



Regional Compendium

Regional Outcomes and Priorities
for Disaster Risk Reduction 2012–2013



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INTRODUCTION

The *Regional Compendium: Regional Outcomes and Priorities for Disaster Risk Reduction 2012–2013* features the main outcomes of regional platform meetings and ministerial conferences and provides an overview of recent regional priorities in disaster risk reduction and resilience-building. The *Regional Compendium* provides a list of regional platforms held in 2012–2013, outlines the value of regional platforms and provides a short analysis of common trends. Details from each regional platform form the main body of the Regional Compendium including: a background; a summary of outcomes and recommendations; regional input into the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2013; suggestions for a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2); other selected key regional processes (which are presented in text boxes) and, finally the official text, and declarations from the regional platforms.

As part of the lead up to the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (to be held in Japan in early 2015) regional platforms hosted the first phase of consultations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2). Views and ideas expressed in the regional consultations are reflected both here and in the *Synthesis Report on Consultations on a Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2)*. There has been a strong call to continue to engage regions on the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) through regional platform planned for early 2014.

List of Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction held over 2012–2013 (in order by date)

- The Fourth Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and the Pacific Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations, held 17–21 September 2012 in Nouméa, New Caledonia adopted a joint outcome statement, stressing the inter-relation between disaster risk management in the Pacific and water and sanitation.
- The Third Annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR), held 1–3 October 2012 in Dubrovnik, Republic of Croatia adopted a final outcome document.
- The Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held 22–25 October 2012 in Yogyakarta, Republic of Indonesia adopted the *Yogyakarta Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2012*.
- The Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, held 26–28 November 2012 in Santiago, Chile adopted the *Communiqué Santiago de Chile – Investing in Resilience Accelerating the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the Americas*.
- The Fourth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held 13–15 February 2013 in Arusha, Tanzania adopted a summary statement and expressed the common commitment to build the resilience of African communities and nations to disaster risk and adapt to a changing climate.
- The First Arab Regional Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held 19–21 March 2013 in Aqaba, Jordan issued the *Aqaba Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities* and introduced a draft framework plan of action for the implementation of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Value of Regional Platforms

Regional platforms provide a forum for all those engaged in disaster risk reduction to showcase practical applications for disaster risk reduction,

exchange experience and develop joint statements, strategies and action plans, which guide decision makers and practitioners.

Regional platforms for disaster risk reduction have steadily evolved over the life of the *Hyogo Framework of Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities (HFA)*. Recent regional platforms have called for a stronger recognition of the regional mechanisms to implement and oversee disaster risk reduction. Risks and vulnerabilities go beyond national boundaries and hence often need to be addressed trans-boundary. Regional platforms are an opportunity to start to tackle these trans-boundary issues around disaster prevention and preparedness, provide leadership and direction, and propose solutions to address disaster risk and to build the resilience of communities and nations.

The regional platforms also attract an increasing number of stakeholders and interest groups. The number of participants from governments, private sector, children and youth, media, academia, civil societies, community representatives and other interest groups have been on the rise. This reaffirms that reducing the risk of disasters and building resilience in our communities is the responsibility of many. Indeed as countries and communities face new challenges associated with hazards there are increasing calls for stronger models of cooperation at the regional level.

Common Trends

Disaster risk reduction has many variations at the regional level depending on the risk profile, geographic and environmental conditions, political environment and level of urbanization among others. There are also common trends in all the regional platforms of which the following are examples of:

Private Sector

The private sector has been widely recognized as crucial partner to building disaster-resilient communities and nations. The Americas region strongly focused on private investments and resilience, partnership between private sector and disaster risk

reduction. The Asia region called for private sector accountability, transparency and sustainable and resilient ventures. The Arab States stressed the importance of engaging the private sector in insurance and construction to benefit from the private sector risk management knowledge and capacity.

Involvement of communities/local level

The need to involve local communities in disaster risk reduction and strengthen local level capacity has featured strongly in regional meetings. Asia stressed the need for local engagement in disaster risk reduction. Africa called for communities' involvement to build trust and confidence with disaster risk reduction practitioners. The Americas highlighted the importance to strengthen local capacities and decentralization to the local level. Asia identified the internal capacity building for local institutions as crucial for disaster risk reduction. The Pacific called for people-centered end to end early warning systems and for more guidance to communities for community-based disaster risk management initiatives.

Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Disaster risks reduction was acknowledged by all regions as core development issue and enabler of sustainable development and resilience-building. The impact of climate change remained a strong concern across Africa, the Americas, the Arab States and the Pacific region, which resulted in a common call to integrate disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

The Pacific region, in particular, called for a stronger integration of climate science products into disaster risk management. Africa stressed the need to apply climate science for development planning. The Americas focused on strengthening governments' capacity to adapt to the challenges related to climate change. The Arab States stressed the importance of climate resilience, considering drought and water challenges in the region.

Evidence, risk data, research and academic work

Arab States called for strong engagement of academia in applied research for disaster risk

reduction. The Americas stressed the importance to strengthen education, scientific research and technological development and link with academic networks. Africa concluded that academic networks have been underutilized in the past and need to play a strong role in future resilience building. Europe highlighted the need to make risk data, such as risk maps, easy accessible and available to the public.

Urban Risk

Increasing urban risk remained a major concern in some regions. Asian countries mentioned the increasing impact of earthquake disasters and the need to focus on building back better lives and livelihoods in the aftermath of earthquakes. The Arab States strongly focused on urban risk for better building codes to be strongly implemented.

Accountability

The question of accountability was raised in most regional meetings. Europe called for minimum standards or principles around disaster risk reduction, to enhance accountability. Asia countries stressed the importance for financial accountability for strong risk governance. The Arab States identified the need for performance indicators for improved accountability on disaster risk reduction. The Americas called for monitoring and accountability systems for disaster risk reduction activities. Africa stressed the need for accountability and transparency in implementing disaster risk reduction, including through budgetary allocations to local and community levels.

Financing strategies

New financing strategies have been widely discussed in regional consultations. Asian countries called for micro-insurance and risk pooling schemes to enhance local resilience. The Arab States call for comprehensive risk financing strategies. The Americas highlighted the need for stronger financing mechanism to increase disaster resilience. Africa called for investment in disaster risk reduction to reach beyond traditional targets of governments and donors and to tap into development funding for resilience-building.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS



Africa

Fourth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Background

The Fourth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was convened to foster new and renewed partnerships with the sub-regions, national governments, cities, private sector, knowledge centers and civil society including youth and women. The meeting reviewed achievements and challenges in implementing the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Extended Programme of Action and identified measures for fulfilling shared commitments by 2015.

Looking ahead, the Africa Regional Platform considered the changing character of vulnerability and the government leadership required to lead on an inclusive process of consultations to meet ongoing and emerging challenges. As drought and livelihoods of communities in dry lands are a major concern for the region, the Fourth Regional Platform was organized back to back with the Fifth Africa Drought Adaptation Forum – Measuring Impact Strategizing for the Future, which focused on methodologies and indicators to measure resilience at the community level.

Acknowledging that safe and equitable development outcomes in Africa are achievable, the special attention which needs to be paid to climate change impacts on severe weather events, the fact that communities stand at the frontline of disaster risk and play an increasingly influential role in building resilience, and recognizing the substantive knowledge and technical and human resources are already available nationally and locally, the following recommendations were put forward in the summary statement.

General recommendations from the Fourth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Emerging challenges like growing urbanization in a changing climate, and increased socio-economic vulnerability of communities, should be addressed by ensuring easily accessible and user-friendly climate information, using local and indigenous knowledge in formulating responses and programmes.
- The future lies in increased funding and technical support for local governments to achieve community-based responses to both measuring the incidents and impact of risk and establish how best to build disaster resilience within communities.
- Need for verifiable reporting of disaster losses to form the baseline for development planning and programmes at regional, national and community levels. Disaster loss database development was strongly encouraged, as was the need to ensure the systematic sharing and analysis of the cost-benefits of investment in disaster risk reduction.
- Investment in disaster risk reduction needs to reach beyond traditional targets of governments and donors to embrace re-defined communities: women, youth, the private sector, media, local governments and institutions, to ensure representative decision-making in the building of disaster-resilient communities.
- African academic and research institutions have been under-utilized in the past. Mobilizing them for resilience-building nationally and locally is smart future investment.

- Need for integrated approaches between national and local; government departments, humanitarian and development actors; institutions especially around the institutional integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to reinforce the central importance of disaster risk reduction and the *Hyogo Framework for Action* resulting in an enabling environment based on finding and building solutions across sectors, budgets and policy frameworks.
- African stakeholders reconfirmed that the *Hyogo Framework for Action* has proved its value as a central framework for disaster risk reduction in Africa, alongside the *Africa Strategy and Programme of Action*, and should remain in force post-2015 with continued improvements related to mechanisms for coordination and dialogue, definition of indicators and ways to monitor and report. Special emphasis has to be given to the link with the post-2015 sustainable development and climate change adaptation agendas.
- Need for disaster risk reduction/disaster risk management to be one of the pillars in the African Union's peer review mechanisms for regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting of progress.

Expected contribution to the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

After the Fourth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Africa Working Group, which is a regional coordination and advisory group chaired by the African Union Commission, convened in April 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa, to develop and refine the Africa position to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. A regional consultation in Geneva one day prior to the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be utilized to present the outcomes of the Africa meetings and strengthen and reinforce a common African voice at the Global Platform. African delegates will use the opportunity to actively

shape to discussions on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, and will contribute to sessions around community resilience, and drought resilience in a changing climate.

Africa has further developed an Africa status report on disaster risk reduction, which is a detailed analysis of the state of disaster risk reduction in the region, summarizing achievements as well as emerging trends and challenges, which will also feed into the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Africa also spearheaded a review of national platforms in the region and conducted two studies on practical implementation of the resilient cities campaign in the region. The African representatives are looking forward to sharing their experience on these topics and gain further knowledge from other regions and stakeholders.

Africa made significant progress in looking and disaster risk reduction financing and cost-effectiveness, as well as developing guidance for humanitarian actors working in the field of drought risk reduction, when it comes to standardizing drought contingency plans and planning processes, which is a further contribution to ongoing discussions at the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013.

Regional recommendations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2)

- Need for increased accountability and transparency in implementing disaster risk reduction through allocation of responsibility and resources to the local and community levels, through budgetary allocations from governments at the sectorial level and an overall disaster risk reduction budget.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) must be linked to the convention on climate change and sustainable development. Sustainable and equitable development and poverty reduction need to support and contribute to the reduction of disaster risks.

- The underlying risk factors have not been adequately addressed in the *Hyogo Framework for Action*, but need to be addressed strongly in its successor framework to build the resilience of communities.
- Need to focus on national and international information systems on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, including strong early warning systems and national disaster loss databases. Evaluation on cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit need to be enhanced to create an incentive for decision-makers to invest in disaster risk reduction.
- Many government ministries are not aware of the *Hyogo Framework for Action*, therefore strong dissemination and guidance through media or other means is important on the current and future benefits of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).
- Need to ensure that women and children have access to the resource base for disaster risk reduction, equal rights of land tenure and agricultural production to build long-term resilience. Youth need to be engaged in environmental protection and climate change adaptation through relevant information and knowledge, economic empowerment and access to disaggregated age and engendered data.
- Youth should be considered as resource base for disaster risk reduction to promote sensitization and education, both contemporary and traditional, to help communities to use new technologies, volunteer for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities and tap into their creative and innovative way of thinking.
- Communities need to be strongly involved in disaster risk reduction planning, to establish trust and confidence with disaster risk reduction practitioners; communities need local infrastructure, access to markets and services to reduce vulnerability.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) needs to broaden its stakeholders' involvement and include parliamentarians, private sector and academic research institutions for them to play an active role in resilience building.
- There is need to address the conflict dimension, as there is strong evidence that natural disasters can increase the risk of conflict and that conditions of conflict can increase the vulnerability to natural disasters, hence undermine resilience.
- There is a need to develop strong regional and national cooperation of stakeholders among development and humanitarian actors, to achieve long-term resilience, hence enabling an environment in which early warning leads to early action.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) needs to achieve that disaster risk reduction be fully recognized as a development issue; including the possibility for development funding to support disaster risk reduction activities.

Additional key regional disaster risk reduction processes

Africa Working Group (AWG) priorities

Based on the decisions of the First African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Africa Working Group was reconstituted to support the implementation of the Africa Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its programme of action and provide coordination and technical support to member states.

The Africa Working Group, led by the African Union Commission, in its third meeting in Zanzibar in September 2012 agreed on a communiqué for an integrated continental programme for disaster risk reduction and management. In Johannesburg, April 2013, the group agreed on the reports of the Fourth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the round table on HFA2 to be presented by the African Union Commission at the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013. The group also revised its terms of reference to include more partners and geared to coordinate disaster risk reduction and management programmes and projects with those on climate change adaptation and other related subjects at continental and sub-regional levels.

The Fifth Africa Drought Adaptation Forum assessing impact of drought risk reduction measures

The Fifth Africa Drought Adaptation Forum featured methods and tools which measure the impact of drought risk reduction practices across the region. It also provided practical examples regarding impact and cost-effectiveness of drought risk reduction measures. The Fifth Africa Drought Adaptation Forum presented elements of a standardized methodology and introduced broadly applicable indicators that evaluate and aggregate short and long-term changes and trends in drought resilience.



Fourth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania
13–15 February 2013

Introduction

Over 250 participants from 45 African countries and partners gathered in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 13–15 February 2013 for the 4th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Stakeholders from governments, intergovernmental regional organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, United Nations, academic and technical institutions, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Government Organizations were joined by mayors and local governments, community leaders, parliamentarians, youth, media and the private sector – all sharing a common commitment to build the resilience of African communities and nations to disaster risk and adapt to a changing climate.

The 4th Africa Regional Platform was held back to back with the 5th Drought Adaption Forum (ADAF5): Reducing Drought Risk in Africa: Measuring Impact Strategizing for the Future, which focused on methodologies and indicators to measure resilience at the community level.

Summary Statement

1. This Statement has been built on recommendations and decisions that reflect the achievements of African institutions and African leadership in meeting the priorities of the internationally

agreed Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Beyond 2015 (HFA2), Africa is set to lead on a global agenda, fostering new and renewed partnerships with its regions, sub-regions, national governments, cities, private sector, knowledge centres and civil society including youth and women.

2. The 4th Africa Regional Platform (AfRP) reviewed achievements and challenges in implementing the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Extended Programme of Action and identified measures for fulfilling shared commitments by 2015. Looking ahead, the AfRP considered the changing character of vulnerability and the government leadership required to lead on an inclusive process of consultations to meet ongoing and emerging challenges.
3. The recommendations put forward in this Summary Statement aim to guide stakeholders within their areas of interest and their institutional mandates. The recommendations specifically aim to inform regional and international action through the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities in Africa as well as at the 4th session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and in consultations leading to HFA2.

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4. The recommendations for regional and sub-regional action, and the focused insights from the featured sessions outlined below, along with the annexed reports of working groups, partners, and stakeholders, establish a pattern of overarching themes.
 5. ***Africa is a dynamic continent in a period of rapid transformation characterized by changes in economy, society and the environment.*** These changes will be aggravated by climate change. While rapid economic growth can augment resources, it can also aggravate vulnerability. Ensuring sustainable approaches to development can have a profound impact on equity and poverty. Integrating DRR and resilience as part of sustainable development strategies is an opportunity to both address root causes of exposure and vulnerability and protect development gains through resilient development approaches. As Africa continues to transform itself, there is increasing commitment to reduce risk at all levels not least in relation to conflict. The 4th African Regional Platform looked beyond 2015 to envision an HFA2 that recognizes that risk is dynamic and that risk affects different segments of the community in different ways.
 6. ***Communities, in particular women and children, stand at the frontline of disaster risk and play an increasingly influential role in building resilience.*** To act in partnership with communities entails a commitment to eliminate illiteracy, promote education, support public health, food security and livelihoods (through formal and informal mechanisms) as these are central to resilient risk reduction and MDGs. New partnerships with media and the private sector can be instrumental in moving the risk resilience agenda forward. All stakeholders and social sectors should be involved in building a resilient future. The engagement of youth and the inclusion of physically challenged persons bring new energy to disaster reduction at the local level. Strongly supported efforts to strengthen and engage local social institutions, in particular, hold the promise of renewed public commitment to building resilience. Community education and awareness call for coordination across sectors between national and local level, governments and civil society.
 7. ***Safe and equitable development outcomes in Africa are achievable.*** In Africa, poverty eradication, including through access to markets and services, provision of infrastructure, eradication of malnutrition, particularly in the face of recurrent drought, is more likely to be achieved when disaster risk drivers are appropriately addressed. The development sector, including sectorial ministries, private sector and bilateral and multilateral aid institutions are called on to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into their plans, programmes and actions and are called on to be more accountable for their decisions. National efforts to plan for and implement the post 2015 development agenda, Rio+20 and HFA2 can be advanced through integrated approaches by regional sub-regional, national and local governments in dialogue with civil society actors. Most urgently, humanitarian response and development actors should share responsibility by aligning their policies and coordinating their efforts.
 8. ***Substantive knowledge and technical and human resources are already available nationally and locally.*** These must be recognized, and leveraged in our collective efforts to reduce disaster risk. African academic and research institutions have been under-utilized for resilience building at grass-roots and other levels. Local knowledge, local leadership and community relations play a pivotal role in strengthening coping capacities. Improved communications vertically, between national and local level and horizontally among government sectors, can drive public awareness and sensitization about disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The media and civil society are essential partners.
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Regionally and sub-regionally, African countries, Inter-Governmental Organizations and partners must continue to share their knowledge and learn from each other. To further cooperation and partnership, Intra-Africa and South-South collaboration should be vigorously pursued.

9. **Targeting progress in disaster risk reduction efforts at all levels helps governments** better plan, assess progress and learn lessons in a more systematic and informed way. Efforts that support information sharing and transparency are highly recommended to be adopted at national level. Currently, the monitoring of HFA progress is not adequate. In many instances, DRR policies and plans lack good indicators and targets, and only a few countries systematically account for disaster losses and estimate the impact of disaster on the overall economy and society. At the same time, those most vulnerable to disasters need good information about what disaster risk is and what happens to their lives and livelihoods when disaster strikes.
10. **The HFA** has been the central policy guidance for DRR alongside the Africa Strategy for DRR and its Programme of Action. While continuing to pursue HFA1 priorities beyond 2015, HFA2 should build on the progress and lessons learned while providing a broader vision that embraces innovation and changing conditions. HFA2 should work for those most at risk and anticipate the risks faced by emerging future groups. Women and children in particular are disproportionately affected by disasters most often as a result of pre-existing inequalities. Targeting the vulnerable to ensure equitable planning and resourcing of disaster risk reduction measures is strongly recommended as a key issue to be addressed for a post-2015 framework in Africa.
11. **Disaster risk reduction is now on the agenda of every government in Africa.** Governments have the responsibility to create the constitutional, institutional and

policy environments, and legal frameworks, for building resilience and protecting the vulnerable. This includes decentralisation of disaster risks and strengthening of local and community structures. It is encouraging that as many as 40 countries in Africa have established national platforms or coordination mechanisms. These advances must be sustained and the growing popular awareness of disaster risk reduction must be converted into actions to systematically enhance implementation of the Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy and national, regional and international commitments.

12. **Private sector engagement.** In a parallel event on Private Sector Partnership, five essentials for Business in disaster risk reduction were agreed including to promote public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction, analyze the root causes of continued non-resilient activities (and develop frameworks to address these causes), develop financial risk-sharing mechanisms, and leverage sectorial private sector expertise and strengths to advance collaboration for disaster risk reduction among others. For more information, please refer to the full report in the annexes to this statement.
13. Therefore, the 4th African Regional Platform calls for a commitment to focus on the following issues discussed in the six thematic sessions:

Session 1: Disaster Risk Reduction at the Regional Level

Africa has seen high rates of economic growth in recent years with some African countries counted among the fastest growing economies globally. However, the role of disasters in reversing development gains cannot be ignored. While several disaster risk reduction initiatives and efforts have been undertaken, more needs to be done to strengthen them. Against this backdrop, Session 1 focussed on strengthening DRR at regional level with the following specific observations and recommendations:

1. Integrate disaster risk reduction into development and humanitarian agendas in a coordinated and multi-sectorial
2. Leverage existing efforts while initiating new ones.
3. Situate disaster risk reduction as part of the global sustainable development framework and revisit the human development agenda. Actors of development sectors (agriculture/ food security, water resources, environment, climate service providers, planning and finance) should be engaged in DRR policy dialogue.
4. Strengthen cooperation with civil society organizations to reach local communities.
5. While high economic growth has increased vulnerability and exposure to risk in Africa, it likewise provides opportunities to advance sustainable development goals through disaster risk management.
6. It has been estimated that over 2/3s of disaster risk reduction and management funding comes from humanitarian actors. There is a need to balance this with development, including disaster risk reduction and management.
7. The audience welcomed the reconstitution and action of the Africa Working Group on DRR to provide coordination and support implementation of DRR frameworks and programmes for DRR (Ref: Ministerial Recommendation No. 2, 2010).
8. A number of African academic and research institutions already focus on disaster risk reduction. They could form the basis for a network of capacitydevelopment institutions for training, research and information and knowledge management (Ref: Ministerial Recommendation No. 3, 2010).
9. Parliamentarians have taken the initiative to establish a network for the furtherance of

the Nairobi Plan of Action to advocate DRR through legislation.

10. More emphasis needs to be put on the institutionalization of multi-sectorial national platforms for disaster risk reduction and management (Ref: Ministerial Conference, Recommendation No. 1, 2010).

Session 2: Disaster Risk Reduction at the Sub-Regional Level

Session 2 outlined the achievements made and challenges faced at sub-regional levels in Africa. These ranged from policy formulation and coordination to comprehensive disaster risk reduction implementation. The following observations and recommendations were made by representatives of Regional Economic Communities:

1. It is encouraging to note that as many as 40 countries in Africa have established national platforms or coordination mechanisms. These must continue to be nurtured and strengthened through the development of strong linkages with government decision making processes.
2. Significant progress has been made on policy formulation, however, legislation and its conversion into adequately-resourced programmes still remains an issue.
3. Disaster risk reduction needs to be mainstreamed into poverty reduction strategies and programmes.
4. There is a growing need for systematic, multi-hazard, trans-boundary and standardized risk assessments, people-centered early warning systems and preparedness planning. Greater support should be given to risk data management and sharing risk information.
5. Incentives, such as technical support and funding, need to be provided to education sectors to integrate more systematically disaster risk reduction in school curriculums.

