



ISDR Global Platform Advisory Group Meeting
Friday, 05 November 2010, 11:00 – 12:30 hrs
UNISDR Secretariat, Room Rhone

Draft minutes of the meeting

Attendees

Permanent Missions: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, European Union, France, Finland, Guatemala, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Monaco, Philippines, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland.

UNISDR secretariat: Margareta Wahlström, Helena Molin-Valdes, Neil McFarlane, Marc Gordon, Brigitte Leoni, Irina Zodrow

Priority Action Points

- Delegates are encouraged to inform UNISDR as soon as possible about their **contributions** toward the travel of participants as a crucial condition for successful planning. In addition, delegates are encouraged to discuss with their capitals in which other ways, in-kind or financially, they could contribute to the Global Platform 2011. The overall budgeted amount is 2.9 million USD, secretariat staff costs will also need to be met; currently, no funds are available. Additional funds are required immediately by the end of 2010.
- Delegates are encouraged to refer to the Logistics Note, and start making relevant arrangements, in particular concerning **visa applications and hotel booking**, both of which should be done as soon as possible.
- UNISDR agreed to send **more information** to Advisory Group participants to share with capitals next week and will organise individual **bilateral meetings**.

Feedback to the UNISDR secretariat to be provided to Mr. Marc Gordon (gordon6@un.org)

Welcome and Update on latest developments; Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction

The SRSB welcomed participants and reiterated UNISDR's appreciation of the strong participation and interest. She reminded the participants that the Advisory Group was an informal group with a focus on information exchange and sharing of ideas. The Global Platform team would consult with everybody by email, but the Advisory Group was meant to provide an opportunity for more detailed information and engagement.

She updated the participants on the latest developments for risk reduction during her mission to New York last week. The SG's Report on UNISDR, which for the first time in 2010 had been merged with the SG's Report on Natural Disasters (thereby gaining political weight), had been introduced to and positively welcomed by the 2nd Committee. The negotiations on the draft ISDR Resolution, which had been strongly supported by members of the ISDR

Support Group, were concluded quicker than in previous years, reflecting a growing coherence in the approach towards DRR. The current draft also includes a stronger reference to a regular budget contribution to UNISDR and clear linkages were drawn between DRR, the MDGs, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The SRSB highlighted the widely acknowledged importance of 2011 for the DRR agenda, including reference to the Thematic Debate on DRR in the General Assembly, the Global Platform and the conclusion of the Mid-Term Review of the HFA.

UNISDR was also engaged in discussions in the preparations for Rio+20.

The SRSB detailed that the Office of the Secretary-General has included his attendance at the Global Platform in his schedule for 2011.

Substantive Discussions (led by Global Platform Coordinator Neil McFarlane)

1. Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group

- a. The coordinator reiterated the informal spirit of the Advisory Group. Discussions would be held at working level, with one meeting at Ambassadorial level (in 2011) for the substantial and representation issues. The discussions would be complemented by bilateral meetings.
- b. The Coordinator encouraged the participants to give feedback on the substantial part of the Global Platform.
- c. The Advisory Group provides crucial contact points in the Permanent Missions for UNISDR and the GP team, which will play a central role in shaping the 3rd Session.

Remarks:

- In response to Sudan's query, the Coordinator advised that invitations would be sent soon.

2. Global Platform 2011 – Update

Substantive elements

- a. The Coordinator gave a brief update on the status of planning for the GP11. The event was planned for 8-13 May 2010, at the Conference Centre in Geneva (CIGC), kindly sponsored by Switzerland. Though the event was planned for a week, the formal part would be held over 3.5 days from Tuesday – Friday midday.
- b. The GP11 is to be a joint event, within which the World Reconstruction Conference will be integrated (and organised by the World Bank), and will include joint sessions and plenary. UNISDR sees this as a great opportunity to expand the constituent base of the GP and benefit from the technical expertise of the World Bank.
- c. The planning process is in its early stages with consultations with all stakeholder groups.
- d. The 3rd Session design includes innovative parts, with the aim to create a new model of communication. The team is looking to design a less formal and more dialogue-focused Session, with the aim to channel the Platform's energy into concrete implementation outcomes. UNISDR is considering broadcasting plenary sessions throughout the conference centre.

