

Towards a post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO DISASTERS



Summary and Closing Remarks of First Round

The first round of the online dialogues towards a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, entitled "Setting the Context" ran from 27 August to 7 September, with 283 participants registering. Of these, 99 were new entrants, which is a good trend in reaching out to new audiences.

The statistics on locations from which page views were made is also telling. In order of frequency, there were most views from Geneva, London, Manila, New York, New Delhi, Bangkok, Nairobi, Makati, Kathmandu, Washington, Melbourne, Islamabad, Sydney, Khulna, Dhaka, Istanbul, Ankara, Colombo, and Paris. Other locations registered much fewer numbers. This reflected the dominance of views and reading from the English speaking world.

In terms of the objective of warming up the conversation, it certainly served its purpose and increased awareness of the post-2015 framework and the consultation process, and enabled participants to freely share views of all kinds and give valuable guidance to the organizers of the dialogue and on line platform, as well as the consultation process itself.

The inputs were rich, expressed with passion, and reflected sentiments and experiences of practitioners from mid levels of Government, technical institutions, UN agencies, humanitarian, development and environmental NGOs, the Red Cross and thoughtful commentary and insights of academics and analysts. It was challenging to summarize, and straightjacket into summary answers of specific questions, but the individual detailed summaries of three of the threads provide an insight into the specific range of themes and viewpoints.

Some important themes were the need for a review of HFA implementation and impact, greater linkage of DRR with climate change adaptation, and poverty reduction, mainstreaming DRR into development, multi stakeholder engagement and partnerships, empowerment of local communities, devolution of resources to local governments and communities, recognizing and building on local and indigenous knowledge, the role of UN agencies at local, national and global levels in advancing HFA and DRR, and the role of regional entities particularly in trans-boundary hazards. Participants called for more discussion on specific themes including the role of women, children, the elderly and indigenous people in advancing DRR, technology justice, ICTs, a focus on integrating DR into recovery, agriculture and food security, natural resource management, role of cities and local governments, risk assessment and improved early warning, DRR in conflict and post conflict societies, religions and the links with peace-building. On the post 2015 DRR framework itself, there were suggestions for it to be mindful of regional and country specificities, practical and operationalisable, better linked to CCA and the post 2015 development agenda, and recognizing the role of various stakeholders and constituencies in implementation.

On the dialogue itself, there is a desire to see it more focused, more inclusive linguistically, regionally, and sectorally, and action oriented, while at the same time serving as a forum for

experience sharing, learning lessons on what works and doesn't, and a basis for building partnerships and coalitions. There is a desire to see greater linkage with the national, regional and global consultations and for the dialogue to serve as a preparatory and follow up vehicle for these discussions. The UNISDR team is very open to these ideas and is working on ways to ensure that as many of these suggestions are operationalised.

So let's see the dialogue as opportunity and act together to overcome these challenges and respond creatively to fully realize all the possibilities that have been identified.

From my side, I look forward to continuing to interact with all of you online, and some of you in person at various venues, so as to achieve greater purpose and traction from this online communication as our contribution to the process of building the safer and resilient world we all want, well adapted to the risks we face.

Warmly,

LOY REGO

Facilitator,

Online Dialogue on Post 2015 Framework for DRR