



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

Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 May 2013

Name of the session	Post 2015 Framework for DRR Consultation with Parliamentarians
Date	20 May 2013
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Number of Participants	Parliamentarians from 26 countries. Chaired by Mr Saber Chowdhury, Parliament of Bangladesh and IPU Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. Introduced by Ms Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Rep for DRR.

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

The session of legislators and governance for disaster risk reduction was jointly organized by IPU and UNISDR. We have gathered parliamentarians from 26 countries and four regional parliamentary assemblies. The focus of the discussion was very much on governance for disaster risk reduction and to obtain the commitment of parliamentarians to the HFA2. Parliamentarians shared views and experiences.

It was agreed that as climate change and disaster risk reduction are profoundly human issues, parliamentarians, who are the only stakeholders constitutionally mandated to speak on behalf of the people, are uniquely placed to have an immediate impact on the lives of those who have elected them.

It is increasingly believed that community-based actions should be the starting point of disaster risk reduction. So by acting with and on behalf of their constituents, the world's 45,000 parliamentarians can take the lessons learned at ground level and use them to create legislation, allocate resources and ensure that legislation is implemented.

There is an urgent need for such immediate action, with many countries seeing a changing pattern of disasters, from high frequency-low impact or low frequency-high impact to high frequency-high impact. The rate of economic growth in some countries cannot keep pace with expenditure on disaster recovery, so money spent on prevention, resilience building and risk reduction must be seen as an investment rather than a cost.

To bring about the necessary coherence to achieve this, governance for risk reduction must be strengthened at local, national or regional levels so that committed individuals and groups can work together to apply science and knowledge to policy makings.

Education and planning are essential in preventing natural hazards from becoming natural disasters, especially in areas affected by overpopulation and urbanization. Parliamentarians are well placed to ensure that this ground-level action is taken, and that care is given to all aspects of planning, including education, health, agriculture and zoning.

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 year 2015 is a key date for HFA, post MDGs, sustainable development and climate change.
- Parliamentarian should be recognized as important stakeholders. The current HFA only called on governments; HFA should be a broad-based engagement.
- Parliamentarians have a critical role to contribute to the consultations and to implement the HFA2.
- Governance for disaster risk reduction should be strengthened at local, regional, national and international levels. Networking is essential especially for trans-boundary issues.
- Governance for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development are closely interlinked; special attention should be paid to the vulnerable, including those with disabilities, children, and women. The importance of science and technology in developing evidence-based policies must be recognized.
- Parliamentarians have the direct mandate of the people, and must use the tools available to them to raise their understanding of disaster risk reduction and promote governance for disaster risk reduction.
- The key drivers for governance for disaster risk reduction include: institutional framework, regulatory framework, legislation, oversight, transparency and accountability, and empowerment and inclusion.
- The role of IPU is essential to have a database on best practices and experience, to create modalities, adopt resolutions in order to develop and share together our ideas and techniques.