Global Platform
for
Disaster Risk Reduction

First session
Geneva, Switzerland
5-7 June 2007

INFORMATION ON SESSION WORKSHOPS

ISDR/GP/2007/Inf.3

10 May 2007

United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Session documents are available on the Global Platform website
http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform

SESSION WORKSHOPS

Session Workshops are parallel events taking place on the second day of the session, Wednesday 6 June 2007.

They provide an opportunity for participants in the first session of the Global Platform to exchange good practices, lessons learnt and provide guidance around a given subject area.

The preparations for the Session Workshops was carried out in close collaboration with the ProVention Consortium, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA/EPS), the thematic cluster/platform on Knowledge and Education, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNEP/IUCN on behalf of the Environment and Disaster Working Group.

Participants are invited to attend any of the workshops that they would like to contribute to. All the Session Workshops will provide opportunities for interventions from participants and interactive discussions.

Format

The Session Workshops are divided into two agenda items:

Provisional Agenda item 4.1: Disaster Risk Reduction as a National Priority: Exchange of Experience among Countries and Organizations on Different Institutional Options and Processes that Lead to Change.
- 4.1.1 National coordination mechanisms - National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 4.1.2 Policy and Legislation for Sustainable Disaster Risk Reduction
- 4.1.3 Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into National Development Instruments
- 4.1.4 From national frameworks to local action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action

  - The four workshops under agenda item 4.1 will first meet together in room 1 to introduce the item. The four workshops will reconvene in room 1 at the end of the day to share their findings.

Provisional Agenda item 4.2: Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Sector Agendas
- 4.2.1 Education for Disaster Risk Reduction and Safer Schools in Communities at Risk
- 4.2.2 Health and Disaster Risk Reduction
- 4.2.3 Incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction into Preparedness
- 4.2.4 Ecosystems and Environmental Management for Risk Reduction

The four workshops under agenda item 4.2 will meet in separate rooms throughout the day.

Please see the Session Workshop timetable on page 4 of this document for more details.

Workshop Outputs

The findings of the Session Workshops will be an important output of the Global Platform sessions and complement the outcomes of the Plenary meetings, the High Level panels and other side meetings. Preliminary findings will be presented to the plenary on 7 June 2007 and will be included in the overall report of the session. The discussions will contribute to the strengthening of the guidelines for the implementation of the Hyogo framework for Action and the ongoing assessment of progress in its implementation.

Session Workshops Timetable - Day 2, Wednesday 6 June 2007

Please check the Daily Programme for possible changes to the timetable and room allocation.

4.1 Disaster risk reduction as a national priority: Exchange of experience among countries and organizations on different institutional options and processes that lead to change

9h30 to 10h00 Room 1 4.1Plenary introduction to National Mechanisms Workshop			
10h00 to 12h30 Room 4 4.1.1 National coordination mechanisms – national platforms for disaster risk reduction (Interpretation in E,F,S)	*10h00 to 12h30 Room 15* 4.1.2 Policy and legislation for sustainable disaster risk reduction (Interpretation in E,F,S)	*10h00 to 12h30 Room 14* 4.1.3 Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and national development instruments (E only)	*10h00 to 12h30 Room 18* 4.1.4 From national frameworks to local action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (Interpretation in E,F,S)
12h30 to 14h30 lunch			
14h30 to 16h30 Room 4 4.1.1 National coordination mechanisms – national platforms for disaster risk reduction (Interpretation in E,F,S)	*14h30 to 16h30 Room 15* 4.1.2 Policy and legislation for sustainable disaster risk reduction (Interpretation in E,F,S)	*14h30 to 16h30 Room 14* 4.1.3 Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and national development instruments (E only)	*14h30 to 16h30 Room 18* 4.1.4 From national frameworks to local action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (Interpretation in E,F,S)
16h30 to 18h00 Room 1 4.1 Plenary wrap-up to National Mechanisms Workshop and launch of the ISDR guidelines "Words into Action" - Ms. Kathleen Cravero, Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP/Bureau of Crisis Prevention & Recovery			

4.2 Integrating disaster risk reduction into sector agendas

9h30 to 12h30 Room 3 4.2.1 Education for disaster risk reduction and safer schools in communities at risk (E only)	*9h30 to 12h30 Room 7&8* 4.2.4 Ecosystems and environmental management for risk reduction (E only)
12h30 to 14h30 lunch	
14h30 to 17h30 Room 3 4.2.3 Incorporating disaster risk reduction into preparedness (Interpretation in E,F,S)	*14h30 to 17h30 Room 7&8* 4.2.2 Health and disaster risk reduction (E only)

Agenda item 4.1 Disaster risk reduction as a national priority: Exchange of experience among countries and organizations on different institutional options and processes that lead to change

The opening and the wrap-up of this agenda item will be chaired by:

- Mr. Satoru Nishikawa, Director for Disaster Preparedness, National Platform, Cabinet Office, Japan; and
- Ms. Maria Bilia, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlerments Development, Tanzania

The Chairs will present the outcome of the four Session Workshops under this agenda item in the plenary on day 3 under agenda item 5.1 Regional and global overview of implementation – progress and gaps.

