



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Fourth Session - Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow

Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 May 2013

Name and Type of Event	Lusophone Platform on DRR (LDRRP) Consultation Meeting
Date	Monday 20 May 2013
Reporters name	David STEVENS
Number of Participants	50 participants from Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Portugal (5 out of the 8 Portuguese speaking countries)

1) What were the key messages, outcomes and recommendations from your event?

The event aimed at building upon the discussions and decisions taken at the previous meeting of Portuguese speaking countries which took place during the 2011 Global Platform and additionally aiming at establishing and/or strengthening specific networks and partnerships.

The meeting was co-chaired by Brazil and Mozambique and followed the proposed agenda which included:

Consolidate the establishment of the proposed Platform as a Platform of CPLP

At the previous meeting all countries agreed to discuss the possibility of establishing the ‘Plataforma dos Países de Expressão Portuguesa na Redução de Riscos (PPEP)’ as a Platform of the Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa – CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language Countries). CPLP is a multilateral forum for the deepening of mutual friendship and cooperation among Portuguese speaking countries. It was established on 17 July 1996.

Mozambique informed that the DRR Platform was agreed by CPLP Member States at the last CPLP meeting and that the next step was to hold consultations with all lusophone countries to outline and list all possible contributions and the way forward.

Discuss the strengthening of networks and partnerships in three main areas – research and academia, parliamentarians and, sub-national level administrative officials (municipalities) and define next steps for the establishment of these networks

Brazil proposed three network areas that should be considered/developed further – research and academia, parliamentarians and, sub-national level administrative officials (municipalities). It was agreed that Mozambique and Brazil would prepare a Plan of Work to be shared with all other lusophone countries for comments and which should consider the common points among all countries to build

upon and also a strategy for establishing and/or strengthening existing networks and partnerships in the three areas being considered as priority areas: 1. Research and academia; 2. Parliamentarians, and; 3. Sub-national level administrative officials (municipalities). This involves also ensuring official nominations for all national focal points.

Present the work of the Centre of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction and current opportunities available

Since the last meeting Brazil and UNISDR have established in the city of Rio de Janeiro the **United Nations Centre of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNCEDRR)** which will focus, among other activities, on the strengthening of partnerships among Portuguese language countries. The representative from UNISDR presented the Plan of Work of the Centre pointing out specific activities that will contribute to strengthening the work of this Lusophone DRR Platform.

2) Based on the Synthesis Report of the HFA2 consultation process up to the GP13, what are specific recommendations and concrete examples for the main topics, themes and issues to be addressed in the HFA2?

The discussions and decisions indicate several needs that are being addressed with the strengthening of the Lusophone DRR Platform (LDRRP). First is the need to share experiences and best practices but more than this is the need to ensure communication in other languages and not just the official UN languages or in most cases not just having the available info in English. The LDRRP will make available more information in the Portuguese language.

Second point to highlight are the areas where the lusophone countries are identifying as priority areas: research and academia which strengthens the need for comprehensive capacity building, not only training enough staff to carry out disaster risk reduction activities and plans but also ensure improvement and developments of new methodologies and techniques. Strengthening a network of parliamentarians will ensure the consolidation of a viable and visionary normative framework in all 8 lusophone countries. And finally the focus on local government strengthens the trend to have an HFA2 for local governments and citizens.