

Press release

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UNISDR LAUNCHES “SENDAI SEVEN” CAMPAIGN TO SAVE LIVES IN DISASTERS

11 July 2016, GENEVA – The UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr. Robert Glasser, today launched “The Sendai Seven Campaign – 7 Targets, 7 Years”, an advocacy initiative to encourage implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction with the goal of saving lives, reducing disaster losses and improving management of disaster risk.

Mr. Glasser said today: “Despite many successes there are still far too many lives being lost in predictable events because of failures to deploy early warning systems, learn lessons from past events and to grasp the growing threat of climate change and its impact on extreme weather events including storms, floods and drought.

“Risk awareness among the general public is a vital theme running through this seven year campaign which is centred around the seven targets which UN Member States have agreed on. These include substantial reductions in loss of life, numbers of people affected, economic losses and damage to infrastructure.

“The Sendai Framework also has targets focussed on increasing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, enhanced international cooperation to developing countries and increased availability of multi-hazard early warning systems.”

This year’s target is reducing mortality and “Live to Tell” is the slogan for International Day for Disaster Reduction, October 13. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) is inviting submissions which demonstrate best practice in reducing mortality from natural and man-made hazards. The best nominees will be recognised as Sendai Target Champions for Reducing Mortality. Closing date for submissions is September 1 and entries should be no longer than 500 words. Submissions should be sent to iddr2016@un.org

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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