6. Accountability should be enhanced through the addition of disaster risk reduction indicators in sub-regional monitoring frameworks.
7. Investments in capacity development at all levels, including communities and disaster risk reduction research need to be enhanced.
8. Investment in urban risk management and resilient cities should be accelerated.
9. There is an urgent need for strengthening coordinated resource mobilization in the different African regions.

Session 3: Increased Political Commitment and Disaster Risk Reduction Investment

There is a broad awareness in Africa regarding the significance of disaster risk reduction and its role in ensuring sustainable development and awareness. However, this awareness is yet to be fully translated into action by the commitment of human, technical, institutional, political and financial resources. Session 3 outlined concrete examples of disaster risk reduction investment and its shift in focus from response and relief to resilience. The following observations and recommendations were made:

1. It was reiterated that political commitment is critical for making disaster risk reduction a national priority.
2. Parliamentarians should work more closely with the executive to achieve better fiscal management.
3. Donor commitment to long-term disaster risk reduction funding needs to be reconsidered in line with new and emerging risks and evolving humanitarian and development agendas.
4. Enhance efforts to engage more with the private sector in disaster risk reduction, in particular building on their role in investment in Africa and leveraging their technical expertise through partnerships.
5. Disaster risk reduction financing should not be the only concern but appropriate

linkages and policies with relevant actors should be developed.

6. Disaster risk reduction should be considered as an investment rather than expenditure.
7. An integrated approach to disaster risk reduction implementation is central to enhancing disaster risk reduction investment.
8. To finance disaster risk reduction efforts, mobilisation of local resources should be considered to complement national and external support.
9. Systematic implementation of the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction is required.
10. The institutional integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change remains a major challenge. Clear responsibilities need to be identified and outlined.

Session 4: Risk identification, Monitoring and Early Warning

Risk knowledge contributes to achieving HFA targets through providing strategic policy guidance and informing disaster risk reduction implementation. However, gaps between risk information and its end-users have been observed, while both generation and dissemination of risk knowledge remains a challenge. Session 4 made the following observations and recommendations:

1. Communities should be at the centre of decision-making on disaster risk reduction as they know how risk develops and how it affects them. Community education and awareness on disaster risk reduction should be integrated across sectors and coordinated between government, civil society and the general public.
2. Resilience is a coping mechanism of the society. Disaster risk profiles at local levels inform what makes communities resilient.

3. Greater support should be given to quantify risk and measure resilience of communities.
4. There is a need for standardization of risk assessments in the continent while acknowledging that the review of multiple methodologies provides a more complete picture of risk.
5. There is a need for the creation and strengthening of risk databases and wider dissemination of resulting information on risk by change agents (media, national and local governments, civil society, private sector, women and youth groups).
6. Existing regional and sub-regional technical centers in the continent can support replication of risk assessment and early warning systems.
7. Disaster preparedness is more effective when backed by contingency funds.
8. Translating early warning into early action remains a challenge.

Session 5: Resilient Cities in Africa

Africa has witnessed extremely high urbanization rates that parallel its economic growth and, at the same time, pose critical challenges for disaster risk reduction, exacerbated by climate change. Session 5 highlighted initiatives undertaken and future-looking recommendations to address urban risks in the region by building urban resilience. The following observations and recommendations were made:

1. Urban centres of infrastructure and assets are, at the same time, growing centres of disaster risk that deserve high multi-sectorial (including health, education, and infrastructure) disaster risk reduction attention.
2. Informal settlements and slums in urban areas are exposed to the highest level of risks, while women and children living in such areas are the most vulnerable to such exposure.
3. There is a need for the development of robust operational urban risk management architecture and initiatives among multi-sectorial groups through the building of skilled human capital.
4. Intra-country coordination between national and local authorities needs to be enhanced, including decentralization of urban governance.
5. There is a need for coordinated urban risk assessments and mapping as part of a comprehensive urban risk information system for development planning.
6. Urban structural measures and services (drainage and sewerage systems) should be complemented by non-structural measures like development of and adherence to building codes for urban planning.

Session 6: Reducing risk; Climate change adaptation and emerging regional challenges

Most disaster losses in Africa are associated with weather-related shocks. Climate change has a direct impact through disasters but also through increasing socio-economic vulnerabilities of communities and their eco-systems. Session 6 aimed at identifying and assessing the challenges and opportunities for integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Africa. The following observations and recommendations were made:

1. Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation integration are vital to achieve synergized programme implementation and develop integrated institutional mechanisms.
2. Institutional segregation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction poses practical implementation challenges. Therefore, there is a need to further develop conjoined policies that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, hence pave way for institutional and policy integration.
3. There is a need to enhance skills for short-term weather predictions and medium-term

forecasts through strengthening of regional and national institutions and leveraging existing global and regional climate information facilities. This in turn should inform disaster risk reduction strategies and programmes.

4. User-friendly and user-customized climate information enhances effectiveness of its application better supports informed decisions.
5. Note and support existing regional programmes and initiatives in Africa that contribute to disaster risk reduction mainly Climate Outlook Forums organized by ACMAD, SADC-Climate Service Centre and ICPAC. These include ClimDev, World Meteorological Organisation's Global Framework Climate Services (GFCS), African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), and the World Health Organisation's Health Sector Regional Strategy.
6. Integrate gender-responsive perspectives, protection and equity into disaster risk management: Women play a pivotal role in household-level food security. They are among the foremost agents of change whose inputs must inform disaster risk reduction and CC adaptation strategies. Develop the capacity of women and women's groups to reduce risks; and to strengthen dialogue between communitybased women's organizations and local and national government officials.
7. Voice an uncompromising commitment to children and youth, by encouraging them to contribute and assist in resilience building initiatives and decisions. Make a strong effort to provide them with information and support to further develop their capacities as agents of change.

Annex Index

Reports related to Recommendations of the 2nd Africa Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction produced for the 4th Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, 13–15 February 2013, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.

1. Summary of the Africa Status Report: “Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa”, 2013.
2. Report on the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa.
3. Report on survey on Centres of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa.
4. Study on Disaster Risk Reduction Investment in Africa. Reports from Regional Economic Communities consolidated at Sub-regional platform meetings on the implementation of the HFA, Africa strategy and Programme of Action and Post 2015 DRR framework (HFA2).
5. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
6. Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).
7. Southern African Development Community (SADC).
8. Intergovernmental Authority on development (IGAD) and East African Community (EAC). Reports emanating from partners and parallel events at the 4th Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction 13–15 February 2013, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.
9. Results of the 5th Africa Drought Adaptation Forum.
10. Report of UNISDR Parliamentarian Group in Africa.
11. Report on Round Table HFA2: Post 2015 DRR Framework.
12. IFRC Africa recommendations for the Post 2015 DRR Framework.
13. Report from Oxfam: ‘The Post Framework: What’s next for Disaster Risk Reduction?’
14. Media Statement to the 4th Africa Regional Platform.
15. Report of parallel event: Private Sector Partnership.
16. Recommendations on DRR by African Youth Representatives.

This event was organised thanks to the support of our partners.



Americas

Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

Background

The Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas reaffirmed the willingness of its member countries to follow the path to economic development, social and environmental sustainability through bold and innovative approaches that allow for consolidation of achievements and advances in the effective reduction of the underlying factors of risk such as poverty eradication and inequality of access among nations and communities to information, knowledge, resources and opportunities.

Despite good progress made in the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action*, the Americas recognized the need to achieve a higher level of political commitment towards the establishment of clear targets for disaster risk reduction that can be quantified and verified, as well as the mechanisms that enable monitoring follow-up. Communities in the Americas need to strengthen their capacity to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change and variability, which can be clearly felt in the region.

The governments and societies in the respective countries which are covered by the Americas reaffirmed the commitments made to the *Hyogo Framework for Action* as well as to political agreements, tools and instruments that prioritize risk management, with particular emphasis in strengthening the national risk reduction systems. As outcome document participants agreed on the *Communiqué Santiago de Chile – Investing in Resilience Accelerating the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the Americas*.

General recommendations from the Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

- Need for monitoring and accountability systems to be put in place for disaster risk reduction activities, against clear targets.
- Need for full implementation of policies, strategies, plans, programs and projects being promoted by the different actors aimed at increasing the resilience of nations and communities to disaster risk and their capacity to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change and variability in the region.
- Urge the different agencies, funds and initiatives that support development, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation need to create synergies, avoiding the dispersal of resources and talent, as well as assisting governments and societies to do the same within their respective countries and sub-regions.
- Encourage actors at all levels to renew their commitment to assume the respective responsibilities towards achieving the objectives set forth by the various declarations of the General Assembly on issues surrounding sustainable development, poverty eradication, climate change and disaster risk reduction.
- Stresses the importance of implementation of related strategies and plans agreed upon by the regional and sub-regional mechanisms such as OAS, SICA/CEPREDENAC, CARICOM/CDEMA, ACS, CAN/CAPRADE and Mercosur/REHU and the respective national programmes.

- Support commitment towards disaster risk reduction expressed in the recent Rio+20 outcome *The Future We Want* to urgently advance the integration of a risk reduction focus within the formulation of sustainable development policies to reduce existing risks, controlling the generation of new risks and developing the capacities to increase disaster resilience.
- Need to recognize and enhance the role and capacity of the various members of civil society, as key actors in support of all levels of government for achieving a higher level of social demand and participation on issues relating to disaster risk reduction.
- Need for stronger mechanisms, with adequate financing, that promote the integration of risk reduction concepts and practices and increase disaster resilience in a continuous way within education and training at all levels and among all sectors.
- Establishing and/or strengthening, with the collaboration of the private sector and other civil society actors, the procedures and instruments, including those of financial nature, to ensure the integration of risk management and adaptation to climate change in processes surrounding planning, development management, knowledge management and public investment.
- Need to enhance public awareness-raising and activism, utilizing the potential of social networks, promote community empowerment in issues relating to increasing disaster resilience, such as the promotion and/or strengthening of campaigns that support community participation in the decision-making processes surrounding development planning at all levels.
- Designing mechanisms that strengthen participation and ensure integration, in programmes and projects, of the interests of those potentially most vulnerable groups as well as of those living with different capabilities, such as children and the elderly.
- Recognize and consolidate the link between the public and private sectors as a key factor in developing disaster resilient companies through supporting the concept of business resilience and the *Five Essentials for Business in Disaster Risk Reduction* promoted by the Disaster Risk Reduction Private Sector Partnerships.
- Establish reliable procedures for the systematic recording and analysis of damages and losses caused by the occurrence of natural or human induced events, and establish regulatory frameworks and mechanisms surrounding resource allocation that facilitate the integration of risk reduction
- Consolidate the Advisory Council of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas including representation of civil society, reinforcing its role to promote, lead and follow up on the advances and commitments made by concerned parties within the framework of global and regional agreements, as well as to guide the organization of future session of the Regional Platform.

Expected contribution to the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be utilized to disseminate main messages agreed by partners in the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for the Americas.

The Americas delegates will further share their experience around building resilience and guiding national authorities in the development of public policies for disaster risk management centered on children and youth. The delegates representing the region will also be able to share their experience in collaboration with the private sector to promote disaster risk reduction in businesses as well as initiatives surrounding horizontal and triangular cooperation in areas of development and risk management.

- Strengthening local government decentralization processes, including through improvement of regulations, mechanism for the use of resources; monitoring and accountability instruments to guarantee law enforcement.
- Better coordination between the government and civil society, in both their rights and corresponding responsibilities at all decision-making levels and implement public policies that reinforce decentralization of financial resources to the local level.

Regional recommendations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2)

- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) should consider lessons learned from the Americas in areas of public policy, disaster risk reduction financing and territorial development.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) should strengthen programmes surrounding education, scientific research and technological development at all levels and among all sectors, and include traditional and local knowledge within risk reduction and disaster resilience practices.
- Encourage Private sector involvement; academy, science and technology link to processes and social demands on sustainability and disaster risk reduction and recognize women and children's role in resilience building.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) should be aligned with different global mechanisms for sustainable development such as MDGs and post-2015 development agenda, UNFCCC and its main decisions related to adaptation to climate change, Rio+20 declarations.
- Integration of disaster risk reduction in sectors with an emphasis of disaster risk reduction in private and public investment projects.

Additional key regional disaster risk reduction processes

OAS Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response: Main Priorities and Commitments

- Take stock of capacities and needs in national emergency preparedness and response systems, legislation and regulations.
- UNISDR Americas to work jointly with the OAS General Secretariat, through its Department of Sustainable Development, to strengthen the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Sub-regional intergovernmental organizations, such as Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), to act as Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) regional focal points.
- Strengthen the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNRD) and the INDM.
- Promote the signing and implementation of sub-regional risk management policies similar to the Central American Policy on Integral Risk Management.
- Help Member States, through the Department of Sustainable Development and subject to the availability of funds, to implement the Plan, and implement a mechanism that takes advantage of INDM's online database.
- Update, analyze, and systematize, periodically, the experiences and best practices implemented and/or informed voluntarily by Member States in accordance with the Plan's recommendations.



Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas
Investing for resilience - Third Session - Santiago de Chile -26-28 November, 2012



Communiqué Santiago de Chile

Investing in Resilience

Accelerating the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the Americas

10 December, 2012

1. The participants of the Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, representatives of the States and Territories from all levels of government, subregional and regional mechanisms of coordination and collaboration, international and bilateral financing mechanisms, organizations, institutions and representatives of civil society¹, gathered in the city of Santiago, Chile from 26 to 28 November 2012:
2. Express our thanks to the Chilean people and Government, in particular to the National Emergency Office within the Ministry of Interior and Public Safety (ONEMI), for their hospitality and support that enabled the success of this Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas.
3. Manifest our solidarity and support to the countries of the region recently affected by adverse events such as Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama and the United States.
4. Reaffirm our conviction that the path to economic, social and environmental sustainable development that recognizes and nurtures the cultural diversity of the Americas requires bold and innovative approaches which allow for consolidating the achievements and advances in the effective reduction of the underlying factors of risk such as poverty eradication and inequality of access among nations, territories and communities to information, knowledge, resources and opportunities.
5. Acknowledge the work being developed in the region surrounding Disaster Risk Reduction, as guided by the principles and priorities set out in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. At the same time we also recognize the need to achieve a higher level of political commitment towards the establishment of clear targets for Disaster Risk Reduction that can be quantified and verified, as well as the mechanisms that would improve controls, follow-up and accountability.
6. Renew our commitment to consolidate the achievements and redouble our efforts to advance in the full implementation of policies, strategies, plans, programs and projects being

¹ All mentions of civil society throughout this document include community and grassroots organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, the academic-scientific community, among others. Notwithstanding, there are several mentions of certain groups in particular.

promoted by the different levels of government and actors of civil society aimed at increasing the resilience of nations and communities to disaster risk and their capacity to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change in the region, American countries considered most vulnerable.

7. Urge the different agencies, funds and initiatives that support Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) to establish synergies, avoiding the dispersal of resources and talent, as well as assisting governments and societies to do the same within their respective countries and subregions.

Renewing the political commitment

8. Invite local, subnational and national governments², the regional and subregional mechanisms in the Americas such as OAS, SICA/CEPRENAC, CARICOM/CDEMA, ACS, CAN/CAPRADE and Mercosur/REHU, the various international agencies and the different actors of civil society to renew their commitment to take on responsibilities towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.
9. Recognize and further encourage the political support and commitment by governments as expressed in the recent Rio+20 Declaration “The Future We Want” to urgently advance with the integration of a risk management focus within the formulation of sustainable development policies in a manner that allows for reducing existing risks, controlling the generation of new risks and increasing the disaster resilience of communities and nations.

² Hereon in the term “all levels of government” will refer to the various levels of government at the local, subnational and national levels; although there are several instances that refer to specific levels of government.

Approach to Actions for consolidating achievements and overcoming challenges identified³

10. Taking into account the discussions carried out within the framework of the Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, we express:
11. Our conviction on the need to recognize the role and promote the empowerment, coordination, cooperation and articulation of civil society and its diverse forms of organization as key actors in support of all levels of government for achieving a higher level of social demand as well as inclusive and equitable participation on issues relating to climate change and disaster risk reduction in order to increase the resilience of communities; in this sense we recommend:
 - a) Strengthening actions aimed at developing the mechanisms, with adequate financing, that promote the integration of concepts and practices surrounding disaster risk reduction and increased disaster resilience in a continuous way within education, training and scientific-technical research programs at all levels and among all sectors.
 - b) Designing and implementing activities geared towards public awareness-raising and activism through the development of communications strategies, utilizing the potential of social networks and the media.
 - c) Designing mechanisms that, based on the existing capacities, strengthen participation and ensure integration, in programmes and projects, of the interests of people living in vulnerable conditions⁴, in particular individuals with special needs, children

³ Annexes 1 and 2 refer respectively to the declaration of the Regional Coalition on Children in DRR as well as to additional considerations suggested by representatives of the academic sector (in Spanish).

⁴ The concept of vulnerability is understood here in an integral way that includes social, economic, environmental and physical factors.

and youth, the elderly as well as men and women living in situations of poverty and food insecurity.

- d) Promoting the design and implementation of programmes and projects aimed at developing and strengthening capacities on issues relating to risk management by the different actors of civil society and recognizing, among other things, the cultural diversity, the criteria of gender equality, the differences between rural and urban contexts, as well as the need to ensure the sustainability of livelihoods.
- e) Promoting the creation of innovative instruments that facilitate collecting, analyzing and disseminating as well as access of all actors to the information needed to support processes surrounding planning, decision-making and investment that include risk management at all levels; information that is appropriate to the particularities of the specific contexts and actors (governments, institutional actors, communities and the population at large).

12. The need to recognize and consolidate the link between the public and private sectors as a key factor in developing disaster resilient businesses, industries and societies; in this regard we recommend:

- a) Moving ahead with actions to identify challenges and propose alternatives for strengthening the public-private⁵ alliances geared towards effective risk management, including risk associated with climate change.
- b) Promoting and disseminating the commitments made by the Disaster Risk Reduction Private Sector Partnerships (DRR-PSP)⁶ as supported by UNISDR,

in order to promote the development of partnerships for analyzing the root causes of activities that generate vulnerability; benefiting from the experience of the private sector in areas of construction, communications, financing, transportation and contingency planning; sharing knowledge surrounding prediction, forecasting and early warning; assisting governments in carrying out risk assessments; and helping to develop standards and procedures for improving resilience.

- c) Promoting the development and strengthening of cooperation mechanisms among governments, private sector and civil society organizations on issues relating to disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in local and national contexts.
- d) Identifying, systematizing and disseminating good practices and lessons learned on issues relating to business resilience (commercial and productive activities).

13. We invite the agencies and coordination mechanisms of all levels of government to, in the context of development planning and management processes, establish and/or consolidate policies surrounding disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change; in this sense we recommend:

- a) Promoting a continuous process for reviewing regulatory frameworks and public policy frameworks at the national, subnational and local levels, with emphasis on the inclusion of instruments for ensuring financing of risk management initiatives, particularly at the levels of local government and of the leading agencies of the national systems; as well as the design of mechanisms that allow for monitoring and verifying the impact of implementation, with the participation of civil society.

⁵ The private sector is understood here as the for-profit segment of the economy and which is not controlled by the State or its dependencies.

⁶ Detailed information surrounding the DRR-PSP's Five Essentials is available through the following link: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/networks/public/psp/essentials/>.

- b) Strengthening or establishing procedures for the use of reliable information as input to support the continued process of reviewing and adjusting the public policies and planning processes surrounding risk management. Such information
- c) would be obtained from the systematic recording and analysis⁷ of damages and losses caused by the occurrence of intensive and extensive events of natural or anthropogenic origin, as well as from the estimates of probable impacts associated with the various scenarios surrounding climate change.
- d) Promoting the development of understanding that stems from the integration of scientific-technical research, the use of traditional knowledge and the experience of local communities for concrete applications surrounding DRR, mindful of sectoral, local, cultural and gender differences.
- e) Prioritizing actions oriented towards disaster risk reduction, with the necessary allocation of financial resources, in those components of the community deemed essential for saving lives, recovering the physical, mental and social wellbeing and health of the population affected by disasters and which therefore must remain permanently operational when needed most.
- f) Identifying, systematizing and disseminating good practices and lessons learned on how to effectively integrate, in the processes surrounding sectoral and territorial development at all levels, risk management and adaptation to climate change.
- g) Strengthening the inclusion of a focus on gender equity and considerations of cultural diversity in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction policies and plans.
14. We invite the agencies and mechanisms of governments at all levels to, with the collaboration of the private sector and other sectors of civil society and in the context of policies surrounding sustainable development, establish and/or strengthen the procedures and instruments, including those of a financial nature, to ensure the integration of risk management and adaptation to climate change in the processes surrounding planning, development management, knowledge management and public investment; in this sense we recommend:
- a) Promoting the participatory design and implementation of standards and indicators to measure the impact, accountability and transparency of applying actions foreseen within the different moments of the risk management process at all levels.
- b) Supporting the development of economic incentives and financial instruments that can be used by all levels of governments for the allocation of specific budgets surrounding disaster risk reduction, including that associated with climate change, in public and private investments, infrastructure development and basic services, taking into consideration the commitments agreed upon within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- c) Working together, among all levels of governments, in the design of strategies to promote investment in the different processes of risk management and adaptation to climate change.
- d) Protecting public and private development investments, including at the community level, strengthening the application of existing good practices, as well

⁷ The process of recording and analyzing should promote the conducting of disaggregated studies that account for different groups in vulnerable situations, for gender equity, cultural diversity and others.

as designing innovative and flexible instruments that include risk transfer mechanisms among other things.

- e) Promoting the initiative of the Regional Technical Donors Group as a space for dialogue and coordination within the region, facilitating the exchange of knowledge for the efficient financing of disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response.
- f) Promoting the creation of platforms surrounding disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change that could, along with the different levels of government, contribute through innovative proposals and monitoring mechanisms to strengthening governance and sustainability of actions.

Surrounding the mechanisms to promote, support and follow-up on the implementation of actions:

15. Highlighting the importance of ensuring that the preparation of the post-2015 framework is based upon a broad consultation process that incorporates the experiences and lessons learned from the Americas in areas surrounding public policy, disaster risk reduction financing, territorial development and participation of the private sector, we recommend:

- a) Informing and inviting parliamentarians and other political and government actors as well as civil society organizations to participate in the consultation process surrounding the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and encouraging similar engagements at the regional and national level.