Information on Session workshop 4.1.1 National coordination mechanisms – national platforms for disaster risk reduction

Preparations facilitated by the ISDR secretariat through consultations with national platforms for disaster risk reduction

Provisional Programme

Chair/Introduction

- **Germany**, Ms. Irmgard Schwaetzer , German National Platform (DKKV)

- **Central America**, Mr. David Anthony Smitz Wiltshire, Executive Secretary, CEPREDENAC

Presentations

- **Sri Lanka**, Mr. Chandradasa UWL, Disaster Management Centre

- **Iran**, Dr. Fatemi

- **Costa Rica**, Mr. Daniel Gallardo Monge Presidente, Comisión Nacional de Prevención de Riesgos y Atención de Emergencias (National Platform)

- **Madagascar**, Colonel Jean Rakotomalala Point Focal de la Plate-forme Nationale

- **Switzerland**, Mr. Florian Widmer, Swiss National Platform (PLANAT)

- **France**, Mr. René Feunteun, Conseil d'Orientation Pour la Prévention des Risques and Mr. Philippe Boulle, AFPCN

- **Germany**, Mr. Karl-Otto Zentel, German National Platform (DKKV)

- **India,** mainstreaming gender in disaster risk reduction Dr. Dhar Chakrabarti, Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management.

Background information on the worshop topic

The Hyogo Framework's first two Strategic Goals call for the "development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards" and for an "integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning". To ensure sustained commitments, the prioritization of disaster risk reduction in national policies is identified as a key step to reduce disaster losses and build resilience.

The first of the Hyogo Framework's five Priorities of Action is to "ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) becomes a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation". It details a set of related key activities including the:

- Establishment of institutional mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction (National Platforms) with designated responsibilities,
- Integration of risk reduction in various sectoral policies and planning,
- Adoption of risk related legislation,
- Decentralization of disaster-related responsibilities and resources, and the
- Implementation of measures to foster political commitment and community participation.

National Platforms or other similarly conceived "national coordination mechanisms" are currently evolving to meet the needs of individual countries. A National Platform for disaster risk reduction can be defined as a nationally led forum or committee of stakeholders able to serve as an advocate of DRR at different levels of engagement. It can provide coordination, analysis and advice on priority areas requiring concerted action through participatory processes and should strive to become a coordination mechanism for mainstreaming DRR into development policies, planning and programmes.

Current Status of National Platform formation

Between 2000 and 2006, Governments of 38 countries have officially communicated their National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction to the UN/ISDR secretariat. Twenty of these are in Africa, where previously almost no such multi-stakeholder fora for risk reduction existed. The number of National Platforms is considerably lower in Asia and Latin America, because of pre-existing, alternative disaster risk management set-ups. The National Platforms of China, Iran, Japan, The Philippines and Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador Nicaragua, and Panama are exceptions to this characterization. In Europe there has been a growing interest from Governments to set up or change the status of existing arrangements already focusing on disaster risk management to become designated National Platforms for disaster risk reduction.

Most Platforms of recent development have resulted from a nationally led participatory process informed by the "Guiding Principles for National Platforms for Disaster Reduction" developed jointly by the UN/ISDR secretariat and the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction. The guidelines were revised and updated in a workshop held in Pretoria, South Africa, in which national platforms from different regions participated. These principles were developed in response to calls for inter-disciplinary involvement to coordinate, guide and implement disaster risk reduction with development partners working in close coordination with disaster risk management institutions. The UN/ISDR secretariat renewed its efforts to support National Platforms and collaborates with other partners in particular UNDP. World Bank, WMO, IFRC in support of the work in developing countries, and with many other regional institutions within the ISDR network.

Key points for discussion

The following provides two key questions participants are asked to address in the session workshop discussions.

- What are the key issues and challenges to advance the establishment and operations of strong National Platforms / National coordinating mechanisms for DRR serving as factor of change?
- What are the crucial activities to develop over the next two years (2008-09) for ISDR system partners to support national coordination mechanisms for DRR?

To answer those key questions, participants may discuss the following aspects and respond to the following questions:

Disaster Risk Reduction as a national priority

- Which strategies can be useful to develop prior disaster management focus towards a more comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction?
- How can momentum and commitment for risk reduction be maintained, within the Governmental structures or within wider public interest especially over a longer time period without disasters?
- How to build a policy case for Disaster Risk Reduction vis-à-vis other development issues?
- How can National Platforms develop an effective communications strategy with the media?
- How could international cooperation and international partners help to keep the momentum?

Institutional Arrangements

- What are the necessary, or desirable, legal requirements for establishing a National Platform?
- Where can a National Platform be placed in a country's institutional structure for greatest impact and effectiveness?

Internal organization

- What would be a productive composition of a National Platform?
- What could be a "blueprint" or minimal structure of a National Platform? (Commissions, board, etc.)
- National Platform and local risk reduction – how to link the national with the local action?

Funding

- How to ensure a solid funding basis for national coordination of DRR activities?
- How to mobilize funds externally?
- The role of champions (goodwill ambassadors, stars, etc.) in raising awareness and mobilizing funds

Capacity building

- How can national and international partners assist in the strengthening of new and existing National Platforms and other coordinating mechanisms?
- Which capacities need to be built or developed further among National Platforms and National coordinating mechanisms?
- How to build capacities internally?
- How to expand collaboration and exchanges with other National Platforms and coordinating mechanisms?

