



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

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# “Global NGO Network Preparatory Meeting”

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Global Platform for  
Disaster Risk Reduction

**Parallel Meeting**

Final Agenda

Geneva, 4 June 2007



United Nations

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## Context

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR), at its first session in Geneva on 5-7 June 2007, will be a **multi-stakeholder forum** for all parties involved in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are seen as a key actor in this process, in consideration of the fundamental role they play in reducing disaster risk, especially at the local level. The UN/ISDR secretariat attaches great importance to the increased engagement of NGOs in DRR processes, and believes that a “**DRR movement**” cannot be built without their active participation and involvement.

The *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* also highlights the importance of involving NGOs, community organizations and voluntary groups in DRR processes. A comprehensive approach to DRR requires a combination of changes in practices and behaviours at the local level, with changes to national and international policies.

Based on this understanding, the UN/ISDR secretariat is facilitating the development of a “**Global Network of NGOs**” for DRR, which is seen as an important step in the process of strengthening the ISDR system. The emerging Global Network will provide an opportunity for NGOs to share information and experience, allow easier access to global resources for DRR, and enable them to influence global policy in a more effective manner. It will also facilitate the identification and understanding of critical issues related to DRR, and allow for the wider dissemination of good practices and lessons learned in community-based DRR.

## Background

A first “**Consultative Meeting**” on the Global Network of NGOs was organized by the UN/ISDR secretariat on 25-26 October 2006 in Geneva, in collaboration with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok. The meeting was attended by 14 representatives of NGOs and NGO networks from Asia, Africa, Europe, the US and Latin America. As a result of this meeting, participants have endorsed the Global NGO Network concept, prepared a first draft of its Terms of Reference (ToR) and agreed upon the next steps to be taken.

Since then, participants in the Consultative Meeting have served as the “**driving force**” for developing the Global Network of NGOs. They have suggested the Global Network initially focuses on specific activities, which they have carried out throughout the period October 2006 - June 2007, with the support of the UN/ISDR secretariat. Such activities have included:

1. Facilitating wider consultation on the draft **ToR for the Global Network**, compiling the inputs received, and preparing a “shared” draft for further discussion.
2. Preparing an “**NGO Statement**”, highlighting NGOs’ concerns and key messages to be conveyed during the GP/DRR on behalf of the Global Network.
3. Facilitating the publication of a **compilation of “good practices”** in Community-Based DRR, to be collected through the existing NGO networks and other channels.

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## The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The GP/DRR is a **major consultative forum** on disaster risk reduction. It brings together a wide range of actors in the various sectors of development and humanitarian work, and in the environmental and scientific fields related to disaster risk reduction. It aims at expanding the political space dedicated by governments to DRR, in all sectors, and contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in respect of poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

The first session of the GP/DRR will be held in Geneva on 5-7 June 2007. In setting up the Global Platform, it is foreseen that it will become the main global forum for all parties involved in disaster risk reduction, namely Governments, United Nations organisations, international financial institutions, regional bodies, civil society, the private sector, and the scientific and academic communities.

### **Structure:**

This year, the first session of the GP/DRR will be structured as follows:

**Day 1:** On the first day, a **high-level dialogue** will consider the urgency for all stakeholders to engage in disaster risk reduction from three perspectives:

- Reducing disaster risk through the Hyogo Framework for Action as a key strategy for **climate change adaptation**.
- Challenges in reducing disaster risk in **urban settings and mega-cities**.
- Roadblocks, costs, and opportunities to **implement disaster risk reduction policy**.

These discussions will bring together senior policy-makers, experts and practitioners, who will offer views from their respective experiences.

**Day 2:** On the second day, a series of **session workshops** will address **thematic priorities** of the Hyogo Framework for Action. They will provide an opportunity for participants to exchange good practice and lessons learned from their work experience. The themes chosen for the first session are:

- Making Disaster Risk Reduction a **National Priority**.
- Reducing Risk in **Health Facilities** and the **Health Sector**.
- **Education** for Disaster Risk Reduction and **Safer Schools** in Communities at Risk.
- **Ecosystems** and **Environmental Management** for Risk Reduction.

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- **Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction through Preparedness.**

**Day 3:** On the third day of the session **plenary meetings** will focus on monitoring progress in implementation of the Hyogo Framework and will identify gaps, opportunities and priorities for further action by ISDR system partners. The results of the workshops will also be brought to the plenary on the third day.

The Global Platform will also provide a venue for **side events** and **parallel meetings**, such as the present one, which will normally be held during the lunch hours on 5, 6 and 7 June, and on 4 and 8 June 2007.

### **Outcome:**

The outcome of the first session of the Global Platform will be reflected in a report. The report of the first session will include the key points and suggestions raised during: (i) the high-level dialogue, (ii) the outcome of the workshops, and (iii) the conclusions of the multi-stakeholder deliberations on progress in implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and identification of priorities for the ISDR system for 2008-2009. The main recommendations arising from the Global Platform will form the basis of the **Report of the Secretary-General** on the ISDR to the United Nations **General Assembly**.