- b) Strengthening the regional, subregional, national and local mechanisms responsible for DRR in their capacities to promote and support processes surrounding discussion and empowerment of the different actors in issues relating to DRR in their spheres of influence; thereby promoting the implementation of existing action plans at the regional and subregional levels.
- c) Strengthening the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas Advisory Council, including representation of civil society, reinforcing its role to promote, lead and follow up on the advances and commitments made by concerned parties within the framework of global and regional agreements, as well as to guide the organization of future sessions of the Regional Platform.
- d) Promoting and strengthening those mechanisms that facilitate the development and consolidation of initiatives of horizontal and triangular cooperation in areas of development and risk management.
- e) Strengthening the capacities of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR, to, in close coordination with its partners, support and follow up the consultation process and deliberations surrounding the post-2015 DRR framework, reflecting the contributions from all stakeholders at the different levels of government and civil society.
- f) Disseminate the results of this Platform Session and of the consultation process herein carried out which constitute one of the region's contributions to the global process that will be analyzed during the 2013 Global Platform.



Annex 1: Santiago de Chile Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction focused on Early Childhood, Childhood, Adolescence and Youth.

The representatives and delegates from organizations interested in addressing childhood, adolescence and youth in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which are part of the “Regional Coalition on Children for DRR” and participants of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, gathered in the city of Santiago de Chile, from 26 to 28 November 2012, declared:

Given that:

Latin America and the Caribbean region is heavily exposed to multiple seismic, hydrometeorological, socio-natural and social hazards. These hazards are increasing due to climate change, which intensifies phenomena related to intense rainfall and prolonged droughts, which have an immediate and long-term impact on the most vulnerable populations. Additionally, with respect to social hazards, nine out of ten deaths in the Latin America and the Caribbean are caused by homicides, particularly in urban areas.

Disasters occur not only because of the exposure to a particular hazard, but also because of the extreme vulnerability of certain populations where girls, children, adolescents and young people, because of their particular psychological, physical and social characteristics, are in an age stratum in which they suffer in a disproportionate manner the consequences of disasters. The vulnerability is closely linked to the social processes taking place in disaster-prone areas and usually has to do with fragility, susceptibility or lack of “resilience” of the population.

The Latin American and Caribbean population is young. More than 50% of the population affected by disasters and social risk are the early childhood age group (0 to 8 years), children (9 to 11 years), adolescents (12 to 17 years) and youth (18 to 22 years) with their specific needs in emergencies and crisis situations: babies need specific attention in nutrition, hygiene, health care, and protection from trafficking, among other issues. Children need to not be separated from their parents, and school, psychosocial support and specific health care, among other issues, must not be interrupted. Teens and young women in disaster situations and social hazards face increased risk of violence, sex work and trafficking; they need to continue their education which is threatened by a higher risk of early pregnancy and the disruption of their learning cycle resulting in them being enrolled in informal labor.

Disasters and social violence, discrimination, and social inequity, are a major cause of the continuation of a cycle of poverty because of a lack of mechanisms for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in marginalized areas, given that Latin America and the Caribbean is the region with the greatest inequities in the world.

Disasters, shocks and stress factors in Latin America and the Caribbean are increasingly causing material losses, affecting basic social services such as health, water and sanitation, and education. These losses reduce the possibility for achieving basic human rights.

Girls, boys, adolescents and young people suffer disproportionately from the impact of disasters, climate change and social violence in the short, medium and long term. In the short term, disasters and social risk have an impact on their physical, material, and psychosocial welfare. In the medium term, the effect on sanitation and water supply increases the risk of endemic diseases, of

which the most deadly for children is diarrhea and malaria, despite them being preventable diseases. Children, especially girls and adolescents, suffer an increase in violence and trafficking because of the loss of social protection systems in urban areas of high risk and/or because of disasters. Children suffer the interruption of their education which can lead to early school dropout in the long term. As a result of their school dropout, on top of them losing a learning space, there is a loss of security, nutrition, health care, and spaces for socialization and games. Finally, children suffer lifelong psycho-social effects from the loss of their loved ones, their parents, and their pets.

Noting that:

DRR actions centered on children aim to consider disasters and social risk as threats to human rights of children and youth, and to prevent and mitigate these risks so as to continue to protect these rights in all circumstances.

DRR, Social Risk Reduction (SRR) and Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) approaches focused on children aim to prevent and mitigate risks to ensure the continuity of the rights of children at all times, even during disasters and social crises. We take into account that the actions of DRR, SRR and ACC focused on children must consider threats in a holistic, comprehensive and systematic way, which include socio-natural and social hazards.

The actions of DRR, SRR and ACC focused on children aims to reduce the risks for children in all key social service sectors to reduce their underlying risk factors, including (but not limited to) water and sanitation, health and nutrition, food, education, and social protection services, among others.

The actions of RRD, SRR and ACC focused on children must take place both nationally with the development of laws and regulations, and at sub-national and local level, to ensure that policies are reflected in capacities in prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and local recovery actions.

The analysis of social risk and disasters focused on children is the first and most essential step for the analysis of specific vulnerabilities associated with

children and the subsequent prioritization of actions in DRR, SRR and ACC for the most vulnerable in national development and risk management plans.

For comprehensive actions to reduce children's risks and to increase their resilience, we need to work in an inter-institutional way through national and local coordination.

The need to ensure the availability of baseline data disaggregated by age and sex has been highlighted, with a special focus on the most disaster-prone areas. Also, the importance of availability of mechanisms for damage and needs assessment, disaggregated by age and sex, focusing on children and people with different needs, is evident.

Recognizing that, within the framework of the 2012 Regional Platform for DRR, agencies and international cooperation organizations focused on addressing childhood, adolescence and youth – UNICEF, World Vision, Plan International, Save the Children, The RET-Protecting through Education, ISDR and other members that are a part of the “Regional Coalition on DRR for Children” support the implementation of the five priorities set out in the “Children’s Charter for Disaster Risk Reduction” promoted globally:

1. Schools must be safe and education must not be interrupted.
2. The protection of children must be a priority before, during and after a disaster.
3. Children have the right to participate and have access to the information they need.
4. Community infrastructure must be safe, and relief and reconstruction must help reduce future risks.
5. Disaster Risk Reduction must reach the most vulnerable.

Agencies and international aid organizations focused on children's protection, part of the “Regional Coalition on DRR for Children”, whose aim is to provide joint advocacy and proposals for technical support to governments and civil society in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for the implementation of DRR action, **make the following commitments:**

- Promote the implementation of the recommendations from the Children’s Charter for DRR with a focus on ensuring the continuation of children’s basic rights in all circumstances;
- Based on the comparative advantages, work in coordination to support national actors with DRR, SRR, and ACC activities focused on children;
- Increase our efforts to support risk and vulnerability analyses with a focus on children and post-disaster or post-crisis damage assessments focused on children;
- Increase our efforts to provide technical assistance with comprehensive and multisectoral work on child-centered DRR, SRR, and ACC;
- Promote opportunities for children to express themselves, and provide recognition for their engagement at the political level in national, regional and international events which support children’s participation in DRR, SRR, and ACC projects.

We call on the participants of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to act upon the 5 goals on DRR for Children, in line with the “Children’s Charter for DRR”:

- 1. Schools are safe and education will not be interrupted:**
Ensuring the safety of school spaces, and continuity of learning at all times, even in emergency situations, following the strategies agreed under the framework defined by the Declaration of Panama by the 18 Ministers of Education in the region.
- 2. The protection of children is a priority before, during and after the disaster:**
Ensuring mechanisms for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for violence, traffic violation and abuse against children and young people in areas prone to natural disasters and/or susceptible to social risk, through social protection systems as these are higher risk in emergencies and crisis.

- 3. Children have access to the information they need and participate in DRR actions:**
Ensure communication to the public – and more specifically to girls – children and young people about disaster risks and social risks through prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures, communicating and educating from the school to the university levels. Ensuring the inclusion and participation of girls, boys and youth as agents of change for both the present and future generations.
- 4. Community infrastructure is safe, and relief and reconstruction efforts help to reduce future risks:**
Ensure that public and private actors responsible for basic social services such as water and sanitation, health and nutrition, among other essential services, implement measures for disaster resilience and social risk reduction, taking into account the underlying risk factors.
- 5. Disaster Risk Reduction gives priority to the most vulnerable:**
Ensure childhood vulnerability to disasters, climate change and social risks are analyzed at the national and local level and that they are systematically integrated into development and risk management plans. Prioritize child centered DRR actions for vulnerable populations, including communities where people with disabilities reside, systematizing the risks and vulnerabilities analyses at the national and local level. In addition, seeking funding mechanisms and resource allocations for DRR actions that include childhood programming approaches as well as boosting incentives for communities, the private sector and the public sector to invest in this area.

We recommend that the participants of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction act upon the following strategies to achieve the objectives of DRR for Children:

1. Develop national commitments, through laws, protocols, or regulations for DRR for Children

with a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach, both for emergency and crisis management including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for adverse events, including socio-natural and social risks;

2. Ensure the inclusion of child-centered DRR, SRR and ACC in national development plans, in line with prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures to reach the objectives of the Convention on Children's Rights and the Millennium Development Goals, and in disaster management or national risk management plans.
3. Formalize coordination mechanisms for inter-institutional DRR in key sectors through DRR roundtables involving the Disaster Management Agency, Civil Defense, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Social Protection, Ministry of Finance, and institutions of informal education and youth, among others.
4. Ensure technical training at central and local levels, and the implementation of local priority actions in DRR in the poorest and most vulnerable areas to disasters.
5. Ensure the participation of children in DRR, SRR and ACC local actions, and recognize the views of children in national and international policy decisions to ensure their representation and participation in a Conference for Children concurrent with the forthcoming Third World Conference on DRR in Japan in 2015.
6. Support representation of child-centered DRR, SRR and ACC actions with national experiences for inclusion in international policies and agreements, such as sub-regional and international frameworks – namely the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as looking towards the Post-Hyogo Framework in 2015.

Annex 2: Reflections of the representatives of the scientific, technical and academic sector who participated in the Third Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas.

It has been recognized a gap between the development of scientific, technical and academic knowledge, the technological advances, and the management of risks. For replying to this gap four axes of action have been proposed for the period beyond 2015:

1. **Research:** Promote and prioritize research on the structure and management of disaster risk, integrating the relevant scientific areas. Establish programs for local, national and international for governmental and other organizations to achieve a comprehensive understanding of vulnerability, and provide more effective answers for developing DRR strategies.
2. **Coordination, extension and transfer of knowledge:** Ensure that data and scientific results that contribute to disaster risk reduction are understandable and accessible to decision-makers. Promote research approaches that contribute to practical applications for engaging all sectors with their local needs, cultural differences and gender issues.
3. **Integration:** Develop integrated, interdisciplinary and inter-agency projects. Coordinate and integrate the results and existing data generated by universities, research centres, networks and private initiatives and the community working in DRR.
4. **Education and training:** Support and expand programs for undergraduate and postgraduate university studies on disaster risk in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Develop basic rules, standarize and monitor them for these programs, including technical issues, teaching methods and discipline integration.

Arab States

First Arab Regional Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Background

In May 2013, Arab States held the First Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The conference was co-organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Development Programme, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation and the League of Arab States. Funding was also provided by the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The overall objective of the conference was twofold: first, to develop an Arab position on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2), and second, to adopt a set of targets for disaster risk reduction in Arab Cities through the issuance of a public declaration. The conference also launched the first Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, as a regional coordination mechanism for disaster risk reduction.

The holding of the conference was preceded by the adoption of the *Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction – 2020*, by the Council of Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), of the League of Arab States. The Strategy was later adopted by the Arab Heads of States at their Baghdad Summit in March 2012. The League of Arab States also called for the establishment of an Arab regional platform for disaster risk reduction to accelerate the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework of Action* at the regional, national and local level.

The conference facilitated the development of an Arab position for the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as for the consultation process on a post-2015 framework

for disaster risk reduction (HFA2). In addition, participants adopted the *Aqaba Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Arab Cities* by consensus and called for the 21st of March, which was the last day of the conference, to be declared as the 'Arab Day for Disaster Risk Reduction'. It was also agreed to hold the Second Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2014. Proceedings of the 2014 Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction will be presented at the 2015 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Japan.

General recommendations from the First Arab Regional Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

- Critical that governments, communities, businesses and people across the Arab region, start to view disaster risk reduction initiatives as an investment and not as a cost, which will increase community resilience.
- Disaster risk reduction is a core development issue and enabler of development and should be viewed as such and implemented at the regional, national, and local level.
- There is a need to assess risks and develop appropriate programs to reduce these risks. Important areas of focus include urban planning, development of suitable construction methodology, building knowledge and applied research and strengthening regional cooperation and partnerships to strengthen resilience of cities and countries.
- It is critical to equip governments with the information and knowledge base to identify and assess major risks and design a proper policy

framework and disaster risk reduction plans. These efforts should include risk assessment, hazard mapping, disaster loss and vulnerability assessment, land use mapping and planning. Furthermore, risk information needs to be shared with the public via appropriate dissemination and education to increase effectiveness of government policies.

- Develop comprehensive urban development plans as part of a regional or national plan that incorporates climate change adaptation, proper urban planning and enforcement of construction codes.
- Disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development goals at a global level have to be integrated into a comprehensive framework that is flexible, forward looking and able to address emerging risks. This integrated framework will close the gap between the various initiatives and streamline efforts.
- Build the internal capacities of all the national and local institutions tasked with planning, managing or implementing disaster risk reduction. Training and capacity building must be at all levels and in all institutions involved, and has to cover all managerial and technical skills.
- Laws and guidelines are needed to ensure risk assessments feed into disaster risk reduction strategies and policies. Crucial policies of concerns include land use planning, critical infrastructure protection, and risk transfer.
- Disaster risk reduction planning should be undertaken in a comprehensive manner. It engages all stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector, civil society groups as well as local communities. It should also empower institutions to carry out their role by setting the policy framework and by allocating financial resources for disaster risk reduction. Decentralization and transfer of responsibilities and resources to local authorities is crucial for effective implementation.
- The private sector, especially the insurance and construction sectors need to be engaged in the disaster risk reduction process to benefit from their risk management knowledge and capabilities.
- There is a need to establish a platform to engage youths in the disaster risk reduction process in order to leverage their energy, creativity, ideas, and support. Ultimately, this may create job opportunities for youths.
- Women are agents of change and should be viewed as such. There is a need to move beyond the perception of perceiving women as vulnerable category only and start to actively involve them in the disaster risk reduction process.
- Strengthen the engagement of academia in support of disaster risk reduction actions particularly through applied research.
- Disaster risk reduction efforts should give due consideration to strengthening the resilience infrastructure to mitigate human and economic loss. This is particularly important for critical infrastructure such as dams, water plants, power plants, and critical buildings, including hospitals and schools.
- There is a need to enforce construction codes to ensure that homes and offices are not located in hazard prone areas. Such measures need to be strengthened through training and capacity building of engineers and educating the public to build a culture of prevention.
- To mitigate the harsh effects of disasters, comprehensive risk financing strategies need to be developed.
- Important to do risk assessments and expected damage assessment to facilitate development of appropriate reduction, mitigation and response mechanisms with build in risk financing strategies.

Expected contribution to the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be used as a forum to present recommendations from the First Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction. This will include the *Aqaba Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities*. The draft framework plan of action for the implementation of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, which has been presented to stakeholders at the regional platform meeting, will also be showcased. Arab delegates will share their experience in drought management and water and watershed management. The Arab region has also made significant progress in promoting the resilient cities campaign. This experience will also be shared at the Global Platform.

Regional recommendations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2)

- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) needs to consider the importance of climate resilience with a focus on drought and water challenges; strengthening infrastructure to mitigate flash floods and seismic risk; urban risk management; legislation and regulatory mechanisms, e.g. building codes and land-use planning.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) should include performance indicators and stronger monitoring systems for improved governance and accountability mechanisms of disaster risk reduction to ensure that governments across the region can quickly identify gaps and emerging new threats from climate change and other sources.
- There should be an emphasis on drought resilience, as drought threatens the very existence of some of the people in the Arab States.
- There is a strong wish to thoroughly assess progress and gaps in the implementation of current *Hyogo Framework for Action* and build upon it to come up with a strong post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) must adopt a multi-stakeholder approach. It should ensure the engagement of all key ministries including finance, planning and other key sectors. The framework should prioritize disaster risk reduction at the highest level of government and it should be embedded with a transparent monitoring and reporting mechanism.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) needs to establish national risk financing strategies with a budget allocated to disaster risk reduction at both the national and local levels. It should also promote financing mechanisms, which can be informed by initiatives such as the 'Islamic Cooperative Insurance', as well as give consideration to tax restructuring and private sector incentives.

Additional key regional disaster risk reduction processes

Aqaba Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Arab Cities

The Mayor's declaration sets goals, targets and indicators for reducing disaster risks in the Arab Cities. It demonstrates the commitment of the participating city authorities to improve their capacities for disaster risk management as well as provides the basis for advocacy to city and national governments in the Arab region to enhance and accelerate their actions on disaster risk management.

Municipalities agree on targets during First Arab Regional Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Set up a dedicated unit or organization for planning and management of disaster risk reduction strategies.
- At least one law e.g. on land zoning, penalties for non-compliance to safety standards or responsibilities of stakeholders.
- Allocate at least 2% of the city's annual budget to DRR;
- Prepare at least one risk assessment report to guide urban development.
- Prepare a strategy based on consultations with stakeholders;
- Implement at least one public awareness campaign.
- Put in place education/training programmes.
- Build or restore at least two pieces of infrastructure to reduce risk.
- Implement mitigation measures at government offices, schools and hospitals.
- Set up a system to monitor enforcement of building codes;
- Set up an early warning committee.
- Set up community-based urban search and rescue teams.
- Implement at least two schemes to protect natural resources.

Aqaba Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities

Aqaba, JORDAN

21 March, 2013

We, Mayors and Local Government representatives together with National Government Officials,

Having participated in *The First Arab Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 19–21 March in Aqaba, Jordan, and

Welcoming the support by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the League of Arab States, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), and the hospitality of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), which facilitated the mobilization of Arab mayors, local and national authorities. We emphasize the importance of reducing disaster risk in Arab cities and declare from Aqaba the following:

Recognizing that:

- Over 56% of the Arab population at present lives in urban areas (large cities and small towns), while in some countries the percentage of people living in urban areas is as high as 87% of the total population¹;
- The urban population is growing at an accelerated speed of the overall growth in population, while
- the overall population growth rate is also amongst the highest in the world;
- Arab urban areas are a major source of economic and human development for the opportunities they provide in the form of employment, education, health, communications facilities, trade and tourism;
- A well-conserved environment, supported by viable traditional knowledge and skills, considerably reduces underlying disaster risk factors, strengthens the resilience of communities and saves lives, assets and livelihoods;
- Many Arab cities and towns are located in high risk areas, including coasts and highly seismic zones
- as well as volcanic areas making them exposed to disaster risks from earthquakes, flooding, flash flooding and storms leading to losses in lives, assets and livelihoods;
- Disaster risk is driven by climate change due to increased frequency and severity of hydrometeorological incidents including what the Arab region faces from climate change negative impacts manifested in droughts, desertification, flash flooding, and storms leading also to food insecurity. Arab cities and villages are expected to be increasingly exposed to coastal erosion, sea level rise, storms and flash flooding among other climate related risks.

¹ UNHABITAT, 2012: *The State of Arab Cities Report 2012, Challenges of Urban Transition*

- Sustainable development principles must be closely linked to urban development planning across all sectors (e.g. infrastructure, environment, energy, socio-economic development) to increase resilience to disaster through protection and conservation of natural resources (water, land, green belts, watersheds, swamps) with gender sensitive approach and prioritization of most vulnerable population.
- Strong disaster risk management policies and functional implementing institutions are a must to undertake disaster risk reduction measures.
- Sufficient investments in disaster risk reduction activities are necessary to minimize losses, damages and risks and sustain livelihoods;
- Civil society plays a valuable role in strengthening capacities and enhancing community awareness, hence it is important to engage civil society organizations in planning, implementing, monitoring and assessing disaster risk reduction programmes and actions.

Recalling:

- The World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2015 Making Cities Resilient: "My city is getting ready!" which is aimed at achieving resilient, sustainable urban communities based on the principles of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- The Mayors' Statement on Resilient Cities at the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which calls on UNISDR to work with city networks, UN entities and civil society organizations to sustain local preparations for disaster risk reduction and local resilience-building;

Until the end of 2017, we resolve to:

1. Set up a dedicated local unit for planning and management of disaster risk reduction strategies, including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery actions at municipality level;
2. Recommend issuance of legislations and ensure enforcement of laws and regulations with respect to: (a) responsibilities of stakeholders for disaster risk reduction, (b) identification of zones for land-use planning to reduce hazard exposure of city infrastructure, (c) enforcing penalties for non-compliance and providing incentives for compliance to safety standards;
3. Allocate between 1% and 5% of city's annual budget for disaster risk reduction works to be spent on integrating risk reduction measures in all development sectors, strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing resilience of infrastructure and improving community preparedness²;
4. Prepare at least one risk assessment report of the city (including public buildings, schools, health facilities, historic old towns, and cultural heritage areas) to guide urban development plans and decisions, and ensure that this information and the plans for city's resilience are readily available to the public;
5. Prepare City's Disaster Risk Reduction strategy through consultations with stakeholders to define realistic schemes for risk reduction and link it to national strategy for disaster risk reduction;

² According to local conditions, such works may include construction and repair of dikes, flood drainage system, maintenance of green belts/forests, public awareness, early warning, training, purchasing rescue and warning equipment, setting-up rescue teams, storage of relief materials, and or provision of micro-credits after disasters for recovery of livelihoods etc.

