



Name of Event: [Roundtable] Preparedness

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Panellists:

- Dr David Nabarro, UN System Senior Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza (Chair)
- Ms Christine Marin, Deputee de la Nord, membre de la Commission Environnement de l'Assemblée Parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe
- Mr Vicente Nunez, Director, National Disaster Management Authority, Chile
- Mr Rashid Khalikov, Director for Geneva, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- Dr Bruce Aylward, Assistant Director-General for Polio, Emergencies and Country Cooperation, World Health Organization
- Dr Geoffrey Love, Director, Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services Department, World Meteorological Organization
- Dr Ronald Waldman, Team Leader, Humanitarian Preparedness and Response, Influenza and Other Emerging Threats Unit, USAID

Speakers from Floor:

- Helena Lindberg, Director General, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
- Mukesh Kapila, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Rudolph von Bernuth, Save the Children, US
- Mohamed Yahya Ould Mohamed Mahmoud, CILSS, Centre Regional AGRHYMET

1) Outline

Best practices for financing and coordinating preparedness efforts that have political value, engaging the necessary government and non-governmental bodies, drawing on the best available technical expertise, reflecting accumulated experience, connecting local, national and international systems, and anticipating multiple hazards.

2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

- It is critical to build networks with key players before a disaster. Simulations are an important tool to help get all the relevant actors working together.
- The importance of preparedness at community and household level was emphasized. We need to engage the whole of society, beginning with citizens themselves.
- Anticipated benefits in the future are not enough to stimulate resource-poor communities to prioritize preparedness. We need to do better at articulating the immediate present-day benefits of preparedness work.
- Preparedness slips between the humanitarian and development stools for funding. More successful fund-raising requires that we document, detail and price the consequences of major disasters – and measure preparedness better – in order to stimulate investment.
- Many lessons can be found in our experience of pandemic preparedness over the past 5 years. The Towards a Safer World initiative will pull together these lessons, leading to a conference in Rome September 15-16.

3) Conclusions

- We need to be sure that preparedness focuses on people and communities in ways that make sense to local leaders and legislators.
- We must integrate preparedness into the sustainable development agenda.
- We need to engage multiple stakeholders and to prepare adequately for their engagement through simulations.
- Response plans must be flexible to be able to react to unexpected and different types of crisis.
- We can learn from emerging innovative financing approaches including the requirement that government line ministries put a small proportion of their budgets into contingency planning.
- Towards a Safer World process is a platform for building consensus around practical approaches to move this agenda forwards.