



ISDR Inter-Agency Group on Disaster Risk Reduction

UN Consultation on HFA 2 and the WCDRR

Geneva, 3 – 4 March 2014

Summary of Discussion and Action Points

1. Welcome

Elena Manaenkova, Assistant-Secretary-General, WMO, welcomed participants to the WMO and the opportunity for UN partners to contribute to the consultative process leading to the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction. She highlighted the opportunity for the UN to work on formulating shared messages and to involve their respective constituents to engage more in the consultation process. Ms. Manaenkova highlighted the need for clarity on how to deal with the issue of risk to disasters in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She also stressed on the importance of educating communities on DRR by using simple, familiar language and terms.

The Chair, Elizabeth Longworth (UNISDR) informed of the objectives of the meeting namely: to consult with UN Partners to invite their views on the Elements paper of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG); discuss monitoring progress for the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction; position the UN for the World Conference in Sendai, 14- 18 March 2015, and; invite ideas on how to shape the message of the Secretary-General at the World Conference.

The following agencies were represented: OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, ITU, UNDP, IOM, WHO, WMO, UNOPS, World Bank, UNEP, FAO, UNECE, UNESCO, and UNISDR.

2. Proposed Elements for Consideration in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

This agenda item was introduced by Andrew Maskrey and Marco Toscano-Rivalta from UNISDR. The *Proposed Elements for Consideration in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (Elements Paper) is a contribution of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG) and builds on the recommendations and suggestions from the consultations to date, the evidence of the three Global Assessment Reports, the analysis of the country reports collated via the HFA Monitor and other expert reports and advice. The Elements Paper will inform and stimulate discussions at the Regional Platforms and Intergovernmental Preparatory

Committee Meetings (Prep Coms) scheduled for 2014. A compilation report of the outcomes of the Regional Platforms will be presented for consideration in the Prep Coms.

UN partners expressed a general consensus that the content and suggestions contained in the Elements Paper are useful. They pointed out, however, that certain areas were insufficiently reflected and indicated their wish to have been more fully engaged in its development.

Specific suggestions and comments on the Elements Paper included:

- Reiteration of the strong interdependency between reducing disaster risk and sustainable development. The importance of elevating pillar four of the HFA to address the underlying drivers of risk was further highlighted.
- Discussion around the terminology and concepts, and in particular the need to ensure that terms used in the Elements Paper (such as ‘resilience’) are consistent with other policy documents and practice. It was suggested that in the context of the consultations leading to the World Conference, it is important to clarify the concepts.
- The importance of addressing disaster risk in the development sectors needs to be captured in the discussions leading to the World Conference. A recent assessment report by FAO on progress made against the Hyogo Framework for Action in addressing risk in the agriculture sector provides a useful set of recommendations on accelerating the integration of disaster risk into development sectors.
- Examples of FAO’s recommendations for addressing risk across sectors in the HFA2 emerging from the assessment (still work in-progress) include the need to prioritize critical sectors and include specific targets for each.
- The relevance of early warnings and preparedness as effective measures to reduce the impacts of disasters on communities is not sufficiently reflected in the Elements Paper.

UN partners expressed their commitment to contribute to the consultation process leading to the World Conference. It was suggested that common UN messaging should be developed as a means of supporting concerted advocacy. It was also suggested to hold a consultation with UN partners in New York to invite contributions to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction around sectors with a specific focus on the harmonization with the ongoing discussion in the OWG on the SDGs.

The discussion reiterated the significant contribution made by UN partners to the consultations through their role in supporting governments and other stakeholders to formulate views on the post-2015 framework and their efforts to advance commitments to the implementation of the post-2015 framework.

Action Points:

- Hold a consultation with UN partners in New York to invite contributions to the HFA2 process around sectors with a specific focus on the harmonization with the ongoing discussion in the OWG on the SDG's.
- UN will work on common messaging in the preparations for the World Conference, including joint statements at the Prepcoms.