6. Implement at least one public awareness campaign to increase the understanding of local communities in cities, towns and rural areas about disaster risks and actions they can take to minimize the risks;
7. Recommend development of education and training programmes on disaster risk reduction in schools and universities and integration of disaster risk reduction in educational curricula;
8. Build or restore at least two infrastructure facilities to reduce disaster risks; a dike, a dam, or a flood drainage system, where needed;
9. Ensure the implementation of disaster mitigation measures in at least two government offices, two schools and two hospitals or health facilities in the city³;
10. Set-up a system to monitor the enforcement of building regulations and land use planning;
11. Setup a municipal early warning committee to prepare and disseminate disaster warning to high risk communities in urban and rural areas⁴;
12. Setup local community volunteer groups and train them to support search and rescue, fire fighting, medical aid, and evacuation operations in case of floods and earthquakes, where applicable;
13. Implement at least two schemes to protect natural resources and mitigate disaster risks; e.g. natural drainage channels (canals, rivers), swamps/marsh-lands, mangroves, forests/green belts, watersheds, where needed;
14. Pay special attention to historical sites and world cultural heritage in the Arab region and allocate resources to protect and maintain these sites to reduce disaster risk;
15. Strengthen joint cooperation among Arab cities and towns to transfer knowledge and expertise across municipalities and local governments;
16. Announce the 21st of March every year the Arab Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Observations

1. We are committed to this Declaration up to the end of 2017. A review will be conducted in 2015 to ensure consistency with the global disaster risk reduction framework to be adopted in 2015 (post Hyogo Framework for Action).
2. We acknowledge that Arab countries are at different levels of development with regards to their disaster risk reduction systems and therefore different cities in the Arab states have differential capacities and resources to implement this Declaration. While all share equal commitments to this declaration, there will be differentiated levels of progress among Arab Cities in undertaking targets outlined in the Aqaba Declaration for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities.

³ This may include: Purchase insurance for critical buildings and infrastructure (city government offices, bridges, hospitals, schools, airports, train/bus-stations, ports) so as to transfer disaster risks from the public exchequer to the insurance sector, and partner with the insurance sector to promote risk insurance for private sector industry and housing;

⁴ This may include: Set-up a multi-disciplinary committee to receive disaster warning information from national and international sources and to disseminate it amongst general public using variety of channels; e.g. media, mosques, churches, community organizations, educational institutions;

Asia

Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Background

The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) is a biennial conference organized by governments in the Asia-Pacific region since 2005. Building on past agreements and issues discussed in the earlier conferences, particularly in the Third and Fourth AMCDRR and the Third Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Government of Indonesia hosted the Fifth AMCDRR in collaboration with UNISDR Asia Pacific office. With a theme of “strengthening local capacity for disaster risk reduction” and three sub-themes, namely a) integrating local level disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into national development planning, b) local risk assessment and financing and c) strengthening local risk governance and partnership the conference was successfully held in Yogyakarta from 22–25 October 2012.

The event was honored with the presence of two heads of state, the presidents of Indonesia and Nauru, and high-level delegations from 50 countries across the region which included 24 government ministers. For the first time, distinct stakeholder groups such as parliamentarians, mayors/ local governments, groups representing children, disabled, gender, civil society, media, academic and research institutions and the private sector fully participated in the conference and prepared their own statement of commitments representing their respective communities. A rich debate on post-2015 development and disaster reduction agendas with full participation of key stakeholder groups and governments was also carried out in this occasion.

The Fifth AMCDRR had the objectives to encourage stronger political commitment and investment for local action in disaster risk reduction as well

as to build on the findings and recommendations of the Third Session of the Global Platform in 2011 which featured the theme “Invest Today for A Safer Tomorrow – Increase Investment in Local Action”. The conference further aimed at establishing a practical and collaborative mechanism for building resilience at the local level among the countries in the Asia Pacific region and to promote local knowledge and practices in disaster risk reduction as a way of enhancing local capacity.

The outcome of the conference was the *Yogyakarta Declaration* that was endorsed by ministers and high level delegations from fifty countries in the region and a set of commitment statements and recommendations from the key stakeholder groups.

General recommendations from the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

- Strengthen laws and regulations, institutional arrangements, and risk governance for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- Link national development planning and financing with local development agenda; make use of existing regional and sub-regional resources for local capacity building; and increase the involvement of multi-stakeholders, especially the vulnerable groups including women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities, in planning and decision-making processes.
- Support local communities to have sufficient financing which, among other sources, could be obtained through public-private partnerships,

and promoting investment in social and physical local infrastructure by establishing contingency budgets as sustainable reserves, and to explore the potential funding from philanthropic organizations.

- Enhance existing capacity and resources for identifying risk and allocating sufficient financial resources for prevention, response and recovery; and recognize the need to adjust priorities for greater public investment in prevention rather than response and recovery.
- Develop schemes for micro-insurance and pooling of financial resources and risk, and promote regional exchange and collaboration to enhance local resilience through bridging existing practical methodologies and practices in local risk assessment and financing. Enhance and support regional cooperation mechanisms and centers on disaster information management.
- Emphasize risk governance through improved participation, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency, and accountability, taking into account the multi-dimensional nature of risk, and that the majority of disasters are of small and medium size. Respect and strengthen existing and/or establish inclusive institutions and platforms by involving key stakeholders in planning, budgeting and allocation of the resources, while considering local culture and practices.
- Commit to disaggregate data and information to ensure the active contribution of risk-prone communities, particularly persons with disabilities, women, children and the elderly, and to meet their different needs. Explore new partnership modalities with the private sectors and the media; and support the scientific community to provide evidence-based disaster risk reduction and incorporate disaster risk reduction in the health sector.
- Identify accountability measures for more effective implementation, political commitment to deliver at all levels, awareness, education and public access to information, improved

governance, the promotion of resilient investments, and the allocation of resources especially to build local capacity; and promote a bottom-up approach.

Expected contribution to the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be an opportunity for delegates from the Asian countries to share the outcome of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and feed in to the Global Platform and deliberations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2). The presence of stakeholder groups from Asia will provide the unique opportunity for well-coordinated and substantive input to both the discussions of the Global Platform as well as a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2). The Asia region will also provide the synthesis of the Hyogo Framework for Action progress and the summary of post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) dialogues in the region, as a substantive input to the Global Platform discussions. In addition, the Asian delegation will bring in experience and expertise of implementing disaster risk reduction in the region.

Regional recommendations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2)

- Taking into account that the linkages between disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development are fairly clear and well defined at the conceptual level, with a sufficient evidence base, it is recommended to place emphasis on integrated planning and action.
- The understanding of the linkages also needs to be equally clear beyond the disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation community, reaching all levels, and different stakeholders such as parliamentarians and

local government leaders and officials, to enable informed decisions. Building community awareness on disaster risk reduction-climate change adaptation linkages is highlighted as a matter of importance in the process for integration.

- Resource allocation for integrated action needs to consider all levels of planning and implementation, as well as in the short term and long term. A specific reference in this regard is made to the national budget allocations.
- With reference to climate change related risk management, both mitigation and adaptation are highlighted as issues of importance to be considered and included in a post- 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) and development agenda.
- The groups of ‘specifically vulnerable’ stress the need for recognizing their capacities and for placing a stronger emphasis on their resilience building. The need for recognizing the productive and constructive role of women in resilience building is underscored.
- It is recommended to acknowledge issues of persons with disabilities and gender as cross-cutting; to be inclusive by consulting and engaging persons in the specifically vulnerable groups in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation interventions, including in risk assessments and risk communication.
- In order to ensure the inclusion of gender issues and the issues of other specifically vulnerable groups in all risk reduction actions, and at all levels, it is strongly recommended to introduce measures to generate sex and age disaggregated information for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- With reference to vulnerability reduction, protection issues of children, women, girls, and aged people are recommended to be included in the action plans for before, during and after emergencies. Voices of children expressed the need for particular attention on children’s survival, wellbeing and protection, with particular emphasis on school safety.
- At the national level, the achievements made in terms of policies, legislation and institutions need to be extended to the provincial, district and local levels, supported with resources and capacity for execution. The importance of the links between policies and legislation for effective oversight functions and accountability is another point of highlight.
- Attention to improving the vertical coordination between the different levels of risk governance: national- provincial- local; and lateral coordination between the sectors dealing with land use, agriculture, irrigation, health, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation etc. highlighted as vital to make risk governance effective at all levels.
- The need for creating conditions for effective risk governance at the local level is identified as a critical factor, underscoring it is local government who is at closest contact with the communities living with risk. National governments, parliamentarians, senators are called on to ensuring the appropriate levels of authority, conducive and enabling legislation, resource allocation, and technical capacities for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation development integrated planning and implementation at local level.
- Strengthening local risk governance with adequate capacities is viewed by the participants as key to successful resilience building in the region, and recommend as the one of the main pillars of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).
- Recognize the trans-boundary risks, and to strengthen regional cooperation to identify and address the trans-boundary issues. National governments are called on to abide by the commitments made to implement the existing

frameworks on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation nationally, as part of the Inter-governmental organizations and in synergies with global frameworks.

- Financial accountability and the accountability on risk reduction outcomes and failures are stressed as important issues. In this regard, it is recommended to incorporate complaint and feedback mechanisms from community to different levels of government in a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2), supported by required legislation.
- In reference to the accountability of the private sector, it is recommended to have measures to ensure the private sector accountability and transparency in pursuing corporate social responsibility and sustainability of the ventures.
- The need for local engagement takes a centre stage in the proposals and recommendations to a post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction – whether it is with reference to risk governance, access to financial resources, skills and capacities, risk information, community participation, inclusive planning and implementation, and accountability.
- Inclusiveness' is emphasized as a non-compromised principle to be incorporated at all levels, with specific reference to the participation of the communities including the specifically vulnerable groups in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring.
- Importance of the continuity of multi-stakeholder mechanisms for consultations, planning and implementation at national and local levels is re-iterated. The role of the National Platforms as a mechanism which can encourage multi-stakeholder, multi-sector participation and dialogue, also including the private sector for resilience building is strongly acknowledged and recommended as a mechanism to be emphasized in a post – 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).

Additional key regional disaster risk reduction processes Central Asia

Statement of parliamentarians on disaster risk reduction main commitments

- Enhance our understanding of the subject through access to available information, interaction with experts and mutual support among parliaments and regional parliamentarians groups.
- Support clear national policies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and guarantee adequate funding for their implementation.
- Make the right legislation to advance the policies, based on a good understanding of the policies and their importance.
- Enhance our oversight functions. Measure the impacts of existing and future investments on reducing risk, both in qualitative and quantitative terms. Hold governments accountable for investing in disaster risk reduction, especially given the limited resources.
- Raise awareness, build social demand and support actions to enhance gender and disabilities-sensitive disaster risk reduction, recognizing the important role and leadership of women and children.
- Support local government capacity building and financing for effective integration of disaster risk reduction into their local development plans.
- Bridge government agencies working in disaster risk reduction and climate change

adaptation and civil society at community, national, regional as well as international level.

- Take action to advocate, sensitize and mentor fellow parliamentarians, who are not familiar with disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, within our own parliaments but also others in the region and globally to sustain political commitment and leadership.
- Strengthen the networking of parliamentarians in the region to address trans-boundary issues and the five main recommendations for a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).

Central Asia meets on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2)

The consultations highlighted the progress to date in national legislation, education and awareness of disaster risk reduction, and the high exposure and vulnerability of the region to natural hazards. The consultations stressed the importance of risk assessments at the country level; the need for resources to undertake risk reduction activities; to raise awareness of disasters through education campaigns and more scientific evidence; to exchange information on best practices between the countries in the region; and to promote cooperation and coordination at the regional level.

Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 22–25 October 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia



Yogyakarta Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2012

We, Heads of Government, Ministers, and Heads of Delegation of countries in Asia and the Pacific, attending the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR): Strengthening Local Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction in Yogyakarta, Republic of Indonesia on 22-25 October 2012;

Concerned with the increasing impact of disasters and climate change in Asia and the Pacific in the past two years;

Noting the Chair's Summary of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in 2011 and the outcome document of Rio+20, which called on all stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*, and the achievements of its goals along with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to initiate consultations on a post-2015 DRR framework and development agenda;

Considering recent global and regional developments, which are expected to advance DRR in Asia and the Pacific, such as the Joint Statement of the United Nations (UN) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the UN-Pacific Island Forum Joint Statement on DRR, the Pacific Roadmap, the outcomes of the World Ministerial

Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku and the Sendai Statement on mainstreaming DRM for Sustainable Development;

Recognizing the role of science and the complementarity of DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) as policy goals and approaches to address risk, vulnerability, and the impacts of hazard events and climate change on people and society;

Aware of the responsibility of governments to reduce disaster risks and the need for the support of all stakeholders to ensure appropriate implementation of the recommendations of the AMCDRR;

Acknowledging the leadership of the Governments of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, and the Republic of Indonesia in hosting the AMCDRR successively, and the implementation of the activities called for by the Declarations of these Conferences, including the progress on the Incheon Declaration, Roadmap and Action Plan that emphasizes the importance of clear national accountabilities in mainstreaming initiatives, scaling up of sound practices, and contributing towards a post-2015 DRR framework and development agenda; and

Appreciating the role of the President of the Republic of Indonesia as the Global Champion on DRR to promote DRR in the process of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Call on DRR stakeholders to:

Participate fully in the consultations now underway worldwide to mainstream disaster risk reduction into the post-2015 Development Agenda and to provide input for the development of a new Post-2015 DRR framework

On integrating local level disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into national development planning: Strengthen laws and regulations, institutional arrangements, and risk governance for DRR and CCA; link national development planning and financing with local development agenda; make use of existing regional and sub-regional resources for local capacity building; and increase the involvement of multi-stakeholders, especially the vulnerable groups including women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities, in planning and decision-making processes

On local risk assessment and financing: Support local communities to have sufficient financing which - among other sources – could be obtained through public private partnerships, and promoting investment in social and physical local infrastructure by establishing contingency budgets as sustainable reserves, and to explore the potential funding from philanthropic organizations; enhance existing capacity and resources for identifying risk and allocating sufficient financial resources for prevention, response and recovery; recognise the need to adjust priorities for greater public investment in prevention rather than response and recovery; develop schemes for micro-insurance and pooling of financial resources and risk; and to promote regional exchange and collaboration to enhance local resilience through bridging existing practical methodologies and practices in local risk assessment and financing; and enhance and support regional cooperation mechanisms and centers on disaster information management

On strengthening local risk governance and partnership: Emphasize risk governance through improved participation, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency, and accountability, taking into account the multi-dimensional nature of risk, and that the majority of disasters are of small and medium size; respect and strengthen existing

and/or establish inclusive institutions and platforms by involving key stakeholders in planning, budgeting and allocation of the resources, while considering local culture and practices; review and implement the development of inclusive policies and legal frameworks and related budgetary allocations to local authorities to build community resilience, particularly human capacity and capabilities; commit to disaggregate data and information to ensure the active contribution of risk-prone communities, particularly persons with disabilities, women, children and the elderly, and to meet their different needs; recognize that appropriate knowledge, information and innovation with effective feedback and complaint mechanisms can build sustainable partnerships at the local level; explore new partnership modalities with the private sectors and the media; and support the scientific community to provide evidence-based DRR and incorporate DRR in the health sector

On building local community resilience: promote, replicate and scale up successful community-based DRR and CCA initiatives at the national and local levels; develop common disaggregated targets and indicators for resilient communities that can be used by governments, civil society organizations and practitioners in developing disaster-resilient villages and communities; enhance the adaptive capacity of communities and local institutions to respond to emerging and future risks; support local level efforts for safe schools and hospitals in cost-effective manners and initiate the global programmes; and refocus development priorities towards building overall local resilience that includes natural, social and economic aspects as well as infrastructure capacities through community-based mechanisms

On a post-2015 DRR framework: Identify accountability measures for more effective implementation, political commitment to deliver at all levels, awareness, education and public access to information, improved governance, the promotion of resilient investments, and the allocation of resources especially to build local capacity; and promote a bottom-up approach

On Reducing the Underlying Risk Factors:

Build and sustain capacities and legal mandates of national and local governments and the private sector to integrate DRR in land use planning and building disaster-resistant infrastructure; enhance investment in natural resource management, infrastructure development, livelihood generation and social protection at national and local levels; emphasize social protection in pre-disaster mechanisms with focus on the poor, women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly; ensure the protection of rights of children, women and persons with disabilities from disaster risk; and encourage child and youth participation in DRR and development processes at all levels

On the implementation of cross-cutting issues in the HFA:

Promote an inclusive multi-hazard approach that considers socio-economic vulnerability and exposure in risk assessments and reduction measures, gender, disability and age capacities and cultural diversity in planning and programming at all levels, and community and volunteer participation in national and local level actions

Resolved to:

Invite the Indonesian National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPb), host of the Fifth AMCDRR, in coordination with UNISDR Asia Pacific Regional Office (UNISDR AP) and members of the IAP to carry the messages of the Yogyakarta Declaration on DRR (hereinafter referred to as this Declaration) to the Fourth Session of the Global Platform on DRR in May 2013 and beyond;

Incorporate the recommendations of this Declaration, into policies, strategies, and action plans of Government, as appropriate, and report their implementation at the Sixth AMCDRR in 2014;

Call on international organisations, regional inter-governmental bodies and institutions, national organizations, National Red Cross and Red Crescent, and civil society organizations and their networks to support and accelerate the implementation of the HFA, in particular the national action plans on DRR, and the priority actions stated in the AMCDRR Declarations;

Facilitate national multi-stakeholder consultations and dialogue in order to contribute to the process towards a post-2015 DRR framework and development agenda;

Welcome the Stakeholders Declarations in Annexes 1-10 and Incheon REMAP progress report in Annex 11, as an integral part of this Declaration and in support of its goals; and

Express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia for their gracious hospitality in hosting and organising the Fifth AMCDRR and welcome the offer of the Kingdom of Thailand to host the Sixth AMCDRR in 2014

Adopted on 25th October 2012, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Annex 1

Statement of Child-Centered Organizations, Children, and Youth

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Annex 1: Statement of Children, Youth and Child-Centered Organizations

We, children, youth and child centered organizations from countries in Asia and the Pacific attending the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (5th AMCDRR):

Recognizing that Asia-Pacific's population is young. Considering that children constitute between one third and half of the population in most countries in the region, their vulnerability is an important aspect of the overall risk profile. Children are typically disproportionately affected by disaster risk.

Noting that child-centered DRR places a child's right to survival, protection, development and participation at the heart of development and humanitarian action. Child-centered, gender-specific and disability sensitive interventions need to be mainstreamed into all community-based DRR interventions and into national and sub-national development approaches in the region.

Recognizing that child-centred disaster risk assessments are an important way of ensuring that the likelihood of natural hazards and child vulnerability are taken into consideration in national development plans. Risk reduction is an investment for safer future; and children are the generation who own the future.

Noting that implementing child centred DRR will help to promote the outcomes sought by the Convention of the Rights of the Child

Noting that progress towards the priorities of the Children's Charter on DRR, adopted at the Global Platform on DRR in 2011, was reviewed at the AMCDRR Pre-conference with 17 children from and 25 youth from 5 countries and through consultations with over 200 children across 7 countries in Asia (Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, Philippines, and Indonesia, Timor Leste, Japan) between July and September 2012. Progress varies according to the country but some common themes emerged.

We, the children and youth attending 5th AMCDRR agree with the five priorities of the Children Charter. We feel that School Safety has made the least progress in our communities. Child protection before, during and after a disaster has also only made limited progress and DRR is still not reaching the most vulnerable such as children with disabilities. We children can participate in DRR activities with support of the local government and NGOs. However children stated that there should be more opportunities and spaces for children to participate, it should be regular, and child-led activities supported with enough resources.

Children felt that the Government, civil society and corporate sector can do much more than what they are presently doing and the children suggested more attention towards them and their needs.

We, children and youth participating at the 5th ACMDRR Conference can take actions:

- We want to be advocates for DRR and share our views and experience. We can do research and inform the results to our friends, families and others at schools and communities in easy to understand language.
- Continue our work towards safe school. We can make DRR preparedness teams at school and help children in simulation exercises. We can conduct training for youth and children in a fun way.
- Want to help children with disabilities such as hearing impairment to get DRR information with hand language
- We want to help with reforestation and making schools green. We will care for the environment and not litter.

At the conclusion of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, **child centered organizations in Asia and Pacific, wish to make the following commitments:**

- Enhance efforts and work with others to identify and reduce disaster risks faced by children.

- Give disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as much attention as emergency response.
- Promote a child centered approach to DRR that focuses on child participation, as well as children's rights to protection, survival and development in the face of disasters.
- Create space and opportunity for children to speak out on DRR and undertake DRR actions in our interventions and advocate with DRR stakeholders, including governments and policy-makers at national and local levels to support participation of children in disaster risk reduction programmes.

We, the children at the 5th AMCDRR call upon participants of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to:

- Include DRR & CCA in the education curriculum. Terminologies on DRR & CCA must be localized and simplified.
 - Local government units must work with children to address issues in DRR and recovery and reconstruction. We need more opportunities and spaces to discuss amongst ourselves as well as share our views with decision-makers.
 - We need resources to support our ideas. We have a lot of ideas on how we can help our schools and communities to become safer and resilient but schools and communities often do not have budget to support it. Empower us with our own regular resources and attention to DRR.
 - Give attention and protection to children including those with disabilities at school. Please do simulation exercises regularly down to village level which has relation with the environment for children and youth. Provide disaster post and early warning system which can be understood by children with disabilities as well.
 - Government should rebuild schools damaged by disasters as soon as possible and make sure we can still see our friends.
 - Build a network with children around the world through children forum
- Child centered Organizations at the 5th AMCDRR call upon participants of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to:**
- Recognize that children have a central role in seeking to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance capacities.
 - Ensure integration of child vulnerabilities into national and sub-national risk assessments and development plans by overlaying child vulnerability data with natural hazard and climate change information.
 - Deliver on commitments made at Global Platform 2009 and subsequently reiterated at the Global Platform in 2011 on DRR Education and School Safety as a first step towards ensuring safety of millions of children in Asia and the Pacific
 - Disaster Management Authorities and related organizations to work in partnership with all relevant line ministries related to social services and child welfare.
 - Support the outcomes sought by the Convention on the Rights of the Child by identifying specific needs of children's protection, survival and development in disaster risk management and promoting their voices and active participation in community-based DRR.
 - Support the implementation of the Children's Charter on DRR.
 - Support the participation of children and young people in the World Conference in 2015 as well as to include them in the post-2015 HFA discussion as a key stakeholder group.
 - Integrate child centered DRR and climate change adaptation in national legislation as well as in a binding follow-up agreement to the HFA

Annex 2: Statement of Civil Society Organizations

Strengthening Local Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction has become an important part of recent discourse as more and more communities are adversely impacted by increasing disasters.

