



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



**Chair's Summary**  
**Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and**  
**World Reconstruction Conference**  
**Geneva, 8-13 May 2011**  
**“Invest today for a Safer Tomorrow – Increase Investment in Local Action.”**

1. The Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Reconstruction Conference met in Geneva, 8-13 May 2011. Opened by the United Nations Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon and chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Global Platform recognized H.E. Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, as a Global Champion of Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. This Session of the Global Platform brought together the broadest ever cross-section of people committed to building resilience – including several Heads of State, Ministers, a Managing Director of the World Bank, over 2,600 delegates representing 163 Governments, 25 inter-governmental organizations, 65 non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, private sector, local government, academic institutions, civil society and international organizations.
3. Half of humanity is now living in cities. By 2050 urbanization will rise to 70 percent and urban risk will increase as well. Risk is further driven by factors such as rural and urban poverty, climate change, declining ecosystems, and development choices including in energy infrastructure. Commitment to resilience is urgently needed particularly in vulnerable groups, localities and regions including SIDS and LDC's.
4. The Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action states that significant progress is being made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and that its principles have been firmly established and endorsed. The discussions at the Third Session demonstrated that we now possess the knowledge, the means and the commitment to make disaster risk reduction a national, local and international priority. There is a sense of urgency and clear political and economic imperatives to invest in disaster risk reduction.
5. The UN Secretary-General called for a coalition of action for disaster risk reduction and announced a high-level meeting during the next General Assembly to address the link between natural hazards and nuclear safety. Japan offered to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015.
6. Mayors renewed their commitment to the Ten Essentials of the “My City is Getting Ready” Campaign. Private sector participants agreed on Five Essentials for Business and issued a Statement of Commitment for Disaster Prevention, Resilience and Risk Reduction. A joint statement called for

scaling-up community health forces as vital for disaster reduction. Young people came together to advance a Five Point Charter on Children and Disaster Reduction. Regional organizations reaffirmed their commitment to implementing regional strategies agreed to in ministerial meetings worldwide.

7. The choice before us as Governments, institutions, communities and individuals is to place disaster risk reduction at the forefront of our efforts to preserve and protect the balance of nature, ensure sustainable development and well-being for generations to come. To do so, we need to:
  - 7.1 Support local governments and non-state actors as the front line of risk reduction implementation.
  - 7.2 Draw upon the untapped potential of local actors and build on the role of women as agents of change.
  - 7.3 Involve children and youth in disaster risk reduction decisions that affect their future as a practical way to ensure effective local action.
  - 7.4 Fully engage the private sector as leaders in the construction of resilient infrastructure, sustainable development of urban areas, energy safety, and the protection of critical resources.
  - 7.5 Build on the role that parliamentarians play in setting state policy and norms, oversight and scrutiny, legislation and the creation of enabling environments for risk reduction.
  - 7.6 Build on the work of and linkages between national and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, strengthening in particular, multi-stakeholder collaboration.
  - 7.7 Promote the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in coordinating implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.
  - 7.8 Actively engage and support scientific and technical communities to inform decision-making.
  - 7.9 Strengthen and resource UNISDR to support the implementation of recommendations from this Platform acknowledging its leadership role within the United Nations on disaster risk reduction.
8. The Third Session of the Global Platform identified the following critical steps:
  - 8.1 Recall and act upon the commitments at the Second Session of the Global Platform in 2009 that set targets for disaster risk reduction (see Box inset).
  - 8.2 Increase investment in disaster risk reduction at the local level and ensure national growth does not increase local risks. Address local action directly in national growth targets, plans and policies. Strengthen capacities of local governments and ensure resource availability.

Encourage collaboration with communities and volunteers including through participatory risk assessments and local multi-stakeholder monitoring and reporting.

- 8.3 Develop standards and indicators for measuring the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction at both the national and regional levels to guide public and private sector investments and improve quality and consistency in implementation.
- 8.4 Account for disaster losses in a standardized manner to support multi-hazard, integrated assessments as the basis for development decision-making and open-source risk public information.
- 8.5 Increase dedicated budget allocations for disaster risk reduction by using risk assessment, budgetary planning and project evaluation mechanisms, in all development investments. Create incentives for investing in prevention. Protect public finances with contingency mechanisms, including insurance.
- 8.6 Track investments in disaster risk reduction to provide clear evidence of the costs and benefits of investments through verifiable and accountable data to Governments and the public and as a further means of promoting aid-effectiveness.
- 8.7 Provide guidance to National Platforms to improve the effectiveness and support the executive level of decision-making. Ensure that responsibility for disaster risk reduction is backed by the necessary political authority to increase implementation across sectors through increased engagement with parliamentarians, local authorities and civil society.
- 8.8 Strengthen public awareness of disaster risks through promoting universal access to risk information, education, building social demand for disaster risk reduction and promote individual safety and responsibility. Use available communication technologies to provide clear and concise information.
- 8.9 Identify and prepare for emerging risks, including those associated with technological hazards and pandemics, through scientifically-informed multi-hazard risk assessments and scenario development. Encourage cross-sectoral cooperation that makes best use of available information and technology.
- 8.10 Avoid the inefficient use of existing resources by ensuring technologies for risk reduction are accessible as a means for adaptation and promoting integrated approaches to development that address climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and ecosystem management and restoration.
- 8.11 Ensure the availability of tailored science-based climate-related information through the Global Framework for Climate Services to support informed investment and planning at all levels. Incorporate, as well, integrated drought management, wild land fire management and food security in risk reduction policies and development planning.