3. Measuring progress against the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction

Andrew Maskrey, Head of the Risk Knowledge in UNISDR, presented the proposed enhanced monitoring system for the HFA. The Elements Paper recognizes that the on-line HFA Monitor has generated a significant global repository of information available on the progress reported by governments in reducing disaster risk. However, the system has a number of weaknesses such as subjectivity of the information; and that most indicators are input rather than output based. Also, the majority of indicators in the current system refer to measures to address existing risk and rather than more anticipatory measures to avoid risk being created through development choices.

An enhanced system of indicators for risk management could be adopted that measures how public policy in disaster risk management is addressing the underlying risk drivers to prevent risk creation, reducing existing levels of risk and strengthening the capacity to absorb loss and recover ("bounce forward") when disasters occur.

Initial work on developing potential indicators has been initiated by UNISDR with the support of expert institutions. Examples of the types of indicators under discussion include indicators on:

- o Disaster loss and damage;
- o Countries' risk profile;
- o Resilience of a country's economy to probable losses;
- o Measuring how a country is managing its underlying risk drivers;
- o Measuring how countries are adopting effective public policies to prevent risk creation, reducing existing levels of risk and strengthening the capacity to absorb loss and bounce forward when disasters occur by both the public and private sectors;
- o Measuring the effectiveness of the governance and arrangements for information and knowledge generation and management that need to underpin public policy in disaster risk management.

It was further recognized that an enhanced monitoring system will require commitment by countries to monitor disaster losses, assess risk and progress against the future international framework on disaster risk reduction using a modified and enhanced HFA Monitor.

In order to facilitate a link between the monitoring of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and that of the SDGs and a new climate change agreement, the design of the new HFA Monitor system will need to include indicators that are compatible with the objectives of those instruments. Making this link explicit at the indicator level will make it possible to monitor concurrently progress across all three frameworks.

UN partners suggested a level of continuity with the current HFA reporting in order to ensure that future indicators are based on the analysis of the past HFA country reports. It was also suggested to organize national indicators on a sector basis to allow for more accountability that will in turn be useful for the Member States. UN partners emphasized on the need to ensure that the work on indicators is effectively aligned with relevant work streams ongoing within their respective constituencies, in particular, with regard to the elaboration of sectoral indicators.

UN organizations, through their respective intergovernmental and expert bodies, provide guidance and set standards for countries in a number of areas of direct relevance to the monitoring of the future framework for disaster risk reduction. They need to be engaged in order to ensure coherence at the early stage of the consultation process.

Action Points:

- UN partners were invited to share published papers or background documents on public policy indicators for disaster risk reduction in their respective sector or areas of expertise, as well as on output/outcome indicators that could measure the success of disaster risk reduction in that sector.
- UN partners were also invited to provide the name and contact details of an expert from their organization to participate in the ongoing work on indicator development.

4. Preparatory process for the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The 2013 UN General Assembly Resolution (A/Res/68/211) describes the preparatory process and the modalities for the World Conference. The process and modalities include: Formation of the World Conference Bureau; Regional Platforms and meetings; PrepComs to be held in July and November 2014, and; The World Conference itself, 14-18 March 2015.

The main upcoming events where the UN is expected to contribute are the Regional Platforms and through their observers status at the Prep Coms. In particular, UN organizations are invited to contribute to the Regional Platforms through their respective constituents in countries and the regions. It was also suggested that the UN develop common messaging for the WCDRR preparatory process. This would include making a joint UN statement at the Preparatory Committee meetings. UN organizations suggested stronger engagement of the UN at the compilation stage of relevant position papers and documents in order to contribute policy, technical and operational expertise and knowledge.

The role of UN organizations at the World Conference, including the role of UN Executive Heads needs to be defined. Further reflection is required on how to ensure high level engagement of the UN at the World Conference. The UN partners offered to assist in facilitating, where appropriate, the preparations as well as playing an active role at the Conference.

