



**Name of Event: [Side Event] How Can Legislation Enhance DRR at the Community Level**

**Date of Event: May 10, 2011**

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**Organizer: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**

**1) Outline**

While the need for strong legislation is frequently mentioned in global guidance materials on risk reduction, they generally provide little detail about what a good law should contain. In particular, how can legislation best promote risk reduction at the community level? Over the last two years, the IFRC has been consulting with its members and key partners on these questions and has recently undertaken a series of case studies. This side event will present preliminary findings and open a discussion about best practice and common pitfalls.

**2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations**

- Highlighted South East Asia as a leader in DRR, having adopted the first legally-binding instrument on matters related to the Hyogo Framework for Action, and related this to the strong progress made by the Philippines in recent years (in particular with the adoption of a new law in 2010)
- A key element of building successful DRR legislation is to engage stakeholders in the process - the Philippines took a multi-stakeholder approach to the drafting of its new law on DRR
- Legislating for DRR is not about adopting one law - legislation on DRR-related matters is found at all levels, from national to provincial and municipal, as well as in many related sectors (land use, building codes, etc.)
- When municipalities (or any government offices tasked with risk reduction) are facing resource constraints, they must prioritise among competing needs - and in

these cases, having legislation requiring DRR measures can make the difference between action and none

- A major challenge is the need to harmonise sectoral laws related to or impacting DRR

### **3) Conclusion**

The chair summarised the points raised in the meeting by the panelists, and the questions raised by the participants, highlighting the points above, and drawing examples from the cases presented (Philippines, Sweden, Dominican Republic, Nepal). He concluded by saying that the rich discussion showed the importance of sharing experience and studying further how legislation can enhance DRR, and in particular the impact at the community level. IFRC is currently studying this area, having conducted numerous case studies, and consultations among its members, partners and other experts in the field. IFRC will present a report on the topic to the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, 27-29 November 2011.