



UNISDR
The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Reducing Disaster Risks and Building Resilience, 2010-2011

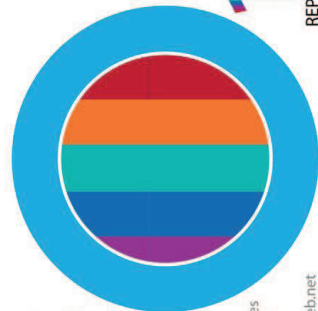
UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction and the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. Here's a look at UNISDR's main areas of work and achievements at the end of 2011.

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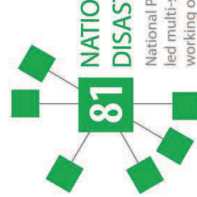
UN MEMBER STATES

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) is the international framework for disaster risk reduction. Countries report back on the HFA through an online tool hosted at Preventionweb.net



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REPORTING ON HFA

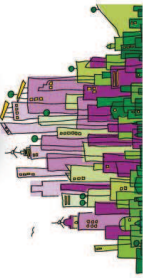


81 NATIONAL PLATFORMS FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

National Platforms are nationally owned and led multi-stakeholder forums or committees working on disaster risk reduction.

900 PARLIAMENTARIANS

We've partnered with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to raise awareness about disaster risk reduction regularly in their assemblies. We've expanded our network of parliamentarians to reach 900 from 130 countries.



968 CITIES SIGNED UP
We launched the World Disaster Reduction Campaign Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready! in May 2010. Small towns to major world capitals have signed up to commit to 'Ten Essentials' of an urbanized version of the HFA.

We launched the One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals Campaign in April 2010 with the support of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management.

138000
PLEDGES

30

Number of countries where support was provided for inclusion of disaster risk reduction in UN Development Assistance Frameworks.

23

Number of regional and national policies, legal and planning instruments referring to the HFA.

43

Number of national disaster loss databases setup around the world used to analyze extensive risk and strengthen the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR).

Created on 28 June 2012
Disaster icons for office are from the Humanitarian Symbols Set (2008)
<http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications>

To find out more, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org>

Download a high-resolution version here: <http://goo.gl/jaHQL>



UNISDR

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

EVIDENCE

ISSUE 09 / JULY 2012 - MONTHLY UNISDR NEWSLETTER

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VOICES FROM RIO+20

MALI, EGYPT, NIGER, CUBA, COTE D'IVOIRE AND SWAZILAND linked climate change impacts to the recurrence of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and tropical storms, increased frequency of natural hazards, sea level rise, water scarcity and environmental degradation...

THE EUROPEAN UNION, BARBADOS AND NORWAY noted that impacts of climate change have been increasing at an alarming rate...

Visit our webpage dedicated to Disaster Risk Reduction and Rio+20:
<http://goo.gl/Xvjuj>



Margareta Wahlström speaking at a Google Big Tent event on the role of technology in disasters in Sendai, Japan on 2 July. (Photo / Jerry Velasquez)

RIO+20 RALLIES SUPPORT FOR HFA

The Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development closed with an urgent worldwide call for accelerated implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*.

"We call for disaster risk reduction and building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and, as appropriate, to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes, and budgets at all levels and considered within relevant future frameworks," member States declared in the outcome document, the Future We Want.

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, commended the declaration's focus on future risk levels. "The potential for disaster is always rising. It's going to be hard to maintain the same level of safety, especially with overpopulation and land pressure, climate change, permafrost melting and extreme weather. The declaration contains a section on disaster risk reduction that sets a firm foundation for discussions on a post-2015 framework to continue guiding nations after the Hyogo Framework expires three years from now."

"So far in our initial consultations, people tell us we have to focus on the integration of climate adaptation and risk reduction. It's a matter of having supportive policies in place, strengthening institutional competencies and tapping enough resources to make things happen. Also, people told us there weren't enough instruments to help local leaders manage urban risk. This is important because a lot of development work is done in urban areas," said Ms. Wahlström. **Read more and download the Rio+20 Outcome Document "The Future We Want":** <http://goo.gl/XCGEP>



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COMMUNICATE RISK BETTER

The UK's Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir John Beddington, made an urgent appeal for scientists to use plain language if they are to play a larger role in policymaking on climate change when he spoke at a UNISDR Cities event at Rio+20.

"Climate change and better weather technology allow us to predict extremes well in advance and to do it well. But if we move from the purely physical and biological sciences to include behavioral and social sciences, we can improve also how we communicate risk and help communities to improve their response."

Addressing the event, "Resilient Cities: Local Action to Achieve Sustainable Development", Sir John said there was a strong role for science to play in disaster risk reduction and resilience building, including prediction and the use of historical data in designing cities in vulnerable areas. He concluded that scientific and technological support should be offered in the context of local community engagement.

