



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

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

*'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

Global Platform 2009 Practical Guide



United Nations

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 UNISDR System.

The following entities are invited to participate in the second session of the Global Platform:

- **UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES.** Invitations are being sent through the Permanent Missions in Geneva and New York. Persons wishing to become part of their national delegation should contact their national focal point for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and/or the Ministry of External Relations or Foreign Affairs.
- **UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND PROGRAMMES.** Invitations are being sent to the Head of each UN Partner Agency and Programme, who will be invited to nominate relevant technical experts within their Agency. These nominees will then be considered part of the agency's delegation to the Global Platform.
- **NGOs AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS.** NGOs, NGO Networks and Civil Society Organisations that received invitations to attend the first session in June 2007 should expect to receive an invitation to participate in the second session. Invitations will be addressed to the Head of the Organisations, which will be in charge of designating an official delegation.
- **Regional bodies, international financial institutions, the private sector, scientific and academic communities and technical institutions** that received invitations to attend the first session in June 2007 are being invited to the Global Platform.
- **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. Organizations that have demonstrated engagement in disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including involvement in ISDR platforms, clusters and the IATF/DR working groups; and which have wide representation and outreach at international and/or regional level may be invited to participate.

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 an interesting exchange and debate during the session as well as a strong and effective follow-up action.

Informal Plenary

In the afternoons of the first, second and third day of the event, Informal Plenary sessions will run in parallel to plenary sessions. The Informal Plenary will be open to all interested participants to specifically address various aspects linked to the preparations for the Hyogo Framework for Action mid-term review in 2010. On the fourth day, recommendations of the Informal Plenary discussions will inform the Global Platform's chair summary highlighting action points for the next two years.

National delegations and organisations interested to contribute to the Informal Plenary discussions are invited to designate a representative on the registration form.

Registration

Governments and institutions that have received invitations are requested to provide the UNISDR Secretariat with a list of their delegations including specification of the Head of the delegation and representative/s to participate in the Informal Plenary sessions by 30th April 2009. Each delegation member is requested to fill out the attached registration form and send it to globalplatform@un.org. Or, by post to UNISDR, Attn. Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Palais des Nations CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland. The registration form will also be available for downloading from www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform.

The following registration options are available for NGOs and civil society organisations' (CSO)

1. To register as a member of a delegation of an invited organisation or network.
2. To register as a member of a national government delegation.

In all cases, concerned NGOs / CSOs will be responsible for making direct contact with the invited organisations and requesting inclusion in their official delegation. A comprehensive list of invited organisations will be available online at:

www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform

Financial Support

Participants are expected to cover their own costs. Limited resources will be made available to cover the participation of delegates from developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing states. Governments who require financial support should indicate the person for whom they are requesting funding when they provide the names of their delegation. The Secretariat will provide Governments that have requested financial support with further details on how to proceed.

Governments requiring financial support are encouraged to contact the UN Office in their country and other sources of funding for additional support for their participation.

NGOs and others requiring funding should

1. Approach their governments to ask whether they can be included in the national delegation and financially assisted to attend or;
2. Fill out the relevant section of the registration form in case they have received a direct invitation.

Travel Arrangements

All delegations are expected to arrange their own travel and cover the related costs. Only sponsored participants' travel will be arranged by the UNISDR for which UN rules and regulations will apply and be duly enforced.

Governments and Organizations planning to organize or attend pre-session events on Monday, 15 June, should arrange their trips accordingly. Access to the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) will be permitted from Saturday, 13 June 2009.

Accommodation

Participants are requested to arrange their own hotel bookings for their stay in Geneva, and should contact their Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva or Geneva office for assistance, as required. The UNISDR will not be in a position to provide assistance in this matter save for those who are being funded to attend. The following websites provide an overview of available options for accommodation:

- www.geneva-tourism.ch/
- www.geneva-tourism.ch/index.php?rubrique=0000000253
- www.geneve-central.com/liens.asp?id_rubrique=31

Please note that hotels in Geneva on the dates of the Second Session of the Global Platform will be in great demand and we strongly recommend that you book your hotel as soon as possible.

Visa

Upon request and when necessary, the UNISDR can support the visa request of registered participants with a letter addressed to the respective Swiss Embassy or Consulate.

Other information

Access Map for the CICG	www.cicg.ch/en/spaces_cicg_access_map.php
Interactive Map locating CICG	http://map.search.ch/1202-geneve/rue-de-varembe-17.en.html?b=low
Walking distances in Geneva	www.ville-ge.ch/geneve/plan-pietons/pages/temps/carte_temps.html
Geneva Public Transport Map	www.tpg.ch/Cartographie/plans/decembre2006/reseau.pdf

Opportunities to share experiences

Make a request !

Side events

Side events are open to all interested participants and can be organized during lunch break. They provide the opportunity for participating Governments and organizations to take advantage of the presence of a large number of partners from different sectors and with different points of view to address further specific issues in relation to disaster risk reduction outside the plenary discussions. Side Events' recommendations will be highlighted in the Chair's Summary. To that end, side event organizers are encouraged to guide their event's recommendations along the lines of the Global Platform's expected outcome, and to offer clear guidance on next steps in addressing 1) critical outstanding/future actions in implementing the HFA at local and national levels, 2) investing in disaster risk reduction and 3) the preparations for the mid-term review of the HFA in 2010.

Pre-session events

Opportunity is provided to all UNISDR system partners to organize specific discussions or closed meetings on themes of their choice or regional aspects on Monday 15th June 2009.

Marketplace

As a complement to the plenary sessions and the side events, an innovative, open Disaster Risk Reduction Marketplace will be set up at the Conference venue. The Marketplace will provide an attractive and friendly space where participants can share experiences and create linkages 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. The aim of the Market Place is to ensure that the booths represent regional and thematic balance and broad applicability to the outcomes of the Global Platform.

The space provided will accommodate up to 25 9 square metre booths, which will be allocated on a first come first served basis. For those who wish to present products or brochures some tables will be made available. Poster space is also possible. For presentation of products, brochures or posters, there is no need to make a request beforehand.

The venue is free of charge. All costs related to the organization of side events and pre-session events will however be borne by the Organizer.

Expressions of interest to organize a side event, pre-session event or to book an exhibition booth should be indicated in the attached registration form and sent to the UNISDR secretariat by 30th April 2009, at globalplatform@un.org. Allocation of booths will be made on a first come first served basis.

Contact information

www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform

For all enquiries about the Second Session please consult 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.

This 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: globalplatform@un.org,
Tel: +41 22 917 8928, Fax: +41 22 917 8964.