



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **WHEN**

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will take place from 24 to 26 May 2017 at the Moon Palace Resort, Cancun, Mexico. It is co-organized by the Mexican Government and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

It will be preceded by the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference, taking place on 22 and 23 May, and a Conference on Climate and Disaster Resilience in Small Island Developing States, from 21 to 23 May.

### **WHO**

More than 5,000 delegates, including Heads of State, Ministers, CEOs and disaster experts are expected to gather in Cancun. Participants will also include representatives from organisations of women, children and youth, persons living with disabilities, indigenous people, volunteers, older persons, as well as the science and technology sector, and academia.

The Global Platform will be inaugurated in the presence of the President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto; the National Coordinator of Civil Protection of Mexico, Mr. Luis Felipe Puente; Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; and Mr. Robert Glasser, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and head of UNISDR.

### **WHAT**

The world has met every two years since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami killed 230,000 people, to agree on ways to reduce disaster losses. There have been two UN World Conferences in 2005 and 2015, convened to adopt global plans for reducing disaster losses.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the first to be held outside Geneva, Switzerland, a major UN centre. The Global Platform will focus on accelerating action to prevent disasters and reduce disaster losses. This requires implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which was adopted by UN Member States at the last World Conference on

Disaster Risk Reduction, in March, 2015, in Sendai, Japan. This global agreement seeks to reduce loss of life, the numbers of people affected by disasters, economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure.

Last year, 445 million people were affected by disasters linked to natural hazards worldwide including floods, storms, earthquakes and drought, 8,000 people lost their lives and direct economic losses from major disaster events were estimated at US\$138.8 billion. The World Bank estimates that the real cost to the global economy from disasters is US\$ 520 billion per year and that they push 24 million people into poverty annually.

Heads of State and government ministers will discuss how to reduce economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, roads and public utilities. Two preliminary days will be devoted to a Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference critical to action on climate and disaster risk.

### **HIGHLIGHTS FOR REPORTERS**

Among the highlights of the Global Platform will be the opening and closing ceremonies, the official statements and the Leaders' Forum, where top officials from around the world will discuss key strategies to address the growing economic losses from disasters.

The Leaders' Forum will be held on Wednesday 24 May from 16:15 to 18:45 and will address the serious threat posed by disaster losses which can wipe out years of development gains overnight.

In addition, there will be four plenary sessions where a wide range of stakeholders will focus on action taken by countries to meet the targets of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030; two special sessions and two ministerial roundtables to discuss national experiences; and 15 working sessions on specific disaster risk reduction themes.

The Global Platform will also include seven special events, 40 side events, an Ignite Stage for expert speakers, a Marketplace, ceremonies, receptions and field visits.

Among the seven special events is the Women Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction event and a TV debate on how to reduce future disaster risk. The Government of Mexico will organise a special event to launch its current hurricane season outlook.

The list of participants for the main sessions can be provided upon request.

To know more about the programme please consult:

<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en/programme>

## **MAIN OUTCOMES**

- The scope of the Global Platform agenda and focus on implementation of the Sendai Framework is clear evidence that the world is moving from managing disasters to managing disaster risks such as climate change, rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, pandemic threats, poverty and weak risk governance.
- The Global Platform will result in more countries agreeing to improve their governance, strengthen legislation and institutions, in order to reduce disaster losses and to have effective national and local strategies in place by 2020.
- The Global Platform Leaders' Forum will address economic losses as a serious threat to sustainable development, wiping out years of development gains overnight with average annual losses equivalent to 22% of social expenditure in low-income countries.
- The Global Platform will see a new initiative on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems become a reality and it will contribute significantly to reducing loss of life and injury in disasters.
- The Global Platform will see the launch of a new Risk Atlas which will help policymakers and others to understand the nature of the risks they face through a unique series of images and maps based on UNISDR's research findings.
- The Global Platform, through its programme, illustrates the cohesion between the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the New Urban Agenda and how these different components complement each other to make the whole – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - greater than the sum of its parts.
- The Global Platform will recognise excellence and confer awards on a number of innovative programmes designed to reduce disaster losses (Risk Award, Sasakawa Awards).
- The Global Platform is being hosted by Mexico, a country that has made great strides since the 1985 earthquake and Hurricane Wilma (2005) in reducing disaster losses through building codes, early warning systems and strong risk governance.

## **KEY STATISTICS**

- Economic losses are being driven upwards by a doubling in climate and weather related disasters over the last forty years.