Read more:
<http://goo.gl/Muv1m>

RIO+20 DRR SHOWCASE

DRR measures were showcased at Rio+20 by UN member States including Papua New Guinea which highlighted the Coral Triangle Initiative with Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste to manage marine and terrestrial ecosystems that are threatened by climate change, pollution, over-fishing and other man-made activities. Papua New Guinea, Suriname and Djibouti are replanting mangrove forests to protect their vulnerable coastlines.

Fiji stressed that beyond response and recovery to disasters the government has focused its efforts to build an effective early warning system underpinned by accurate scientific and technical data to help in policy information and decision making. Korea has also developed projects to improve water infrastructure in the country to overcome flood and drought and prepare against extreme weather events.

China also committed to build a global network for technological cooperation based on good practice experiences of different countries on sustainable development. China will make available 200 million RMB yuan for a three-year international cooperation project that will help SIDS, LDCs and African countries address climate change challenges.

Similarly, Brazil also committed not only to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions between 36-39% by 2030 but will also contribute USD 10 million to efforts addressing climate change challenges in Africa and SIDS.

Visit the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) website:
<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

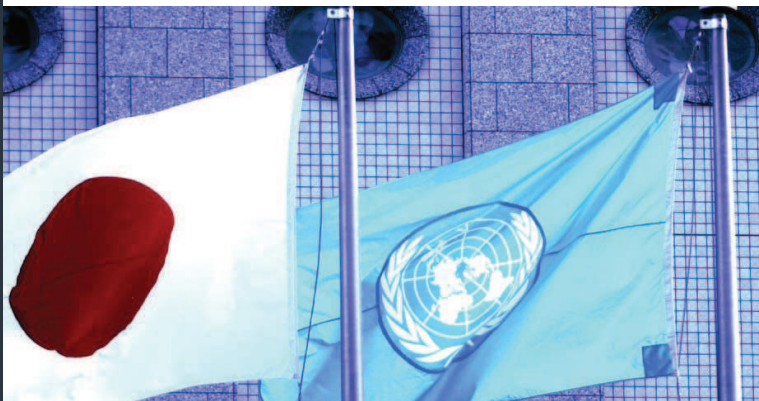


Photo from the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan. Read more about Japan's commitment to disaster risk reduction and support to the post-Hyogo Framework for Action on the opposite page. (Photo / ENB)



Rio+20 "Family Photo" with all heads of state, government and delegations. (Source: <http://goo.gl/TQyvx>)

UNISDR'S RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

UNISDR's 2011 Annual Report is now available online and reveals that its two landmark Global Assessment Reports on Disaster Risk Reduction Reports (GAR) for 2009 and 2011, have had over 200,000 chapter downloads over the last three years.

During 2010-2011, 133 governments voluntarily reported against their implementation of the HFA as the number of national platforms for disaster risk reduction grew from 61 to 81. The 2011 GAR made the case that accounting for disaster losses is a necessary first step towards managing disaster risk and there are now 43 national disaster loss data bases.

Attendance at the 2011 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction doubled to 2,600 compared to the previous Global Platform. The last year also saw the "Making Cities Resilient Campaign" take off in a major way with 968 urban centers joining up by year's end. An annex to the report details how UNISDR achieved a 93% programme implementation rate against resources received over the last two years.

Read more and download the 2011 Annual Report: <http://goo.gl/MEzmS>

JAPAN'S \$3 BILLION DRR PLEDGE

Japan's Foreign Minister, Koichiro Gamba, pledged \$3 billion in support to developing countries in the field of disaster risk reduction over the next three years in a speech at Rio+20 and also said Japan would fully support the post-Hyogo Framework for Action consultative process which is being facilitated and coordinated by UNISDR.

Minister Gamba outlined Japan's "Future City" initiative and plans to build sustainable, disaster resilient cities with superior technologies and plans an international conference on urban planning next year. Japan is also committed to developing "Green Cooperation Volunteers" involving 10,000 experts over the next three years to help support the transition to a green economy in developing countries. The Minister reiterated these pledges at the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction where UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlstrom acted as a facilitator.

Read the Chair's Summary from the Conference: <http://goo.gl/YDtmq>

VOICES FROM RIO+20

UKRAINE, LAOS, ANGOLA AND PALAU underlined the effects of the current global economic crisis on poverty and inequality....For Paulau adaptation is critical now that development and human survival is at stake. Ghana and Congo stressed that their low resilience to natural disasters hinders their progress towards sustainable development.

MICRONESIA, COMOROS, CAPE VERDE, SEYCHELLES, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, JAMAICA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, KIRIBATI, TONGA AND SAMOA noted that their increasing exposure and low adaptive capacity make them extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change....Micronesia lamented that the current generation of island people are at high risk and have nowhere to run.

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<http://goo.gl/Xviuj>