



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

ISDR strategy to support the Bali Action Plan process

(Draft 26 February 2008)

Disaster risk reduction is now a clearly identified element of the climate change agenda

The Bali Action Plan, agreed at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Bali, Indonesia, December 2007, will guide the negotiations over 2008 – 2009 on the global climate regime to apply from 2012. Governments recognised the importance of risk reduction for adaptation, calling for enhanced action on adaptation in paragraph 1 (c) ii and iii on the Plan, considering in particular:

- *Risk management and risk reduction strategies, including risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance;*
- *Disaster reduction strategies and means to address loss and damage.*

The inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the Bali Action Plan is a major success that will have positive repercussions for reducing disaster risks in future. The ISDR system partners and secretariat played an important role in this respect through their inputs to the internal UN preparatory processes coordinated by the UN Secretary-General over 2007 and the UNFCCC secretariat.

Urgent need to support national and local actors on disaster risk reduction

The negotiations guided by the Bali Action Plan will dominate all aspects of climate change policy making over the next two years. Many positions will be formulated over the coming months. Urgent action is therefore required to support national actors, particularly the climate change policy teams in capitals, to develop the disaster risk reduction aspects of the Plan. Three important areas of action are evident:

1. Better collaboration between climate change bodies, focal points and experts and their disaster risk reduction counterparts.

- ✓ Encourage systematic dialogue and information exchange between climate change and disaster reduction bodies, focal points and experts. Seek formal cross-linking of the national platform for disaster risk reduction¹ and the climate change national communications team.
- ✓ Promote the joint development of disaster reduction plans and adaptation strategies.
- ✓ Include disaster risk reduction experts in the national climate change adaptation policy team.

2. More accessible disaster risk reduction information and tools for climate change adaptation negotiators and managers.

- ✓ Provide practical information and guidance on disaster risk reduction and risk management, covering concepts, tools, measures, policies, etc, and sources of information.
- ✓ Mobilize the collection and summary of national risk information, including socio-economic data concerning existing vulnerability and capacity.
- ✓ Review national development strategies and sector plans to identify actual or potential interventions for disaster risk reduction as a first-step adaptation policy.

¹ See box over page on national platforms.

3. Draft adaptation plans, drawing on the *Hyogo Framework for Action*:

- ✓ Start the development of draft adaptation plans, as a tool for stimulating integrated policy. Draw on the approach and language of the *Hyogo Framework 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*² and experience in climate change adaptation initiatives, such as National Adaptation Programmes of Action.
- ✓ Include adaptation action on all five of the Hyogo Framework's priorities: (i) legislative and institutional basis; (ii) risk knowledge and early warning; (iii) education and awareness raising; (iv) sector-specific risk reduction (through building codes, environmental protection, financial risk sharing mechanisms, etc); and (v) preparedness for response.
- ✓ Convene cross-sectoral teams to formulate integrated multi-sector adaptation strategies and plans on disaster risk reduction and to inform and advise the national adaptation negotiators.

Role of ISDR and international actors

The ISDR system and secretariat stand ready to follow up and strengthen their contributions to the Bali Action Plan process and to support the proposed actions above. Donor support to accelerate the efforts would be welcomed. Particular activities that can and should be undertaken include:

- *Encouraging and supporting dialogue in capitals and meetings of national platforms.*
- *Dissemination of information and tools to climate change teams.*
- *Assistance with drafting plans and draft text.*
- *Provision of briefings and advice including at regional and other key meetings.*
- *Provision of technical and expert support.*
- *Guidance on the Hyogo Framework and its implementation.*
- *Coordination of international advocacy.*
- *Provision of input to coordinated UN products and processes, including through the Chief Executives Board and the Secretary-General's office.*
- *Design and production of information products, e.g. for specific sectors.*

Members of the ISDR system that can provide advice and guidance include the major UN and international organisations, such as the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, WMO, OCHA, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, ProVention Consortium, regional organisations, and many NGOs, academic institutes and other civil society organisations. The ISDR secretariat has regional units that directly serve regional and national actors. For more information please go to www.unisdr.org.

What is a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction?

A national platform for disaster risk reduction is a nationally owned and led forum or committee of stakeholders. It serves as an advocate of disaster risk reduction at different levels and provides coordination, analysis and advice on areas of priority requiring concerted action through a participatory process. It should be the coordination mechanism for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development policies, planning and programmes in line with the implementation of the Hyogo Framework. It should facilitate the participation of key players from line ministries, disaster management authorities, scientific and academic institutions, NGOs, the National Society of the Red Cross or Red Crescent, the private sector, opinion shapers and other sectors closely related to the disaster risk reduction purpose.

² At the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, in January 2005, 168 Governments agreed on the Hyogo Declaration and Hyogo Framework. These were later endorsed by the UN General Assembly (A/RES/60/195.)