



United Nations

A/CONF.206/1



**World Conference on Disaster
Reduction**

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**Kobe, Hyogo, Japan
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda and annotations
Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat*

In its resolution 58/214 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly decided to convene a World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005 and requested the Inter-Agency Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) to serve as the secretariat of the Conference and to coordinate the preparatory activities.

* This document was submitted late due to the extensive internal and external consultations that had to be undertaken.

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/214, the World Conference on Disaster Reduction will be convened at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, on Tuesday, 18 January 2005. It is to be held at the Portopia Hotel.
2. The provisional list of the documents prepared for the Conference is contained in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the ISDR secretariat's web site <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr>.

II. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President and other officers
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Accreditation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups
6. Organization of work of the Conference, including the establishment of a Main Committee
7. General statements
8. Report on the discussion of the thematic segment
9. Report on the public forum
10. Review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World
11. Adoption of the programme outcome document
12. Adoption of the Conference Declaration
13. Conclusions of the Conference

III. Annotations

Item 1: Opening of the Conference

3. Following an opening statement by the Secretary-General or his designated representative, a representative of the host country will address the participants.

Item 2: Election of the President and other officers

4. **Background:** Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference provides that the Conference shall elect a President and five Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of participating States. At the first session of the Preparatory Committee, it was agreed that representatives of the countries selected for the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee would serve as the officers of the Conference, in order to benefit from the experience gained throughout the preparatory process.
5. **Action:** The Conference will be invited to elect the proposed officers.

Item 3: Adoption of the rules of procedure

6. **Background:** At the second session of the Preparatory Committee, it was agreed that, while consultations continue on the question, the Conference would, in the meantime, function under the current provisional rules of procedure. (A/CONF.206/2)

7. **Action:** The Conference will hear the latest development of the discussions on this matter. The Conference will be invited to adopt the rules of procedure.

Item 4: Adoption of the Agenda

8. **Background:** In accordance with rule 18 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference shall, at its first meeting, adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference (A/CONF.206/1).

9. **Action:** The Conference will be invited to adopt the agenda.

Item 5: Accreditation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups

10. **Background:** The Conference secretariat, following the agreement of the Bureau for the Preparatory Committee, will review the late submissions from non-governmental organizations and other major groups and will make recommendations on their participation in the Conference (A/CONF.206/3).

11. **Action:** The Conference will be invited to consider the recommendations.

Item 6: Organization of work of the Conference, including the establishment of a Main Committee

12. **Background:** In its resolution 58/214, the General Assembly decided to organize a World Conference on Disaster Reduction, at the senior-official level, with the following objectives:

(a) To conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century;

(b) To identify specific activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”) on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management;

(c) To share best practices and lessons learned to further disaster reduction within the context of attaining sustainable development and identify gaps and challenges;

(d) To increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies, thereby facilitating and promoting the implementation of those policies;

(e) To increase the reliability and availability of appropriate disaster-related information to the public and disaster management agencies in all regions, as set out in the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

13. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference, that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and that the Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

14. Under rule 46, the Conference may establish a Main Committee, as required. Under rule 48, in addition to the Main Committee, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. In accordance with rule 49, the members of the committees and working groups of the Conference, referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

15. Under rule 50, except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

16. A proposed timetable for the work of the Conference is contained in annex II; a proposed timetable for the work of the Main Committee is contained in annex III.

17. **Action:** The Conference will be invited to agree upon matters concerning the organization of work of the Conference.

Item 7: General statements

18. The Conference will hear general statements made by delegations.

Item 8: Report on the discussion of the thematic segment

19. **Background:** At its second session, the Preparatory Committee endorsed the format of the Conference, including the thematic segment. The purpose of that segment is (a) to exchange experiences and good practices in order to enhance the implementation of the programme outcome, and to identify issues requiring further discussion at the international, regional, national and community levels, and (b) to launch specific initiatives or partnerships to support the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Three high-level round-tables, five thematic panels, and a number of thematic sessions, as well as a regional session, will take place as part of the activities of this particular segment.

