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WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

Preparatory Committee
Second Session
Geneva, 11-12 October 2004
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretariat

The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/58/214 decided to convene a World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005 and decided to establish an Open-ended Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Conference. It requested the Inter-Agency Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) to serve as the Secretariat of the Conference and to coordinate the preparatory activities.

As a follow-up to the discussions held at the first session of the Preparatory Committee (6-7 May 2004, Geneva), the Conference Secretariat is convening the second session of the Preparatory Committee on 11-12 October 2004 in Geneva to discuss further organizational and substantive aspects of the WCDR.

I. Introduction

1. Paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution A/RES/58/214 provides that the preparatory committee will meet in Geneva following the 2004 semi-annual sessions of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, for up to 2 days each time. The second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction will therefore be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 11 to 12 October 2004, following the tenth session of the Inter-Agency Task Force meeting scheduled to take place on 7-8 October 2004.¹

2. The list of the documents prepared for the second session of the Preparatory Committee is contained in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the secretariat's web site <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr>.

II. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Preparatory Committee
2. Adoption of the Agenda of the second session of the Preparatory Committee
3. Organisation of work
4. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the preparatory process and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
5. Provisional rules of procedure for the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
6. Progress report on the preparatory process of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
7. Proposed format of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
8. Proposed partnerships mechanism in the context of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
9. Proposed draft agenda for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
10. Draft review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World
11. Draft programme outcome document tentatively entitled "Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: Elements for a Programme of Action, 2005-2015"

¹ The tenth session of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction will take place on Thursday 7 October and Friday 8 October 2004 at Salle XII, Palais des Nations. Governments are invited to observe the IATF session, as of Thursday afternoon (3 p.m. – 6 p.m.).

12. Other matters

13. Conclusion of the session

III. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Item 1: Opening of the Preparatory Committee

3. The session will be opened by the Chairman of the Bureau (Ecuador). It will be followed by a statement by a representative of the host Government (Japan) and a statement by the ISDR Director. The Officers for the second session of the Preparatory Committee remain the same as for the first session (Iran as the Rapporteur).

Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda of the second session of the Preparatory Committee

4. **Background:** The Preparatory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda, prepared by the Conference Secretariat in agreement with the Bureau (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/1).

5. **Action:** The Preparatory Committee will be invited to adopt the agenda.

Item 3: Organization of work

6. **Background:** The General Assembly resolution on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/RES/58/214) sets out the work modalities for the open-ended intergovernmental Preparatory Committee of the Conference. The Preparatory Committee meets in Geneva following the meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and will further convene, if required, at the WCDR, 18-22 January 2005, in Kobe, Hyogo.

7. The work of the second session will be carried out in four working plenary meetings. A tentative schedule of work is to be found in Annex II. Most of the working documents will be made available in the six UN official languages during the Preparatory Committee.

8. **Action:** The Preparatory Committee will be invited to agree upon the organization of work of the Preparatory Committee.

Item 4: Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the preparatory process and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

9. **Background:** The first session of the Preparatory Committee adopted the suggested arrangements for accreditation and participation in the preparatory process and in the World Conference. The Conference secretariat received applications for accreditation from NGOs and other major groups and has made recommendations to the Preparatory Committee thereon (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/7).

10. **Action:** The Preparatory Committee will be invited to consider the recommendations.

Item 5: Provisional rules of procedure for the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

11. **Background:** The first session of the Preparatory Committee for the WCDR considered the draft rules of procedure for adoption by the Conference. A revised version of the draft rules

of procedures for the World Conference (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/2) will be presented at the second session for adoption.

12. **Action:** The Preparatory Committee will be invited to adopt the revised draft rules of procedures for the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR).

Item 6: Progress report on the preparatory process of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

13. **Background:** The Preparatory Committee will hear the progress report of the Conference Secretariat, which will include an account of the briefing sessions on WCDR held since May (with regional groups, Permanent Missions in Geneva and in New York, with the ISDR Support Groups etc.), the Bureau meetings, the results of the preparatory missions, the status of discussions regarding the establishment of a drafting mechanism, the communications strategy developed in support of the WCDR (including WCDR web page and logo), the summary conclusions of the 10th session of the Inter-Agency Task Force meeting (7-8 October 2004), recommendations from regional and thematic consultations that have already taken place, and other relevant activities.