Key activities

- What types of key DRR activities can provide expanded access for a new National Platform/ National coordination mechanism, or which may demonstrate good initial results?
- How can a National Platform mainstream crosscutting aspects like gender in disaster risk reduction?

For additional information

- UN/ISDR secretariat website: http://www.unisdr.org/
- UN/ISDR (2007): Guidance Note for National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
- DKKV/ GTZ (2007): National Platforms for Disaster Reduction - Study on current status of disaster reduction, institutional arrangements and potential for national platforms for disaster reduction in 3 South and South East Asian countries (conducted by ADPC)

Information on Session workshop 4.1.2 From National Frameworks to Local Action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action

Preparations facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme

Provisional Programme

Presentations

- **Bangladesh**, Mr. Dhiraj Malakar, Secretary in-Charge of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management

- **Mozambique**, Mr Belarmino Chivambo, National Disaster Management Institute

- **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, Mr Samir Agic, Head of Civil Protection

- **Nicaragua**, Mr Julio Icaza Gallard, Coordinator of "Vulnerability Reduction to Disasters Project"

- **South Africa**, tbd

- TearFund

Background information on the worshop topic

The Hyogo Framework for Action Priority 1 calls upon actors to "ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation". Legislative and institutional structures are a critical component in moving towards a comprehensive and mainstreamed DRR approach. In light of this and recent disasters several countries have thoroughly reviewed their policy, institutional and legislative structures for disaster risk reduction. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has provided extensive programmatic and financial support to strengthening institutional structures and legislative systems for disaster risk reduction. The session will draw upon the experiences of several countries from a range of regions. The case study examples will identify key milestones which were reached to achieve institutional and legislative reform. It is intended to highlight the processes and incentives that led to change and identify key players highlighting examples of progress achieved to date. Particular attention will be paid to how DRR practitioners at country level coped with obstacles and setbacks and devised effective strategies that led to institutional change and concrete achievements. It will also attempt focus on the issue of financial and material resources required for successful legislative reform process.

Planned outputs

Generic recommendations for those undertaking legislative reform and policy development for disaster risk reduction. Contribute to 'Words into Action', guidelines for implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action.

For additional information

- A Global Review: UNDP Support to Institutional and Legislative System for Disaster Risk Management.
- How to Guide – Governance for Disaster Risk Management Projects, UNDP Legislation for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, TearFund.

Information on Session workshop 4.1.3 Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into National Development Instruments

Preparations facilitated by the World Bank.

Provisional Programme

Chair/Introduction

- Mr. Dean Cira, World Bank

Presentations

- **Pakistan**, Lt. General Farooq, Head, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

- **Mozambique**, Mr. Paolo Zucula, National Director, National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC)

- **St. Vincent**, Mr. Howie Prince, National Emergency Management Organisation

- **Philippines**, Rabonza of the NDCC, Administrator OCD and Executive Officer and Mr. Loy Rego, ADPC

- **Malawi**, Mrs. Lilian D. Ng'oma, Permanent Secretary and Commissioner for Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs

Background information on the worshop topic

Disasters are rooted in development failures that increase risk by boosting people's exposure and susceptibility to hazards. Modeling hazard risks in macroeconomic projections and estimating changes in real per capita income have shown that catastrophes can slow or stall poverty reduction efforts. Beyond the sheer numbers of those living in poverty, the poverty gap is also accentuated by natural disasters. Most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) touch upon areas which are closely linked to vulnerability to natural hazards. In order to meet poverty objectives, it is necessary that potential hazard risks are determined and risk management approaches taken into account while designing poverty reduction strategies/socio-economic development plans.

This working group session on *Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Instruments* will take stock of current practices, highlight processes that lead to the effective integration of disaster risk reduction, and provide recommendations for countries that would like to follow suit. Focus will be on the enabling factors that generated commitment for disaster risk reduction among Ministries of Planning and Finance and the concrete steps that have been taken to translate poverty reduction and other strategies into action.

Status of Progress

A great deal of work is being done worldwide to advance the agenda to mainstream disaster risk reduction into sustainable development planning. Advancements include the development and implementation of hazard-resistant building codes and standards, training programs on risk reduction and mitigation for communities and civil servants, operational guidelines and policies for international finance institutions (IFIs), and other analytical research on hazard mapping and analysis have been developed and are being introduced into the development planning processes of vulnerable countries.

The causal analysis of poverty in a hazard prone country must take into consideration the hazard risk assessment of the region in order to make poverty reduction efforts sustainable. A hazard risk assessment includes hazard mapping, building systematic inventory of the housing and infrastructure stocks, and tracking of the social and economic losses caused by disasters. The use of existing poverty datasets to measure hazard vulnerability could be a powerful tool to demonstrate poverty and disaster linkages. And, poverty parameters impacted the most by disasters will help policymakers gain a better understanding of trends in poverty outcomes in areas affected by recurrent disasters.

The recent publication, *Natural Disaster Hotspots: A Global Risk Analysis* (2005), has established that disasters have huge impact on the growth and economic development processes in the countries prone to multiple hazards. This analysis is a useful tool that is helping the development community focus its risk reduction efforts on the most vulnerable countries at high risk, especially since the impacts of these disasters often disproportionately affect the poor.

