



INFORMATION NOTE: MARCH 2013

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

Introduction

This Information Note presents the progress of the consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction since its launch in March 2012 in Geneva by the UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG), Margareta Wahlström and his Excellency Yoichi Otabe, the Japanese Ambassador to the International Organizations.

The background, context, consultation architecture and key documents of the consultation process, regular information notes, consultation events and their reports can be found on the <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/> website.

Progress to date

Toward the end of the first phase of consultations on the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction (the second Hyogo Framework for Action or HFA2), a total of 73 consultations have been held. At the regional level, eight (8) regional and sub-regional consultations were organized (Europe, Asia, Pacific, Latin America, Caribbean, Africa, Central Asia and Arab States). Twenty seven (27) countries have organized multi-stakeholder national consultations, many of which include consultations with local governments.

A wide range of stakeholder groups has engaged in the process: children, people with disability, women and organizations working on gender issues, Civil Society Organizations (CSO), academia, mayors and parliamentarians as well as private sector. The Advisory Group for the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction has met twice, providing strategic directions for the process. The thematic consultations addressed issues such as disaster risk reduction education for sustainable development and reducing future risks in disaster recovery and reconstruction.

UNISDR has facilitated a series of online dialogues, which will continue intermittently throughout the consultation period. An on-line survey of city and local government attracted inputs from 1,300 mayors and local government officials. A dialogue on disaster risk reduction at the local level is going on until early April 2013.

Partners have played an instrumental role in the consultation process. The Global Network of Community Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction has carried out consultations with local

governments and communities through Views from Frontline in 62 countries across the world while facilitating an on-line dialogue to gather Civil Society perspectives on the HFA2. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) undertook a survey and discussion among the Red Cross Societies in Asia and the Pacific. Partner's position papers and a number of substantive think pieces and working papers have enriched the debates.

The UN High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) developed an UN Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience which was approved by the Chief Executive Board on 6 April 2013.

There are also close linkages between the HFA2 process and other consultations like the post-2015 development agenda. A global thematic consultation was organized in February 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia to discuss options for integrating disaster risk reduction into the post-2015 development agenda.

Outcomes to date

A number of issues and elements have emerged from the first phase of consultations. Many of them reconfirm the learning from the HFA implementation as reflected through the Mid-term Review of the HFA, the HFA monitor and progress reports. Below is a summary of the main messages emerging from the consultations to date.

- All consultations highlight the urgency to accelerate the implementation of the HFA. The HFA2 has been envisioned as a massive step forward in bringing achievements of the HFA to scale, to address issues that received less attention since 2005 such as the underlying causes of increasing disaster risk. In this context, countries and stakeholders have been clear on the need to preserve the core elements of the HFA and leverage the progress made to date in a concerted effort to advance disaster risk reduction and resilience building.
- The desire to ensure that HFA2 is a shared responsibility and continues to engage all stakeholders.
- A greater attention to small-scale recurrent disasters (extensive risk) is called for, taking into account their devastating impacts on communities, especially poor households.
- HFA2 to focus on local action, built on partnerships between national and local governments, communities, private sector and other partners.
- Understanding the economics of disaster risk in how investment decisions are made emphasizes the need to work with new partners such as the private sector.
- Integrated approaches that link disaster risk reduction and climate risk management and place both as an integral part of sustainable development have been highlighted as imperative for future development strategies.

- An actionable framework with a stronger set of accountability measures to monitor and track implementation. Many stakeholders raise the need for more guidance on “how to” address the issues that have not progressed in the current HFA in governance, building capacity and transfer of resources to communities. There are calls for: education and public awareness campaigns to ensure a stronger prevention and preparedness approach to disasters including through recovery and reconstruction; enhanced public access to information on risks; and the use of evidence and application of science to policy making.

Process moving forward

A synthesis, capturing the issues and elements emerged from the first phase of consultations is being prepared to serve as the background information for further deliberations on the HFA2 at the Fourth Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction on 19-23 May 2013 in Geneva (<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013/>).

Stakeholder groups will have the opportunity on Monday 20 May 2013 to consult and prepare their inputs to the Global Platform. The two informal plenary sessions on 21 and 22 May 2013 will be the opportunity for all to have their say on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform will mark the end of the first consultation phase and thus set the stage for the second consultation phase which will lead up to the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in early 2015.

In the second half of 2013 the draft elements of HFA 2 will be produced will be produced and will include outcomes from the Global Platform. Further consultations will be undertaken over 2013 and 2014. Regional Platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction, major international processes and events, like the Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) Conference in 2014 and the post-2015 development agenda, and meetings of the intergovernmental organizations will be important reflection points.

The World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in 2015 will consider the HFA2. In the third quarter of 2015, the UN Secretary General’s report on the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction will be tabled at the UN General Assembly with a recommendation to endorse the successor framework.

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