of Arab States/ Arab States’ exposure to disasters?
- 11) What kind of post-2015 framework would you like to see? (Convention, Conference agreement, etc.)

The fifth and final session “**Arab States Recommendations for the Post-2015 Framework for DRR**” is the culmination of discussions. It will serve to identify and agree on Arab States recommendations for the post-HFA framework, which will be shared with other countries and UNISDR. Working groups report back in plenary and, with the help of the Chair, define the output document on the post-2015 framework for DRR. (*Wednesday, 12.30 h – 13.30 h*)

Plenary - Session 5 “Arab States Recommendations for the Post-2015 Framework for DRR”

Working group participants are invited to present the result of their working groups in succinct form. Each group has 7 minutes for presentation. Interventions should be structured as per working group instructions with additional elements being provided at the end of the intervention. A chair-facilitated debate will allow participants to debate the recommendations and adopt them.

- 12) What are the recommendations by Arab States (Arab Conference meeting participants) for the post-2015 Framework for DRR?

Expected result

Discussions and recommendations of the Arab States regional consultation will be summarized in a conference output document. This will be widely disseminated on UNISDR supported websites including the dedicated website of for the Post-2015 Framework for DRR. The League of Arab States is expected to share the recommendations in various fora to promote consideration of the opinions expressed in formulation of the post-2015 Framework. This includes an intervention at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, 19-23 May 2013).

Annex: Background reading

UNISDR Background Paper for a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction – available at: www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/post-hfa

It is based on the HFA Mid-Term Review, the 2011 Global Assessment Report and the Chair’s Summary of the 3rd Session of the Global Platform. The consultation paper outlined consultation process towards development of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The paper is available in the six UN languages.

UNISDR website on post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction:
<http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/>

Summary of national post-2015 Framework for DRR consultation Algeria (17 February 2013) - <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events/v.php?id=31075>