

PRESS RELEASE

UNISDR 2011/36
14 November 2011

UNISDR AND PARTNERS PLAN FOR MAJOR ADVANCE IN GLOBAL DISASTER RISK MODELLING

GENEVA, 14 November 2011 – The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, today announced that the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR, is to work with its partners over the next four years on developing a global disaster risk model which will provide the best information available on likely economic losses as climate change kicks in.

Wahlström said: “There is no doubt that UNISDR’s global risk model first published in the 2009 Global Assessment Report has broken new ground in persuading the public and private sector of the economic and political imperative for investing in disaster risk reduction. It models average annual mortality and economic loss risk for tropical cyclones, floods, landslides, earthquakes and exposure for tsunamis and drought. The model was updated this year to explore risk trends over time for geographic and economic regions.

“New versions will now be developed and published progressively over the next four years. All the hazard models will be improved and other hazards such as volcanoes, wildfires and agricultural droughts will be progressively included.”

The project will be led by Andrew Maskrey, Coordinator, Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR, and was agreed at a scoping meeting held as part of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) conference in Beijing, China, earlier this month.

Maskrey said: “The risk analysis will use probabilistic modelling techniques to provide enhanced estimations of economic loss risks for different return periods. Previous work on resilience will also be enhanced using system modelling.”

Partners who participated in the global risk analysis scoping meeting, or who are engaged in the project, include: the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD); Centro Internacional de Metodos Numericos en Ingenieria (CIMNE); Climate Interactive; Dartmouth Flood Observatory (DFO); Consorcio Evaluation de Riesgos Naturales – America Latina (ERN-AL); Geoscience Australia (GA); the Global Earthquake Model (GEM Foundation); International Centre on Environmental Monitoring (CIMA Foundation); Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR); International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA); Latin American Social Science Faculty (FLACSO); Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI); Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-GRID); United Nations University (UNU); United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC).

About UNISDR

UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* which has been adopted by 168 countries and seeks “the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.” Over 130 countries now report on their disaster risk reduction efforts. The biennial Third Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in May 2011 and was opened by the UN Secretary General. It attracted several Heads of State and over 2,600 delegates representing 168 governments, 25 inter-governmental organizations, 65 NGOs and other ISDR partners. UNISDR has facilitated the creation of 38 National Disaster Data Bases around the world as part of its on-going global effort to lead and convince governments and the private sector to invest in risk reduction and avoid recurrent disaster losses which waste development resources. It has also mobilised over 900 cities and local governments to take part in the World Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign, *Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!* In early 2011, UNISDR supported the initiative by the President of the UN General Assembly to organize the first thematic debate on disaster risk reduction ever held in the UN General Assembly.

For more information about UNISDR visit: www.unisdr.org

Follow UNISDR online:

