Towards a post-2015 framework for
Disaster Risk Reduction

BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO DISASTERS

OPENING REMARKS FROM UNISDR

Dear Colleagues,

I want to welcome all online-dialoguers back to a third round of discussion, this time on the theme of "stepping up for the most vulnerable". I will be your facilitator for this round, linking the discussion to our *Step Up Initiative* for the International Days for Disaster Reduction (every year on the 13th October) and campaigns. I also want to thank Loy Rego who has facilitated the previous two dialogues and prepared for this one, and will remain engaged in the discussions.

Many of you called for more focused discussion on the role of the most vulnerable. Now is the opportunity to focus on this. We start this week by linking to the International Day that just passed: "*Women and Girls – the (in)Visible Force of Resilience*" on 13th October, with the support of the UN Secretary General and many networks, organizations and individuals. Tell us what you did for the day and what you learned that can help shape the future. **This first week. starting today,** we ask you to use the *Step up for Disaster Risk Reduction* site to add your voice based on events, news or in the comments on the blog at http///www.unisdr.org/2012/iddr.

In the second week, starting 22 October, we open up the regular online space for the dialogue. Keep you comments and ideas for the future, post-2015, until then. We want to discuss the opportunities to build the resilience of those who need it most, and provide space for THEIR voices to be heard. These groups - women and girls, children and youth, the elderly or disabled, and other marginalized population - as individuals and as groups, are many times the most innovative and resilient as well.

This topic provide for inputs from new stakeholders. I want to encourage a bottom-up approach and reach out to participants who might not normally participate.

The proportion of the population living in flood-prone river basins has increased by 114% over the last 30 years, while the number living on cyclone-exposed coastlines has increased by 192%. More than half the world's large cities, with populations ranging from two to 15 million, are located in areas at high risk of seismic activity, according to the Global Assessment Report 2011. When disaster strike: do we know how many of these are marginalized population, with no means? How many are disabled or elderly? Some statistics indicate that more than 100 million women and girls are affected by disasters each year. Women, girls and boys, marginalized population, indigenous groups: how can we step up their roles, rights and participation- not only as victims but as active agents of change to build resilience and reduce disaster risk.

Please join this third round of the post-2015 disaster risk reduction dialogue, share your insights and proposals. I look forward to the dialogue with you!

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