EUROPEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Towards a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO DISASTERS

Background Note on Focus Area

The Hyogo Framework for Action was conceived to give impetus to the global work on disaster risk reduction. At the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, was adopted. The UN General Assembly endorsed the Hyogo Framework for Action under the UN Resolution 60/195. The Hyogo Framework for Action responds to the need for a comprehensive, integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to identifying and implementing disaster risk reduction measures.

In December 2012, the UN General Assembly (Resolution 67/209) decided to convene the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in March 2015 to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action over its 10-year term and develop a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. European consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction are carried out among a variety of stakeholders through national level dialogues, intergovernmental hearings, views of stakeholder groups (parliamentarians, private sectors, local level entities and others).

In contributing to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, this Ministerial Meeting will consist of the following three sessions:

1) **Coherence**: This session will discuss how to promote coherence and mutual reinforcement among the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, climate action and sustainable development.

   Disaster risk reduction is playing an increasingly central role in planning and implementing sustainable development, climate change adaptation and, more broadly, public and private investment strategies. In 2015, three landmark agreements - the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals and the 21st Session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC - will be concluded. Given the complementarities between the post-2015 agendas, leveraging the total impact of these instruments creates shared value. Efforts must be deployed to ensure that each of them do not build in “policy risks” or, contradictory policies, that generate more - rather than less - risk in development.
What elements need to be included in the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction in order to promote coherence and mutual reinforcement with the SDG’s and climate change agreements; and, what can be done to ensure that the SDG’s and climate change decisions through the UNFCCC reinforce the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction?

Which measures must be put in place domestically to promote coherence and mutual reinforcement among national efforts to reduce disaster risk, promote socio-economic development and address climate change?

2) Policy and Legislation: This session will discuss how national and regional policies and legislations can promote the engagement of local governments, encourage coordination among sectors and, create the environment for risk-sensitive decision-making in the private sector;

The priority areas of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction need to be defined in terms of critical public policies that address disaster risk in publically owned, managed or regulated services and infrastructures, and in the environment, but also regulate or provide incentives for actions by households, communities, businesses and individuals. In these different domains, the priority areas should include public policies in prospective and anticipatory risk management (risk prevention), corrective risk management (risk reduction) and actions to strengthen resilience.

How can the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction be sharpened in order define responsibilities, strengthen accountability and facilitate monitoring on risk prevention, risk reduction and strengthened resilience?

What are the main public policies that will provide the right incentives to encourage the private sector’s incorporation of disaster risk management into their processes and investment decisions?

3) Innovation: This session will consider how science and technology support public policy to strengthen resilience including through the promotion of policy-relevant research, the creation of incentives for innovation and technology transfer.

Science and technology play an essential role in disaster risk reduction through improving our understanding of risk, getting that understanding into the hands of people who can act on it and equipping communities with proven technological solutions for reducing risk and building resilience. Science and technology have been at the heart of efforts to forecast floods, detect tsunami waves, and prevent infectious disease outbreaks with vaccination among many other contributions. Looking to the future, the need to achieve a more effective interplay of science, policy and practice in support of disaster risk reduction provides an opportunity for collaborative learning and action.

How can the skills and knowledge of the science and technology community – in both public and private sector be more effectively engaged in supporting the implementation of public policy?

What partnerships and policies are needed ensure universal and free access to risk information to support decision making?