With support from the World Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), UN partners and regional organisations, governments have started to integrate disaster risk reduction elements in their Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and other national development instruments. Disaster risk reduction has also been mainstreamed into some Country Common Assessments (CCAs) and United Nations Development Frameworks (UNDAFs). In parallel, countries have also worked to mainstream disaster risk reduction in sectors and at the local level into development planning.

Poverty reduction strategies (PRSs) describe a country's macro-economic, structural and social policies and program to promote growth and reduce poverty. PRSs are prepared by the Governments through a consultative process involving civil society organizations and development partners. Over the years, the Bank has supported country-led PRSs through CASs. Some elements of hazard risk management have been incorporated into some PRSs, but emphasis tends to be on early warning and post-disaster response rather preventive and mitigation strategies.

However there are exceptions. For example, Vietnam has set a goal of halving the number of people falling back into poverty due to natural disasters by 2010.[1] Disaster mitigation is one of the four themes of Turkey's development agenda.[2] But these are only few examples and even in these countries, public actions for integrated hazard management need to be institutionalized and accelerated to achieve significant impact in reducing disaster risks. Mainstreaming hazard risk management in PRSs/CASs requires greater degree of awareness generation among the national planners and country level analytical work in order to develop distinct strategies for reduction of disasters risks integral to overall poverty reduction objectives, followed by appropriate public expenditure programs to achieve desired results.

In addition, many sectoral policies have a direct impact on the vulnerability of the people and the infrastructure systems, such as housing, education, water, environment, health, transport, infrastructure, natural resources management, and urban development. Sectoral policies must take into consideration the hazard profile for the target location and include relevant disaster risk reduction strategies.

Another mechanism to support the mainstreaming risk reduction into development policies and programs is the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), which was established in September 2006 and is hosted by the World Bank. GFDRR supports operations that provide technical assistance to assist low- and middle-income countries to mainstream disaster risk reduction in strategic planning documents, particularly the PRSs, UNDAFs, National Adaptation Programs of

[1] The Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy of Viet Nam (Nov 2003)
[2] The Country Assistance Strategy for the Republic of Turkey (The World Bank, Oct 2003)

Action (NAPAs), and various sectoral development policies. Assistance provided is demand driven, based on needs identified in national plans in consultation with Governments and stakeholders.

Based on these examples of instruments and tools for mainstreaming risk reduction into development, Working Group 3 will feature case studies that highlight how governments have integrated disaster risk management into their development plans and programs through analysis of hazard data, training efforts, engagement with local communities, policy interventions, and infrastructure planning.

Questions for Discussion

- What incentives are needed from national governments to invest in risk reduction?
- Which stakeholders at the local and national level should be engaged to support the institutionalization of risk reduction and mitigation?
- How can civil society and other stakeholders engage with governments in hazard-resilient development planning?
- Has cost-benefit analysis of investing in mitigation and prevention been utilized to make the case for risk reduction in your country?
- How can disaster management practitioners work with the Ministries of Finance and Planning to ensure funding is allocated for risk reduction?
- What are the constraints your government is facing on the issue of mainstreaming disaster risk management into development policies and plans?
- Are there any information gaps that require more research?
- How can ISDR support governments to take these issues forward?

Additional Information and Resources

Publications:
- ProVention Consortium Guidance Notes on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (2007)
- Natural Disaster Hotspots Case Studies (2006)
- Mainstreaming Hazard Risk Management into Rural Projects (2006)
- Natural Disaster Hotspots: A Global Risk Analysis (2005)
- Preventable Losses: Saving Lives and Property through Hazard Risk Management: A Comprehensive Risk Management Framework for Europe and Central Asia (2004)
- Catastrophes and Development: Integrating Natural Catastrophes into Development Planning (2002)

Websites:
- http://www.worldbank.org/hazards
- http://www.gfdrr.org

Information on Session workshop 4.1.4 From National Frameworks to Local Action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action

Preparations facilitated by the ProVention Consortium with the support of GROOTS International (Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood) and Huairou Commission with additional inputs by Tearfund

Provisional Programme

Chair/Introduction

- **Colombia**, Ms. Diana Rubiano, Colombian Direction for Prevention and Attention to Emergencies, Bogotá
- Ms. Margaret Arnold, ProVention Consortium

Presentations

Peru: Promoting low-cost, grassroots-managed EQ resistant housing
- Ms. Olga de Jesus Ramirez Reategui, Mujeres Unidas para un Pueblo Mejor
- Ms. Luz Maria Sanchez Hurtado, Estrategia
- Mr. Omar Marcos Arteaga, Mayor of Ventanilla

India: Monitoring post-disaster reconstruction for risk reduction
- Ms. Manimegalai Suvaperumal, Panchayat Leader, Tamil Nadu
- Mr. V C Nadarajan, Covenant Center for Development
- Dr. PG Dhar Chakrabarti, National Institute for Disaster Management

Jamaica: Community-based hazard mapping and preparedness planning
- Ms. Carmen Griffiths, Construction Resource Development Centre (CRDC)
- Ms. Marcia Antoinette Christian, CRDC
- Mr. Franklyn McDonald, Jamaica

Malawi: Multi Stakeholder Flood Management
- 5 minute video presentation produced by Tearfund, Malawi

Background information on the worshop topic

The Hyogo Framework places great emphasis on community participation and the need to integrate gender in all aspects of effective disaster risk reduction—noting that vulnerable groups and high risk communities must be engaged in the design and implementation of plans and activities. Yet community participation and gender equity principles require effective platforms and resource allocations to enable risk prone, poor communities to voice their priorities, make their actions and contributions visible, and formally participate in decision making. This working group will examine and debate how this can be achieved in practice, and challenge stakeholder groups--government officials, development professionals, donors, and NGO actors--to examine the policy, resource, and partnership commitments that are required to center stage citizen groups from poor, often marginalized communities in all elements of disaster risk reduction.

