

# GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

## Side Event on Drought Risk Reduction: Networking and Partnership Opportunities

### *Inputs to the Chair's Summary*

#### **Background**

Drought is a natural hazard that affects many parts of the world, but only results in disaster in areas where vulnerabilities are high. According to CRED statistics, drought accounted for over 90 per cent of disaster-related deaths in Africa in 2006. The recent IPCC report on Climate Change predicts an increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts, particularly in Africa, where countries are already struggling to cope with the current situation. This calls for the need, more than ever before, to collectively pool resources together to address the problem. At this side event, the focus was on examining existing and potential regional, sub-regional, national and community networks and partnerships and identifying how they could more effectively interact to bring together comprehensive drought risk reduction programmes, as well as to share experiences.

#### **Actions Taken**

The ISDR document on Drought Risk Reduction provides valuable information, tools and practices for the implementation of the HFA in relation to drought. Within countries that are drought-prone, steps are already underway to bring together all actors, to address all aspects of drought risk reduction and to highlight drought risk reduction in the National Platforms. In addition, work is proceeding in developing more interactive and interlinked networks at all levels.

#### **Activities over next two years**

National governments, in all drought-prone countries, assisted by international partners, will take the lead in incorporating risk reduction for droughts and related hazards in development planning, in ensuring that partnerships, including public-private partnerships, are created and that all efforts are coordinated. Existing networks will be supported and a Global Network, based on existing frameworks and mechanisms will be developed and maintained to ensure that it plays a key role in information sharing, coordination and in the implementation of the HFA, in relation to drought.