

## Press release

*March 18, 2016– UNISDR 2016/09*

### **MEXICO TO HOST THE 2017 GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**18 March 2016, GENEVA** – The National Coordinator of Civil Protection of Mexico, Mr. Luis Felipe Puente, and the head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Mr. Robert Glasser, today announced that Mexico will host the next global conference on how to reduce loss of life and economic losses from disasters caused by man-made and natural hazards, the most important multilateral forum in its kind.

The announcement was made today at a meeting with member States in Geneva on the anniversary of the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, a global plan for reducing disaster risk endorsed by the UN General Assembly. The Sendai Framework was adopted at a UN Conference in Sendai, Japan on March 18, 2015.

Several thousand representatives of governments, international organizations and civil society are expected to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancún, Mexico, from 22 to 26 May, 2017.

Mr. Puente said: “Mexico welcomes the opportunity to host this important gathering. Disaster risk management is a priority for our government and we have been consistently applying the lessons learned from major disaster events including the 1985 earthquakes in Mexico City and hurricane Patricia last year which was the strongest storm system ever to hit the country.”

Mr. Glasser said: “We will be meeting against the backdrop of a world that is changing significantly because of climate change and where millions have been rendered food insecure because of a very strong El Niño. A key objective of the Sendai Framework and the Global Platform will be to encourage UN member States to follow the example of Mexico and others to go beyond disaster management to tackling the risks which drive disaster losses including poverty, unplanned urbanization, environmental degradation and poor risk governance.”

**About UNISDR:** UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which seeks “the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses, in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.”

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In a supportive message today on the anniversary of the Sendai Framework, President Enrique Peña Nieto said: “Mexico fully backs implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as an important pillar of the 2030 Development Agenda. Preventing and reducing disaster losses is vital to the eradication of poverty.”

**About UNISDR:** UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* which seeks “the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.”

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