- e. The overall theme of GP11 is proposed to encompass local action for disaster risk reduction, with lead topics on reconstruction, economics of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
- f. The design of the 3rd Session would build on existing content, such as the Chair's Summary 2009, the HFA Mid-Term Review, the Global Assessment Report 2011, and other key documents, as well as on results of ongoing stakeholder consultations. At Plenary, speakers would be asked to focus on one of the three lead topics in order to create an implementation focused environment. Planned outcomes included a short and action oriented Chair's Summary, to include new direction and investment in DRR with a focus on local and national solutions. As an example of innovation, UNISDR suggested an event to conclude the Global Platform identifying next steps/implementation targets.

Remarks:

- Participants asked for a written note for their capitals in order to ensure clear messages were conveyed.
- Costa Rica expressed concern that the number of parallel sessions proved problematic for smaller delegations and could threaten the focus and direction of the 3rd Session.
- In response to a question, the Coordinator clarified that the plenary would include panellists, smaller in size than in 2009, with a more focused introduction leading to an interactive dialogue.
- Switzerland reaffirmed its full commitment and support and pledged an additional CHF 300,000 contribution to the UNISDR for the 3rd Session, as well as support for key receptions. It supported the theme and topics, and suggested to ask governments to provide in advance longer written statements to complement shorter verbal statements. It pointed out that clear and simple yet strong messages were needed to reach local communities. UNISDR solicited support from Advisory Group participants in developing and disseminating these messages.
- Japan suggested preparing a background note reflecting progress against the outcomes / conclusions of previous sessions and urged focus to be on future action.

Logistics

- g. The website of the 3rd Session of the Global Platform website has been launched - www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/ - and will be updated on a regular basis.
- h. The Coordinator asked the participants to consider the following decisions:
 - In order to advance with logistics, UNISDR needed a decision on funding of participants to the 3rd Session. Participants were urged to encourage capitals make a decision as to their support as soon as possible.
 - Given the numbers expected (2-3,000) and limitations on space, participants were cautioned to consider carefully the size of their delegations, selecting only those who could best support the planned outcomes.
 - The Advisory Group was also encouraged to look into possible engagement of their countries in the marketplace. Engagement would require financial or in-kind support. The marketplace was a success in 2009, and further visibility was guaranteed by a more prominent location within the CICG and the organization of events within the marketplace.
 - Volunteers were planned for logistical help at the event.

Remarks:

- As host country, Switzerland offered to interface between the organizers and the Canton of Geneva. It would also assist in the visa process and urged the Advisory Group to make decisions on visa applications as early as possible, as the process would take at least 1-2 months. Details of the visa application process will be included in invitation letters.
- Switzerland cautioned that with other events in Geneva at this time, further competition for accommodation during the event is expected, and urged reservations to be made as soon as possible. The Permanent Mission offered to assist with reservations.

3. Budget and travel support

- a. A detailed budget was handed out to the participants. The estimated budget amounted to USD 2.9 million. Currently no funds had been made available to the UNISDR secretariat. Participants were encouraged to inform UNISDR as soon as possible about possible contributions - both, financial and in-kind support was welcomed, but core financial support is required immediately.
- b. In-kind support could include events or publications organized by governments and other stakeholders, or the organization of stalls in the marketplace.
- c. Travel costs for approximately 100 participants from LDC's and SIDS in 2009 amounted to USD 650,000. Travel support in 2011 would depend on funds available.
- d. Bilateral consultations would be held by the SRSB and the Coordinator with individual member states, as well as other stakeholders.
- e. In order to make necessary payments, a significant proportion of total financial requirements would be needed by the end of 2010.
- f. Although the UNISDR secretariat is ahead in planning for the 3rd Session, it is behind in securing financial support. Currently, no funds were available for the GP11.

Remarks:

- Social media would be used to further increase the visibility of the event; however, this would be done only with agreement by governments.
- Switzerland suggested linking / engaging with local institutions pursuing risk reduction in Switzerland and the Alps. The Coordinator welcomed these suggestions and encouraged other Advisory Group participants to think about similar approaches from their countries.
- The idea of a virtual pre-Conference was suggested and received positively taken up.
- The Coordinator highlighted the key role of National Platforms as the basis for everything UNISDR and the ISDR system did and encouraged the group to get their National Platforms engaged in the process.

AOB: Least Developed Countries Conference (LDC) in Turkey
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The Advisory Group was advised that the LDC Conference had been advanced two weeks prior to its original dates, and was now to run in parallel to the Global Platform in May 2011. Given the commitment of the Secretary-General to the Global Platform, UNISDR will negotiate with the hosts and the Office of the SG and advise.