



**MINISTRY OF EQUIPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE**



**NATIONAL CONSULTATION: TOWARDS A FRAMEWORK POST-2015
FOR THE REDUCTION OF DISASTER RISK
-TUNISIA -**



JANUARY 2014

NATIONAL CONSULTATION: TOWARDS A FRAMEWORK POST-2015 FOR REDUCING DISASTER RISK

In collaboration with UNDP Tunisia, and the Regional Office for Arab States of UNISDR - United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Ministry of Equipment and Environment (General Directorate for Environment and Quality of Life) held a workshop in Tunis on 27 and 28 November 2013, attended by some 120 stakeholders, regarding the reduction of disaster risk in Tunisia entitled "**MAKING TUNISIA MORE RESILIENT TO DISASTERS.**"

The workshop aimed to present:

- The Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) and call for a national debate on the post-2015 framework for DRR.
- Validate the national database "DesInventar" on disaster losses 1982-2013 and request a reflection on its future operation.
- The World Campaign for Resilient Cities "My city is getting ready".

The examination of the situation of major risks has illustrated that Tunisia still faces several types of disaster risks that may be related either to natural hazards or to human and technological factors. Unfortunately, the trend is on the rise. With global warming looming, the occurrence of extreme events such as floods or droughts tends to increase. Moreover, in many regions of the planet, exposure to disaster risks is experiencing a growth faster than economic growth and the ability to build resilience. This finding should encourage us to go beyond traditional responses of support at emergency time to implement a real DRR policy, with all that it entails as preventive measures.

Tunisia has already ratified conventions and agreements relating to natural disaster prevention. The expected outcome at the time of the adoption of the HFA in January 2005 was to manage, in 10 years that is to say in 2015, "*to significantly reduce the loss of human lives and damage suffered, due to disasters, by communities and nations at social, economic and environmental levels*". As the HFA's time frame is ending, the UNISDR's guidance note of February 2013 stresses that national HFA progress reports of over 130 countries "*have presented a mixed progress with regard to building the nations' and communities' resilience to disasters*". Consequently and based upon this mixed record, attention is now focused on national consultations on a post-2015 framework or "HFA2".

Regarding the current phase of the HFA ("*HFA1*"), Tunisia has already published its first report, to which has been added the implementation of the database on disaster losses "Desinventar." This is a project that Tunisia had initiated since 2012 with the support of UNISDR - Regional Office for Arab States, and UNDP Tunisia. It collects, archives and makes available to all public and private parties, government and non-government users, qualitative and quantitative data on extreme, major and limited events, having caused human and material damage during the last thirty years (specifically from 1982 to 2013). This database will provide a better understanding of the real impact of disasters resulting from natural hazards, from a social and economic point of view in terms of loss and damage. This inventory has covered the whole country and validation workshops were held during the period October and November 2013.

MAIN COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE " POST- HYOGO 2015"

The main weaknesses in the HFA1 phase are related to ignorance of the DRR and the Hyogo Framework for Action, by most of the actors. Weak institutional and operational capacities of intervention structures, multiplicity of actors without strong institutional leadership in DRR, the neglect of many underlying risks in public and private projects, dysfunctionality of some networks and of the national DRR platform, lack of a national multiple-risk early alert system, and weak disaster preparedness.

To overcome these weaknesses and begin scaling up to 2015, while improving Tunisia's performance in disaster risk reduction planning, a number of recommendations have been suggested in form of priority actions that the international community and the State should implement in a timely manner to ensure the desired results:

1. **Assess the progress and gaps in the implementation of HFA1 and build on this base** and/ or strengthen HFA2.
2. HFA1 is a voluntary agreement. There are no sanctions anticipated in case of non-compliance and application of measures to protect citizens, hence, its inability to ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies are really being applied. Therefore, it is necessary to **develop a convention or international treaty** with independent and sustainable financing mechanisms for its implementation, similarly to other international conventions.
3. The HFA2 should take into account a number of emerging risks and concerns, namely **technological risks**.
4. By integrating questions related to **climatic change** in a more explicit manner in the HFA2, the new framework could strengthen climate resilience by focusing on drought and water challenges.
5. Provide an **approach based on human rights**, whereby countries commit to respect, namely the right to security of vulnerable populations exposed to dangers and disasters, and the right to information through prevention strengthening.
6. Integrate prevention considerations and disasters risk management in the **urban, economic, social, and territorial development plans**.
7. Consider a post-2015 framework that **underlines the relationship between DRR, adaptation to climate change and conservation of natural resources**.
8. Advocating for **DRR to be highly reflected on the international development agenda (SDG post-2015)**.
9. Advocate for **mobilizing more financial resources, and provide reinforced support to the development of capacity, knowledge, and awareness**.
10. Emphasize the **needs of vulnerable groups**, namely people with specific needs

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE NATIONAL CONTEXT OF DRR IN TUNISIA:

1. The HFA2 should improve the mechanisms for **governance and accountability** of DRR: Establish a national coordination mechanism by adopting a multi-stakeholder approach. For this, all key Ministries should be involved (namely: finance, planning etc...), at the highest decision level, to grant particular attention for better integration of DRR into the development policies.
2. **Strengthen national competence in matters of risk assessment**.

3. Provide **national strategies for risk financing**:
 - a. DRR budget allocated particularly to prevention measures at the regional, national, and local scale.
 - b. Promote the financing mechanisms.
4. Promote **involvement and participation of civil society, local communities (including youth and women), and the private sector** as stakeholders in DRR.
5. Emphasize the **needs of vulnerable groups**, notably people with specific needs
6. Investing in **urban risk management and resilient cities** (Legislation and regulatory mechanisms).
7. Promote **decentralization** and strengthen local competences.
8. Strengthen the **commitment and participation of academic and scientific circles** to support DRR actions (applied research).