



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on the post 2015 Hyogo Framework for Action: Managing risks to achieve resilience

*JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS Council meeting
Luxembourg, 5 and 6 June 2014*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. Since the adoption of the United Nations Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in 2005, progress has been made on global, regional and national efforts for building resilience to disasters, across the entire disaster management cycle (prevention, preparedness, response and early recovery). Support for disaster risk management has gained momentum and contributed to greater attention and investments to reduce disaster risks and better prepare to deal with their consequences;
2. Furthermore, Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, reaffirmed their commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action and called for disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
3. The 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015 offers a unique opportunity to build on the successes of the HFA, addressing existing gaps, and to adopt an ambitious post 2015 HFA to make the world more resilient to disasters and to better address future challenges;

P R E S S

4. Disasters pose a significant threat to development efforts and poverty reduction. Risk reduction, prevention and management policies are essential to reduce the impacts of disasters in order to save lives, to protect the environment (especially since climate change can result in serious consequences, including natural disasters, migration flows, etc.) and health, and to ensure sustainable development, poverty eradication and economic growth worldwide - promoting investments in resilience can provide a strong driver of innovation, growth and job creation, opening new markets and business opportunities and contributing to enhanced competitiveness and sustainability of sectoral policies;
5. Within this framework, the Council welcomes the Commission Communication on "The post 2015 Hyogo Framework for Action: Managing risks to achieve resilience"¹, which sets out the Commission's initial views on the shaping of the post 2015 HFA, building on the achievements of a range of EU policies including civil protection, environmental protection, climate change adaptation, as well as the resilience agenda² and its "Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries 2013-2020"³ promoted through EU humanitarian and development action. These achievements, which have contributed to the implementation of the HFA, present important EU deliverables towards a coherent policy on disaster risk management that can be shared and underpin the new international framework on disaster risk management. The Council stresses the importance of disaster risk management across policies;
6. The Council confirms the commitment of the European Union and its Member States to play an active and constructive role in the ongoing negotiations with a view to contributing to an ambitious outcome of the Conference, which builds on the current HFA. The Council will continue to be closely involved in the developments of the negotiations in the run-up to the Sendai summit on the basis of the following five key principles and fully respecting the non-binding nature of the post 2015 HFA:

Improving accountability, transparency and governance

7. Improving accountability, transparency and governance should constitute a key principle of the post 2015 HFA which should:
 - develop a set of non-binding standards and/or guidelines and mechanisms to support implementation;
 - establish voluntary peer review mechanisms, for instance peer reviews successfully conducted in the EU context;
 - encourage the collection and sharing of non-sensitive data on disaster losses, hazards and vulnerabilities in an open data policy;

¹ 8703/14 - COM(2014) 216.

² 9325/13, 14616/12 - COM(2012) 586.

³ 11554/13.

- develop systematic actions to raise public awareness of risk and develop a culture of risk management and disaster resilience;
- enhance governance for disaster management at all levels and across all sectors, building effective coordination mechanisms and long-term partnerships between different public authorities and relevant stakeholders, including local level actors, civil society, academia, research institutions and the private sector;
- ensure that regional inter-governmental organisations support the national authorities to implement the new framework, including the Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Role of targets and indicators to measure progress and encourage implementation

8. The Council stresses the importance for the new framework of delivering results, measuring progress and encouraging implementation by setting targets at the appropriate level (global, regional, national or local) and with an appropriate time frame, which are politically acceptable, operationally feasible, measurable and achievable;
9. A simplified new monitoring system should become a more effective tool for encouraging implementation at different levels, sharing successes and measuring progress, including through indicators that measure the changes in the impact of disasters over time and contribute to the tracking of progress towards building resilience to disasters and reducing vulnerabilities.

Strengthening the contribution to sustainable and smart growth

10. The Council emphasises the need for the post 2015 HFA to strengthen the contribution of disaster risk management to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, inter alia by:
 - promoting disaster-proofing in economic and financial decisions and strategies, in both the public and private sectors and promoting risk sensitivity as well as climate and disaster resilience for all major infrastructure and projects;
 - promoting disaster risk assessment and scenario-based capability analyses;
 - developing and implementing the new framework in close partnership with the private sector, international financial institutions and major investors as well as promoting new initiatives for the engagement of all businesses, including encouraging the use of the insurance/reinsurance value chain;
 - promoting the use of innovative technologies and instruments to support disaster management;

- encouraging a more systematic and reinforced science-policy interface, including foresight to address future risks and challenges;
- ensuring long-term sustainable, inclusive and green growth through a joint approach with climate change adaptation as part of a risk management approach to address the risks of climate change and other environmental policies, with a strengthened focus on the reduction of the underlying risk drivers in ecosystem management and on building the resilience of ecosystems for adaptation, as well as on resource efficiency, land use, spatial planning including urbanisation, environmental monitoring and promoting impact assessment;
- promoting the implementation of disaster risk management measures and strengthening the capacity at local level through the application of horizontal and vertical approach in developing sectoral policies.

Addressing vulnerabilities and needs in a comprehensive framework

11. A post 2015 HFA should address vulnerabilities and needs where it matters most in an overarching framework, factoring in conflict and fragility as well as technological risks alongside natural hazards, including slow-onset natural disasters, local disasters, as well as global shocks and stresses;
12. This framework should better target and empower the poorest and most vulnerable, harness the important potential of civil society and the private sector to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development objectives, and have a specific focus on the local level and on building urban resilience.

Ensuring coherence with the international agenda

13. Taking into account the importance of disaster resilience and its related risk factors outlined above concerning the design of a post 2015 HFA, the Council notes that the post 2015 HFA should be developed in close coherence with related ongoing international processes, in particular with discussions on the post 2015 development agenda and on the design of the 2015 agreement on climate change. The latter provides another opportunity to enhance adaptation efforts in the poorest and most vulnerable countries where the needs are greatest and to integrate disaster risk management. Policies, goals and targets, as well as related monitoring arrangements which are the subject of discussion in the respective aforementioned fora, and the post 2015 HFA should be mutually supportive and reinforcing."