The HFA mid-term review has highlighted the limited capacity for DRM efforts at local level. Review of national-level progress suggests that action at local level was consistently in need improvement, under Priorities for Action 1 to 4. The Views from the Frontline report 2011 too, based largely on interviews at the local level, found “a significant gap between national and local level action”. The report states how progress fades as activities get closer to vulnerable people.

Recognizing communities own ability to respond to shocks and stresses are shrinking. Climate related stresses along with natural hazards continue to deplete natural resources, coping capacities and human resilience. Some progress has been made in mobilizing communities for disaster risk reduction, with visible signs of improved preparedness, however, this is on a more piecemeal and short-term basis and the underlying vulnerabilities persist.

Noting civil society organisations have always raised the concerns, expectations and the voices within the community, particularly in the Asian region. Social cohesion and social solidarity is at the heart of community resilience and CSO play an important role in strengthening and ensuring it. They have and continue to play a critical role in upholding democratic values, serve as custodians of people based development and build community resilience. Successful partnerships with civil society organizations have substantially contributed to innovations, increased reach and investment and ensure inclusion of the marginalized with respect to DRR and CCA at local level. Civil societies in the Asia-pacific are important stakeholders for promoting accountability towards commitments made by governments for the sake of communities at risk.

Appreciating the theme and objective of the 5th AMCDRR “Strengthening local capacity for

Disaster Risk Reduction” and in synergy with the Chair’s summary for the Global Platform 2011 “need for multi-stakeholder collaboration, support to local governments and non-state actors on the front-lines” Civil Society Organizations make the following commitments:

CSO Task Force commits to:

- Engaging and partner with Governments as equal stakeholders in all development initiatives
- Recognize and enhance communities’ capacity, nurture local leadership and foster transparency and accountability towards disaster risk reduction.
- To participate and contribute in development of the Post-HFA framework specially reflecting expectations of the most vulnerable and often excluded groups within communities.
- Share knowledge and experience to build resilience of communities at risk
- Hold ourselves accountable for all actions and commitments

We call upon participants of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to:

- Reach out to all communities affected by both small and large scale disasters and address the underlying risk factors
- Enable and influence view-points, policies, practices, and structures that facilitates local level implementation of DRR objectives in a sustainable manner.
- Actively monitor the outcomes of the 5th AMCDRR

In conclusion:

We call upon the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to ensure community voices, their challenges and expectations are rightfully and adequately represented in all levels of decisions and policy forums.

We further call upon the UNISDR secretariat to ensure that post-HFA consultations are participatory, inclusive and are initiated at local (community) level.

Annex 3: Statement of individuals and organizations concerned with disability

We, individuals and organizations dealing with disability from countries in Asia and the Pacific attending the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (5th AMCDRR):

Noting that despite the efforts made under the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) persons with disabilities and the elderly remain at high risk with respect to natural disasters. A large proportion of the casualties during disasters are persons with disabilities and elderly persons with impairment. This situation is mainly due to the lack of inclusion and/or involvement of persons with disabilities and their representatives within disaster mitigation and preparedness planning from community to national levels as well as within international DRR frameworks.

Noting that in most Asian and Pacific countries, persons with disabilities tend to be excluded from mainstream social activities such as livelihoods and participation in social and political affairs. Community level DRR initiatives are also not an exception to such exclusion. Factors contributing to exclusion include barriers relating to physical accessibility, access to information, and existing social and cultural attitudes. Moreover, the global emergency response approach and current DRR policies exacerbate such exclusion as they do not recognize disability as an underlying factor of vulnerability across communities and, therefore, consideration for inclusion of disability is still at a minimum level. Inclusive DRR considers the whole community, but pays specific attention to persons with disabilities and caregivers since their vulnerability reduces the entire community's resilience towards disasters.

Noting the target population for inclusive DRR are not only persons with disabilities, but also their families as their caregivers. The WHO (2010) estimates

that 15% of the world's population are persons with disabilities. The largest proportion of these people is living in the Asia and Pacific region. Persons with disabilities are often living with their family as caregivers and when disaster strikes, it is family members who are often the only people in a position to provide evacuation assistance to persons with disabilities as well as they can. In such circumstances, and under severe conditions and situations, the vulnerability of the family increases and impacts negatively on the household's capacity to cope with the disaster. Therefore, disability increases vulnerability not only of persons with disabilities themselves, but also of their caregivers. Hence disability increases the vulnerability of the community as a whole. Experience also shows that persons with disabilities can effectively contribute to community-based DRR initiatives by identifying possible solutions based on their needs and experience, which in turn increase the overall resilience of the community. In order to foster maximum effectiveness of collective efforts for risk reduction, it is therefore important to work inclusively across communities.

Recognizing that disability is, therefore, more than just vulnerability. Disability is a condition, which adds to other vulnerabilities creating multiple-layers of possible discrimination and exclusion.

Noting that disability amplifies vulnerability across populations and within communities. From this perspective, there is an urgent need to embrace the issue of disability as a crosscutting core theme within mainstream DRR strategies and to include persons with disabilities within planning and response.

At the conclusion of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Disability Inclusive DRR Network for Asia and Pacific (DiDRRN) makes the following commitments:

We commit to:

- Conduct multi-country surveys on the impact of disasters on the quality of lives of persons with disabilities and their caregivers to fill the gap of the lack of data on persons with disabilities and disaster.

- Compile good practices and lessons learnt of disability inclusive DRR in the region in order to promote an achievable vision of disability inclusive DRR.
- Provide capacity building and regional pools of expertise to Disabled People's Organisations on DRR to enable them to effectively participate in national and sub-national level consultations for the Post-2015 strategy and beyond.

We call upon non-government and government stakeholders participating to the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to:

- Commit To increase awareness that disability increases vulnerability across all populations not only limited to persons with disabilities, and that disability decreases the resilience of an entire community
- To take special efforts to increase and ensure the effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities and their caregivers within DRR planning, preparedness and response. To prioritize people focused end-to-end early warning systems which take into account the needs of persons with disabilities.
- To increase the number of DRR plans which are disability inclusive based on the inputs, needs and requirement of persons with disabilities and their caregivers. Secure and sustain political commitment and leadership as part of the process in developing the regional strategy. Advocate for a holistic values-based approach to DRR promoting the social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups within society.

In conclusion:

We call upon the United Nations secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and Asia-Pacific governments to increase their commitment to mainstream disability inclusive DRR as part of their core programme and to advocate the need to better address disability within the Post-2015 strategy by clearly addressing the disability issue in subsequent Global Platform in 2013 and next AMCDRR in 2014. We further call

upon the UNISDR secretariat to coordinate and work with national and international NGOs and governments concerned with disability and DRR, Disabled People's Organisations and UN ESCAP to realise disability inclusive DRR at national and regional levels in the Asia and Pacific.

Annex 4: Statement of individuals and organizations concerned with Gender Issues

We, individuals and from institutions concerned with gender; issues related to men and women, from countries in Asia and the Pacific attending the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (5th AMCDRR):

Noting that gender relations in a society determine the manner in which men and women are affected by, and deal with disasters and climate change. Although active in all stages of a disaster, women continue to be seen as passive victims and their roles and capacities in building resilience in communities are not recognized.

Noting that gender relations offer advantages to men over women in general; however men too, are also vulnerable in different ways before, during and after disasters.

Recalling the last four declarations of the AMCDRR have progressively called for inclusion of gender responsive commitments and actions. Despite that, desired changes are yet to made. We have increasingly understood how and why women are disproportionately impacted by disasters in the present social and economic context, where poverty, inequality, and other factors continue to make women more vulnerable in comparison to men. Good progress in relation to increased awareness and availability of tools has been made, yet as discussed, the challenges are many.

Noting remaining challenges such as development and DRR planning frameworks are not adequately reflecting gender issues due to existing lack of awareness, commitment, accountability, capacity, and/or resources.

At the conclusion of the 5th AMCDRR, participating individuals and from institutions concerned with these issues, wish to make the following commitments:

We commit to:

- Support national and local capacity development for gender responsive DRR and gender inclusive development planning
- Provide tools and methodologies, suggest a framework and share best practices for gender inclusion in existing processes
- Monitor the gender commitments of the 5th AMCDRR Declaration by national and local government and stakeholders by analysis of 1) ISDR Asia Pacific (IAP) meetings outputs, 2) HFA monitoring, 3) Views from the Front Line Survey; 4) research studies from local level
- Identify existing barriers to inform post 2015 consultations
- Promote independent monitoring mechanisms to assess the level of gender mainstreaming at national and local policies and practices.
- Strengthen the alliances of organizations, institutions, networks, working on gender in DRR, women's group and movements at all levels.

We call upon participants of the 5th AMCDRR to: *Make institutional commitment, more specifically for*

- National and local planning administration institutions to reflect the importance of capturing different risks and disaster impacts on men and women and adopt participatory planning and prioritization processes to address the key issues related to different stakeholder groups. Greater commitment of resource allocation to gender and DRR.
- Regional and inter-governmental organizations to support gender responsive policy and practice change within respective governments, and facilitate the process through multi-country surveys on the impact of disasters on men and women, regional expert pools, capacity building initiatives, and the development and dissemination of methodologies and standards.
- Disaster Risk Management Plans to include issues around gender at all levels including protection and security for women and girls.

Increase accountability, specifically

- National governments to audit government policies, practices and monitoring mechanisms to assess the meaningful inclusiveness of gender concerns.
- All programs and resources mobilized for DRR to include independent, third party gender audits; and use existing mechanisms to secure and sustain political commitment in developing regional strategies.
- Evaluations to be carried out through independent research and disseminated publicly.

Make available and use appropriate tools and methodologies, more specifically for

- Tools and methodologies for sex and age-disaggregated data collection, gender responsive budgeting and resource allocation processes for DRR and CCA. Identification of risks (and special needs of women at all stages of disaster risk management), and options to address risks and resource mobilization should be gender responsive and disaggregated in forming the basis for local risk governance and risk financing. These tools and methodologies should attempt to adapt/improve existing mechanisms.

Create capacity, specifically

- Development partners, Inter Governmental Organizations and UN agencies to continue to invest in local capacity development to integrate gender, providing recognition where progress is made, and in monitoring the process.

- Capacity building institutions and organizations to build pools of expertise with the knowledge to apply tools and methodologies. Attention should be paid to the strengthening and use of existing capacities of communities; removal of barriers to provide space for women's voices in planning processes; identification of risks and vulnerabilities specific to men and women; and cultural specificities.
- Ensure that women and other vulnerable groups in disaster prone areas get equal opportunities for strengthening their existing capacities and resilience.

Increase coordination, more specifically for

- National Governments to plan and coordinate between institutions and organizations dealing with subjects ranging from Disaster Management, Climate Change, Gender and Women's issues, Social Services to Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation etc. to ensure integration of gender as a cross-cutting issue and allocate sufficient resources for a coordinated approach
- Local governments to create/use existing platforms for stakeholder coordination, ensuring meaningful participation of women and other vulnerable groups.
- UN Agencies to provide guidelines for institutional coordination.

Annex 5: Statement of Mayors and Local Government Authorities

We, Mayors and Local Government Authorities from countries in Asia and the Pacific attending the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (5thAMCDRR):

Recall that reducing human and economic losses caused by disaster and climate change impacts is imperative for sustainable and equitable development of nations in the region.

Welcome the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (AMCDRR) as the unique regional platform for governments in the region and all concerned stakeholder groups to reaffirm our commitment for the implementation of the 2005–2015 Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) – Building Resilient Nations and Communities against Disasters and to jointly develop our vision post 2015.

Confirm our consent and commitment to the global agenda in promoting local disaster and climate resilience that has been declared through a number of regional and global statements and declarations.

Recognize the opportunities to advance local DRR and building resilience in Asia and the Pacific, created by, amongst others, the enhanced national policies and institutions for disaster and climate risk management, the decentralization process being pursued by a number of governments in the region and the recognized need to accelerate the HFA progress at local level.

At the conclusion of the 5th AMCDRR, on behalf of hundreds cities and local governments in the region who contributed to this statement,

We commit to:

- Identify disaster risks in all communities, develop risk reduction action plans that are regularly monitored and shared with national governments.
- Take a leadership role in making disaster and climate resilience a bold agenda in local development, through developing appropriate local policies and institutions, reinforcing disaster risk consideration in strategic, spatial, territorial and urban planning, and investing in concrete risk reduction measures in on-going as well as new socio-economic development programs including critical infrastructure projects;
- Invest in building capacity of local administration at all levels and empower communities to assess disaster risk, plan, access funding and apply available tools to improve disaster risk management.

- Promote Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) and sharing of good practices to scale-up DRR activities.
- Promote close collaboration between local authorities, communities, schools and especially among people to enhance people's capacity to cope with disaster during normal time, including integrating DRR into school curricula
- Create mechanisms for participation of all segments of the society in risk reduction and resilience building: recognize the vulnerabilities but more importantly the role and capacity of women, young people, children, the elderly and people with disability to enable their valuable contribution; ensuring gender equality, strengthen the involvement of academia, civil society organizations, private sector, and other actors to advance the knowledge of risk and accelerate risk reduction actions.
- Convince local Disaster Risk Management Council or Board to invest in disaster mitigation infrastructures that mobilize the knowledge, expertise and resources of communities, including of the vulnerable groups.
- Actively participate in the Campaign including utilizing the Local HFA-Local Government Self Assessment Tool (LG-SAT) and Handbook for Local Government Leaders to support the work of local governments
- Create an alliance of local governments in Asia and the Pacific to promote a "Collaborative Concrete Course of Action" for disaster and climate resilience that emphasizes concrete actions by Mayors and Local Government Leaders, the sharing of knowledge and experience and enhancing collaboration between cities and local governments.

We call upon National Governments and other stakeholders to:

Change the mindset, believe that local authorities can prevent and mitigate disasters Strengthen the capacity of local governments and community actors responsible for disaster prevention and

disaster response through an accelerated decentralization process. Create financial facilities for locally-developed DRR and CCA measures, including a dedicate budget line for disaster risk management; provide clear and coherent guidance, mechanisms and capacity support for local governments to access and use the funds in an effective and accountable manner. Develop integrated policies for DRR, climate change adaptation and sustainable development. Consult with local governments in the development of national DRR and CCA plans and policy frameworks. Develop mechanisms to support and incentivize local governments to assess, document and report on the risks facing their communities. Strengthen capacity of local governments in developing multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially in using new information technology platforms to develop and disseminate disaster risk information and risk reduction solutions. Promote a stronger voice of local governments at regional and international forums, both on DRR and climate change and other development forums Collaborate with local media to disseminate knowledge and actions on DRR

Looking into the future, we recognize that the post 2015 Framework for DRR will be a critical instrument to advance disaster and climate risk management for sustainable development in the decades to come.

We commit to:

- Take a proactive role in defining this important future framework, drawing on local experience, challenges as well as solutions.
- Promote dialogue and inputs of communities and local stakeholders in the process and promote systematic approach to support each other

We call for the following considerations in developing the Post 2015 Framework for DRR

- Shift from the still dominant mindset for disaster response to long term risk reduction.

- Accelerate the identification of disaster and climate risks including emerging risks, retain people-focused end-to-end early warning systems as a priority
- Pay more attention to small scale disasters which have devastating impacts on communities, especially poor households and other vulnerable groups
- Address the un-matching capacity of local governments to deal with increasing disaster risk including capacity to plan and prioritize the use of resources
- Ensure a genuine bottom-up engagement for the post 2015 framework, starting with accelerating the dissemination of information and DRR knowledge at local levels.
- Promote the focus on local governments as one of critical responsible parties.
- Ensure the language of the framework would be formulated with local government leaders in mind.
- Pay particular attention to an integrated strategy for both disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to be mainstreamed into broader socio-economic development and poverty reduction.
- Ensure that the post 2015 framework will deliver DRR across both short and long-term. Consider a 20 year timeframe for the framework.
- Focus on the need to define new methods to measure and evaluate the benefits of risk reduction and resilience.

Annex 6: Media Statement on Disaster Risk Reduction

National and local media play an important and fundamental role in promoting disaster risk reduction policies, holding governments and local councils accountable and in advancing the disaster

risk reduction agendas at national and local level. The media have an active role to play in the early warning chain and are essential partners to help educate communities, highlight the particular needs of vulnerable groups and to channel disaster risk reduction messages to different audiences.

The media recognize the increasing importance of disaster risk reduction issues in current affairs and the power of communications in building the resilience of people.

The media recognize the role they can play in informing and educating people including the most vulnerable groups of society about the disaster risks they are facing and are willing to work closer with national and local disaster risk reduction partners to keep their audiences informed and save more lives and protect more assets against disasters.

Regional media organizations present at the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Yogyakarta in October 2012 declare that media should take disaster risk reduction as a serious threat to development and as such commit to:

- Provide balanced, accurate, timely coverage of disaster risks before, during and after disasters
- Prioritize the dissemination of accurate information on natural hazards and disaster risk reduction and dedicate more time and space to report on the causes of disasters and what can be done to prevent disasters
- Network with media peers and journalist associations to convey the message of the Declaration in order to strengthen the resilience of communities

In conclusion:

We, reporters present at the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference, and representing the following media organizations are endorsing the final declaration and will help to actively promote implementation of the priority areas for action in the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Names of signatories

Myanmar Times – Myanmar
 The Global Times – China
 The Phnom Penh Post – Cambodia
 The Daily Ittefaq – Bangladesh
 The Sunday Nation – Sri Lanka
 Waqt TV News – Pakistan
 The Inquirer – the Philippines
 NHK – Japan
 Bhutan Broadcasting Service
 The National News Agency – Nepal
 Tempo Magazine – Indonesia
 Vientiane Times – Lao PDR
 Vientiane Mai – Lao PDR
 Vietnam Television (VTV) – Vietnam
 The Hindu – India

Annex 7: Statement of National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent

We, the thirty-seven members of the National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent from countries in Asia and the Pacific attending the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (5th AMCDRR):

Noting that around the world communities are facing some of the most challenging trends of the 21st century: ageing populations coupled with non-communicable diseases, rapid urbanisation, environmental degradation, uncertainty of climate change and increasing levels of poverty.

Acknowledging the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent's (IFRC) Strategy 2020 describes the importance of engaging in life-saving activities in disasters and crises, while also highlighting the importance of protecting livelihoods, strengthening recovery and enabling healthy and safe living in the longer-term.

Reinforcing the Red Cross and Red Crescent approach to community resilience is in part about bridging our development and humanitarian work through common insights and approaches that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies. Inclusive, sustained,

accountable and participatory approaches, for example, are as relevant to humanitarian work as they are for development.

Noting IFRC research undertaken with the communities we serve, has identified key characteristics which have defined the Red Cross and Red Crescent approach to resilience; *the ability of individuals, communities, organisations, or countries exposed to disasters and crises and underlying vulnerabilities to: anticipate; reduce the impact of; cope with; and recover from the effects of adversity without compromising their long term prospects.*

Noting multiple risks and their impacts on vulnerable people must be considered together with assessments of capacities and efforts to strengthen these. Building community resilience requires the understanding that the level of vulnerability to disasters, crises and shocks is often determined less by the scale of a hazard and more by the underlying vulnerability of people, caused by a set of inter-related risks.

At the conclusion of the 5th AMCDRR, participating members of the National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent wish to make the following commitments on behalf of the Societies from the region who contributed to this statement.

We commit to:

1. Work together with local and national governments, academia, technical agencies, civil society organizations and “at risk” communities to ensure that the most vulnerable groups – including women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities – have access to knowledge and can act upon scientific and risk information, while ensuring they are at the centre of our disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation actions and interventions.
2. Realising an integrated and coherent Red Cross Red Crescent vision and approach to resilience through fostering mindset shifts and looking beyond disaster risk reduction alone

to make – within our means and expertise – a reinforced commitment to eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and achieving equity and dignity.

3. Acting on the IFRC Governing Board decision to target the investment of up to 10 percent of any emergency appeal for the strengthening of resilience work. In achieving this we will advocate to institutional and emerging donors for support to make this a reality.
4. Working and advocating with governments to support legislative reviews that enhance their legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction.
5. Advocate for risk reduction and climate change adaptation as critical elements in developing resilience and promoting sustainable development as part of the international development agenda beyond 2015.

We call upon participants of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to:

1. Work more effectively with all key stakeholders to empower communities by involving them in local government development planning that sets measurable targets and minimum standards for building individual and community safety and resilience.
2. Work in global and local partnerships to strengthen resilience and enact the necessary reforms of governance at all levels to establish national targets and indicators within the post 2015 framework.
3. Ensure a financial investment of at least 5-10 percent of annual local revenue to enable the integration of risk reduction and climate adaptation into public investments policies and planning.
4. Support the Red Cross Red Crescent in this shift towards a more comprehensive approach to resilience, including more

substantive funding commensurate with its role and capacity for delivering sustainable development programming.

In conclusion:

We are calling for a serious shift in mindset and for all concerned to work together to bring about long-term and sustainable change in the lives of vulnerable people. This requires working across sectors. Looking at what we can – concretely and to scale – contribute not only to disaster response, but to risk reduction, public health and sustainable development.

Annex 8: Statement of Parliamentarians

At the closing of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (5th AMCDRR), we, participating Parliamentarians from (*countries to be inserted*), with contributions of Parliamentarians from (*countries to be inserted*) would like to make the following statement.

We concur to the previous Resolutions of Parliamentarians on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, namely:

- **The Resolution of the 108th Inter-Parliamentary (IPU) Conference¹**, calling for international cooperation for the prevention and management of trans-border natural disasters;
- **The Resolutions of the 112th, 113th and 122nd and 123rd Inter-Parliamentary (IPU) Assembly²** that emphasize that disaster risk management is an important element for achieving the MDGs and sustainable development; stress the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework For Action (HFA); and urge all parliaments to foster a strong political will and take actions.

