

### **3rd Session Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

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Humanitarian Aid and International Terrorism

On behalf of the Federal Government of Germany, I would like to thank the ISDR Secretariat for convening the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. We see the Global Platform as an important forum for sharing experiences and lessons learnt, raising awareness of disaster risks and achieving further progress on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

In support of governments' primary responsibility to ensure their populations are protected from natural disasters, Germany remains committed to strengthening disaster risk reduction strategies through both humanitarian aid and development cooperation. Disaster risk reduction and preparedness need to be integrated into sustainable national planning, notably in developing countries given their particular vulnerability. Every year Germany spends 10 % of its humanitarian aid budget and also allocates significant funds from its development-oriented emergency and transitional aid budget to promote disaster risk reduction activities in disaster-prone countries. Further funds are made available in the framework of bilateral development cooperation as well as under the Government's International Climate Protection Initiative.

This Global Platform session calls for increased investment in local action. On the background of the valuable findings of the Midterm Review this focus has been chosen well. Apart from supporting political processes on global and regional levels, local action is the overriding concern of Germany's DRR policy.

We have identified community-based disaster reduction in vulnerable coastal areas and potential earthquake zones as a particular priority. Projects are implemented by NGOs who usually start with a training of trainers. These trainers then go directly to

vulnerable communities to do a risk assessment together with the local population. In a next step strategies are being developed which very practically support the local people either to protect themselves against disasters or to reduce the impacts of disasters, for example by identifying and solidifying shelters, installing easy to use early warning devices or by doing evacuation exercises. The feedback is very encouraging. Very often we get reports from communities telling us that, for example, a storm which had occurred after the training had caused less victims in areas which had had a training module than in others without.

Ideally investments in critical infrastructure or capacity building go hand in hand or follow training measures. By applying the LRRD logic to DRR policies we try to better connect the former with the latter.

Let me at this point draw your attention to two other aspects which are important to our DRR policy: National Platforms and Early Warning.

National Platforms can serve as centers of competence and offer their advice to governments. Moreover, they can bring together civil society and government. And last but not least they can promote DRR down to municipality and community levels and help to activate the private sector for DRR. In recent years Germany supported via UNISDR and its own National Platform, DKKV, many African countries to set up National Platforms. The German Government is willing to continue supporting National Platforms.

In the age of climate change Early Warning should not only focus on sudden-onset crises, but also on slow-onset/creeping changes which are leading to disasters, too. Furthermore, it should be made sure that long-term forecasting is integrated into decision making and preparedness plans. This, of course, constitutes new challenges for Early Warning but also new potentials. A stock taking should take place in order to identify best practice and to develop a conceptual framework which incorporates the upcoming challenges. Such a stock taking could become part of the work programme of UNFCCC. UNISDR could play a vital role in it. The government of Germany would be happy to assist.

Thank you very much!