Community experiences from hazard prone areas around the world have demonstrated that Community Based Organizations (CBOs*) are* key actors in disaster reduction. Their efforts have improved development outcomes and increased the capacities of high risk communities to cope with disasters. To concretize the innovation and value addition communities bring to disaster risk reduction, this working group will share and analyze locally focused, community--based risk reduction strategies,

track emerging good practices and the range of actors who are initiating and implementing them. Case study presentations and facilitated discussions will identify effective actions undertaken by grassroots residents of disaster-prone poor communities—in Peru, Jamaica, and India—and the local and national government officials they have joined with to reduce community vulnerabilities and potential hazards and promote resilience.

To foster an exchange of experience and perspectives, workshop participants will have a chance to discuss their local initiatives and to examine and debate how governments and local authorities can effectively engage with CBOs in their countries to upscale these efforts and contribute to a strong institutional base for implementation of the Hyogo Framework.

The discussion will develop recommendations on how these approaches can be transferred and scaled up for the development of effective platforms for action, how national and local authorities can engage effectively with community based organizations, and how donors can support and facilitate this process.

Agenda Item 4.2 Integrating disaster risk reduction into sector agendas

The respective Chairs of the four Session Workshops under this agenda item will be invited to present the findings of their discussion on day 3, under 5.2 Implementation in thematic areas – progress and gaps.

Information on Session workshop 4.2.1 Education for Disaster Risk Reduction and Safer Schools in Communities at Risk

Preparations facilitated by the thematic cluster/platform on Knowledge and Education.

Provisional Programme

Chair/Introduction

- Welcome address by Dr. Marco Ferrari, Deputy Head Department for Humanitarian Aid - **Switzerland**, (Former Chairman of the Main Committee at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
- Introductory remarks from co-presenter at the workshop Badaoui Rouhban and Paola Albrito
- Interventions by a schoolchild
- Chair, **Ghana**, Mr. Boniface Gambila Adagbila – Regional Minister

Presentations

Panel formed by: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) (Mr. Aloysius J Rego, Director and Team Leader, Disaster Management Systems Team), Council of Europe (Eladio Fernández-Galiano, Executive Secretary European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)), France (Olivier Schick, Association Française pour la Prévention des Catastrophes Naturelles (AFPCN)), Nicaragua (Possible panellis Ms. Ligia Calderon, SINAPRED).WMO (Dr. Maryam Golnaraghi, Chief, Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme).

School safety
- **Iran**, Mr. Parsizadeh
- **Japan**, Prof. Tatsuya Fujioka, Professor of Joetsu University of Education

Formal education
- **India**, Mr. Amit Kaushik
- **Zimbabwe,** (tbc)
- **Germany,** Prof. Dr. Gerd Tetzlaff, chairperson DKKV advisory board

Community-based education:
- **Viet-Nam**, Mr. Tao
- **Panama**, Mr. Mingthoy Giro, Cabinet of the First Lady of Panama

Global public awareness/media
- **USA**, Ms. Rebecca Scheurer, Senior Advisor for Disaster Preparedness and Planning at ARC
- **Panama**, Ms. Ruth Custode

Background information on the worshop topic

One of the five priority areas of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster: (HFA) is Priority for Action 3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels (HFA 3). The workshop on Education for Disaster risk reduction and Safer Schools in Communities at Risk to be held during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva on 6 June 2007 is proposed to review the

progress made, identify existing challenges and propose the way forward to accelerate the implementation of the HFA 3.
It is expected that about 110 participants will attend this workshop, including representatives of Member States, UN agencies, international/regional organizations, civil society, academia, media, NGOs, private sector experts involved in disaster risk reduction.

Objectives

The workshop will consist of multidisciplinary discussions on education for disaster risk reduction and safe schools issue, focusing on national and local implementation of disaster risk reduction projects, which will provide an opportunity for participants in the Global Platform to exchange good practices, lessons learnt and to provide guidance on education for disaster risk reduction. The workshop will contribute to the United Nations International Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2015) aiming at the integration of education into sustainable development strategies. The main objectives of the workshop will be to discuss:

- how to promote and advance activities in the areas of disaster risk reduction in school communities and safe schools initiatives?;
- how to develop content guidelines for disaster risk reduction curricula in schools?;
- how to infuse disaster risk reduction in educational events and activities in the education and sustainable development sectors in order to introduce and integrate disaster risk reduction issues?.
- the opportunity, timeliness and scope for the organization of an International Conference on Education for Disaster risk reduction.