¹ In April 2003, see <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/stcnfres.htm>

² In April 2005, October 2005 and April 2010 respectively, see <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/stcnfres.htm>

- ***The Manila Declaration for Global Action on Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (October 2008)*** that underscores the requirement for risk reduction measures that are gender responsive, sensitive to indigenous knowledge systems and respect human rights;
- ***The Manila Call for Action of Parliamentarians on Applying Disaster Risk Reduction as an Instrument for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (November 2010)*** which called on Governments to allocate 1% of national development budgets for reducing disaster risks.
- ***The Parliamentary Meeting on the Occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (December 2011)*** called Governments to prioritize disaster risk reduction and capacity-building as cross-cutting issues and to give them their utmost attention. Also reiterated parliamentarians' commitment to assist their governments in implementing existing and future climate change and disaster risk reduction agreements.
- ***The Dhaka Parliamentary Declaration (March 2012)***, which commits to mainstream climate change adaptation and mitigation measures into parliaments;
- ***The Declaration of the 7th Asia-European Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP, Vientiane, October 2012)*** which affirms Asian and European Parliamentarians' commitment to address critical issues in disaster risk reduction and management for sustainable development.

We welcome the effort to systematically engage stakeholder groups in the Asian Ministerial Conference and in regional activities

In our role as lawmaker, people's representatives and political leaders, we commit to:

- Enhance our understanding of the subject through access to available information, interaction with experts and mutual support among parliaments and regional parliamentarians groups
- Support clear national policies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and guarantee adequate funding for their implementation
- Make the right legislation to advance the policies, based on a good understanding of the policies and their importance
- Enhance our oversight functions. Measure the impacts of existing and future investments on reducing risk, both in qualitative and quantitative terms. Hold Governments accountable for investing in disaster risk reduction, especially given the limited resources.
- Raise awareness, build social demand and support actions to enhance gender and disabilities-sensitive disaster risk reduction, recognizing the important role and leadership of women and children.
- Support local government capacity building and financing for effective integration of disaster risk reduction into their local development plans
- *Bridge government agencies working in DRR and CCA and civil society at community, national, regional as well as international level*
- Take action to advocate, sensitize and mentor fellow Parliamentarians, who are not familiar with disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, within our own parliaments but also others in the region and globally to sustain political commitment and leadership.

- *Strengthen the networking of Parliamentarians in the region to address trans-boundary issues and the five main recommendations for Post-2015 DRR Framework*

We call upon participants of the 5th AMCDRR and other stakeholders in Asia Pacific to:

- Strengthen the integration between science and decision-making. Consider placing scientific focal point in the Government – both at national level and for regional cooperation.
- Provide Parliamentarians with credible evidence through quality research: make the business case of disaster risk reduction through cost-benefit analysis and evidence of the return on smart investments in local communities; account for disaster losses, define who pays for disasters to create social demand for risk reduction measures and for policy intervention.
- Recognize the role of Parliamentarians and the need to enhance our capacity – to plan, to monitor implementation and to build support for resilience building.
- Consider the adoption of the Monitoring-Reporting and Making it Verifiable (MRV) mechanism in COP, in line with the protocols in each country and involving Parliamentarians to measure progress in risk reduction and resilience building.
- Deliver the pledged funds for climate change adaptation and clarify the plan to mobilize funding in medium and long term and transparent mechanisms for allocation
- Consider climate change mitigation as part of the framework to address the ultimate cause of increase in frequency and intensity of hazards, recognizing that there are limits to adaptation

Looking into the future, we recognize the need to place disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation central in the Post 2015 Development Agenda and any regional and national development strategies.

We commit to:

- Play a proactive role in the local and national consultations to develop the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, in synergies with the Post 2015 Development Agenda
- Raise awareness and promote inputs from people, and
- Encourage governments to link these two frameworks in the consultation process.
- Establish the Asian Advisory Group of Parliamentarians (AAGP) for DRR
- We recommend the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction³ to consider:
 - Developing regional targets and/or minimum requirements for risk reduction and resilience building, taking into account the most vulnerable groups within society. This is important to scale up actions and enhance regional cooperation
 - Enhancing the mainstreaming of climate change mitigation and adaptation
 - Focusing on building resilient communities
 - Engaging policy makers in constructive dialogue to ensure the implementation of international agreement
 - Building capacities of parliamentarians
 - Promoting collaboration to respond to transboundary disaster risks

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- Building capacities of parliamentarians
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Annex 9: Statement of Private Sector on Disaster Risk Reduction

We, representatives of private and public business entities in Asia participating in the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 22-25 October 2012, Yogyakarta, Indonesia:

Recognised that:

The private business sector is an important stakeholder in disaster risk reduction as it plays a critical role in reducing socio-economic vulnerability and exposure to disasters and in ensuring a more resilient economic growth at national and international levels. Strengthening business resilience reduces dependency on government for postdisaster recovery and increases the private sector capacity for pursuing corporate social responsibility and sustainability, and national development goals.

It is imperative and urgent to address the increasing exposure of economies to the impacts of climate change and the prevalence of disaster risk in urban centers. The UNISDR Private Sector Advisory Group created at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2011 aims to bring together a wide range of private sector entities into a global partnership for action that will encompass private businesses, both large and small, multiregional and local business trade organizations, as well as government-owned business enterprises.

The Roundtable on Business Continuity Planning and the Top Leaders Forum: Building an Asian Private Sector Partnership to Make Corporations Safer Against Disasters, held in Manila, Philippines, in May and September 2012, respectively, highlighted the importance of (1) promoting and sharing of good practices in business continuity planning; (2) creating incentives for business continuity planning; (3) strengthening cooperation in the private sector and with the government on disaster risk reduction; and (4) identifying and supporting champions of disaster risk reduction in the private sector.

Resolved to:

1. Support the implementation of the Five Essentials for Business in Disaster Risk Reduction developed by the Private Sector Advisory Group, which includes:
 - a) Develop and implement internal codes of conduct and procedures, support the development of national and local laws, regulations, and policies when possible and needed;
 - b) Leverage sectoral private sector expertise and strengths to advance disaster risk reduction and mitigation activities, including enhanced resilience and effective response;
 - c) Promote public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction to analyze the root causes of continued non-resilient activity

³ This session will be further developed based on the discussion of Parliamentarians at the pre-conference meeting of parliamentarians at the 5th AMCDRR

and develop frameworks to change these causes. Develop financial risk-sharing mechanisms;

- d) Foster a collaborative exchange and dissemination of data: Share information on assessment, monitoring, prediction, forecasting and early warning purposes and action between the public and private sectors; and
 - e) Support national or local risk assessments and capacity-building, and demonstrate opportunities where resilience building is a sound economic strategy towards corporate sustainability.
2. Call on the private and public businesses to:
 - a) Make Business Continuity Planning a priority activity;
 - b) Educate their organizations on the necessity and benefits of disaster risk reduction and building resilience;
 - c) Increase the collaboration of private and public entities to build the resilience of Asian communities;
 - d) Emphasise disaster risk reduction and building resilience for corporate sustainability;
 - e) Engage in Public-Private Partnership related activities on disaster risk reduction in regional forums such as APEC, ASEAN and SAARC; and
 - f) Engage and participate in the 2013 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and in the consultations for the post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
 3. Ask the secretariat of the UN for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to continue to advocate for private sector collaboration in the Asian region, and pledge support accordingly.

Annex 10: Statement of Scientific, Academic and Research Stakeholders

We, Scientific, Academic and Research Stakeholders from countries in the Asia and the Pacific

Recognize the efforts and declarations of the previous AMCDRRs and events through out the region.

Wish to make the following commitments and calls for action on behalf of scientific community in the region.

We commit to:

1. **Research:** Promote, prioritize and advance research on natural, social, engineering and technology aspects of disaster risk in an integrated environment; enhance team efforts in hazard and disaster research, building on existing networks, universities and initiatives; and integrating various stakeholder needs on all levels.
2. **Integration:** Ensure that disaster research programs, policies, and applications are integrated across disciplines, and contribute to enhancing policy-making and capacity building for the effective DRR and sustainability.
 - Actively engage and support scientific and technical communities to inform decisionmaking, and ensure policy is informed by both science and lessons learned.
 - Ensure research approaches have practical applications, are consistent with and actively engage stakeholders from all sectors and are sensitive to gender and cultural differences.
 - Identify and prepare scientifically informed multi-hazard risk assessments and scenarios.
 - Encourage cross-sectorial cooperation that makes best use of available information and technology in an open access environment.

3. **Global Standards:** Develop and coordinate globally standardized open source information, disaster loss data, event documentation and analysis procedures, guidelines and frameworks for integrated and effective disaster risk management and sustainable development.
 - Promote the adoption of standard hazard, vulnerability and risk profiles for use by all stakeholders for integration into disaster-resilient development and sectorial planning.
4. **Awareness:** Raise awareness of decision-makers and the public by promoting effective, integrated, demand-driven, evidence-based disaster risk initiatives and increased advocacy.
 - Improve understanding of integrated approaches to DRR with local, national, regional and global awareness-raising programs, training, and advocacy.
 - Raise awareness amongst decision-makers at all levels to commit to and apply policies, funding and legal means for integrated DRR initiatives.
 - Scale up advocacy with the wider public, mainly through the media and civil society organizations for the development of a culture of resilience, prevention and safety.
5. **Education:** Promote a holistic, scientific-based approach in natural hazards and disaster risk education and training by promoting integration into curricula in schools and communities.

into development. It was signed at the ministerial level in October 2010 by 53 countries and includes a detailed two and five year REMAP.

Progress

The REMAP focuses on three themes: raising awareness and building capacity for DRR and CCA; developing and sharing information, technology, sound practices, and lessons learned; and promoting integration of DRR and CCA into development for green growth. The most significant progress has been made on theme 1 with awareness related initiatives and technology capacity building for multi-hazard early warning systems, emergency response and disaster management showing great progress in many countries of Asia-Pacific. This progress at the national level now needs to be more broadly replicated at the local/community levels. Some progress has been made on theme 2, particularly with multi-hazard risk assessments and data portals and now needs to be more broadly replicated. Least progress has been made on theme 3 at both national and local levels but promising initiatives are underway (including national platforms, mainstreaming guidance and selected sectoral integration) and the theme is becoming a very important emerging area. The REMAP review has also highlighted the following critical issues for Ministerial action.

Accountability

Accelerating the momentum of mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development requires greater clarity of accountabilities and roles and responsibilities among key ministries and agencies. In many countries, ministries are now beginning to discuss respective roles and responsibilities in the context of existing mechanisms such as national

Annex 11: Incheon Declaration, Road Map and Action Plan (REMAP): Two Year Summary Progress Report

Background

The Incheon Declaration focuses directly on the critical issue of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA)

platforms. But insufficient leadership and guidance is constraining progress. In view of the urgency of making of making rapid progress on the mainstreaming agenda, it is proposed that: *Ministers request their heads of state to play a lead role in delineating accountabilities and responsibilities for the mainstreaming of DRR and CCA into development; Ministers should also stress that technical support will be available to line ministries for more effective integration of DRR and CCA into development.*

Scaling Up Through Partnerships

Although most progress on the mainstreaming agenda has been made at the national level, many good, needs-based examples of integration have emerged at grass-roots and city levels, involving partnerships with NGOs, local governments, and international organizations. But these encouraging examples are still relatively few and scattered and have yet to move beyond the pilot stage due to insufficient resources, monitoring and links to national strategies. Partners are interested in scaling up these initiatives in cooperation with national governments and financial resources can be mobilized through active partnerships. In this context it is proposed that: *Ministers encourage good practices to be better documented and replicated through building strong partnerships with all stakeholders and drawing on specialized funds and eventually on regular development resources.*

Regional and Global Agenda

It is also important that Ministers give due attention to opportunities to further the mainstreaming agenda at the regional and global levels: *Mainstreaming and risk informed decision making should be reflected in the forthcoming AMCDRR declarations and post-2015 DRR framework; Ministers responsible for post MDG and climate change negotiations also need to be well briefed on the benefits of an integrated approach on DRR, CCA and development.*

Pacific

Fourth Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management

Background

In the Pacific region there is a clear recognition of the need to include other sectors and interest groups in the collective effort to bring about change and improvement in disaster risk management, which started with the inclusion of the water and sanitation community in the disaster risk management platform community to commence productive dialogue on common issues and challenges, as well as opportunities for collaboration.

The importance of partnership and coordination to integrate efforts in disaster risk management and to avoid duplication and ensure efficient mobilization of resources is being stressed as well as the need to strengthen institutional and governance arrangements in-country in monitoring and reporting of activities.

General recommendations from the Fourth Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management

- Important to strengthen end-to-end early warning systems, building capacity at national level, integrating disaster risk reduction/ climate change adaptation within the educational system and improving collaboration and coordination at regional and international level.
- Need to include other sectors and interest groups in our collective effort to bring about change and improvement in disaster risk management.
- The Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network Coordinating Committee is a good practice mechanism for regional policy development to avoid duplication and ensure efficient mobilization of resources.
- There is need to strengthen institutional and governance arrangements in-country in monitoring and reporting of activities.
- Ongoing need to build capacity and allocate resources in many areas, in particular information management and data sharing, geographic information system and cost benefit analyses to support the coordination role of national disaster management organizations.
- There is need for coordination of community-based disaster risk management in-country, and therefore the need for locally developed institutional arrangements/frameworks.
- Climate change and climate variability science products need to be integrated in to community-based disaster risk management so that actors understand the risks and forecasts, and improve implementation, create incentives for local ownership.

- Ensure any training of trainers in disaster risk management takes an inclusive approach, in particular addressing the needs of those with disabilities or other special needs; improves collaboration, coordination and cooperation among disaster risk management training and capacity building providers, who should incorporate and adapt new technologies where feasible ensuring programmes remain relevant and build on successes across the region.
- Integrated regional strategy for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation needs to be a high-level strategic plan that is sector-focused and therefore needs strong inter-sectoral cooperation with robust monitoring and evaluation procedures.
- Use existing mechanisms such as the meetings of the forum of ministers of economy, relevant sector ministerial meetings and leaders meetings of the Pacific Islands Forum and Small Island States, to secure and sustain political commitment and leadership that is essential to the process of developing the integrated regional strategy for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

Expected contribution to the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be an opportunity for delegates from the Pacific countries to contribute to a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) and Global Platform deliberations. The

Global Platform will also be an occasion for the Pacific countries to share the outcome of the Fourth Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management.

Regional recommendations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2)

- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) needs to strengthen the role of women in disaster risk management decision making, including the commitment from partners to use the gender checklist and other appropriate tools, which have been developed in the region as disaster risk management course material.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) needs to recognize and strengthen the significant role of persons with disabilities in all levels of disaster risk management, including decision making, coordination and implementation with an emphasis of encouraging the national disaster management organizations to work closely with national organizations to support disabled persons and the Pacific Disability Forum as the regional coordination body.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) should stress the added value of science in decision making and reaffirmed that disaster risk management and climate change adaptation must be considered in an integrated manner within the context of adaptive capacity for sustainable development and support countries' efforts to operationalize their disaster

risk management national action plans, national adaptation programmes of action and/or joint national action plans for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) should emphasize need to improve the hazard and risk models to address local level disaster risk management and climate change adaptation interventions, implement disaster financing mechanisms to improve liquidity post disaster for example through the development and strengthening of trust funds.
- People focused end to end early warning systems remain a priority in a post-2015 integrated disaster risk management and climate change adaptation strategy and reiterated the need to investigate slow onset hazards and non natural hazards.
- Locally developed institutional arrangements/ frameworks are needed to guide community-based disaster risk management initiatives articulating the roles and responsibilities of communities, local and national authorities, a code of conduct for partners and consideration/ inclusion of vulnerable groups
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) should integrate the management of disaster risk, climate change and water and sanitation, which is seen far more effective than individual sector approaches, as integrated water resources management provides an important mechanism to bring the components of disaster, climate change and water management together



Joint Outcome Statement from the Fourth Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management & Pacific Regional Water and Sanitation Consultations

17–21 September
SPC Headquarters, Nouméa, New Caledonia

The 4th session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (Platform) and the Pacific Regional

Water & Sanitation Consultations (RWSC) was convened in Nouméa, New Caledonia on 17th to 21st September 2012. The objectives were to:

- Facilitate improved learning by sharing experiences of Pacific island countries and territories (PICTs), donors and development partners through discussions on a range of topics including; early warning, training and capacity building; community-based DRM; DRM governance and the implementation status of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action (commonly referred to as Regional Framework for Action or RFA);
- Enable interaction between the disaster and water & sanitation communities in the Pacific to identify and discuss common issues and strategies at a regional level;

- Provide opportunity for participants to contribute to a renewed regional framework to guide the sustainable management of water resources in the Pacific and the formulation of the integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change 2015 including the Post-2015 Global Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In attendance were representatives of PICTs, members of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network (PDRMPN), RWSC and representatives from other international, regional and national organisations, as well as representatives from the Caribbean and Indian Ocean.

The Platform was officially opened by Mr. Hon. Jean-Claude Briault, Minister of Youth, Sport, Education, Francophonie and Relations with the Municipalities, and Mr. Thierry Suquet, Deputy High Commissioner of the Republic of France. Opening statements were delivered on behalf of the co-convenors of the Platform and RWSC, Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Ms Margareta Wahlström Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Noted:**Opening of Platform & RWSC**

1. it's appreciation to the Government of New Caledonia and the Republic of France for hosting this meeting;
2. the commendation by Ms Margareta Wahlström on the work done by the Platform on strengthening end-to-end early warning systems, building capacity at national level, integrating disaster risk reduction/climate change adaptation within the educational system and improving collaboration and coordination at regional and international level;
3. that this is the first time that the Pacific water and sanitation community has met with the disaster risk management community on a regional basis, and this has provided the opportunity to commence productive dialogue on common issues and challenges, as well as opportunities for collaboration;
4. the need to include other sectors and interest groups in our collective effort to bring about change and improvement in Disaster Risk Management (DRM);
5. the continuing support of many partner organisations in the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network and Water Partnership;
6. the importance of this forum as a strategic opportunity for dialogue and the sharing of experience and best practice in Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change and the Water and Sanitation sector;
7. that PICTs remain vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards, which are now coupled with the added pressures of climate change;
8. the role of Cabinet in embedding risk considerations in national policy;
9. the importance of the Platform in informing the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013;
10. the presentation from New Caledonia regarding the delegation of authority from the Republic of France to New Caledonia with respect to DRM and the full transition of authority will become effective in January 2014;

Pacific DRM Partnership Network Coordinating Committee

11. the objectives of PDRMPN, its role in regional policy development and its achievements;
12. the progress and achievements across the region and by individual countries as measured by the HFA 2011–2013 progress review and this year's linkages to the EDF 10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility country implementation plan development process;
13. the importance of partnership and coordination to integrate efforts in DRM and to avoid duplication and ensure efficient mobilisation of resources and the need to strengthen institutional and governance arrangements in-country in monitoring and reporting of activities;
14. the outreach made by SPC-SOPAC and UNISDR to include the climate change community to integrate efforts in DRM and Climate Change and the recognition of progress at the national and regional level that these communities have made with their coordinated approach was applauded

Rethinking DRM Governance Arrangements

15. the need to secure strong political support when developing, planning and managing strategic change in DRM by identifying champions and showcasing the value of the alignment of DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) actions;

16. and reconfirmed the interoperability and/or integration required for managing incident control between the local, national and international levels, which requires clear articulation of control and command responsibilities to reduce any gaps and duplication of efforts and the adequate resource allocation to such control systems;
17. the challenge to attract and retain talented NDMO staff and the opportunity to create incentives such as training, professional development and travel opportunities to assist in the development of attractive remuneration packages;
18. the variety of options available to countries to improve DRM governance and the coordination between DRM agencies and emergency services, to promote and support community empowerment to manage their risks and strengthen resilience;
19. the challenge faced by NDMOs to be an active/ implementing agency in the wide spectrum of DRM, recognizing that their comparative advantage remains in disaster preparedness, mitigation and response;
20. the ongoing need to build capacity and allocate resources in many areas, in particular information management and data sharing, GIS and cost benefit analyses to support the coordination role of NDMOs;
21. confirmed the need for a more strategic and organized approach to DRM planning and programming at a regional level to ensure that agencies target national priorities and do not work in silos;
22. the need to identify community priorities and integrate into, and/or align with national DRM plans to support and implement National Action Plans for DRM and Climate Change mainstreaming for example by working with “Champions”;
23. the continued challenge of coordination of community-based DRM (CBDRM) in-country, and therefore the need for locally developed institutional arrangements/frameworks so that roles and responsibilities of communities, local and national authorities are clearly defined, linked, strengthened and resourced. These frameworks should also specify procedures that partners must comply with as well as consultation with and inclusion of vulnerable groups (women, children, people with disabilities, and other groups);
24. that climate change and climate variability science products need to be integrated in to CBDRM so that actors can understand the risks and forecasts, and improve implementation, creating incentives for local ownership;

Progress and trends in DRM

20. the progress in the region against the HFA and the RFA with national progress reports from the Disaster Managers by several countries and the use of the report to support of national planning, institutional strengthening and implementation efforts;
21. and discussed the progress, challenges and recommendations contained in the regional synthesis report, including the preparations for local level assessment of progress on DRM;
22. the positive steps by countries and the region in achieving the outcomes articulated in the HFA and RFA and expressed the need to continue these efforts;

Training and Capacity Building

28. the need to ensure any training of trainers in DRM takes an inclusive approach, in particular, addressing the needs of those with disabilities or other special needs;

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- 29. the improved collaboration, coordination and cooperation among DRM Training and Capacity Building (TCB) providers to ensure countries receive the best support possible from all partners working to improve country capacity;
 - 30. the need for TCB to incorporate and adapt new technologies where feasible ensuring programmes remain relevant and build on successes across the region;
 - 31. the example of New Caledonia to integrate DRM into school curricula, reaffirming the need to do so across the region;
 - 32. that the current TCB offerings be reviewed to inform the design, development and direction of future TCB programmes and/or initiatives;
 - 37. the importance of the legal and regulatory framework for WATSAN identifying key agencies/actors and their roles;
 - 38. and discussed the potential strategies available to develop a regional policy framework to ensure the sustainable management of water resources;
 - 39. the importance of strengthening relationships between the DRM and WATSAN community to improve dialogue between the WATSAN and the DRM communities;
 - 40. the acknowledgement by the DRM community of the multi-faceted nature of issues of the policy and operational challenges facing the WATSAN community;

Early Warning Systems

- 33. the significant progress made by a number of Pacific Island Countries and Territories in strengthening their national hazard monitoring and warning systems;
- 34. several PICTs are in the early stages of developing their Early Warning Systems (EWS) and in some cases, had little or no national EWS capabilities and were therefore reliant on regional warnings and/or advisories, especially for hazards such as tsunamis and droughts;
- 35. the developments to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Pacific Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System (PTWS) and proposed new products from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) and the opportunity to validate them during next Pacific Wave Exercise in 2013 as well as test national warning systems and processes;

