

Preparatory Committee (PrepCom1) of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Country Statement

Disaster risk reduction is a universal concern. The occurrence and cost of natural disasters is trending up-ward. Over the past decade, the number and severity of events has grown exponentially. For Canada, our interests and actions related to DRR are a component of our approach to resilience building and are two-fold: strengthening the resilience of our country and communities, and ensuring that our international cooperation with developing countries reduces disaster risk.

Canada was pleased to take part in the Regional Platform for the Americas last month in Ecuador. Furthermore, Canada also recognizes the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction solid work over the last decade in facilitating the sharing of lessons learned and best practices on managing disasters.

In the lead-up to the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Canada looks forward to working through a multi-stakeholder approach with member states in renewing the existing Hyogo Framework for Action, with an emphasis on finding pragmatic, action-oriented, and results based approaches. In doing so, Canada will stress the need for the ensuring that equality between men and women is embedded in DRR as a crosscutting issue.

Canada hopes to see the following elements reflected in the revised framework.

On monitoring, Canada welcomes efforts to build on the current system to support accountability and monitor progress. Our government is currently reviewing the ISDR's proposal and we look forward to working with states in negotiating a set of tools that is appropriate and effective.

Canada accepts the proposed basic architecture for a revamped monitoring system - one that includes a tangible risk-based approach and focuses on inputs, outputs, and real outcome indicators.

An effective system should serve as an instrument to encourage and support countries to embrace real, observable progress at both the national and community levels. It is our view that the eventual monitoring system should be based on best practices that have been learned across the globe over the last decade. This approach is consistent with the new direction for disaster risk reduction in Canada.

While we appreciate the value of capturing a story of progress globally and regionally as well as in each country, we also recognize the challenges of developing global indicators that capture the diversity and unique circumstances within our respective communities. In light of this, global targets require further study and benefits will need to be weighed against their limitations.

Canada looks forward to exploring ways of developing a monitoring and reporting approach that is based on reliable data and does not impose an unreasonable administrative burden. A streamlined, collaborative, and practical solution to effectively capture and share data should be the goal. In particular, Canada would need to be reassured by our development program partners that they have the capacity for and see the benefit of any proposed monitoring and reporting requirement.

Canada recognizes that better coordination and coherence between the post-Hyogo framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2015 climate change agreement and the World Humanitarian Summit is essential to their success. It would benefit all countries to take an integrated approach that builds resilience, particularly in the most vulnerable countries.

Canada continues to have some concerns with how the linkages between these agendas can be strengthened. For example, monitoring for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is substantially different from the one suggested in the document prepared by ISDR. In order for coherence to be meaningful, our colleagues within the UNFCCC and the SDG process must also build these linkages. Canada is ready to explore more

effective options for better aligning the multiple agendas, without prejudging their respective outcomes.

We will look to Canada's National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, being held in October 2014, to ensure the opinions of our provinces and territories, our municipalities and communities are heard. This is imperative to advance our efforts on ensuring an effective global instrument for community-based disaster risk reduction.