



PRESS RELEASE

UN/ISDR 2004/03
4 April 2004

Integrating disaster risk reduction into development – a challenge for the future High-level panelists discuss the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

On the occasion of the ninth meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and the first session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom 1) to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland will chair a panel discussion alongside IFRC Secretary-General Markku Myskala, WMO Assistant Secretary-General Hong Yan and Dr. Janos Bogardi, Director of the UNU Institute on Environment and Human Security. The discussion will focus specifically on the challenges to be addressed at the WCDR, to be held 18-22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan.

The Task Force meeting, lasting two days over 4-5 May, will be immediately followed by PrepCom 1 to the WCDR on 6-7 May. PrepCom participants will hear statements of the WCDR chair (Ecuador) followed by the host government (Japan) before launching into a discussion covering a range of issues including logistical arrangements as well as substantive content to be addressed at the WCDR.

With over 100 representatives from UN Member States registered for PrepCom 1, the WCDR is expected attract significant interest from the international community in the lead up to the second session (PrepCom 2) to be held 11-12 October and the actual event in January 2005.

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction is one of the two mechanisms established to implement the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction – the other being the ISDR Secretariat – comprising 28 UN agencies and programmes, regional organizations, educational and technical institutions and the private sector. It meets twice a year (at the UN Palais des Nations in Geneva) and is the principal body for the development of disaster reduction policy.

Panel Discussion on challenges to be addressed at the
World Conference on Disaster Reduction
4 May 2004, 15:00-18:00
Palais des Nations, Room XII

Preparatory Committee to the
World Conference on Disaster Reduction (agenda attached)
6-7 May 2004, 10:00-18:00
Palais des Nations, Room XIX
Journalists welcome

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