

Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

21-23 May 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

UNDP Statement

Disasters caused by natural hazards regularly affect many of the 177 countries and territories where UNDP works. Building resilience to these events is part of the organization's core mandate to "strengthen and build operational capacities in natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness," as requested by the UN General Assembly in 1998.¹

Even before this official mandate was established, UNDP was working to bridge emergency relief, recovery, and sustainable development in order to help countries and communities address and manage the multiple risks they face. As a consequence, UNDP support has contributed to progress in many countries. Many of these have demonstrated that with carefully planned disaster risk reduction and recovery efforts, it is feasible to protect development gains, as well as significantly reduce deaths and economic losses caused by disasters.

On average, UNDP provides support in disaster risk reduction and recovery to 50 disaster affected countries per year. A recently published report on UNDP's contribution to the current Hyogo Framework for Action provides a detailed account of our country level accomplishments since 2005. These accomplishments are backed by a commitment to knowledge sharing and providing guidance through a range of partnerships, including with governments, communities, universities, the private sector, research institutions, civil society, as well as other development partners and UN agencies.

Only two years remain until the current term of the Hyogo Framework for Action comes to a close, and indeed much has been achieved since the framework was endorsed in 2005. The political commitment for disaster risk reduction evident today at the highest level of government was unthinkable only a few years ago. However, it is clear that member states and organizations such as UNDP will have to work even harder to ensure that this commitment continues to translate into real protection for people most at risk from natural hazards. It should also be noted at this point that building resilience requires a sustained engagement with predictable and long-term funding support. In contrast, the present day still relies on predominantly short-term humanitarian funds for delivering disaster risk reduction and recovery - both in international aid as well as country-led efforts. Development partners need to set aside dedicated resources to

¹ UN Resolution A/RES/54/233.

support international instruments for disaster risk reduction and recovery. The recognition of disaster risk reduction, recovery and climate risk management in national development budgets, therefore, will be a crucial step to facilitate sustained engagements.

The Global Platform is a unique opportunity to bring to the attention of the wider public both the achievements of countries, as well as their lessons of successful management of disaster risk. The deliberations over the next few days are an opportunity to direct the international community in this endeavour.

UNDP welcomes the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, adopted in April this year. In accordance with this plan, UNDP continues to support governments, UN Country Teams and UN Resident Coordinators to address disaster risk as part of comprehensive resilience-building and sustainable development efforts that are spearheaded at the country level.

UNDP will remain seized in the years to come with community and national disaster risk reduction and recovery interventions. We will continue to provide cutting-edge advisory services on policy, legislative and institutional reform processes, as well as establish more pronounced links between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction, and conflict prevention.

These priorities are firmly embedded in UNDP's Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017 which is being finalized. UNDP's commitments are also underpinned by the announcement of the UNDP Administrator that the organization intends to double the size of its disaster risk reduction portfolio within the next five years.

In light of the on-going debate on the new global Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, which will replace the Hyogo Framework for Action, it is worth highlighting that UNDP's work in the coming years will include strengthening the ability of communities and governments to:

- **understand and communicate risk;**
- **reduce risk** through integrated solutions for disaster and climate risk management;
- **improve public accountability**, including through participatory monitoring and reporting;
- improve preparedness and recovery capacity **to manage residual risk** that cannot be mitigated; and importantly,
- strengthen **gender-equitable risk reduction** solutions.

Good governance is central to disaster risk reduction and this will be a strong component of whatever arrangement will replace the Hyogo Framework. The outcome document of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and most importantly the on-

going process to shape the post-2015 international agenda for development, also clearly indicate this.

Placing governance at the centre of disaster risk management is not a new concept to UNDP. We welcome the call from many of the participants at this Global Platform to integrate disaster reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development into planning frameworks and action; to build resilience at community level as well as in public and private sector development; and to strengthen an approach to the management of risk that is inclusive, especially of communities.

Let us engage actively both here and beyond this Global Platform meeting, to each take our share of the responsibility for building resilience to disasters. Thank you.