- 90% of disaster deaths occur in low and middle-income countries (UNISDR/CRED).
- Disasters cost the global economy US\$520 billion per annum (World Bank).
- Disasters force 26 million people into poverty every year (World Bank).
- In 2015, there were 27.8 million displacements associated with conflict, violence and disasters in 127 countries including 19.2 million forced by natural hazards (IDMC)
- Participation of private sector in disaster risk reduction is vital given that 80% of investment decisions are taken by the private sector (UNISDR).
- Disasters pose a major threat to industry worldwide with the potential to disrupt global supply lines, creating a cascading series of problems.

## **MAIN LOGISTICS FOR MEDIA**

### **Registration**

All registered media are requested to provide proof of credentials to receive a badge to attend the conference. Online registration is now closed but onsite registration will still be possible with proof of credentials.

### **For logistical information please visit:**

[www.preventionweb.net/files/48240\\_gp17logisticnoteforparticipants.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/48240_gp17logisticnoteforparticipants.pdf)

Media are invited to all sessions except the Leader's forum and two Ministerial Sessions. A special pool of photographers and TV cameras will be organised at the beginning of each session. Most of the sessions will be webcast.

A media working space will be available for all media at the venue of the Global Platform but reporters are advised to bring their lab-tops.

### **Main press conferences**

#### 23 May

Briefing on outcomes of the Early warning Conference and SIDS Meeting

Time: 18-18.30

Venue: Press room

Speakers:

Robert Glasser, UNISDR SRSG

M. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization

World Bank representative, TBC

### 24 May

Main opening press conference after Leader's Forum

Venue Press room

Time: 19:00

Speakers:

Mr. Carlos Joaquín González, Governor of Quintana Roo, Mexico

H.E. Mr. Luis Videgaray Caso, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico

### 25 May

Stakeout after the 1st Ministerial Round table ( 17:00 to 19:00)

Time: 19:00

Venue: Expo center 5

Speakers:

Robert Glasser, UNISDR SRSG

M. Luis Felipe Puente, Coordinador Nacional de Protección Civil de la Secretaría de Gobernación

### 26 May

Stakeout after the 2nd Ministerial Round table (11.15 to 12:45)

Time: 12:45

Venue: Expo center 5

Speakers:

Robert Glasser, UNISDR SRSG

M. Luis Felipe Puente, Coordinador Nacional de Protección Civil de la Secretaría de Gobernación

### **Other partner press conferences**

#### 24 May

Action Aid press conference

Time: 15:00

Venue: Press room

Speakers:

Jonathan Reeves (Policy Advisor, ActionAid UK) and Chikondi Chabvuta (Regional Thematic Manager-Food Security, Resilience Building, Food Security, ActionAid Malawi).

ActionAid will be sharing research findings and policy recommendations concerning climate insurance, with particular reference to the African context.

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25 May

Outcomes of the women leadership in Disaster risk reduction for resilience

Time: 15:00

Venue: Press room

Speakers: UNISDR, IFRC, UN Women (TBC)

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25 May

Pacific countries united on creating a more resilient region

Time: 16:00

Venue: Press Room

Speakers:

President of Kiribati, H.E. Mr Taneti Maamau

Marshall Islands, H.E. Mr Mattian Zackhras

Solomon Islands, H.E. Samuel Eaney Manetoali

Fiji, PS Mr. Meleti Bainimarama

The Pacific region is on the front line when it comes to disasters and climate change impacts. Five of the top twenty at risk countries in the world are in the Pacific with Vanuatu and Tonga topping the list globally. Drought, devastating cyclones and storm surges are common place at present in this region but the countries and their leaders are working towards a safer Pacific. Hear firsthand the impact of disaster on these developing nations, the challenges in addressing these hazards and risks and the future of the region towards Sendai.

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**Interviews**

Interviews will be available upon request. For media queries, events, interviews and press conferences please contact Brigitte Leoni: Mobile: +41 76 691 04 41  
Email: leonib@un.org

### **Press releases and Main Speeches**

- UNISDR will issue press releases and daily news updates on the website [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org) and the Global Platform website:

<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en/programme>

- The Main opening speeches will be available in the press room.
- For press releases, speeches and all media stories please contact:

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### **Social media and virtual participation**

Along with a live webcast of the Global Platform, you will also be able to follow and get involved in the conference virtually, via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#).

The main hashtag for the event is #MEXICOGP2017

In addition to [@UNISDR](#), you can also follow Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, [@RobertGlasserUN](#).

Images, videos, suggested social media content and other materials are available on UNISDR's Global Platform Trello board in the News section of the Global Platform website:

<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en>

### **Global Platform Website**

The GP website <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en> is continually updated in both English and Spanish. It provides all the Conference related information such as the agenda, side events, partnership dialogues, relevant meetings, press releases, documents, registration, logistics, and social media feeds. Conference outcomes, and all the special events to be celebrated before and during the Conference.