



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Secretariat, Geneva

A Resilient Future: UNISDR Statement on Zero Draft of the Outcome Document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20): “The Future We Want”

UNISDR offers the following observations and suggestions for the zero draft based on lessons learned in implementation of the *Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*.

Disaster risk is increasing globally. More people and assets are located at areas of high risk. Economic losses from disasters are increasing. In some countries the risk of losing wealth in disasters is now outstripping the rate at which the wealth itself is being created. Disasters are a global concern, for example the recent floods in Thailand not only cost USD 40 billion, they also led to an estimated 2.5% set back in global industrial production.

There are general conceptual and substantive issues around sustainable development that still need to be considered and are not yet reflected in the Zero Draft.

1. Sustainable development is challenged by increasing vulnerability and exposure to disasters and insufficient commitment to reducing the risk. Any future framework for sustainable development needs to include a clear understanding and practical measures to reduce the risk of natural hazards.
2. A bold vision is required. In setting the stage of the Rio+20 outcome document, current and emerging risks must be addressed. Sustainability demands resilience and the ability to cope with shocks.
3. Recognizing that goals, targets and milestones are essential for accelerating and measuring progress, the post-2015 UN sustainable development agenda are strengthened through more explicit commitment to risk management and clear targets for resilience. The existing and ongoing review of progress by countries and partners in the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action* directly inform the assessment of progress in the implementation of sustainable development.
4. Courage in prioritizing actions in disaster risk reduction and resilience is called for if dire humanitarian and economic and environmental consequences are to be avoided. Accountability at all levels enhances resilience and increases the likelihood of success.
5. To help clarify thinking about the role of disaster risk reduction in the negotiations, we offer a few specific suggestions for consideration.

- a. In the context of reaffirming Rio principles and past action plans (Section II), the internationally *agreed Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* complements the other frameworks referred to in this section and should be referenced.
- b. “Natural Disasters”, the title of paragraph 87 Section V, should be changed to “Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience”. The content should encourage the development and financing of plans for resilience across sectors and ensure that disaster risk reduction is integrated into public investments policies and planning. Disaster risk assessment, based on disaster loss and estimation of potential future losses, are essential for informed decision-making.