Joint DRM and Water and Sanitation Meeting

- 36. the strengths and weaknesses in the Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) sector and the opportunities for the DRM community to support WATSAN to embed DRM in their work;

Pacific Islands Fire Services Association (PIFSA) Annual General Meeting

- 41. the commendation by PIFSA of SPC-SOPACs initiative on the Strategic Alliance Proposal and recommended the proposal move forward and be further developed;
- 42. the progress achieved by member fire and rescue authorities and services in the region including the development of fire and emergency legislation and expansion of mandate areas;
- 43. and acknowledged with gratitude the value of partnerships between fire and rescue authorities across the region and with those in New Zealand and Australia;
- 44. the challenges facing member fire and rescue authorities, including ongoing resourcing issues including access to funding, vehicles and training;

Contemporary Issues in DRM (Session 10)

- 45. the need to strengthen the role of women in DRM decision making including the commitment from partners to use the gender checklist and other appropriate tools that

- have been developed in the region as a DRM course material and that partners find ways to use and distribute;
46. the need to recognise and strengthen the significant role of persons with disabilities in all levels of DRM including decision making, coordination and implementation with an emphasis on encouraging the NDMOs work closely with national organisations set up to support disabled persons and the Pacific Disability Forum as the regional coordination body; .
 47. the use of science in decision making and reaffirmed that DRM and CCA must be considered in an integrated manner within the context of adaptive capacity for sustainable development and support countries' efforts to operationalise their DRM National Action Plans (NAPs), National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and/or Joint National Action Plans for DRM and Climate Change (JNAPs), into action and in addition the need to prepare a Pacific summary for policy makers, bringing together the findings of the SREX report, Pacific Climate Change Science Programme (PCCSP) and other recently published material on the Pacific;
 48. The research efforts investigating elements of adaptive capacity in the context of disaster response, given the frequency and intensity of disasters is likely to change with climate change.
 49. the remarkable and comprehensive volume of data and information available to the Pacific islands region through the Pacific Risk Information System (PacRIS) and how the data contained in PacRIS can be used to inform a range of other disaster risk management activities in particular the various strategies and instruments available to countries to support disaster risk financing and the application of the data by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UN-Habitat to understand climate risks and their future impacts to inform urban planning processes;
 50. the opportunities to improve the hazard and risk models to address local level DRM and Climate Change interventions, implement disaster financing mechanisms to improve liquidity post disaster for example through the development and strengthening of trust funds;
- ### 18th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting (RDM)¹
51. progress towards the implementation of the outcomes of the 17th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting;
 52. progress of preparations for the EDF10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility (NDF) and in this connection recommended that the RDM be used as an opportunity for the EDF10 steering committee to hold its annual discussions;
 53. that a proposal to build regional capacity in Damage, Loss and Needs Assessments is under development and is at Phase II of application process to receive funds from the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery and has been endorsed and will be championed by the Cook Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu;
 54. the update on the proposed Roadmap to integrate DRM and Climate Change in the region, noting the timeframe for this over 2012–2015 and the intent to recruit a specialist adviser;
 55. the recent developments of the Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) and its useful contribution to the implementation of the HFA and RFA and commended PDN for collating and housing data and information on DRM and the opportunity to expand to include climate change data and information and support the development of national disaster portals;
 56. the role of the Regional Disaster Managers meeting to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and sharing of experience in DRM and in

¹ For further information please refer to The 18th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting Summary of Decisions

this regard numerous countries (Palau, Cook Islands, New Zealand and French Polynesia) gave presentations on their recent developments in DRM;

57. the opportunity to visit the Fire-fighting training facility to observe first-hand the training and capacity building for Fire fighters to learn about local emergency response coordination and expressed their gratitude to the New Caledonia for this opportunity;

Integrated Regional Strategy for DRM & Climate Change

58. and recognised that countries have achieved different levels of progress in addressing DRM and Climate Change priorities as such the development of an integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change should have the flexibility to be adapted to country needs;
59. that the integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change needs to be a high level strategic plan that is sector focussed and therefore needs strong inter-sectoral cooperation with robust monitoring and evaluation procedures;
60. the importance of the process in developing the 'Roadmap' is as significant as its content. An inclusive, participatory approach should be developed to inform the strategy that is gender sensitive and includes consideration of the needs of people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;
61. the strong interest of the Pacific OCTs to participate in the development and implementation of an integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change noting the opportunity to leverage support from their partners in particular France and Europe;
62. that scientific, technical and research networks in the region are utilised to guide interventions;

Agreed:

1. the outcomes of the 3rd session of the Platform held in 2011 remain relevant and encouraged all partners to continue activities to ensure these outcomes are achieved
2. that countries, and the region generally, are making positive steps in generating outcomes articulated in the HFA and RFA and expressed the need to continue these efforts;
3. that PICTs will actively participate in the Pacific Tsunami Warning System developmental process including in the 2013 Pacific Wave Exercise 13 to validate their national tsunami response plans and processes from monitoring to community response;
4. that PICTs consider models such as Oceania Regional Seismic Network (ORSNET) to strengthen national warning and mitigation capacities through enhancement of regional cooperation between countries and partners to address needs such as the sharing of scientific data;
5. Pacific ACP States realise the opportunities of the EDF 10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility and at the same time pursue with other donors and partners to address gaps and challenges in strengthening national DRM priorities including early warning systems;
6. that people focused end to end early warning systems remain a priority in the post 2015 integrated DRM and CC Strategy and reiterated the need to investigate slow onset hazards and non natural hazards;
7. that locally developed institutional arrangements/frameworks are needed to guide CBDRM initiatives articulating the roles and responsibilities of communities, local and national authorities, a code of conduct for partners and consideration/ inclusion of vulnerable groups;

8. that SPC-SOPAC continue to develop and strengthen the Pacific DRM (Training) Program supported by The Asia Foundation (TAF) and the USAID Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) for the past eighteen years. SPC-SOPAC should engage in discussions with OFDA and other partners to continue a new programme upon its transfer to SPC-SOPAC in July 2013 and the opportunity for Overseas Countries and Territories to benefit from the training programme;
 9. that Pacific ACP member states continue to work closely together with SPC-SOPAC and other partners to finalise Country Implementation Plans for the respective national allocations under the EDF 10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility in early 2013;
 10. that the annual Regional Disaster Managers meeting serves as the Regional Steering Committee for EDF 10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility and that this Committee meet in conjunction with the annual Regional Disaster Managers meeting;
 11. in principle to the establishment of a strategic alliance between NDMOs, PIFSA and AFAC and that SPC-SOPAC table the initiative for the further endorsement at the 2012 SOPAC Division Meeting and SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations in November 2012;
 12. in principle with the proposed programme to develop a regional pool of expertise for conducting damage, loss and needs assessments;
 13. to use existing mechanisms such as the meetings of Forum Economic Ministers, relevant sector ministerials and Leaders meetings of the Pacific Islands Forum and Small Island States, to secure and sustain political commitment and leadership that is essential to the process of developing the integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change. In addition to utilise the opportunity to participate in the review of the Pacific Plan
 14. to have the summary statement of this 2012 Pacific Platform presented to the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in Yogyakarta in October this year and that a PIC Minister attending this meeting be approached to present the Statement;
 15. to encourage those inter-governmental organisations (IGOs) with DRR expertise representing small island states; the Indian Ocean Commission, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and the SPC who were present at the meeting to continue their dialogue to establish an IGOs arrangement to promote the future interests of SIDS through South-South cooperation, particularly recognizing the Global Platform for DRR 2013 and 2015 and the third international meeting of SIDS
- Joint DRM and Water and Sanitation Meeting**
16. that an integrated approach to the management of disaster risk, climate change and water and sanitation is far more effective than individual sector approaches, and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) provides an important mechanism to bring the components of disaster, climate change and water management together
 17. that the water and sanitation sector has a key role in disaster risk management, as demonstrated by case studies of the 2009 earthquake and tsunami in Samoa, the 2011 drought in Tuvalu, and the 2012 flooding in Fiji, particularly in the areas of:
 - a) Provision and maintenance of safe drinking water and sanitation;
 - b) Technical advice, monitoring and assessment;

- c) Planning for resilience;
- d) Supporting resilient communities;
- e) Early warning systems;
- f) Developing innovative approaches and technologies; and
- g) Participation in disaster response.
18. that the capacity of the water and sanitation sector to adequately fulfil these roles varies across PICTs, however there is a clear need for this capacity to be significantly strengthened through targeted resourcing and collaboration with the broader disaster management and climate change communities, including through existing multi-sector coordination mechanisms
19. that there is also a need to harmonize efforts with the disaster management and climate change communities in order to more effectively address issues and resource solutions, particularly in regard to the above key roles
20. that the value of recent productive dialogue with DRM and CCA justifies an ongoing effort to maintain and develop this evolving partnership and continue the dialogue on the development of both the integrated regional strategy for DRM and Climate Change and the regional framework to guide the sustainable management of water resources, including potentially through participation in the 2013 Pacific Platform for DRM process
- Regional Water & Sanitation Consultations**
21. that significantly increased efforts are required by all to secure the fundamental human right to access to safe drinking water and sanitation for the people of the Pacific
22. that despite good progress on the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation services, in general these efforts have been offset by mounting pressures affecting the region, including population growth, urbanization and economic development, compounded by the impacts of climate variability and natural hazards, and further exacerbated by the emerging impacts of climate change
23. that there is much to learn from the experiences of member countries and the outcomes of initiatives and demonstration projects, including those developed in atoll islands and in the Overseas Countries and Territories, and there is particular value in consolidating the various approaches to enable effective knowledge sharing and potential replication
24. that many sanitation systems currently used in the region consume potable water supplies and discharge significant pollutants to groundwater and ultimately to streams and coastal waters leading to significant remediation requirements, and these impacts should be fully considered by decision makers and users when planning and designing water and sanitation services
25. that community ownership and engagement are crucial to the success of water and sanitation improvement efforts, and the design and implementation of water and sanitation solutions should include measures to enable the effective participation of communities at all stages
26. that the need to improve data gathering, management and communication is critical, as a lack of useful data is limiting the ability to provide effective advice on risks and their management, and a greater commitment is required to improving this function
27. that reporting on MDG water and sanitation indicators and the post-2015 sustainable development indicators are important to

countries in the region and stakeholders, however there is a need for more support to countries on how to better report on these indicators and how this may be achieved through the national and regional indicator frameworks

28. that the development of national water and sanitation indicators that are comparable across countries would provide greater transparency and important support to higher political and intersectoral awareness, with presentation summarised at a regional level reflecting national priorities
29. that there is a need for continued collaborative and adequately resourced efforts to update the Pacific Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Water Management (Pacific RAP) in accordance with the country directive given through the SOPAC Governing Council in 2010
30. that there is a need for the updated RAP to identify practical strategies that address the most critical water and sanitation issues in the light of evolving global frameworks (such as Rio+20) and emerging pressures identified in national and regional outlook assessments
31. The Pacific OCTs expressed a strong interest in participating more actively in the Pacific RAP updating process and noted their need to better explain to member countries and SOPAC their own specific circumstances in the area of water management. They also mentioned the possibility of sharing their technical expertise.

The representatives of PICTs and partners expressed their deep gratitude to the Government of New Caledonia for hosting the Pacific Platform for DRM and RWSC.

Europe

Third Annual Meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction

Background

Europe has widely acknowledged the *Hyogo Framework of Action* as the main inspiration for knowledge, practice implementation, experience and the science of disaster risk reduction, but has experienced challenges in measuring success. Responsibilities and accountability in the governance arrangements would benefit from close collaboration between designated national governmental counterparts on disaster risk reduction issues and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. There is also a lack of minimum standards or principles around disaster risk reduction.

The European Commission continues to support and help build a culture of prevention through guidelines on minimum standards for disaster prevention, through European Union support for good practice exchange, including exchange of experts and peer reviews; and the broadening of the training programme.

At international level, the European Commission has been strongly engaged in the Rio+20 outcomes and follow-up and the G20 disaster risk management priorities. It will also contribute actively to a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) consultation process in the context of relevant European Union priorities, such as disaster risk management, resilience, economic growth and sustainable development.

General recommendations from the Third Annual Meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Need for dialogue between the national institutions/national platforms working on disaster risk reduction and institutions taking the lead in discussions and consultations on global agreements such as a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2), to ensure that the view of the government as a whole is reflected.
- Need to use existing and active forums like the European Commission and the EUROPA Major Hazard Agreement of the Council of Europe to help linking and integration of disaster risk reduction, resilience-building, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.
- Confirmation that the pillars and priorities of the *Hyogo Framework for Action* remain valid, in particular the combination of hazard-based approach, institutional responsibilities and science-based perspectives and the reflection of humanitarian and emergency responses.
- Recommends reviewing the monitoring and reporting system for the *Hyogo Framework for Action* to greatly simplify the language to ensure use by multi-sectorial actors at the national level.

Expected contribution to the Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

European delegates will further have the opportunity to exchange experience on the successful integration of disaster risk reduction into education, as well as collaboration with regional entities such as the European Union. There is a need to look at technological hazards, as the Fukushima emergency has shown, as part of the overall picture in addressing vulnerability and building resilience to disasters.

Regional recommendations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2)

- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) needs to link disaster risk reduction, resilience and sustainable development.
- There is a need to measure success based on targets, indicators and baselines to guide implementation, as well as there is need for clear methodologies around risk assessments, and enhanced disaster risk information for the public and individuals.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) needs to clarify responsibilities and enhance political commitment and accountability of different national institutions and ministries to integrate or mainstream disaster risk reduction into finance, planning, development and sector-based institutions (e.g. health, education, agriculture).
- There is need for minimum standards or principles around disaster risk reduction, to enhance accountability, and there is need to interlink and clarify the different responsibilities between local, national, regional and global levels.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) should be formulated in an accessible, communicative language, which is simple to use, and should focus on increasing awareness, education and transparency of disaster risk reduction. An example could be the commitment to publish flood risk maps for the public etc.
- A post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) should recognize technological hazards (like the Fukushima emergency) in addressing vulnerability and building resilience to disasters.

Additional key regional disaster risk reduction processes

Selected main commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Harmonization of the Regional Activities in Prevention of the Natural and Man-made Disaster (for full joint statement see <http://preventionweb.net/go/23637>)

- Prevention and preparedness actions should be based on the existing knowledge, and on disaster loss national databases having in mind the actions already taken in the region of South East Europe. The support of the international partners should aim to complement and further strengthen national initiatives and cooperation among the States to avoid duplication and enhance the capability of the countries to reduce the risk of disasters and respond to them.
- States should continue to share and make available best practices and lessons learnt, and exchange information, views and experience with international partners with the aim of developing a common approach to disaster and emergency management and specifically disaster risk reduction challenges within the region.
- Development of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation should be further strengthened; as well as the regional cooperation between the governmental organizations, civil society and scientific and academic community of the SEE countries.
- States shall support their national disaster and emergency management authorities to further strengthen capacities with the aim of building community resilience to reduce the risk of disasters including preparedness, also in the framework of further enhancement of bilateral cooperation.

- States shall use this opportunity to invite all partners from the international community involved in disaster risk reduction and emergency management to promote synergy and compatibility, thereby further enhancing regional cooperation and collaboration in this field, as well as growth and prosperity of the individuals and the communities.
- Recognizing that the risks of disasters are increasing in the South East Europe region, we are committed to find a regional approach to enhance resilience and reduce risks posed by disasters in cooperation with international organizations and donor countries.

The European Union's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives – Resolution On the future global approach to ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future – The Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions is the voice of regions and cities in the European Union and it adopted a resolution on future global approach to sustainable development on 12 April 2013 during the 100th plenary session in Committee of the Regions. The resolution developed specifically indicated disaster risk reduction as a key area to be addressed at the local/city level to achieve sustainable development. The *Resolution On the future global approach to ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future* contains language on natural and man-made disasters, prevention activities and resilient cities (Paragraph 21). (for full resolution text see: www.cor.europa.eu)

COE: Making cities resilient resolution 339

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities resolution 339 affirms its commitment to disaster risk reduction and that its objectives are

fully in line with those of the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign to raise the awareness of citizens and governments, use local government budgets, and include disaster risk reduction in participatory development and planning processes; it calls on local and regional authorities in Council of Europe member states:

- to sign up to the Making Cities Resilient campaign and thereby share best practices with other cities;
- to adopt an integrated approach to the issues of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- to boost their capacity in terms of building resilience to climate change and natural disasters, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation;
- to draw up and implement strategic programmes and action plans based on the integrated management system.

Venice Declaration on building resilience at the local level towards protected cultural heritage and climate change adaptation strategies

UNISDR Europe and the City of Venice jointly organized an international conference in March 2012 titled “Building cities’ resilience to disasters: protecting cultural heritage and adapting to climate change”. As an outcome of the event and the joint commitment to reduce vulnerability to disasters at the local level, the Venice Declaration on building resilience at the local level towards protected cultural heritage and climate change adaptation strategies was adopted. The Venice Declaration focuses on raising awareness and taking action on resilience vis-à-vis cultural heritage in a changing climate. The cultural heritage and disaster risk reduction dimension has proven to be of relevance and concern in the Europe Region. For full declaration text see: <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/25027>.

European Union strategy on adaptation to climate change

The European Union adopted a package to advance action on adaptation to climate change: firstly, the European Union strategy on adaptation to climate change sets out a framework and mechanisms for taking the European Union’s preparedness for current and future climate impacts to a new level; in a related measure, the Commission adopted a Green Paper on insurance in the context of natural and man-made disasters. For full communication text, see: http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/what/docs/com_2013_216_en.pdf.

Directive of the European Parliament and the Council – Environmental Impact Assessment – EIA Directive

Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, as amended known as the “EIA” (environmental impact assessment) Directive, contains a legal requirement that an environmental assessment to be carried out by the competent national authority for certain projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location, before development consent is given. Directives lay down certain end results that must be achieved in every Member State. National authorities have to adapt their laws to meet these goals, but are free to decide how to do so. The directive requires mandatory ex-post monitoring for projects that will have significant adverse environmental effects with the purpose of assessing the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation and compensation measures. This is relevant for addressing impacts related to new challenges such as climate change and disaster risks. For language on the EU Directive, please see: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/COM-2012-628.pdf>.

European Commission: The European Union approach to resilience – Learning from food security crises

A communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, proposing 10 steps to increase resilience in food insecure and disaster prone countries. This includes the promotion of resilience in international fora such as the Rio Conventions, the process for revision of the Millennium Development Goals, the development of Sustainable Development Goals and discussions on the follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action of 2005–2015, among others. The European Union will also feature resilience as a key theme in its partnerships with organisations such as FAO, IFAD and WFP, as well as UNISDR, the World Bank, and civil society organisations. The communication also elaborates on: (i) the need to address chronic vulnerability; (ii) the resilience paradigm; (iii) the European Union's experience in dealing with resilience and food crises in Africa; and (iv) learning from experience. For full communication text see: <http://preventionweb.net/go/28852> and http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/resilience/com_2012_586_resilience_en.pdf.

Third Annual Meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)

1–3 October 2012, Dubrovnik, Republic of Croatia



The 3rd Annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) was attended by 60 participants from 27 European countries and by representatives from regional/sub-regional organizations that form part of the EFDRR, namely: Council of Europe (EUR-OPA), European Commission (EC), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE). There are now 21 National Platforms (NPs) in Europe, and 35 countries with a Hyogo Framework for Action Focal Point.

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by Mr. Zlatko Gareljčić, Defense Advisor to the President of Croatia; Mr. Ranko Ostojić, Minister of Interior; Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG), UNISDR; Ms. Dubravka Pleić Marković, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs; and Mr. Jadran Perinić, Director of the National Protection and Rescue Directorate.

Zlatko Gareljčić, Defense Advisor to the President of Croatia, highlighted the importance of advocating for the lowering of disaster risk by keeping citizens aware of realistic threats. The key to success is cooperation among different stakeholders.

Ranko Ostojić, Minister of Interior, indicated that the next two years will be very important to

defining the global directions of disaster risk reduction. He stressed the fact that Europe will be actively involved in this process.

Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR, emphasized that regional and national consultations are key to a sound post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. EFDRR working groups are truly enabling the advance of policy dialogue in Europe.

Dubravka Pleić Marković, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, urged for information sharing on DRR to also be across regional and cross-bordering initiatives.

Jadran Perinić, Director of the National Protection and Rescue Directorate (NPRD), ensured that a special current focus for NPRD is dealing with disaster risk reduction at community level.

2. Champion of Local Change Award

The Croatian educator Sunèana Jokic received the first “Champion of Local Change” Award for her work in raising awareness of disaster risk with a special focus on children and young people – particularly special-needs children. The award was inspired by the United States’ “Champion of Change”¹ programme and is meant for either an individual or

¹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/champions>

groups of individuals that are recognized for the work they are doing to improve their communities in terms of building disaster resilience.

Ms. Jokic was the Director of the Lièe Faraguna Center in Labin, specializing in elementary education and pupils with mild, moderate and severe learning disabilities. She has pushed for inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the school curriculum, especially in lessons for vulnerable groups. Ms. Jokic reminded the audience that "... if you are working with one child you are working with a whole family and a small part of the community".

"Without Ms. Jokic the inclusion or adaptation of protection and rescue activities in the community of children and young people who belong to vulnerable groups would be virtually impossible", said Mr. Damir Cemerin, Chair of EFDRR.

Outcome:

- Increased awareness of citizen engagement towards building resilience
- Agreed to continue the Champion of Local Change Award at the upcoming Annual EFDRR meetings (Norway, Spain, France and Finland).

3. Consultations towards a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Resilience

Consultations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and resilience were held at the EFDRR. To guide the consultations several sets of questions were asked regarding the consultation process. They included: what are the key achievements and major challenges in disaster risk reduction since implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005–2015?; and, what new elements can be identified to become part of a post-2015 framework?

