



# Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Second Session, Geneva, Switzerland  
16 - 19 June 2009  
Centre International de Conférences Genève

## Second Announcement

*'We are not on track to achieve the Hyogo Framework's sought-after outcome of a substantial reduction in disaster losses by 2015. The need for action is more urgent than ever.'*

John Holmes  
United Nations Under-Secretary-General  
for Humanitarian Affairs,  
Chair of the Global Platform

The goal of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, as the main body of the ISDR system, is to sustain world-wide momentum to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. The Global Platform is convened by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in his capacity as Chair of the ISDR System. The Global Platform brings together a broad range of partners to:

- Assess progress made in implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- Enhance awareness of disaster risk reduction;
- Share experience and learn from good practice;
- Identify remaining gaps as well as actions to accelerate national and local implementation.<sup>1</sup>

The first session of the Global Platform, held in June 2007, was widely perceived by a range of stakeholders to have been an important milestone in the global movement to reduce risk of disasters triggered by natural hazards.



United Nations

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly Resolution A/RES/62/192, Paragraph 15 (11 February 2008)

# ISDR System

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) is a system of partnerships with the overall objective of generating and supporting a global disaster risk reduction movement. These partnerships are composed of a broad range of actors, all of which have essential roles to play in supporting nations and communities to implement the Hyogo Framework and thus reducing disaster risk. Partners include Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, scientific and technical bodies and specialized networks as well as civil society and the private sector.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> For more information on the ISDR system and its secretariat visit [www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/isdr/](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/isdr/)

## Objective

*'The highest priority in managing disasters must be increased investment. . . to reduce the risk of natural hazards turning into disasters.'*

World Economic and Social Survey 2008, United Nations.

### **To increase commitment and action to implement the Hyogo Framework**

Since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2005, greater awareness of the importance of reducing disaster risk has developed among the ISDR System's many stakeholders. There have also been dramatic changes globally in thinking and action on climate change, broadening the audience and increasing receptivity to the disaster risk reduction message. Taking into account this new landscape, the objective of this session is to increase commitment and measurable actions to implement the Hyogo Framework at all levels, particularly in the face of climate change.

Despite these positive trends, the gap between what needs to be done as envisaged in the Hyogo Framework and the reality at community level is stark, as witnessed by the devastating impact of recent major disasters. The poor and vulnerable continue to be the most affected when disaster strikes, both in rural and urban areas. Mega-cities contain the seeds of major disasters waiting to happen. And there remains a large gap between the resources needed for risk reduction – technical, human, institutional and financial - and what is currently available. These issues will be at the centre of the deliberations of the second session of the Global Platform.

# Programme

*'Disasters caused by vulnerability to natural hazards are holding back progress towards halving poverty and achievement of other Millennium Development Goals.'*

Report of the Secretary General, A/63/351, para 32  
(10 September 2008) Implementation of the  
International Strategy on Disaster Reduction.

*Continued*

## **Thematic focus – poverty reduction and disasters**

Disasters disproportionately affect the poorest among us, and poverty is recognized to be a key factor in increasing disaster risk. Moreover, disaster impacts deepen and perpetuate poverty trends. The second session of the Global Platform will highlight the intrinsic linkages between poverty and vulnerability to disasters and consider how to increase resilience to disaster risk at community level, particularly among the poor and vulnerable. The deliberations at the Global Platform will benefit from the findings of the first Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be launched in May 2009 which will focus on poverty and disaster risk.

## **Plenary Sessions**

Plenary Sessions will provide the opportunity for Governments and organizations to present their experiences, discuss challenges and opportunities for reducing disaster risk and sharing good practices and lessons learned in building resilience. Particular emphasis will be put on how to increase resources for disaster risk reduction and ensure that disaster risk reduction is systematically taken into account in public and private investments.

Specific plenary sessions will also assess the state of global disaster risk and progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action; identify critical actions to accelerate national and local implementation; and address community resilience from each of the following perspectives:

- Efforts to reduce vulnerability to disasters in poor communities affected by climate change, urbanization and environmental degradation;
- Community resilience through awareness, preparedness and early warning;
- Critical services and infrastructure such as health facilities and schools;
- Relief and recovery as opportunities to build resilience to future disaster risk.

Plenary sessions will be supplemented by meetings of a committee of the whole, open to all participating Governments and organizations, to discuss specific issues including the preparations for the mid-term review of the Hyogo Framework for Action to be carried out in 2010.

# Date and Venue

The second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is scheduled to take place

**16 –19 June 2009**

**Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG) Geneva, Switzerland.**

The venue will also be available for selected meetings and events on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 13, 14 and 15 June 2009.

## The Hyogo Framework for Action

*The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*, was adopted by 168 Governments at the World Conference for Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan in January 2005. The goal of the Hyogo Framework is to achieve a “substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in social, economic and environmental assets.” In adopting the Hyogo Framework<sup>3</sup>, Governments committed to five priorities for action:

### Side Events

Side events will provide the opportunity for participating Governments and organizations to profit from the presence of a large number of colleagues from different sectors and with different points of view to address further specific issues in relation to disaster risk reduction.