5. The UN commitment at the World Conference

The Chair reiterated the opportunity provided by the World Conference for the UN to position itself as an important and effective actor on disaster risk reduction. The UN will need to present the impact of its collective work on disaster risk reduction. It should take the opportunity to demonstrate its capacity to support countries and local authorities in anchoring disaster risk in their sustainable development work and in adapting to a fast changing environment, including changing risks and new actors. The Chair further reminded the participants that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has agreed to present a UN message at the World Conference.

Participants agreed that messages for the World Conference needed to build on commitments already made by the UN in the context of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk for Resilience, and in particular the commitment to address risk and hold itself accountable for addressing risk, in all its operations; thus establishing good practice to ensure that addressing disaster and climate risk is a development principle aligning with the Rio+20 and Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

The political dimension of the UN message should emphasize the link between risk reduction and development choices and processes with a call for the SDG process to overtly recognize the critical importance of disaster risk reduction..

Participants suggested that the message from the SG should show-case how the work of the UN is risk- informed, in particular in its sectoral work. The SG's message will need to be developed in a way to show coherence and the multilateral relationship between disaster risk reduction, SDGs and climate change.

In discussing what tangibles could be highlighted by the Un Secretary-General, participants highlighted the technical role of UN agencies in setting international standards related to disaster risk reduction. The expected results in the UN Plan of Action anticipate progress on the development of risk assessment standards. This function should be reflected in the work of the UN to support countries implement the post-2015 international framework on disaster risk reduction. It was suggested to commission a review on the status of the hazard risk standards and how to enable risk analysis at the national level.

Action Points:

- IAG to establish a group to work on UN preparations for the WCDRR.

- Invitation to UN Executive Heads of Specialized Agencies by UN Secretary-General, to attend the WCDRR.
- UNISDR to look at possibilities for high level engagement by the UN at the World Conference (such as a UN forum).

Annexes

Annex I: Agenda of Meeting

Agenda item	Time
<p>1. Welcome</p>	<p>09:00 – 09:15</p>
<p>2. Proposed Elements for Consideration in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p>The SRSG for Disaster Risk Reduction has proposed <i>Elements for Consideration in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</i>. These elements are informed by the consultations to date and are designed to promote further reflection on the development of the post-2015 framework (“HFA2”).</p>	<p>09:15- 10:30</p>
<p>3. Measuring progress against the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction</p> <p>Building on the experience by countries to measure risk and progress against the Hyogo Framework for Action, an enhanced monitoring system is being developed. The new system will need to be relevant for the future SDGs and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The development of the new system is important for the efforts by the UN to monitor its progress in the operationalization of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience.</p>	<p>10:50- 11:50</p>
<p>4. Preparatory process for the WCDRR</p> <p>United Nations agencies, funds and programmes are important stakeholders in the process to develop the successor framework to the Hyogo Framework for Action (“HFA2”). Contributions are expected with regard to ensuring sectoral perspectives and the participation of UN agency constituents in the Regional Ministerial Meetings. The UN needs to prepare its input to the upcoming Preparatory Committees. Discussions will also address the initial ideas regarding the format of the WCDRR and opportunities for UN partners’ participation and inputs.</p>	<p>11:50 -12:30</p>

<p>5. The Secretary-General's commitment at the WCDRR on behalf of the UN System Discussion</p> <p>The GA Resolution A/RES/68/211 anticipates voluntary commitments by stakeholders as one of the three Outcomes of the WCDRR. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has agreed to present the UN's contribution at the WCDRR. The UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk for Resilience has already agreed to a number of actions under its commitments 1 and 2. Drawing on the UN Plan of Action, the following questions can assist in shaping and presenting the actions for the SG at the WCDRR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where and what are the most significant impacts the UN can make through its contribution to the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction? And; - How should these be formatted for the SG? Discussion regarding the emerging issues around the consultation leading to the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction, the role of the UN and the messaging on the integration of disaster risk into the SDGs and 	13:30- 14:45
<p>6. Agenda item 4 (continued) on day two – The Secretary-General's commitment at the WCDRR on behalf of the UN System</p>	09:00- 11:30