

Note from the Secretariat (UNISDR) Geneva, August 2015

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 3 June 2015 through resolution 69/283 provides the basis for the design, debate and evaluation of policies relating to the management and reduction of disaster risk (see <http://www.preventionweb.net/files/resolutions/N1516716.pdf>).

While drafting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Member States of the United Nations conducted a series of open-ended informal consultations in Geneva from October 2014 to January 2015 to help identify global targets and possible indicators relating to disaster risk reduction. Work continued in Sendai, Japan at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, from 14 to 18 March 2015, resulting in seven agreed global targets. States further agreed that the targets would be complemented by work to develop appropriate indicators. At the same time, updates to the "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction" would also be considered. To conduct this work, an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction was created through resolution 69/284 (2015) (<http://www.preventionweb.net/files/resolutions/N1516723.pdf>)

Working with a broad range of partners, UNISDR continuously strives towards a better understanding of terminology and indicators relating to disaster risk reduction. During the decade of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), UNISDR developed indicator tools such as the National HFA Monitor, Regional HFA Monitor and Local Government Self-Assessment Tool. To assess progress, UNISDR produced four Global Assessment Reports on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR 2009, GAR 2011, GAR 2013 and GAR 2015) using original data and modelling techniques developed with partner institutions. To standardize disaster risk reduction terminology, UNISDR published the 2004 terminology, which was updated in 2009.

In view of the upcoming first session of working group, UNISDR presents two background papers capturing the latest thinking on indicators and terminology built on accumulated experience. The first background paper: 'Indicators to monitor global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: A technical review' was prepared following an expert group meeting of scientific and academic organizations, civil sector, private sector and United Nations agencies, organized by UNISDR from 27 to 29 July 2015. The second background paper: 'Proposed updated terminology on disaster risk reduction (August 2015): A technical review' is the result of consultations with experts, the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, practitioners and partners facilitated by UNISDR.