For additional information

- Priorities for Action 2005-2015. In Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. Extract from the final report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. Kobe, Japan, 2005.

- "Let Our Children Teach Us!" - a review of the Role of education and knowledge in disaster risk reduction. This review examines good practices to reduce disaster risk through education, knowledge and innovation. It looks critically and strategically at current activities in order to identify gaps, opportunities in the form of synergism and partnerships.

- More relevant information and documents can be found at the web page of Thematic cluster/platform on knowledge and education: http://www.unisdr.org/eng/task%20force/working%20groups/knowledge-education/knowledge-education.htm

Information on Session workshop 4.2.2 Health and Disaster Risk Reduction

Preparations facilitated by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Provisional Programme

Chair/Introduction

- Gulam Juma, International Coordinator, Focus Humanitarian Assistance
- Ciro Ugarte, Pan American Health Organization (Rapporteur)

Presentations

- Samir BenYahmed, Health Action in Crises, World Health Organization
- **Barbados**, Tony Gibbs, Consulting Engineers Partnership Ltd.,
- **Nepal**, Amod Mani Dixit, Director, National Society for Earthquake Engineering,
- **Philippines**, Carmencita Alberto-Banatin, Department of Health

Background information on the topic

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005, put forth the following priority for action to measure the commitment to and success of national emergency risk reduction programmes: *Integrate disaster risk reduction planning into the health sector; promote the goal of "hospitals safe from disasters" by ensuring that all new hospitals are built with a level of resilience that strengthens their capacity to remain functional in disaster situations and implement mitigation measures to reinforce existing health facilities…"*

Risk Reduction in the Health Sector and Status of Progress

Risk reduction has a critical place in the health sector. Health facilities and health services—a community's lifeline in normal times, but especially so in times of crisis—have been severely damaged or, at the very least, left unable to function in the aftermath of disasters and emergency situations. There are countless examples of health infrastructure—from sophisticated hospitals to small but vital health centres—that have suffered this fate. One such case occurred in the Hospital Juarez in Mexico. In 1985, almost 600 patients and staff lost their lives when this modern (for its time) and well-equipped hospital collapsed in the wake of an earthquake. More recently, the 2005 South Asia earthquake that affected principally Pakistan and parts of India and Afghanistan damaged up to 80% of the health infrastructure in some areas, crippling health services.

It is just as common to see health facilities that are left standing but nevertheless unable to function, due to a failure of lifeline services, non-structural elements and equipment or to insufficient contingency planning (external and internal distribution of space, access routes, etc.). Following the 2006 war in Lebanon, 26% of health facilities were unable to provide any kind of service and another 6% were only partially operational.

Therefore, safe health facilities are those in which health services remain accessible and functioning at maximum capacity during and immediately after disasters, emergencies or other crises. In order for health facilities to protect the lives of patients and staff, they must be physically resilient and able to remain operational and continue providing vital health services.

Reducing risk in the health sector is achievable and progress has been made. At the global level, it is increasingly common to find the topic on national and international health agendas (in fact, Safe Hospitals and Health Facilities is the theme of the 2008-09 World Disaster Reduction Campaign—a joint effort between the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the World Health Organization (WHO). International organizations have endorsed resolutions to intensify support to Member States affected by crises and disasters, to work closely with the ISDR to ensure adequate emphasis is given to health concerns, to assess the resilience and risk-management capability of all key health infrastructure and to set the goal that all new hospitals are built with a level of protection that better guarantees they can remain functional in crisis situations and that existing health facilities take the necessary steps to reduce risk through mitigation and preparedness measures.

Despite a degree of success in demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of making health facilities safer and capable of delivering health services during and immediately following disasters, progress has been hampered by a number of reasons, including an erroneous perception that building resilient health infrastructure is prohibitively expensive or the lack of involvement of multi-disciplinary experts in achieving these objectives.

However, the most important factor holding back rapid progress in this field may be the absence of a political commitment from outside the health sector. Disaster risk reduction in the health sector must be a responsibility shared among many sectors and constituencies: such as Finance and Planning, where funding decisions are made or with the international donor community. The choice of the land on which to build a health facility is often determined by local authorities, while the actual construction may be contracted privately or carried out or supervised by the Ministry of Public Works. Ministries of Health are quite sensitive to the need to incorporate risk reduction into health facilities (and indeed sector-wide) but cannot achieve this goal in isolation.

In summary, we have learned that with current knowledge, existing resources, and a strong political commitment, it is possible to stop disasters and reduce risk in the health sector. Everyday deficiencies in providing routine health services can be compensated for. However, in large-scale emergencies, the backbone of lifesaving health services must be preserved. Hospitals provide a great social value to communities and an essential sense of security. Communities do not put a price tag on this; rather they consider it one of their most basic needs. Although the social, political and economic justification for maintaining the functionality of hospitals in the aftermath of disasters is strong enough, there is an even stronger justification within the health sector itself. In some regions of the world, the cost of running hospitals consumes approximately 70% of the budget of the ministries of health; in remote areas and in small island nations, frequently there is only one facility of this type; losing this hospital represents a 100% loss. Every day the health sector invests large sums of money in building, remodeling or expanding health infrastructure. We cannot let the opportunity pass to draw attention to the importance of incorporating disaster risk reduction measures into the process to safeguard this critical investment.

