

HEADS OF IGOS AND REGIONAL PLATFORMS MEETING
Monday 9th May 2011, 2-5pm, Room 3

Background

The past few years have witnessed a significant increase in the development of regional and sub-regional multi-stakeholder platforms for disaster risk reduction implementation in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States, Europe and the Americas. The development of regional platforms has contributed to the mobilization of key stakeholders in each region in support of HFA's effective implementation at the regional, national and local levels and to the definition and adoption of important political statements and commitments at Ministerial and Heads of State level.

The following two specific mechanisms have been set up for regional DRR coordination and implementation:

- Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction that are led by Governments and allow for an effective mobilization of all countries' commitment and technical partners' engagement in disaster risk reduction. As such, they provide a perfect illustration of the political commitment reached at the highest level in a given region. Ministerial Conferences have so far taken place in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East.
- Regional Platforms appear so far slightly more technical and are mostly driven by regional inter-governmental organizations. The latter have been duly empowered over the past few years in the area of disaster risk reduction and have increasingly taken charge of risk reduction and Hyogo Framework for Action follow-up. Regional Platforms have so far taken place in the Americas and the Pacific.

Regional Platforms and Ministerial Conferences for Disaster Risk Reduction are being gradually institutionalized in each region and represent unique regional opportunities to bring together all relevant stakeholders to discuss, plan and take collective strategic decision and action to enhance the implementation of disaster risk reduction along the Hyogo Framework for Action priorities in all most vulnerable communities and nations. Exchanges of experiences and good practices among regions, though still scattered, have also proven to be effective mechanisms to advance HFA implementation within regions and countries sharing similar disaster risk profiles.

In a spirit of enhancing regional cooperation and start developing more systematic inter-regional exchanges and support HFA implementation, urgent action is required to define the modalities of optimum regional and inter-regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction.

Objective

To enhance regional and inter-regional cooperation for the effective implementation of the global DRR agenda by building on the political commitment and technical mobilization created at the regional level

Proposed structure

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Presentation of key achievements and DRR priorities set at the regional and sub-regional levels** through Ministerial and Regional Platforms meetings, by selected Heads of Regional Platforms:

- ✚ First Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020, by Fatma El Mallah, Advisor and Representative of the SG of League of Arab States.
- ✚ Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, by Ms. Olushola Olavide, Senior Policy Officer, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission
- ✚ 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR, by Dr Park, NEMA Administrator, Korea
- ✚ Second Regional Platform for the Americas, H.E. M. Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General from OAS
- ✚ Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, by Dr. Russell Howorth, SPC, Co-Convener of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management
- ✚ European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, Dr. Pande Lazarevski, Chair of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction

3. Panel discussion on “Enhancing regional and inter-regional cooperation for the effective implementation of the global DRR agenda”

Objective of the panel: Building on the global commitments made for DRR as well as the regional strategies recently adopted at high political level and existing mechanisms developed at the regional level in support of the implementation of Ministerial decisions:

- ✚ Brief analysis of existing regional cooperation modalities
- ✚ Explore the relevance of inter-regional cooperation for DRR and identify what motivates commitment for the development of a network of regional partners (IGOs)
- ✚ Define the possible modalities for enhanced inter-regional cooperation
- ✚ Recommend how to effectively mainstream regional elements into the Global Platform discussions

| |
|--|
| PART 1: Modalities for intra-regional cooperation |
|--|

- 1. Successful mechanisms in place to turn the political commitments into concrete actions and guide regional DRR implementation**
 - ISDR Asia Partnership as “operational arm” of Asian Ministerial Conferences for DRR
 - African Working Group in support of the operationalization of the African Strategy and Plan of Action implementation
 - Pacific DRM Partnership Network in support of the implementation of the Pacific Regional DRR and DM Framework for Action
 - European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in support of the Ministerial conferences and adoptions implementation

- 2. The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response: the only legally binding HFA-based agreement promoting DRR**
 - Presentation of the legal framework promoting DRR in the context of AADMER , by H.E. Misran Karmain, Deputy Secretary General, ASEAN Secretariat

3. Concrete example of intra-regional cooperation efforts for disaster risk reduction in the Americas

- Regional Forum for Cooperation and Coordination of IGOs for The Americas, by Mr. Ivan Morales, Presidency pro tempore of forum

Discussion: How can existing intra-regional cooperation be further enhanced and scaled up? What are regional IGOs' added value and key requirements / needs to enhance ISDR's coordination role at the regional level?

PART 2: Promoting cross-regional cooperation for DRR

- Case study: SELA meeting inviting for exchange of experiences on institutional aspects for DRR across regions, by Percy Alvarado, CAPRADE
- A European Network for National Platforms, by Karl Otto Zentel, Head, German National Platform
- South/South Cooperation on DRR between the Caribbean and Pacific regions, by the SPC/SOPAC

Discussion: What are the essential elements required for effective cross-regional cooperation?

PART 3: Engaging regional partners in the Global Platform discussions

- Reminder of opportunities for regional contributions to the Global Platform discussions, by UNISDR
- **Brainstorming discussion to define** the key recommendations regional partners are willing to bring to the Chair's summary towards enhancing regional and sub-regional cooperation for DRR
- Selection of a regional representative to present regional recommendations to the joint Summary Outcome Session on Friday 13 May

Key expected outcomes

- Set of recommendations to enhance cooperation on DRR at the regional level
- Proposal for the creation of an informal coordination mechanism for cross-regional DRR cooperation (network of IGOs or regional platforms under ISDR's overall coordination)
- Clear modalities to support regional work throughout GP discussions
- Key regional recommendations to the Chair's summary
- One regional representative collectively appointed to represent regions in key GP processes