### A Disaster Risk Reduction Marketplace

A Disaster Risk Reduction Marketplace will provide the opportunity to further showcase experiences and create linkages among participants for technical cooperation and mutual support. Booths will be made available which may be maintained by participants throughout the session. Specific times will also be set aside to allow participating Governments and organizations that wish to do so to make brief presentations on their own services, practical tools and products in disaster risk reduction and to link up with potential partners.

More information on the agenda and timetable of the second session will be made available on [www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform](http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform) as preparations for the session proceed. The various reports and documents which will be considered at the session will be available on the website, as will country reports prepared as part of the process to develop the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction.

- 1 Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;
- 2 Identify, assess and monitor disaster risk and enhance early warning;
- 3 Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels;
- 4 Reduce the underlying risk factors;
- 5 Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

<sup>3</sup> The General Assembly of the United Nations, in its resolution A/RES/60/196 endorsed the Hyogo Framework (A/RES/60/196) and has since that time repeatedly invited “Member States, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional bodies and other international organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and volunteers, the private sector and the scientific community, to increase efforts to support, implement and follow up the Hyogo Framework for Action” (See resolution A/RES/62/192, para. 5)

# Participation

Participation in the Global Platform is by invitation from the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. John Holmes, in his capacity as Chair of the ISDR System. Invitations to attend will be sent in January 2009.

All Member States of the United Nations will be invited to send representatives. Invitations will also be extended to concerned United Nations agencies, regional bodies and international financial institutions as well as selected representatives of civil society, the private sector and the scientific and academic communities. Organizations that received invitations to attend the first session in June 2007 should expect again to receive an invitation to participate in the second session.

Requests for participation by other expert organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Given the nature and purpose of the Global Platform, participation is limited. Only organizations that have demonstrated a strong and continued engagement in disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including involvement in ISDR platforms, clusters and the working groups, and which have wide representation and outreach at international level, will be considered. All persons who attend the Global Platform do

*‘Pro-active and preventive strategies are needed to decrease human vulnerability to disaster and climate change, especially that of the poor and with particular attention to women, to safeguard human security, promote sustainable development, and alleviate poverty.’*

Manila Call for Action. Parliamentarians Network on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, 18 October 2008.

so as members of a delegation named by a Government or by an invited organization.

Governments are urged to ensure that their delegation is representative of the range of sectors and processes which are involved in disaster risk reduction. This includes representatives of national platforms for disaster risk reduction and focal points for the Hyogo Framework as well as policy and decision-makers and practitioners in the areas of planning and financing for development, disaster management, environment, education, health, and science and technology and national officials responsible for climate change policy matters. Governments may also wish to consider including in their delegation representatives of their national Red Cross/ Red Crescent societies and other relevant stakeholders, such as representatives of non-governmental and civil society organizations, the private sector, academic and professional organizations, and parliamentarians and local authorities.

Moreover, given the importance and urgency of advancing the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, Governments and organizations are encouraged to send high level representatives so as to ensure strong and effective follow-up action.

# Organization



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UNISDR) guides and supports the preparations for the Global Platform, under the overall leadership of United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. John Holmes.

The preparations for the Global Platform constitute a true partnership among a range of stakeholders. There is a major role for Governments, both through the Geneva-based ISDR Support Group and by providing substantive inputs to the session, active participation in Regional Platforms, and provision of financial and in-kind support. Organizations that are members of various ISDR partnerships, including Regional Platforms and Thematic Platforms, are also expected to contribute to the preparations. In addition, important contributions are made by networks of non-governmental organizations, scientific and academic communities, the private sector, and the media. Both Governments and organizations may take the leadership for

preparations of specific substantive sessions and side events. UNISDR coordinates the various inputs. The ISDR Inter-Agency Group<sup>4</sup> is collaborating with UNISDR in preparing the thematic content.

Interpretation in the six official United Nations languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) will be available in the plenary. The committee of the whole will be conducted in English, French and Spanish. Side events will take place in the language chosen by the organizer.

It is anticipated that limited resources will be available to cover the participation of delegates from developing countries, with priority to the least developed countries and small island developing states. Invitations to developing country Governments will contain further information on how to request support for participation.

<sup>4</sup> The ISDR Inter-Agency Group includes FAO, IFRC, ILO, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNOCHA, WFP, WHO, WMO, World Bank.

## Contact information

For all enquiries about the second session please consult the website [www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform](http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform) which provides up-to-date information on the background, programme, organization of side events, the disaster risk reduction marketplace and practical information for participating Governments and organizations. The website will also act as the portal to centralize, compile and disseminate session documents, inputs and contributions during the preparation phase. Queries on the preparations may also be made to the following e-mail address maintained by UNISDR: [globalplatform@un.org](mailto:globalplatform@un.org). Tel: +41 22 017 8928. Fax: +41 22 917 8964.