14. The reported activities are in response to General Assembly resolution (A/RES/58/214) inviting 'Member States, all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, in particular members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF), to participate actively in the Conference, as well as its preparatory process'; welcoming 'contributions from all regions that could provide substantive inputs to the preparatory process and the Conference itself'; and encouraging 'effective contributions from major groups'.

15. **Action:** The Preparatory Committee will be invited to take note of the information provided (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/5). The Preparatory Committee may wish to seek clarification on points not addressed by the Conference Secretariat.

Item 7: Proposed format of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

16. **Background:** The Conference Secretariat will brief the Preparatory Committee on the proposed format of the Conference, based on consultations within the Bureau, with Member States, UN agencies and organizations and with technical experts.

17. **Action:** The Preparatory Committee will be invited to endorse the proposed format of the Conference, and offer an opportunity to Member States to express interest in contributing to the WCDR.

Item 8: Proposed partnerships mechanism in the context of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

18. **Background:** The Preparatory Committee will have before it a document entitled proposed partnerships mechanism in the context of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/9).

19. **Action:** The Preparatory Committee will be invited to comment on the proposed partnerships mechanism in the context of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction.

Item 9: Proposed draft agenda for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

20. A draft agenda for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction will be presented for discussion and endorsement by the Preparatory Committee.

Item 10: Draft review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World

21. **Background:** The Conference Secretariat will present to the Preparatory Committee the draft review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/3), including information received through the national reports and the on-line dialogue, for information and discussion.

22. **Action:** The Preparatory Committee will be invited to comment on the draft review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World.

Item 11: Draft programme outcome document tentatively entitled “Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: Elements for a Programme of Action, 2005-2015”

23. **Background:** The Preparatory Committee will have before it a revised version of the document tentatively entitled “Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: Elements for a Programme of Action, 2005-2015” (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4) that was circulated to all members after incorporating comments on a draft issued following the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

24. **Action:** The Preparatory Committee will be invited to consider and comment on the programme outcome document, and to provide recommendations and guidance for the Conference Secretariat to further develop the document for its final consideration and adoption at the WCDR. The Preparatory Committee will also be invited to consider setting up an appropriate drafting mechanism.

Item 12: Other matters

25. Any other matters for the attention of the Preparatory Committee will be taken up under this item.

Item 13: Conclusion of the session

26. A draft report on the work of the second session of the Preparatory Committee will be prepared by the Conference Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau.

27. The Chair will declare the session closed.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

(Documents available at the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction)

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description of contents</u>
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations of the second session Preparatory Committee
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/2	Provisional rules of procedure for the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/3	Draft review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4	Draft programme outcome document tentatively entitled "Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: Elements for a Programme of Action, 2005-2015"
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/5	Progress report on the preparatory process of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/6	Proposed format of the Conference
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/7	Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the preparatory process and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/8	Proposed draft agenda for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/9	Proposed partnerships mechanism in the context of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/INF.1	Information Note to Participants
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/INF.2	Compilation of the Outcomes of the Regional and Thematic Meetings for the Preparations of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
A/CONF.206/PC(II)/INF.3	Compilation of National Reports for the Preparations of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK
Conference Room XIX, Palais des Nations

Monday 11 October 2004

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening of the Preparatory Committee - Adoption of the Agenda of the second session of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/1) - Organization of work - Accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups to the preparatory process and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/7) - Provisional rules of procedure for the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/2) - Progress report on the preparatory process of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed format of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/6) - Proposed partnerships mechanism in the context of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/9) - Proposed draft agenda for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/8) - Draft review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/3) - Draft programme outcome document tentatively entitled “Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: Elements for a Programme of Action, 2005-2015” (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4)

Tuesday 12 October 2004

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft programme outcome document tentatively entitled “Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: Elements for a Programme of Action, 2005-2015” (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4) (Continued) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft programme outcome document tentatively entitled “Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: Elements for a Programme of Action, 2005-2015” (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4) (Continued) - Other matters - Conclusion of the session
