



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction  
Secretariat, Geneva

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### Consultancy Vacancy with UNISDR

Date of issue: 17 May 2010

ISDR/C/18/2010

Post Title & Level: National Platform Consultant  
Duty station: Remote (Consultant is not required to work on UN premises)  
Duration: Two months  
Vacancy Notice number: ISDR/C/18/2010  
Deadline for applications: 30 May 2010  
Date of entry: 1 June 2010

#### *United Nations Core Values:*

#### *Integrity • Professionalism • Respect for diversity*

#### **Background:**

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) is a multidisciplinary and multi stakeholder platform to enable societies to increase their resilience to natural, technological and environmental disasters and to reduce associated environmental, human, economic and social losses. A range of United Nations organizations and international partners participate in cooperation with Governments and civil society organizations.

The implementation of the ISDR is supported by a secretariat lead by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction. The secretariat main functions are policy coordination, advocacy and information management, at the international and regional levels, to ensure synergy between disaster reduction strategies and those in the socioeconomic and humanitarian fields.

In January 2005, the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR, 18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan) took place and represents a landmark in worldwide understanding and commitment to implement a disaster risk reduction agenda. This commitment was captured in the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters adopted at the WCDR.

The Hyogo Framework is the essential guide for implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in the coming years and it constitutes an unprecedented conceptual shift that takes account of the complexity of action in disaster risk reduction and the large variety of actors whose inputs are required in the pursuit of this objective. It provides the basic concepts and prescribes and expected outcome; details three strategic goals for disaster risk reduction and a set of five priority areas for action; and assigns tasks to stakeholders at different operational levels to reach the expected outcome.

Priority One of the Hyogo Framework for Action emphasizes the need to “ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation”. It further recommends establishing “DRR institutional mechanisms (national platforms) with designated responsibilities”.

At the Regional level, Africa was the first continent that showed political commitment to disaster risk reduction by formulating in 2004 the “Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction”, “Programme of Action 2005-2010...” for its implementation and “Guidelines for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Assessment in Development”, under the aegis of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, African Development Bank, and with support of the UNISDR and UN partners. These documents were officially adopted at the First African Ministerial Conference on DRR in Addis Ababa in 2005.

The Second Africa Ministerial Conference took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 14 to 16 April 2010 to discuss and agree upon a revised and extended “Africa Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015)” to align with the HFA. The new Africa Programme of Action considers emerging challenges and the most frequent natural hazards in Africa such as climate change factors and its possible consequences, gender equity, drought and flood risk reduction. It is conceived to promote concrete activities, expected results and indicators to monitor progress.

Since the mid 90’s African countries began developing multi-stakeholder national coordination mechanisms for disaster management and response, the first being Ethiopia (1995) and Mozambique (1999). Since the establishment of the UNISDR regional Office for Africa in 2002, another 23 African countries established multi-stakeholder national coordination mechanisms, focusing on disaster risk reduction rather than on disaster response and relief, which are often referred to as national platforms for disaster risk reduction.

The UNISDR Regional Office for Africa is implementing a project to strengthen national platforms for disaster risk reduction in nine project countries in the region, namely Burundi, Cape Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Kenya, Namibia, Tunisia, Tanzania, Senegal and Madagascar, funded by the Federal Republic of Germany. The project is designed to address needs and priorities identified by national governments as well as by the UN country teams in the respective countries.

UNISDR has been supporting the establishment and work of the Kenya national platform which was officially launched in 2004. UNISDR also supported the development of the national DRM policy and national DRR strategy. Under this project UNISDR supported the development of district specific hazard fact sheets for Kenya. In a further step the fact sheets should be utilized at district level and feed into trainings of district officials on DRR and on how to utilize the fact sheets complementary to existing early warning systems and preparedness and prevention measures.

UNISDR is therefore looking for a consultant to assist the Kenya national platform to initiate use of natural hazard fact sheets, through the organization of events and awareness raising activities in close cooperation with partners.

### **Duties and responsibilities**

Under the overall supervision of the Head of the UNISDR Regional Office for Africa, and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer in charge of the project and in close collaboration with the Kenya national Platform for DRR and the relevant focal points in the UN Country Team, the consultant will:

- Develop a training package for Training of Trainers' (TOT) on natural hazard fact sheets developed for Kenya under this project and community based disaster preparedness and early warning.
- Support the organization of meetings of stakeholders involved in disaster risk reduction as organized by the national platform/DRR institution as part of consultations prior to development of training package to enhance multi-stakeholder cooperation.
- Ensure communication and information exchange among relevant stakeholders and liaise with the UN Country Team as appropriate.
- Liaise with and report to the National Platform and Project Coordinator based in the UNISDR Africa Regional Team on activities to be carried out to enhance national coordination for DRR.
- Carry out other tasks related to the functioning of the national platform/DRR institution as indicated by the national government.

### **Key Deliverables**

1. Training package for natural hazard fact sheets developed and recommendations for dissemination and awareness rising made.

### **Timeframe**

- Work plan with list of reference materials for fact sheets developed: within 1 week after the starting date
- Consultations with national stakeholders: within two weeks after start date
- Outline of training package: within three weeks after starting date
- Draft version of Training Package: within five weeks after starting date
- Second Consultation with national stakeholders and submission of training package and consultancy report with recommendations: within seven weeks after starting date
- Finalization of fact sheets within seven and eight weeks after starting date
- Final consultation and changes within eight weeks after starting date
- Final delivery of training package and recommendations: before completion of consultancy

### **Competencies**

*Professionalism:* Ability to respond to changing requirements and assignments given; Ability to identify key strategic issues, opportunities and risks.

*Planning and organizing:* Effective organizational skills and ability to establish priorities and to plan, coordinate and monitor own work plan.

*Communication:* Good communication speaks and writes clearly and effectively; Demonstrates openness in sharing information with others and keeping people informed. 4

### **Education**

*Education:*

Advanced university degree (Masters Degree or equivalent) in meteorology, environmental sciences, meteorology, disaster risk management or other related fields.

*Work experience:*

Minimum 10 years of work experience working with disaster risk reduction, education or related fields. Experience working in African countries will be an added advantage.

*Languages:*

Fluency in spoken and written English is required.

**Please email the following documents to the ISDR secretariat at [isdr-africa@unep.org](mailto:isdr-africa@unep.org):**

- 1. Cover letter, explaining why you consider yourself qualified and motivated for this particular assignment.**
- 2. Completed personal history profile form ( this form can be downloaded from the UNISDR website)**

**It would be appreciated your stating your full name and the ISDR vacancy notice number (ISDR/C/18/2010) as the subject in your e-mail of application.**

**Please note that applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Applicants will be contacted only if they are under serious consideration.**