- 8.12 Adapt innovative social protection and ecosystem management mechanisms to reduce disaster impacts based on understanding of the dynamics of vulnerability and ensuring protection of the most vulnerable households, communities and social groups.
- 8.13 Welcome the continued work of the Advisory Group for the Mid-Term Review of Hyogo Framework in advising on the follow-up to the Global Platform and contributing to the formulation of a post-2015 instrument, the first outline of which is to be reviewed in 2013 and finalized in 2014.
- 8.14 Support identification and preparedness for emerging risks, through recommending to the UN Secretary-General that he constitutes a group of eminent, disaster risk reduction experts to report at the Fourth Session of the Global Platform.
- 8.15 Ensure attention to disaster risk reduction in upcoming meetings, such as the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference in Indonesia, Rio+20, UNFCCC mechanisms, the 6th World Urban Forum and the Aid-Effectiveness Meeting in 2011. Support implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by promoting risk reduction strategies that protect development investments.

## 9. The World Reconstruction Conference

- 9.1 Recognized that support to countries overwhelmed by the scale and cost of post-disaster reconstruction is often inadequately coordinated. Uneven and unpredictable financing does not always reach those who need it. Few countries incorporate disaster prevention into reconstruction and recovery planning, thus threatening development prospects and sustainability of investments.
- 9.2 Recognized, based on lessons from previous experience, that well-planned and coordinated recovery achieves better results at lower cost, and supports sustainability and disaster-resilience. Leadership, partnership and coordinated support from the international community are essential to success.
- 9.3 Committed to developing an effective recovery and reconstruction framework. This recovery framework would aim to:
  - ♦ Better define roles and responsibilities within clear institutional arrangements;
  - ♦ Effectively capitalize on the strengths of each stakeholder;
  - ♦ Clearly place countries in the driver's seat on decision-making and resource allocation;
  - ♦ Systematically integrate disaster risk reduction in reconstruction and recovery;
  - ♦ Provide in-time relevant knowledge and lessons learned; and
  - ♦ Assist in establishing robust and transparent quality and result monitoring systems.
- 9.4 Committed to developing improved systems and instruments for recovery and reconstruction finance and welcomed the leadership of the World Bank and the role of other international financial institutions in this effort. These mechanisms would provide access to reliable

reconstruction financing; build capacity to manage the surge of resources; effectively integrate the resources of non-traditional donors; and access the global capital market.

9.5 Promoted a global reconstruction and recovery knowledge practice, linking practitioners and networks working on reconstruction and recovery to provide open access to data and information.

10. The Third Session of the Global Platform closed with a call for strengthened global leadership to address rapidly increasing risk to stability and sustainability posed by our approach to development. This Chair's Summary will be followed-up and reported on in the Fourth Session of the Global Platform.

#### **Commitments at the Second Session of the Global Platform in 2009**

- ♦ By 2011, national assessments of the safety of existing education and health facilities should be undertaken.
- ♦ By 2015, concrete action plans for safer schools and hospitals should be developed and implemented in all disaster prone countries.
- ♦ Disaster risk reduction should be included in all school curricula by the same year.
- ♦ By 2015, all major cities in disaster-prone areas should include and enforce disaster risk reduction measures in their building and land use codes.
- ♦ Targets also proposed for: national risk assessments, municipal disaster recovery plans, early warning systems, water risks and the enforcement of building codes.
- ♦ The UN Secretary-General called for a target to halve the losses of lives from disasters by 2015, when the term of the Hyogo Framework for Action ends.
- ♦ 10 per cent of humanitarian relief funds to disaster risk reduction work.
- ♦ 10 per cent as a target share of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery projects and national preparedness and response plans.
- ♦ At least 1 per cent of all national development funding and all development assistance funding to be allocated to risk reduction measures, with due regard for quality of impact.