20. **Action:** The Conference will hear a report on various activities undertaken in the thematic segment.

Item 9: Report on the public forum

21. **Background:** Also at its second session the Preparatory Committee endorsed the holding of the public forum as one of the three key segments of the Conference. The public forum consists of workshops, exhibition booths, and poster sessions, and will provide an opportunity for organizations to promote their own activities and to engage in open debates, seminars and a variety of other events.

22. **Action:** The Conference will hear a report on various activities undertaken in the public forum.

Item 10: Review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World

23. **Background:** The Conference will have before it the draft review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World (A/CONF.206/L.1), which has been discussed in the Drafting Committee that was established by the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

24. **Action:** The Conference will be invited to take action on the draft review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World.

Item 11: Adoption of the programme outcome document

25. **Background:** The Conference will have before it a revised version of the programme outcome document (A/CONF.206/L.2) that has been discussed in the Drafting Committee.

26. **Action:** The Conference will be invited to adopt the programme outcome document.

Item 12: Adoption of the Conference Declaration

27. **Background:** The Conference will have before it a draft declaration (A/CONF.206/L.3), that has been discussed in the Drafting Committee.

28. **Action:** The Conference will be invited to adopt the declaration.

Item 13: Conclusions of the Conference

29. A draft report will be prepared by the Conference secretariat in consultation with the Bureau for adoption by the Conference.

30. The President will declare the session closed.

Annex I

List of documents for the Conference

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title or description of contents</i>
A/CONF.206/1	Provisional agenda and annotations
A/CONF.206/2	Provisional rules of procedure for the Conference
A/CONF.206/3	Accreditation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the Conference
A/CONF.206/L.1	Draft Review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World
A/CONF.206/L.2	Draft Programme Outcome Document of the Conference
A/CONF.206/L.3	Draft Declaration
A/CONF.206/INF.1	Information Note to Participants
A/CONF.206/INF.2	List of partnerships in the context of WCDR

Annex II

Proposed timetable for the work of the Conference

Ohwada room, Portopia Hotel

<i>Date/time</i>		<i>Agenda item/programme</i>
Tuesday, 18 January		
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	1	Opening of the Conference
	2	Election of the President and other officers
	1	Opening statements
	3	Adoption of rules of procedure
	4	Adoption of the agenda
	5	Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups
	6	Organization of work of the Conference, including the establishment of the Main Committee
Wednesday, 19 January		
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	7	General statements
3 - 6 p.m.	7	General statements
Thursday, 20 January		
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	7	General statements
3 - 6 p.m.	7	General statements
Friday, 21 January		
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	7	General statements
Saturday, 22 January		
10 a.m. - 1 p.m., and	7	General statements
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	8	Report on the discussion of the thematic segment
	9	Report on the public forum
	10	Review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World
	11	Adoption of programme outcome document
	12	Adoption of Conference Declaration
	13	Conclusions of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

Annex III

Proposed timetable for the Main Committee

Kairaku room, Portopia Hotel

<i>Date/time</i>		<i>Agenda item/programme</i>
Tuesday, 18 January		
a.m.* - 1 p.m.	6	Organization of work of the World Conference on Disaster reduction, including the establishment of the Main Committee
Wednesday, 19 January		
3 - 5 p.m.	10, 11, 12	Work on outstanding matters related to final documents
Thursday, 20 January		
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	10, 11, 12	Work on outstanding matters related to final documents
3 - 6 p.m.	10, 11, 12	Work on outstanding matters related to final documents
Friday, 21 January		
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	10, 11, 12	Work on outstanding matters related to final documents
3 - 6 p.m.	10, 11, 12	Work on outstanding matters related to final documents
Saturday, 22 January		
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	10, 11, 12	Work on outstanding matters related to final documents

* The morning meeting of the Main Committee will be held following the adjournment of the organizational part of the first plenary meeting of the Conference.
