



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):

**EU General Policy and Communication on
Disaster Risk Reduction**

Number of participants -

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

Total: approx. 60 – 70

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

If possible, record who raised these.

- The session introduced two new EU strategies on disaster risk reduction: (1) a community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters, and (2) an EU strategy supporting disaster risk reduction in developing countries. Both have been adopted by the EC in February 2009 and will be submitted to the European Council in May.
- The proposed community approach aims to foster collective and strategic EU wide efforts in disaster prevention across member states. It looks at creating an enabling environment for knowledge based disaster prevention policies; strengthening linkages and partnership between stakeholders as well as EU policy fields; making existing instruments for prevention more effective by fostering integration; and increasing international cooperation with developing countries. The policy is currently being consulted with stakeholders from the public and private sector (DG Environment and Civil Protection Unit).
- The strategy for supporting prevention in developing countries is strongly inspired by the HFA and sets the following implementation priorities for the EU: fostering dialogue on disaster risk reduction to make it a policy priority; supporting existing regional action plans to prevent disasters acknowledging that disaster risk has no boundaries; and mainstreaming DRR into development support in the case of key investments (DG Development).
- An opportunity was provided to a representative of PPRD South Products to give a presentation and brief overview of their work at the end of the session.

2) Principal proposed solutions, messages or recommendations:

If possible, record who offered these.

- The strategy for developing countries follows the partnership principle and will be in line with developing countries' development priorities.
- The EC does not favor to allocate a proportion of EC funds for disaster reduction, as such an input driven approach is not seen to foster a result-based approach. Instead, allocation for prevention should be determined by country level negotiations on the develop assistance strategies.
- Comments and feed-back from partners highlighted the following issues (SOPAC, IFRC, audience) -
 - (a) Welcome that the strategy for developing countries is anchored in the HFA;
 - (b) Remind that the focus on risk reduction in the policy should be comprehensive and include response, preparedness and prevention;

- (c) Appreciate the reliance on regional mechanisms in view of the low capacity in the Pacific;
- (d) Support the emphasis on DRR and CCA integration, but caution that DRR is wider and the need to keep also geo-hazards in mind;
- (e) Consider the strategy a good vehicle for strengthening donor coordination;
- (f) Value the strategy's focus on traditional knowledge and coping mechanisms;
- (g) Support the stand that DRR is both a development issue and at the same time a humanitarian issue;
- (h) Welcome the focus on community level work and look forward to see how this is going to be articulated on the ground and how communities could directly benefit from EU funding;
- (i) Appreciate that the strategy looks at both natural and technological hazards as the latter have largely been absent from the discourse on disaster reduction within the ISDR System and the Global Platform.

3) Conclusions by the Chair of the event:

- The EC's engagement in disaster prevention is not new dating back over 20 years. The EC's recent engagement in the humanitarian field may have overshadowed this.
- Pleased to see both strategies endorsed by the EC, but realize that the issue of prevention may still be of low priority in relation to other more pressing policy issues member states are concerned with.
- Re-emphasized the focus at the local level in view of the crucial importance of community based work for successful disaster prevention.
- Was mindful of the fact that the overall success of both strategies will largely depend on the political will of EU member states and their interest to contribute resources for disaster prevention.

4) Your additional thoughts on the event:

(E.g. on tone and success of event, unresolved issues, commitments made by participants, etc.)

The Session provided a good opportunity to obtain feed-back and inputs from participants attending the Global Platform which will surely help finalize the strategy papers in the coming months.