



Name of Event: [Side Event] The EU Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction

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Organizer: European Commission

1) Outline

- The side event presented how the EU strategies on disaster risk reduction (within the EU and in developing countries) contribute to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for action.
- The focus of the event was on the implementation of the strategies. Within the EU, the Commission is creating the conditions for setting up a consistent, effective, and strategic prevention and preparedness framework: encouraging national risk assessment and mapping for disaster management, improving the knowledge base on disasters (data comparability and research), encouraging effective and greater investment in disaster prevention, develop training courses and exercises. The implementation plan of the external strategy, recently published by the Commission was also presented. The plan aims to position disaster risk reduction and its link to climate adaptation more strongly and systematically in the sphere of development.

2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

- A key priority is to better understand, map, assess and analyse the risks we face.
- We need to develop a culture of risk awareness, using knowledge, innovation and education at all levels (local, regional, and national level) It is therefore crucial to reach the decision makers at all levels (international, national, local), to strengthen the link between policy makers and scientists in the field of disaster risk reduction.
- We need also to work further on comparability of data.

- The disaster management plans need to be backed up by investment in direct prevention and preparedness measures. DRR should be integrated into existing funding instruments. EU should support and give priority to investments both within the EU and outside that are disaster and climate proofed
- EU is encouraging advocacy, coordination, capacity-building of communities and dissemination of best practices

3) Conclusions

EU approach to disaster risk reduction is in line with and related to Hyogo framework. Existing strategies aim at creating the conditions for an effective, consistent, and strategic disaster risk reduction framework.