



MEDIA ADVISORY

Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

2 June 2009- More than 1,500 delegates, from 150 Governments and over 120 regional and national organisations will gather in Geneva from 16-19 June 2009 for the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP09).

The Global Platform is the main bi-annual forum on disaster risk reduction bringing together a wide cross-section of the worldwide disaster risk reduction community worldwide, including heads of state, senior ministers, UN agencies, NGOs, scientific and technical experts, and others. Under the slogan ‘invest today for a safer tomorrow’, the event will focus on the linkages between climate change adaptation, poverty and disaster risk reduction.

The full program of the conference will be distributed in the next briefing on Friday 5 June together with another media advisory which will provide full details on the event.

The main highlights include:

- Opening Ceremony presided by John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, and Convener of the Global Platform and Keynote Speakers,
- Five High Level Panels exploring relevant thematic issues: Investment, Climate Change Adaptation, Community Resilience, Safer Hospitals and Schools, Building Back Better;
- Five Roundtables – Early Warning, NGOs, Local Authorities, Education, Ecosystems
- Five Special Events – including the public launch of the Red Cross Red Crescent World Disasters Report, a BBC World Debate featuring some hard hitting dialogue between disaster risk reduction specialists in front of a TV audience and a Film Debate highlighting climate change adaptation films
- Some 40 side events organised by ISDR partners
- A market-place featuring more than 30 booths/exhibits from ISDR partners
- Chair’s Summary session followed by the Closing Ceremony

“Public awareness of disaster risk reduction issues and initiatives is intensifying and more questions are being asked of governments,” says Margareta Wahlström, the UN’s Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. “The Global Platform will be a pivotal conference, not only in setting the disaster risk reduction agenda for the coming two years and beyond, but also in the run up to sealing a deal on climate change adaptation in Copenhagen this December.”

Launch Venue and Date

The Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will take place at CICG, International Centre of Geneva, rue de Varembe 17, 1202 Geneva from 16 to 19 June 2009

Media are welcome to the Launch Ceremony on 16 June and are invited to attend all the events during the Global Platform

Press conferences

GP09 involves many UN organisations and related stakeholders, so a significant number of press conferences will be arranged directly by attending partners.

Already scheduled are:

- 15 June: 11h00: Eve of Platform (with Senator Loren Legarda, UNISDR Champion)
14h00: IASC/ISDR Climate Change TF – humanitarian implications of climate change
- 16 June: 13h00: Opening Press Conference
- 17 June: 11h00: Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction
13h00: Bahrain Government announcement
14h00: WMO Press Conference: Enabling community resilience through early warning
- 18 June: 10h30: GHF/WMO Weather Info for All Launch followed by press conference at 11h30
13h00: WHO/UNICEF; Safe hospitals and schools
- 19 June: 13h00 Closing Press Conference

Dates and times remain provisional to be firmed up with more detail on speakers etc in forthcoming media advisories ahead of GP09.

Interviews

Interviews can be arranged before and during the event upon request.

For interviews call Brigitte Leoni, Head of Communications (Ag) UNISDR: 41.22.917.8897 or at 41.79 444 52 62

Registration/ accreditation

The UN Press Corps will be automatically accredited on presentation of their UN badge. Other journalists will need to register for the event with their ID.

An equipped media centre for correspondents' exclusive use will be established on Level 1 CICC.

Working language

Meetings will be conducted in English. The opening ceremony will be in all UN official languages.

Media contacts

For further information, about the meeting's content and participation please contact:

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In the next media advisory, contact numbers of all communication officers involved in the Global Platform will be provided.

Please also consult the webpage: <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2009/programme/>