

Towards a post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO DISASTERS



OPENING REMARKS FROM THE FACILITATOR

Dear colleague DRR practitioners,

Welcome to this first on line dialogue leading towards the post-2015 Framework for disaster risk reduction.

As the message from UNISDR explains, the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* (HFA) is approaching the end of its ten year time frame in 2015.

In this context, in March this year, UNISDR launched a process of consultations on the development of a post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, whose approach and timeline is laid out in the background paper entitled “*Towards a Post -2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*” available at <http://preventionweb.net/go/25129>. As you engage in the overall consultation process, and participate and contribute to this first online dialogue, I would encourage you to read the background paper.

As the paper explains, the consultative process “will need to produce a draft for endorsement at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015”. The process involves a variety of consultations at regional and national levels in different parts of the world. Summary reports of several of these meetings are accessible at <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa>. The series of on line dialogues is a key part of this process.

The process has two phases a) the first that began in March 2012 and will culminate in the Fourth Session of the Global Platform in May 2013, with a focus on the broader context and general substantive issues. b) A second phase in the lead up to WCDR 2015 with a focus on “determining key priorities and what form the post-2015 framework on DRR should take.” An initial submission based on the first phase is expected at the 2013 Global Platform in 2013.

IMPORTANCE OF THIS ON LINE CONSULTATION – DRR practitioners recognize the cross-cutting nature of the subject and strongly believe that full and sustained involvement of a wide a range of stakeholders at multiple levels is crucial to achieving DRR and building resilient societies. This is the basis for the promised “dedicated inter-active platform”, now established on the website and “wide use of internet-based consultations in the process”.

This first on line dialogue should be seen in this context, and embraced as an important platform for constructive engagement with a process of framing the post 2015 international framework that will guide action on DRR and the accelerated building of resilience and thus affect us all and shape the way we work in the future.

I believe the online dialogues provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to express their views and further explore specific topics that have emerged from regional and

stakeholder consultations. The multilingual capability of the site will enable a much more global participation that just the English literate world. I have been assigned the role as facilitator of this first on line dialogue and have been encouraged to promote the desired wide engagement and inclusiveness. We all want to make sure that these dialogues are rich in content, and can be creatively run to produce the results expected from this key element of the first phase of the consultation process. I can assure all that I will approach the exercise with a healthy mix of encouraging focused discussion, creative brainstorming and generation of a compendium of “innovative solutions”.

I will also endeavor, with your support and assistance to try to expand the “tent” within which our dialogue takes place; so as to have wider involvement of non DRR focused practitioners from other ‘communities of practice” for whom resilience is becoming an emerging area of interest. A bigger challenge, which we can aim for, but needs more imagination and concerted out of the box efforts to succeed; is to catalyse more direct participation of citizens whose lives are impacted by disaster risk, but are completely unaware of the world of discussion we engage in where we speak using terms like DRR and HFA.

ABOUT THE FIRST DIALOGUE – As explained in the earlier UNISDR message, the first dialogue has commenced on Monday 27th August 2012 and will continue over continue over a period of 3 months till 30 November 2012. The first dialogue is planned to be structured in five rounds, each spanning a period of two weeks, with each round having a specific theme and set of four questions.

This first round, beginning on 27th August until 7th September, will focus on the theme ‘Setting the context” and aims to kick start the process of the on line dialogues, ensure everyone is able to participate and become familiar with the new system, and warm up the atmosphere for these dialogues as well as the forthcoming regional and national consultations. In this round, we intend to focus on four broad questions, structured in a way that will enable further insights into what should be discussed in the subsequent rounds. Suggestions on how these rounds should be structured are also welcome.

The questions for this round, which serve as themes for are:

1. What are your expectations from the consultation process towards the development of the *Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*?
2. What are opportunities and challenges in the planned consultation process, as described in the background paper? What, if any, are the key elements missing?
3. What are your expectations from the first online dialogue as a whole?
4. What are the key issues you would like to discuss in subsequent rounds?

Do refer to “help” on the menu to get guidance on many matters. In case you need to contact me directly, please feel free to contact using your online dialogue inbox. Depending on the volume of traffic in this dialogue, the nature of your communication and my other pre occupations at the time the query arrives, I promise to respond at the latest within 4 days.

I look forward to robust conversations in this online dialogue.

Warmly,

LOY REGO
Facilitator,
Online Dialogue on Post 2015 Framework for DRR