### **NGOs' Participation in the GP/DRR**

NGOs will be invited to participate in the Global Platform as **Expert Organisations**, provided they fit the following criteria:

- *Organizations that have expressed interest in engaging in the former IATF/DR or the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;*
- *Strong and continued engagement in disaster risk reduction and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including involvement in ISDR platforms, clusters and the IATF/DR working groups;*
- *Wide representation and outreach at international and/or regional level.*

Invitations to the GP/DRR will be sent to the head of the organisations, which will be in charge of designating their official delegations. A **balanced representation** of participants from the **field** and the **headquarters** is strongly encouraged.

The UN/ISDR secretariat is also trying to secure participation of at least 1 or 2 high-level NGO representatives in the **opening session** and/or **high-level dialogue** on day one. This will be the venue for a representative of the Global Network to present the **joint "NGO Statement"**, as discussed during the Consultative Meeting last year.

By participating in the GP/DRR, NGOs will have access to the **thematic workshops** scheduled on day two. A selected number of NGOs have also applied for setting-up their own **side event**, in order to present some of the work and activities they have undertaken in the area of DRR.

Finally, the UN/ISDR secretariat is organising the present “**Global NGO Network Preparatory Meeting**”, to be held on **4 June 2007** in the afternoon, in order to facilitate the overall contribution of NGOs to the GP/DRR.

## Goal and Objectives of this Parallel Meeting

The overall goal of this Parallel Meeting is to provide NGOs with an opportunity to better influence the **global DRR agenda**. In order to reach this goal, the Parallel Meeting will aim to facilitate the **substantive contribution** of NGOs to the GP/DRR, particularly to the **workshop sessions**. The Parallel Meeting will contribute to highlighting the role played by NGOs in addressing a wide range of DRR-related issues.

The meeting will mostly focus on the **same subjects** addressed in the workshops, namely: (i) Making DRR a national priority, (ii) reducing risk in health facilities and the health sector, (iii) education for DRR and safer schools in communities at risk, (iv) ecosystems and environmental management for risk reduction, and (v) strengthening DRR through preparedness. An additional session will be dedicated to mainstreaming gender in DRR. The Parallel Meeting will aim to stimulate substantive discussion on these topics, in order to encourage NGOs to reach a **shared understanding** of the **issues/messages** they want to convey during the workshops.

The rationale for setting up a preparatory meeting with NGOs is to allow them to better influence the overall outcome of the GP/DRR, and make sure their **collective inputs** and **concerns** are reflected in the **final report**. The Parallel Meeting will be attended by the core members of the Global Network as well as other NGOs and NGO networks. The Meeting will also be the venue for the **official launch** of the Global Network of NGOs, and to present some of the results achieved by its core members over the past months.

## Agenda

Time	Item	Speaker
14.00 – 14.10	Opening Remarks	Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, UN Assistant Secretary- General, Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator
14.10 – 14.15	Adoption of the Agenda	Mr. Michele Cocchiglia, ISDR secretariat
14.15 – 14.25	Panellist 1: <i>Making Disaster Risk Reduction a National Priority</i>	Mr. Didier Young, CARE Madagascar
14.25 – 14.35	Panellist 2: <i>Reducing Risk in Health Facilities and the Health Sector</i>	Ms. Patricia Bittner, WHO

14.35 – 14.45	Panellist 3: <i>Education for DRR and Safer Schools in Communities at Risk</i>	Mr. Manu Gupta, ADRRN
14.45 – 14.55	Panellist 4: <i>Ecosystems and Environmental Management for Risk Reduction</i>	Mr. Larry Roeder, WSPA
14.55 – 15.05	Panellist 5: <i>Strengthening DRR through Preparedness</i>	Mr. Marcus Oxley, Tearfund
15.05 – 15.15	Panellist 6: <i>Mainstreaming Gender in DRR</i>	Ms. Suranjana Gupta, Groots International
15.15 – 15.30	Coffee Break	
15.30 – 16.15	Group discussions	<i>Participants split into six working groups</i>
16.15 – 16.45	Presentation and review of identified issues/key messages	<i>Rapporteurs (5 minutes each)</i>
16.45 – 17.00	Conclusion and official launch of the <i>Global Network of NGOs</i>	Ms. Zenaida Willison, UNDP

## Venue and Logistics

**Venue:** The Parallel Meeting will take place on **4 June 2007** from 14:00 to 17:00 at the Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG), 17 Rue de Varembe, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland. For more information on how to reach the GP/DRR venue, please visit: [http://www.cicg.ch/en/spaces\\_cicg\\_access\\_map.php](http://www.cicg.ch/en/spaces_cicg_access_map.php).

**Language:** The Parallel Meeting will be held in English only.

**Travel Funding:** Due to the high number of participants expected in the GP/DRR and limited resources available, the UN/ISDR secretariat will only be able to sponsor a limited number of participants. Priority will be given to participants from developing countries. Sponsorships will only cover the costs of a return air ticket to Geneva, by the most direct route.

**Travel Booking:** Sponsored participants will be requested to book their flight tickets through the designated UN travel agent in their country. A comprehensive list will be made available in due course.

**Accommodation:** Participants are expected to book their own accommodation to participate in the Parallel Meeting and in the other sessions of the GP/DRR. A list of hotels available in Geneva can be downloaded from the GP/DRR website: <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform>. The conference site is located in the United Nations area, close to the *Palais des Nations*.