The following are a summary of the main points captured in the consultation:

Consultation process

- There has often been a missing dialogue between the national institutions or National Platforms working on disaster risk reduction and the ministries responsible for foreign affairs. The latter tended to take the lead in discussions and consultations on global agreements such as a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Such a dialogue is important for a whole-of-government dialogue, consultation and positioning around the post 2015 framework and what it means for national institutions.
- There are strong links in the international discussions around the post-2015 development agenda (post- MDGs), sustainable development goals and disaster risk reduction. This is important to keep strong messaging around disaster risk reduction and resilience in these discussions while keeping on with a post-2015 framework.
- European national and regional entities are needed to focus on the consultations and use existing and active forums like the European Commission and the EUROPA Major Hazard Agreement of the Council of Europe to help in the linking and integration of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

Achievements and challenges

- The Hyogo Framework of Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters has been widely acknowledged as the main inspiration for knowledge, practice implementation, experience and the science of disaster risk reduction.
- The pillars and priorities of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005–2015 (HFA) remain very useful, in particular the way the HFA has been put together with hazards, institutions and science-based perspectives. Humanitarian and emergency response is reflected well. There is a monitoring and reporting system.

- The following have been challenging and often missing in the implementation of the current HFA: how to measure success (HFA lacks targets and indicators to guide implementation, with no clear baselines); methodologies around risk assessments, and the lack of disaster risk information for the public and individuals. The perception of risk still remains to be looked into when addressing awareness and people's behaviour.
- Responsibilities and accountability in the governance arrangements have not been clear or implemented very well. There is often confusion on the role of different national institutions and ministries, especially with the need to integrate or mainstream disaster risk reduction into planning, development and sectorbased institutions (e.g. health, education, agriculture). There is a lack of minimum standards or principles around disaster risk reduction.

New elements

- There is a need to capitalize on the current momentum around reducing the risk of disasters. A higher level political commitment to implement any post-2015 framework will be important. This will need to include ministries of development, planning and finance. An example on how to achieve this is provided by the organization of the South Eastern Europe summit, focusing on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation towards sustainable development.
- There is a need to more effectively "sell" a new post-2015 framework, and for more accessible, communicative language which is simpler to use. Some new elements need to be added around the governance of risk reduction.
- The post-2015 framework should focus on increasing awareness, education and transparency of disaster risk reduction. For example, a commitment to publish risk maps (like flooding) for the public.

- It is important to recognize the different responsibilities between local, national, regional and global levels. For example, local authorities are responsible for urban planning; but regional and national authorities can prescribe that certain areas are not to be developed. Also relevant is the possibility of building on the work done at the regional level in areas such as climate change adaptation, land-use planning, and risk assessment (examples: EU-Floods Directive, Environmental Impact Assessment)
- There is a need to look at technological hazards (as the Fukushima emergency has shown) as part of the overall picture in addressing vulnerability and building resilience to disasters.

4. National Platform Review

At the request of the UN Secretary General, and as called for by the Chair's Summary of the 2011 Global Platform, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is facilitating a review of a number of National Platforms. The review will recommend possible ways to strengthen the capacity of National Platforms and will identify successful coordination practices and models for replication. The review will also assist in reaching an increase in the number of National Platforms by 2015 as referred to in the Hyogo Framework for Action.

To undertake the review a Working Group has been established, which will lead the review process in close consultation with UNISDR. The Working Group includes 7 countries world-wide (including Germany and Sweden). Furthermore, a Reference Group has been established. This larger group will be consulted throughout the review process. It is currently composed of 20 members, including the 7 Working Group members. Germany, Sweden and Norway are part of this group.

The review concept note, proposed timeline, and questionnaire have been shared with the National Platform Members.

The session emphasized the need to continue improving National Platforms by increasing their capacity to be effective. The National Platform Review will provide some conclusive reflection and recommendations in this regard.

Outcomes:

- Reviewed and suggested updates on the National Platform Review questionnaire.
- Encouraged all National Platforms to complete the National Platform Review questionnaire by 15 November 2012.
- Requested that the National Platform Review Report will be published at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2013.

5. EFDRR Presence in 2012

Dag Olav Hogvold, Co-Chair of the EFDRR 2012, presented an overview of the key events that the Chair and the Co-Chair had organized and participated in during 2012. On 24 February 2012, the UNISDR Europe Office hosted the 'Friends of the Chair' meeting to plan the annual meeting and other events for 2012.

The EFDRR logo has been officially adopted in February 2012.

The Chair, Co-Chair and EFDRR members participated at 5 international meetings:

- 19–20 Mar 2012 – EFDRR members attended the Europe Resilient Cities meeting, Venice, Italy
- 25–26 April 2012 – The Meeting of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, Strasbourg, France
- 27 August 2012 – IDRC, Davos, Switzerland: Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into climate change adaptation strategies: A governance point of view
- 1–7 Sept 2012 – UNHABITAT Sixth World Urban Forum, Naples, Italy

- 4–5 Oct 2012 – The Committee of Permanent Correspondents Meeting, Council of Europe (EUR-OPA), Dubrovnik, Republic of Croatia

On 29 June 2012, the Steering Committee held a teleconference to discuss updates on EFDRR activities as well as the draft agenda of the EFDRR annual meeting.

Outcomes:

- Adoption of the EFDRR logo in February 2012.

6. Briefing on main international events in 2012

UNISDR provided a briefing and overview on Rio+20 and the on-going post-MDGs discussion. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were initiated in Rio+20 at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). Furthermore, an Intergovernmental group has been established under the UN General Assembly.

The Post-MDG consultations have been initiated. A UN Task Team is focusing on 9 different themes, with one of them being disaster risk reduction and conflict. A High Level Panel has been established by the UN Secretary-General.

Outcomes:

- Promoted high-level engagement in building resilience to disasters at national level by using the outcome of Rio+20 and the specific language related to DRR.
- Encouraged National Platform and HFA Focal Points to continue their work with their respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure DRR reflection in their ongoing sustainable processes.

Recommendation:

- UNISDR to share communications on DRR to Permanent Missions by highlighting the importance of engaging with National Platforms and HFA Focal Points on the different on-going processes.

7. Update from Regional Organizations

Regional organizations are strongly engaging and supporting DRR with upcoming full agendas:

Council of Europe (EUR-OPA): Briefed on its advances on education and awareness and also on training matters. Furthermore, EFDRR members were informed about the Making Cities Resilient Resolution 339 (2012)². The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities resolution affirms its commitment to disaster risk reduction and that its objectives are fully in line with those of the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient campaign to raise the awareness of citizens and governments, use local government budgets, and include disaster risk reduction in participatory development and planning processes.

The EC: Updated on its recent activities in improving the knowledge base (disaster data key issues), the promotion of risk assessment and risk management planning (on-going work on implementation of the 2010 guidelines plus revision of the EU civil protection legislation), encourage investments in disaster prevention (including effective use of EU structural funding) and the integration of DRR in key EU policies (i.e. Environmental Impact Assessment, nuclear safety, 2013 EU climate change adaptation strategy, future EU water policy strategy, cross-border health, green paper on insurance and disasters). Furthermore, the EC continues to support and help build a culture of prevention through, for example, guidelines on minimum standards for disaster prevention (early 2013); EU support for good practice exchange, including exchange of experts and peer reviews (UK “pilot” project); and the broadening of the training programme. At international level, the EC has been strongly engaged in the Rio+20 outcomes and follow-up and the G20 disaster risk management priorities. It will also contribute actively to the post-HFA consultation process in the context of relevant EU priorities (e.g. DRM, resilience, economic growth and sustainable development).

DPPI has highlighted its advances on training and training of trainers at national and regional level and cross-border collaboration activities.

Outcomes:

- Strengthened coordination between regional/international activities within the context of the Hyogo Framework for Action implementation.
- Encouraged the support of national-level efforts by regional organizations.
- Raised policy commitment in support of disaster risk reduction work.

Recommendation:

- Regional organizations and UNISDR to continue their coordinated efforts for a common agenda in Europe.

8. EFDRR Working Group – Outcomes

8.1 Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction – Working Group 1

Norway, as the Working Group Chair, opened the session by giving an overview on past activities and on the Working Group Members. Experiences were shared from Germany, Norway and Poland.

Germany presented DRR-related developments in the climate framework and sustainable development agenda by sharing knowledge and outcomes of Rio+20 and the IPCC SREX Report.

Norway displayed the results of the Working Group 1 survey to all European HFA Focal Points and NP coordinators. This survey was conducted by the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB) on behalf of Working Group 1. The survey objectives were to find out if nations include in their adaptation plans/strategy issues related to disaster risk reduction. 19 countries have completed the survey and 4 countries have partially completed it.

² <http://preventionweb.net/go/26362>

The impact of climate change on the “environment, economy and society” project, also called KLIMAT, offered an insight on Poland’s changes, impacts, proposals for science, engineering in practice and economic planning. The project is financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

Outcomes of Working Group 1:

- DG Climate has joined Working Group 1.
- Germany is the new Working Group 1 Chair following the chairmanship of Norway.
- Working Group tasked by EFDRR to:
 - Continue the work on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction up to 2015;
 - Share information on key developments related to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction and initiate the possibility to influence the European Agenda through comments/interventions on position papers.
 - Share the report with the national Climate Change Adaptation community to view feedback on emerging finds and recommendations.

Recommendations of Working Group 1:

- Requested Working Group 1 to develop ToR and Work Plan and revert back on the outcome and progression of the tasked issues in a systematic manner.
- Finalize the report analysing the outcome and edited for distribution purposes.

8.2 Information Sharing and Exchange and Using Financial Instruments – Working Group 2

Working Group Chair Sweden presented an overview of the achievements of WG2 since its initiation.

Sweden presented the benefits of applying to the EU Exchange of Experts Programme by walking through the step-by-step application process.

Furthermore, an example of good practice on the recent Exchange of Experts Programme application between Austria and Sweden was shared. Austria briefed about the experience of the cities of Jönköping and Lienz/Province of the Tyrol, participating at the EU Exchange of Experts in Civil Protection. In March 2012, the EU approved the funds for this exchange of experts. The first visit took place on 12 September 2012 in Jönköping, Sweden. In January 2013, representatives from Jönköping will be visiting Lienz, Austria. The first visit focused on Risk Management and Climate Change, Municipality and County Risk Assessments and finally on a Risk Assessment Workshop and Early Warning.

Details of the first-ever peer review of a country implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), were presented during the WG2 session. The UK volunteered to participate in the HFA Peer Review a year ago, and the seven-member review team from Sweden, Finland, Italy, UNISDR Europe Office, the European Commission and OECD carried out the peer review mission from 16–26 September 2012, interviewing some 90 people, including representatives from 45 entities including government departments, NGOs and businesses across the UK.

The UK mentioned that the peer review has considerably raised the profile of the Hyogo Framework for Action at Ministerial level and among senior civil servants. The UK expects that the final report will influence the debate on any new monitoring tool which might accompany the expected introduction of a new post-2015 agreement on disaster risk reduction in 2015. The UK highly recommends the process to others but suggests there were lessons to be learned on how to make the process less onerous and time-consuming.

Peer Review Team member Finland presented some of the initial findings and impressions of the team. Finland highlighted that the Peer Review Process has been a very good way to promote the HFA and disaster risk reduction in the country that is being reviewed. The peer review is a chance and not a threat.

The European Commission has reconfirmed its strong commitment to the implementation of the HFA in Europe and its five priority actions as an important part of the EC's policy in promoting risk management and building resilience to disasters in the EU Member States. It will continue driving and supporting the HFA peer review process if there is support and interest from other countries to benefit from the initiative. Within the European Union, the EC also emphasized the importance of peer reviews for building trust among the Member States in their efforts to reduce the risks and advance the key priorities for EU disaster risk management and civil protection cooperation.

Outcomes of Working Group 2:

- Highlighted the benefit of the EU Exchange of Experts Programme.
- Recommended other countries to follow the UK's example on being Peer Reviewed on the HFA.
- Welcomed the continuation of financial support to the Peer Review Process by the EC.
- Finland, France and Sweden welcomed the Peer Review initiative and its continuation. Finland and Sweden indicated their interest in being reviewed.
- Acknowledged the dissolution of WG 2 as it reached its objective.

Recommendations of Working Group 2:

- EFDRR members to make use of the EU Exchange of Experts Programme as a way to access opportunities to share experience on disaster risk reduction among European Countries.
- EFDRR Members to make use of the EFDRR Workspace by sharing experience on the exchange programme.
- Countries to sign up for the Peer Review, given the positive impact of such a review for the UK and the overall advances of the disaster resilience agenda.

- For UNISDR to review the HFA Monitor template. The language needs to be greatly simplified to ensure use by multi-sectoral actors at the national level.

8.3 Local Level Implementation of HFA (DRR Campaign) – Working Group 3

Italy, as the Chair of Working Group 3, presented WG3's ToR, Work Plan and proposed activities for 2013. Activities supporting local implementation of the HFA in line with the UNISDR campaign "Making Cities Resilient" include:

- the promotion and improvement of private-public partnerships towards supporting building resilience to disasters;
- the dissemination of information regarding the use of Local Government Self-Assessment Tool;
- as part of the UNISDR campaign objectives, support the promotion of safety in schools and hospitals;
- ensure that local-level events will feature discussion building resilience to disasters;
- encourage/facilitate a wider involvement of local NGOs and citizens in disaster risk prevention.

Italy shared outcomes of the Cultural Heritage Meeting in Venice and the World Urban Forum in Naples. One of the outcomes of the Venice event was the adoption of the "Venice Declaration"³. The declaration supports the integration of heritage concerns into national and local disaster risk reduction policies and plans and, at the same time, ensures that disaster risks are taken into consideration within management plans and systems for heritage properties in their territories, notably for World Heritage Cities. Furthermore, the declaration requests that mayors ensure that sustainable development strategies reflect disaster risk reduction measures at the local level for urban sustainability and resilient growth.

³ http://www.unisdr.org/files/25027_venicedeclaration.pdf

The examples of Copenhagen and Venice indicated that both cities are already experiencing the impact of climate change and its related costs [Copenhagen 1 billion US\$ + 3 floods in one year]. The presentation of Copenhagen highlighted the city approach to making Copenhagen disaster resilient by addressing activities aimed at reducing the city's vulnerability and by adapting to climate change.

Finally, Portugal shared its experiences on the Making Cities Resilient Campaign through the city of Amadora, which presented information on how they structured their approach to implementing the UNISDR campaign objectives, particularly in the context of awareness and public-private partnerships.

Financial resources towards local-level actions were highlighted as one common challenge. The examples of public-private partnership, the emphasis on doing things "differently" and not "new" (e.g. requesting an extra budget) were highlighted as means to address this concern.

During this session, the European launch of the Making Cities Resilient Report 2012 took place.

Outcomes of Working Group 3:

- Presentation of the Work Plan and focus activities for the 1st year of Working Group 3.
- Discussed citizen's engagement in defining priority mitigation measures.
- Launched the Making Cities Resilient Report 2012.
- Announced the Working Group 3 Members: Italy (as the Chair), Austria, Portugal and Sweden.

Recommendations of Working Group 3:

- The integration of cultural heritage protection concerns into multi-risk assessment.
- The integration of the scientific partners at local-level acting as "glue" between the public and private sector.

- WG3 to involve the private sector and NGOs as part of the existing national Platform.
- Explore collaboration with the private sector and ensure that activities undertaken at the local level feature DRR concerns (e.g. land-use planning, urban planning) and foster the use of Local Government Self-Assessment Tool (LGSAT) to view advances in building resilience to disasters at the local level.

Overall Recommendation on Working Groups:

Following the working group sessions the overall recommendations below emerged for the EFDRR members:

- EFDRR members to actively engage in the joining of existing Working Groups and propose ad-hoc topics to be addressed by new Working Groups.
- EFDRR members to identify other themes where the support of a working group would be beneficial. One potential topic identified relates to the economics and financing of disaster risk reduction.

9. Presentation of City of Dubrovnik

Showcase relevance of protecting cultural heritage. Shared knowledge on Dubrovnik disasters and reconstruction phase (Earthquake Proof).

The presentation on the City of Dubrovnik showcased the relevance of protecting cultural heritage. This presentation provided a brief review on what happened with the Dubrovnik monument and cultural heritage over a number of disasters (earthquake, wars) and restoration. Dubrovnik is situated in Croatia's most dangerous earthquake zone. Particularly vulnerable to an earthquake is the central area of Dubrovnik monument complex, located between the cliffs of the historical isle of Laus and the slopes of Mount Srđ. The Dubrovnik

Restoration Programme, action dedicated to the repair of damage and the prevention of earthquake consequences, was launched in 1979.

Following a city tour which included a viewing of some examples of cultural heritage site protection, a reception was hosted by Mr. Andro Vlahušić, Lord Mayor of the City of Dubrovnik. The Lord Mayor highlighted the relevance of citizens' active engagement towards sustainable development and a resilient society. Furthermore, emphasis was put on the importance of sharing experiences and twinning among other cities, particularly in relation to cultural heritage issues still not so developed.

10. EFDRR 2012: Next Steps and Highlights

10.1 Briefing on the preparation of the Presidential South Eastern European Summit on DRR & CCA in 2013

On 1 June 2013, Summit of Heads of State and Government of the SEECIP Participating States: to view disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation within the sustainable development agenda.

Expected Outcome of the Heads of State and Government Meeting:

- Gain commitment at the highest level on building resilience to disasters.
- Provide reflection on Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Reflect and build on the added value of regional cooperation.
- View main areas of future engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Change Adaptation for sustainable development in the region.

10.2 Main elements and highlights for EFDRR to provide input for 2013

Italy, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland finalized their National HFA Monitor Interim Report. Nine countries started to work on-line and several countries are working offline. Republic of Croatia, Serbia and Italy have undertaken initial steps to develop their own national disaster loss database.

Recommendations:

- EFDRR Members to ensure the finalization of the Interim HFA Monitoring Report by 12 October 2012 based on the message sent on 4 April 2012 by UNISDR.
- UNISDR Europe to ensure the development of the Regional Report to be launched at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2013.
- EFDRR Members to ensure and communicate to UNISDR the High-level (President, Prime Minister, Ministers) European Participation at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2013.
- More European countries to initiate the development of a national disaster loss database, which is considered a key steps towards making the case for sound economic investments on Disaster Risk Reduction (countries moving forward in establishing Disaster Loss Database Albania, Croatia, Italy, Serbia).

10.3 EFDRR Chair and Co -Chair in 2013

The meeting concluded with the change of Chairs of the EFRR. Norway is the new Chair and Spain was elected as the new Co-Chair. The EFDRR 3rd meeting Chair will be a continued member of the 'Friends of the Chair' group. France and Finland have been nominated for Co-Chairs in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

11. Key Outcomes and Challenges

The 3rd EFDRR meeting was considered a success with high-level support from the President's office, Minister of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the SRSG. The structure of the Working Groups has been working as expected. Working Group 2 has reached its objective and will therefore disassemble. The EFDRR is increasingly visible internationally, both in Europe and beyond. During the meeting two press releases and two news briefs were issued.

It is important for the EFDRR members to continue to encourage the establishment of NPs. The presence of HFA Focal Points at EFDRR meetings should be increased. Finally, it is crucial to have a more active involvement of the HFA Focal points and NP coordinators in the EFDRR Working Groups.

Main Outcomes and Actions:

- Agreed to continue the Champion of Local Change Award at the upcoming Annual EFDRR meetings (Norway, Spain, France and Finland). *(Implementation: Norway, Spain, France and Finland)*
 - Identified key elements emerging on the Post-2015 consultations for Europe Regions.
 - Encouraged all National Platforms to complete the National Platform Review questionnaire by 15 November 2012. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
 - Promote high-level engagement in building resilience to disasters at national level by using the outcome of Rio+20 and the specific language related to DRR. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
 - Encouraged National Platform and HFA Focal Points to continue their work with their respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure DRR reflection in their ongoing sustainable processes. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
 - Recommended UNISDR to share communications on DRR to Permanent Missions by highlighting the importance to engage with National Platforms and HFA Focal Points on the different on-going processes. *(Implementation: UNISDR Europe Office)*
 - Recommended for National Platforms to hold national discussions on Post-2015, Post-MDGs, Rio+20 outcomes and ensure that national stakeholders dealing with the different processes participate. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
 - Recommended for the Regional Organizations and UNISDR to continue their coordinated efforts for a common agenda in Europe. *(Implementation: Council of Europe, European Commission, UNISDR)*
 - Requested WG1 to revert back on the outcome and progression of the tasked issues:
 - Continue the work on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction up to 2015.
 - Share information on key developments related to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction and initiate the possibility to influence the European Agenda through comments/interventions on position papers.
 - Share the report with the national Climate Change Adaptation community to view feedback on emerging finds and recommendations.
 - Requested Working Group 1 to develop ToR and Work Plan and revert back on the outcome and progression of the tasked issues in a systematic manner.
 - Finalize the report analysing the outcome and edited for distribution purposes.
- (Implementation: Working Group 1 with input from EFDRR members)*

- Encouraged EFDRR members to participate at the EU Exchange of Experts Programme. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
- Recommended other countries to follow the UK example on being Peer Reviewed on the HFA. *(Implementation: Peer Review Secretariat to follow-up with European Countries)*
- Welcomed the continuation of financial support to the Peer Review Process by the EC. *(Implementation: European Commission)*
- Welcomed the support to the upcoming Peer Review by Finland, France and Sweden.
- Acknowledged the dissolution of WG 2 as it had reached its objective.
- Recommended the need to integrate cultural heritage protection into multi-risk assessment. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
- Recommended the need to integrate the scientific partners at local level acting as a glue between the public and private sector. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
- Support WG 3 to engage in initiatives aimed at fostering the use of Local Government Self-Assessment Tool (LGSAT). *(Implementation: Working Group 3 with input from EFDRR members)*
- Announced the Working Group 3 Members: Italy (as the Chair), Austria, Portugal and Sweden.
- EFDRR should further invest in the potential added value of working groups. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
- EFDRR called upon EFDRR Members to join existing Working Groups and propose ad-hoc topics to be addressed by new Working Groups. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
- EFDRR Members to ensure the finalization of the Interim HFA Monitoring Report. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
- UNISDR Europe to ensure the development of the Regional Report to be launched at the Global Platform for DRR in May 2013. *(Implementation: UNISDR Europe)*
- EFDRR Members to ensure and communicate to UNISDR the High-level (President, Prime Minister, Ministers) European Participation at the Global Platform for DRR in May 2013. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
- More European Countries to initiate the development of a national disaster loss database. *(Implementation: EFDRR members)*
- Adoption of Spain being the Co-Chair for 2012 and Chair in 2013.



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