



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Secretariat, Geneva



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Third Session, Geneva, Switzerland
8-13 May 2011

Advisory Group of the Global Platform 2011

UNISDR Secretariat, Salle Rhône

11 February 2011, 14.00 – 16.00

Minutes of the Meeting

Attendees

Permanent Missions and Inter-governmental Organisations (IGOs):

African Union, Algeria, Australia, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland.

UNISDR secretariat: Margareta Wahlström, Neil McFarlane, Marc Gordon, Glenn Dolcemascolo, Dave Zervaas, Sebastien Penzini

The World Bank: Selena Jackson

Priority Action Points

- Register as soon as possible (*delegations of Member States and IGOs*).
- Additional comments on the Global Platform Background Paper to be provided by 16.02.2011 (*delegations of Member States and IGOs*).
- Pledged contributions to Global Platform to be realised immediately, additional contributions to be processed by end February 2011 (*Member States, IGOs et al*).
- Disseminate Preliminary Programme and Background Paper upon receipt of Advisory Group comments (*UNISDR secretariat*)

Feedback to the UNISDR secretariat to be provided to:

- *Comments on the Global Platform Background Paper and registrations to Mr. Neil McFarlane (mcfarlane2@un.org) and Mr. Glenn Dolcemascolo (dolcemascolo@un.org)*
- *Financial contributions and matters pertaining to the Advisory Group to Mr. Marc Gordon (gordon6@un.org)*

Welcome

(Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Reduction)

The SRSG updated participants on the Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction that took place in the UN General Assembly in New York on 09 February, and chaired by the President of the General Assembly and the UN Secretary-General. The SRSG underlined the high quality of the debate and reported great interest in the Global Platform both in the debate and in other consultations.

Substantive Discussion (Neil McFarlane, Global Platform Coordinator)
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1. Status of Preparations of the Global Platform 2011 - Update

- a. The Programme was presented in detail, including plenary sessions, statements, roundtables, special events, preparatory meeting space, and the market place.
- b. In describing the draft Background Paper, the proposed outcomes were discussed under the following headers: know risk, invest smarter, build safer, organise effectively, and promote effective disaster recovery.
- c. The multi-stakeholder nature of the event was stressed, with the engagement of private sector, governments, local communities, UN and other international partners.
- d. The urgency for delegations to register was underlined, particularly given constraints on accommodation and arrangements for travel, with approx. 2,000+ participants expected.
- e. Confirmed that funded participants (1 participant per Least Developed Country & SIDS) need an endorsed letter from their governments.
- f. Highlighted that “well mixed” delegations were encouraged, that reflected a balanced engagement of different government institutions, with non-government participants within delegations welcome.
- g. Provided an update of budget coverage and reported useful progress in pledges but limited receipts in cash. Transferring commitment into cash payments is imperative for the secretariat to have the authority to spend. Thanked donors and contributors having already paid or made commitments and confirmed that profile and badging is a core part of communications strategy.

2. World Reconstruction Conference – Update from the World Bank

- a. The World Reconstruction Conference was introduced as the first large scale event focused on natural disaster recovery and reconstruction.
- b. It will be composed of several thematic sessions organized in order to reach the expected outcomes of a better sharing of knowledge; the development of a new leadership for effective disaster reconstruction; and, proposals for a global policy framework.
- c. The conference will include an “innovative challenge” competition.

Remarks:

- Several commendations of the draft Background Paper and preliminary programme.
- Recommendations were made to deepen and lengthen (as appropriate) the Background Paper, and incorporate previous campaigns more explicitly into the paper to ensure prominence to hospitals and schools, and “making cities resilient”.
- The proposed roundtable on protecting the most vulnerable was welcomed.
- It was recommended that a link with achievements and the previous Chair's Summary 2009 is made in the Background Paper.
- The informal plenary sessions on the Mid Term Review of the HFA was welcomed.
- Clarification was sought on the decision-making process for consolidating side events.

- The UNISDR secretariat welcomed comments and will consider these in revising the Background Paper and Programme.
- The secretariat described that it will organise at least three more Advisory Group meetings Two at Ambassadorial level (early March and mid April) and one at working level (mid March).