Key Points for Discussion

- Strategies for garnering political support for making health facilities (old and new) structurally more resilient
- What can communities do to demand safe health facilities according to the definition on page 1 (community-driven pressure)?
- Who should the main partners be at the international level? At the national level?
- Lessons learned from recent emergencies.
- Suggestions for "packaging" a comprehensive approach to safe health facilities that addresses all aspects: structural, functional and operational resilience.

- Steps for making health facilities and the health system more resilient and strategies for securing resources to take this initiative forward.
- Greater involvement of the construction industry in multi-disciplinary fora addressing disaster prevention and risk reduction
- The routine use of check consultants (*bureaux de contrôle*) in capital projects

For additional information

- Health Facility Seismic Vulnerability Evaluation, published by WHO's European Regional Office.
- Field Manual for Capacity Assessment of Health Facilities in Responding to Emergencies (WHO, 2006). A self-assessment management tool for evaluating disaster and emergency preparedness in health facilities, it allows users to customize the application of measures according to the resources, capabilities and acceptable norm in their respective national or regional settings.
- Publications on vulnerability assessment of health facilities in Nepal:
- A Structural Vulnerability Assessment of Hospitals in Kathmandu Valley
- Guidelines for Seismic Vulnerability Assessment of Hospitals
- Non-Structural Vulnerability Assessment of Hospitals in Nepal
- Why Are We Still Building Unsafe Hospitals? Editorial from the WHO/PAHO newsletter *Disasters: Preparedness and Mitigation in the Americas.* Issue 99, April 2005. Discusses why health facilities are still being built without the necessary safeguards to ensure they are able to function after a disaster, even though the necessary knowledge exists and is readily available.
- Safe Hospitals - A Collective Responsibility, A Global Measure of Disaster Reduction. This short, easy-to-read publication, prepared for the Kobe World Conference on Disaster Reduction, summarizes why and how to reduce risk in health facilities.
- Guidelines for Vulnerability Reduction in the Design of New Health Facilities. This publication puts forward three potential levels of protection from adverse events, or performance objectives: life safety, investment protection, and functional protection.
- Protecting New Health Facilities from Natural Disasters. Recommendations on how to use risk reduction guidelines, it emphasizes the social and economic benefits of applying risk reduction mitigation measures to the design, planning and construction of health facilities. Equally important, it describes how to apply these measures to achieve protection levels that not only ensure human safety and the continuity of services.
- Design Manual for Health Services Facilities in the Caribbean (with particular reference to natural hazards and other low-frequency events) This document is aimed at those who commission, manage and monitor capital works projects in the health sector and those who design such projects. It is important that the owners (or custodians) and the designers of healthcare facilities have a common understanding of the objectives and performance expectations of such facilities in the face of natural hazards.

This and more material is online through the Health Library for Disasters: www.helid.desastres.net.

Information on Session workshop 4.2.3 Incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction into Preparedness

Preparations facilitated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA/EPS).

Provisional Programme

Chair/Introduction

- Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA

Presentations

Panel 1: How to Strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction through Preparedness at National/Community Level

- **Kenya**, Mr. Abass (tbc)
- **Ecuador** , Ms. Lorena Cajas, Vice Minister Risk Management
- **Jamaica**, Ms. Dorothy Francis, Jamaica Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Community
- Dr. Johann G. Goldammer, Director Global Fire Monitoring Centre / German Committee for Disaster Reduction

Panel 2: Ways in Which the International Community and National Governments can Support Strengthening of Disaster Risk Reduction through Preparedness

- Ms. Line Urban, Food Aid and Disaster Preparedness, ECHO
- Mrs. Seyda Sever, National Program Officer, SDC, Turkey
- **Tajikistan**, Mr. Zokirov, Chairman of the Committee of emergency Situation
- **India**, Mr. Bisweswar Bhattacharjee, Minister of State

Background information on the topic

Preparedness reduces the impact of disasters and saves lives. This is one of the fundamental affirmations of the Hyogo Framework for Action as it is widely accepted that disaster preparedness saves lives and reduces the negative impact on societies and economies. The first and oftentimes most important responders to disasters are the people affected. They are often in possession of very valuable information, experience and coping mechanisms. It is therefore very important that strategies and plans take this into account and work with these communities in their development.

Preparedness means strong and effective systems and structures in place to respond to needs of the affected. It should be based on sound risk analysis, early warning, monitoring and dissemination of information. It should be people centred, people focussed and multi-hazard

Preparedness should build capacity at the local level with links to national and international mechanisms and should devote particular consideration to the needs of vulnerable groups

A common understanding is important because experience has shown that effective response depends on the extent to which actors prepare and operate in a coordinated and timely manner, avoiding gaps,

duplications of effort and parallel structures. Different political, cultural and socio-economic environments call for different arrangements and mechanisms, but whatever the setting, effective management and coordination requires clarity of functions and authority, division of labour, as well as leadership. It also includes coordination between local and central authorities, between internal and external actors and within and between sectors.
An important feature of effective preparedness is strong appreciation of who is vulnerable and why and of measures to strengthen the resilience of disaster-prone communities. This people-centred approach needs to be sensitive to gender, culture and other context-specific issues that can empower or undermine particular groups and individuals.

