

**United Nations Development Programme
Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

Terms of Reference

Workshops to support disaster risk reduction in Mauritania

Awareness-raising on urban risks, urban resilience and the World Disaster Reduction Campaign "My city is getting ready"

Nouakchott, Monday, December 10, 2012

1. Context

The events of recent years show that natural hazards do not spare any country, no power across the globe. From the Indian Ocean tsunami to devastating hurricanes in the United States, through the great floods in Europe and Asia, hundreds of thousands of people have died and millions have lost their means for living in disasters caused by natural hazards. Human suffering and economic losses caused by disasters can however be avoided or reduced by the reduction of disaster risks.

As such, more than 168 state and government committed in 2005 in the "Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015" (i) to integrate disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and plans, (ii) to create and strengthen institutions, mechanisms and means to withstand disasters and (iii) to systematically incorporate risk reduction considerations in implementing programs for disaster response and recovery.

Signatory to the Hyogo Framework, Mauritania experienced since several decades high vulnerability to repetitive droughts, heavy rains and floods as well as regular and repetitive locust invasions.

Notwithstanding the anthropogenic risks such as domestic fires, bush fires or industrial pollution, which are proving increasingly important and require taking more preventive and mitigating action.

In 2007, the analysis of the situation showed that the disaster management system suffered of its strong sectoral character and a lack of consideration for the dimension of prevention. In addition, the operational capacity to manage disaster risks was very limited.

Also, in 2008 UNDP Mauritania has implemented a project to strengthen national capacities for coordination of disaster risk management, embodied by the provision of computer units to form an intersectoral early warning network and developing the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management (PANGRC), approved by the Council of Ministers on 18 March 2009. This plan included the establishment of a national coordination mechanism for DRM ("National Platform"), which meets the prerogatives of the Hyogo Framework for Action, which suggests this tool to strengthen coordination and advocacy to "to ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority and that there is a strong institutional framework to carry out related activities." However, although the National Platform was launched in 2007, it does not exercise its functions as intended to reduce disaster risks. Subsequently, in July 2011, at the request of regional authorities in Nouakchott and the Ministry Delegated to the Prime Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the UN System Coordination Office has mobilized experts of the Regional United Nations Group for the preparation and emergency response to carry out a disaster simulation exercise. Two years after the support provided to formulate the PANGRC and the equipment of national authorities, activities permitted to identify the need for continued support and particularly to strengthen:

- ☐ Mechanisms to coordinate various actors;
- ☐ The national leadership (as represented today by the Ministry Delegate to the Prime Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development);
- ☐ Capacities for real time crisis management, including institutional communications, monitoring of an evolving situation.
- ☐ The involvement of Mauritania in the regional and global initiatives undertaken to support risk reduction and disaster at national and local levels, including through strong participation in the implementation of the World Campaign for resilient cities and preparation of regular progress reports to accompany the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

2. Objectives of the workshop

Based on these elements and recommendations by experts to strengthen the preparedness and response system to disasters, UNDP and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), schedule a mission to support the Mauritanian authorities in understanding and responding to urban risks.

More specifically, the workshop aims to raise awareness and train local officials on urban risk issues and the relevance of sustainable urban planning integrating disaster risk reduction.

3. Outcomes

At the end of the workshop it is expected that:

- ☐ Participants have increased knowledge of the links between disasters and development, particularly in urban areas;
- ☐ The needs, challenges and priorities for reducing the risk of disasters in Mauritania are identified.

4. Workshop details

The workshop will be held on Monday, December 10, 2012 at a hotel in Nouakchott (TBC), as follows:

- ☐ Facilitation will be provided by experts in risk reduction from UNISDR, the national focal point for the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the Mayor of Teveragh Zeina municipality;
- ☐ Independent experts and elected “witnesses” may also be invited to intervene;
- ☐ Participants will benefit from presentations in plenary and invited to share experiences in (2-3) small groups;
- ☐ Simultaneous translation Arabic / French, French / Arabic and French / English will be provided.

5. Audience

The workshop will address local elected officials and other stakeholders in disaster risk reduction at the local level.

6. Agenda

8.30 Welcome and registration of participants (MDEDD)

9.00 Introduction to the workshop (UNISDR)

9.15 The urban risks and climate Mauritania (Ahmed Ould Senhoury)

9.30 Introduction to the World Campaign for Disaster Reduction "My City is getting ready" (UNISDR)

10.00 Opening remarks by officials MDEDD / United Nations System

10.15 Departure of Officials / Coffee-Tea Break

10.30 Campaign tools: The "Mayors' Handbook" and the LG-SAT (self-assessment tool for progress in the implementation of the 10 key essentials of the Campaign for resilience cities) (UNISDR)

11.00 Experiences of Campaign cities (Local Government Report) UNISDR (UNISDR)
11.30 Case study from the Region: Resilient Cities in Lebanon (Ms. Madeleine Haddad)
12.00 Case study from Mauritania: Tevragh-Zeina (Mayor Tevragh-Zeina)
12.30 Questions and answers (UNISDR)
13.00 Lunch break
14.00 Working groups to better understand the 10 essentials
15.00 Working groups presentations
15.30 Summary and closing of the workshop (UNISDR)

7. Participants (69)

- National Authorities (06): MAED, MDEDD, MINDC (DG local authorities and civil protection), and MinUrbanisme and Habitat
- Local Authorities (09): Wali Nouakchott, Hakem Tevragh Zeina Sebkha, El Mina, Ksar Toujounine, Dar Naim, Arafat and Teyaryte
- Representatives of the civil society (09): Pdt parliamentary group environment, employers, insurance sector, University of Nouakchott, media, Mauritanian Red Crescent, ICRC, platform of NGOs, NGOs Moubadaratt.
- Partners (08) United Nations system, GIZ, France / SCAC, Spanish Cooperation, European Union, Japan, IUCN, Benelux.
- Mayors of coastal towns (13): Tevragh Zeina Sebkha, El Mina, Ksar Toujounine, Dar Naim, Arafat Teyaryte, CUN Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, Boulénwar, Tiguint, Nouamghar.
- Mayors of municipalities along the Senegal River (7): Selibaby, Ndiago, Rosso, Boghé Kaedi Gouraye Ould Yénjé.
- Mayors of the municipalities of the country (16): Nema Fassala, Tin Pedra Oualata Aïoun, Tintane Kiffa Kankoussa, Guerou, Tidjikja, Aleg Boutilimit Zouerate, Atar, Akjoujt Likchebe, Boumdeyde.