



INFORMATION NOTE

CONSULTATIONS IN SUPPORT OF A POST-2015 FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE

Background

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/199, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) will facilitate the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction through a consultation process that is broad (multi-stakeholders), flexible and efficient. The consultation process was launched in Geneva in March 2012 by the UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG), Margareta Wahlström and his Excellency Yoichi Otabe, the Japanese Ambassador to the International Organizations in Geneva.

Context

A number of processes will help to shape the context and substance of the consultations. The *Mid Term Review of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 (HFA): Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* released in 2011 identified key areas of focus for the next framework. Debates at the 2011 Global Platform, the findings of the 2009 and 2011 Global Assessment Reports, and the national monitoring reports of the HFA have all identified achievements, gaps, challenges as well as generated new thinking around disaster risk reduction and resilience. Based upon this body of knowledge, UNISDR circulated a background paper in March 2012 *Towards a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* to help frame the consultations.

Consultation Architecture

A broad range of partners are committed to building the resilience of their *own* communities to manage disaster risk. The consultations around a post-2015 framework must harness inputs and ideas from all of these stakeholders including national governments, mayors and local governments and communities, Parliamentarians, academics and scientists, the private sector, NGOs, international agencies and regional intergovernmental bodies and groups.

Regional and sub-regional platforms are particularly important events because they bring together all the stakeholders for substantive dialogue on the post-2015 framework. National level consultations will also be critical to the process, and support for meetings of national platforms is particularly encouraged. The Global Platform 2013 will bring together stakeholders at a global level, and will be an important milestone.

Several bodies have been established to support the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to facilitate the consultations including: the SRSG Advisory Group on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Private Sector Advisory Group, the Science and

Technology Committee, the Network of Mayors (through the *Making Cities Resilient* campaign), NGO and local community networks, and a Parliamentary Advisory Group.

Progress to date

On the international front, the Rio+20 Summit in June 2012 was the first main event to demonstrate why disasters and reducing their risks are so fundamental to sustainable development. The outcome document *'The Future We Want'* specifically refers to the value of a post-2015 framework as part of the sustainable development agenda.

A number of consultations took place in early 2012, including the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku, Japan (July 2012) and the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum in Harare, Zimbabwe (August 2012). Gatherings like the ICLEI Conference in Bonn in June 2012, and the Urban Forum in Naples in September 2012 engaged Mayors and Local Governments. And UNISDR has facilitated a series of on-line dialogues, which will continue intermittently throughout the consultation period.

Consultations have been held at the regional and sub-regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, for example in New Caledonia embracing Pacific Islands in September 2012; in Douala, Cameroon for West Africa in October 2012; in Dubrovnik, Croatia for Europe in October 2012; and in Yogyakarta, Indonesia for Asia in October 2012. A regional platform for Latin America is planned in Chile in November 2012.

The Asia Regional Platform in Yogyakarta in October 2012 (the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction) hosted some 2,600 participants, and the opening speech by H.E. Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia and Global Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction was a ringing endorsement of why a post-2015 framework is so important.

Feedback to date

A number of issues and elements have started to emerge from the first phase of consultations. One clear message is the need for much stronger political commitment to tackle emerging disaster risks, including more extreme events stemming from climate change, impact of multi-hazards, increasing exposure and vulnerability. The desire for a bottom-up, people-centered post-2015 framework, that engages all stakeholders and strengthens the resilience of local communities to better manage disaster risks, also features in all discussions.

All stakeholders want the post 2015 framework to have a stronger set of accountability measures to monitor and track implementation. And a new focus on the economic and investment case for disaster risk reduction and resilience, along with the engagement of business and the private sector, has been welcomed. Many actors are calling for education and public awareness campaigns to ensure a stronger prevention and preparedness approach to disasters, enhanced public access to information on risks, and the use of evidence and application of science to policy making.

A range of issues around the governance of disaster risk reduction, including the need for Ministries of Foreign Affairs to connect with their national HFA focal points, as well as greater commitment to integrating disaster risk reduction into development planning, finance, agriculture, environment, health, and education has been emphasized.

Process moving forward

2013 will be a critical year for the consultation process. During the first quarter, regional platforms will be held in Africa and the Arab States. Stakeholders are planning events and using existing forums to consult around a post-2015 framework, for example the Global Network of Community Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction is planning a conference in March 2013.

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled for 19-23 May 2013 in Geneva will be a pivotal event. Based on the first phase of consultations during 2012 and early 2013, the Global Platform will identify key elements for inclusion in a post-2015 framework.

A second phase of consultations will follow the Global Platform leading up to the World Conference in 2015. Throughout 2013, national consultations will take place in a wide array of countries. Stakeholders will use their own forums to raise the profile of the post-2015 framework. For example, private sector partners will seek to influence the International Chamber of Commerce Asia/Pacific CEO forum and the World Economic Forum; and parliamentarians will target the International Parliamentarian Union Assembly. Evidence to support, shape and develop the key elements of a draft post-2015 framework will be collected and collated by UNISDR.

It is hoped that a draft version of a post-2015 framework will be available by early 2014. Over the course of 2014 regional and sub-regional platforms, national consultations, and stakeholder meetings will be held with a view to strengthen and build consensus around the draft. There will be ongoing linkage to international processes such as the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. Planned consultations with UN Member States, including through Intergovernmental Organizations (such as ASEAN, APEC, SAARC, SOPAC, CEPREDENAC, and the Africa Union) will be held during 2014.

In early 2015, the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan will bring together the many stakeholders that have participated in the three-year consultative process, to find consensus on the post-2015 framework. In the third quarter of 2015, the UN Secretary General's report to the General Assembly on the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction will be tabled with a recommendation for a post-2015 framework. The post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction will be submitted for endorsement to the UN General Assembly session in the fourth quarter of 2015.

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