



1st Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Under the Patronage of HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, President of the Royal Scientific Society
19-21 March 2013, Aqaba, Jordan

1st Arab Conference on DRR discussed:

- **Regional Progress in Disaster Risk reduction and the Implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)**
- **Developing a Global Disaster Risk Reduction Framework in 2015 “HFA2”**
 - *Emerging Issue, Institutional Mechanisms and Governance*
 - *Climate Change and Local Resilience*
 - *Disaster Risk Reduction and Development Planning*
- **Challenges and opportunities for DRR in the region in light of progress made so far and expectations from post-HFA process (HFA2)**
- **Urban Risk Reduction and Cities Resilience**

Issues raised on DRR in Arab Region

- Lack / Weakness of Political Commitment
- Lack of financial resources & mechanisms
- Lack of awareness on risks
- Voluntary nature of HFA (lack of enforcement)
- Need for decentralization
- Lack of data on vulnerabilities, hazard maps
- Weak coordination and lack of identification of roles & responsibilities
- Need for inclusiveness and civic engagement
- Need to link local and national strategies / plans
- Need for national coordination mechanisms
- Youth population in Arab states is an opportunity to promote creative solutions and build strong awareness

Issues raised on DRR in Arab Region

- Lack of guidelines how to implement DRR
- Need to enhance expertise and capacities
- Inconsistency of information across sectors
- Governance and accountability
- Need for coherence between global, regional, national and local DRR strategies and plans
- Community participation and engaging civil society in sustainable development
- Need to engage Private sector
- Need to consider economics of DRR and analyze cost-benefits
- Increasing urban risk, creeping drought, food security, water resources management, water governance and increasing impacts of climate change.
- Increasing migration flows from rural to urban

Recommendations for issues to be considered in HFA2

- Assessing progress and gaps in the implementation of current HFA and build upon it / strengthen for HFA2
- Accelerating progress on DRR and bringing all Arab countries up to speed “currently differentiated levels”
- Improved governance and accountability mechanisms of DRR (national coordination mechanism [adopting a multi-stakeholder approach], engagement of all key ministries including finance, planning and key sectors, prioritizing DRR at highest level of government, embedding transparent monitoring and reporting)
- Establishing national risk financing strategies with (a) DRR allocated budget nationally and locally, (b) promote financing mechanisms e.g. Islamic Cooperative Insurance, tax restructure, private sector incentives.

Recommendations for issues to be considered in HFA2

- Promoting decentralization and strengthening local capacities
- Promoting engagement of civil society, youth and the Private sector as key stakeholders “Youth population in Arab states is an opportunity to promote creative solutions and build strong awareness”
- Stronger linkages to sustainable development in national development planning and budgeting
- Advocate for DRR to be strongly reflected in post-2015 international development agenda “MDGs/SDGs”

Recommendations for issues to be considered in HFA2

- Climate Resilience with focus on drought and water challenges
- Strengthening Infrastructure (to mitigate flash floods and seismic risk),
- Urban risk management and resilient cities
- (cross cutting: Legislation and regulatory mechanisms, e.g. building codes, land-use planning)
- Strengthening engagement of academia and science in support of DRR actions (applied research)
- Need a **STRONG** HFA2 - how to reflect strong political commitment and agreement .

Recommendations for issues to be considered in HFA2

- Arab Region believes that current HFA offers a comprehensive platform for action. However, Arab region recommends that HFA2 should be strengthened to improve governance and accountability, resources and capacities, knowledge and awareness.
- Arab region agrees to come together on a regular basis to assess progress and continue the momentum on DRR and thereby launches the Arab Regional Platform for disaster risk reduction.