



Received by ISDR Drafting Secretariat (name:)
(date/time:)

REPORT ON INDIVIDUAL EVENT

Date of event: Your name:

Event type (tick the box):

- Pre-session
- High-level panel
- Round Table
- Informal Plenary
- Special Event
- Other

Event name (write the name below):

DRR in the Context of Climate Change in the Arab Region

Number of participants – 40 including speakers
(Salvano, Luna, World Bank, Arab Academy for
Science, Technology and Maritime Transport)

(Please count or estimate this, as not all will be recorded in the list.)

1) Key questions or issues raised, main challenges or constraints identified (say, max 5):

If possible, record who raised these.

- Increasing cooperation with countries and League of Arab States to promote DRR and increase political space, raise DRR profile, raise awareness and encourage mainstreaming of DRR in sustainable development.
- Disaster risks are an increasing challenge in the Arab region, especially with the emerging risk related to climate change.
- Sea level rise will in particular be presenting economic and social challenges in the coastal zones, and a multi stakeholder is needed in order to prevent disastrous impacts
- Impact of climate change is also felt in inner cities with increasing drought risk, increasing intensity and frequency of storms and floods.
- Seismic risk is a challenge in many areas in the region specially in the context of absent urban risk reduction plans and policies and no coordination with local authorities and land planner (with the exception of few good example like in Algeria, Jordan, Palestine and Syria.
- Climate change should be dealt with through multi-stakeholder, multi-hazards approach to be comprehensive in reducing the risk.
- Arab countries have a lot of serious political and development challenges that compete with DRR being high on the agenda. Poverty, education, health, and armed conflicts are all pressing on political agenda which require then more concerted and coordinated effort to advance DRR.
- Need to harmonize terminologies and approaches Disaster Risk Management (as the WB terminology) and Disaster Risk Reduction

2) Principal proposed solutions, messages or recommendations:

- To develop risk maps through comprehensive risk assessment.
- To develop/strengthen mechanisms for coordination between decision makers, citizens, academia and all stakeholders for effective DRR.
- To ensure a multi-hazard and multi-stakeholder approach in urban risk reduction
- To enhance capacities for DRR as well as for disaster response and management to ensure effective preparedness and response in the event of a disaster.
- To ensure that humanitarian agencies address and support DRR in their projects and national programmes.

- To enhance regional coordination and cooperation to raise awareness and knowledge and synergize exiting projects by different countries and different agencies.

3) Conclusions by the Chair of the event:

- Progress has been achieved on several fronts to reduce DRR in the region and identify gaps and priorities. Regional review of progress indicated key areas that still need to be addressed and currently representing a challenge in the region.
- UNISDR will continue its role for facilitating and coordinating efforts in collaboration primarily with League of Arab States, its technical bodies and the international partners and the national and local governments to facilitate HFA implementation and reduce risks.
- The 1st Arab Regional Platform will be organized in early 2010 to bring together all stakeholders from Ministerial level to NGOs to Academia to regional and international organizations in order to build on current progress and inform policy makers of priorities and challenges as well as develop recommendations for actions

4) Your additional thoughts on the event:

Increasing interest from the region and increasing scope for substantive engagement to address gaps in high risk areas.