Key Challenges for discussion at the workshop

- Political commitment

One of the most important factors determining if preparedness is adequate or not, comes with the level of political commitment. It is a sad truth, though with great exceptions, that commitment and realisation of the importance of preparedness comes after (and ends rapidly) a disaster, when it becomes tragically clear that much damage and losses could have been avoided. The Hyogo Framework for Action and other initiatives on preparedness are important steps in the process of harnessing this support, and conferences and meetings are excellent opportunities for governments to share their experiences.

- Funding

Another major challenge is of course the funding aspects. It is sometimes difficult to argue for limited funds being spent on preparedness, when so many pressing issues need funds, and it is yet again not until after a disaster that it is realised that money spent on preparedness represents substantial savings in the amount needed for response. The sheer scope of hazards that some countries face, or the size of vulnerable populations make this even more difficult.

For additional information

- Priorities for Action 2005-2015. *In* Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

- 'Words into Action', guidelines for implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action. Chapter five on strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response.

- Complementary guidelines and indicators package to support the implementation of the HFA priority five, working document.

Information on Session workshop 4.2.4 Ecosystems and Environmental Management for Risk Reduction

Preparations facilitated by UNEP/IUCN on behalf of the Environment and Disaster Working Group.

Provisional Programme

Chair/Introduction

- A national Government will be invited to Chair.
- UNEP will introduce the session objectives and IUCN will introduce the speakers.

Presentations

- **Jamaica***,* Franklin McDonald, Disaster Risk criteria in Environmental Impact Assessments
- **Denmark***,* Palle Lindgaard Jørgensen, Role of Environmental Science and Information in Disaster Reduction
- **Indonesia**, Ms. Siti Aini Hanum, Decision Support System Development for Environmental Disaster Risk Reduction: Indonesian Experience
- **Peru**, Mr. Ricardo Giesecke, Environment and Climate Change Adaptation in the Andes
- **Tanzania**, Mr. Gerald Mango, Land Use Planning and Disaster Reduction
- **Sri Lanka**, Prof. Hettiarachchi, Sri Lanka Environmental Options for Coastal Defense

Background information on the topic

The Hyogo Framework for Action, the Millennium Declaration and the UN Millennium ecosystem Assessment have different points of departure but come to the similar conclusion that environmental degradation, poverty and disaster risk share common causes as well as common consequences for human security and well-being.

They also make clear that ecosystem services, environmental management and environmental information offer opportunities to reduce risk, decrease poverty and achieve sustainable development. These services and skills will be increasingly valuable as vulnerable communities adapt to a changing climate in which more frequent and intense hazards threaten hard won development gains.

In order to support advocacy, capacity-building and training program, and to facilitate the design and implementation of environmentally sound solutions to the challenges posed by natural hazards, there is now an urgent need to effectively communicate the strategic issues linked to addressing the environmental dimensions of disaster risk reduction.

The ISDR Working Group on Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (EDWG) was established to further the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action's recommendation on environmental management and disaster risk reduction. The EDWG has produced a discussion paper on issues and opportunities for environmental management in disaster risk reduction. Some of the opportunities identified in the issues paper are:

1. Engage environmental managers fully in national disaster risk management mechanisms (and disaster managers in environmental initiatives)
2. Include risk reduction criteria in environmental regulatory frameworks
3. Assess environmental change as a parameter of risk
4. Utilize local knowledge in community-based disaster risk management
5. Engage the scientific community to promote environmental research and innovation
6. Protect and value ecosystem services
7. Consider environmental technologies and designs for structural defences
8. Integrate environmental and disaster risk considerations in spatial planning
9. Prepare for environmental emergencies
10. Strengthen capacities for environmental recovery

Several of the opportunities identified in the discussion paper will be featured in presentations invited for this session.

Workshop Objectives

This session introduces areas of action where disaster and environmental managers have made use of environmental management.

Broadly, the presentations and the complementary Issues Paper are intended to

- Stimulate a discussion of priorities directions and opportunities for strengthening the role of environment and environmental management in disaster reduction

- Catalyse a statement to the wider ISDR System regarding the importance of establishing an environmental agenda and the need to advance partnerships for addressing environmental dimensions of disaster risk

Key points for discussion

- How are the skills, knowledge and capacities of environmental managers utilized in national or sub national disaster reduction initiatives?
- What factors allowed you to succeed in carrying out risk reduction initiatives?
- What challenges were encountered (political, social-cultural, economic) in your efforts to reduce disaster risk. Were you able to overcome these and how?

Outputs

- 5 Minute report to plenary on afternoon of June 6 – delivered by National Chair
- Input to the ISDR Chair's Summary- delivered by rapporteur morning of June 7
- 5 minute briefing by Session Rapporteur to Plenary Agenda Item 5, June 7
- 3 page report on the session deliberations - to be provided by 22 June

For additional information

The Working Group on Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (EDWG) of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR), chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme has prepared an issues paper to collect and communicate key topics, needs, and opportunities. This paper introduces the connections between environment and disaster risk and identifies fields of action where disaster mangers can make better use of environmental management to reduce disaster risk.

The paper, titled "Environment and Vulnerability – Emerging Perspectives", is available at: http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/env_vulnerability.pdf