

REPORT OF CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE POST-2015 FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (HFA2) IN GABON

**Libreville, Gabon
30 April 2013**

Organized by

Direction Générale de la Prévention des Risques
in collaboration with the
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Introduction

The Consultative Forum on the Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (the second Hyogo Framework for Action) in Gabon was jointly organized by the Direction Generale de la Reduction des Risques (General Directorate of Risk Reduction) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). The forum was attended by over seventy (70) participants, representing stakeholders from different sectors. Also in attendance was Mr. Youcef Ait-Chellouche, Deputy Regional Coordinator of the UNISDR Regional Office for Africa.

Welcome remarks

Mme. Hortense Togo, Directrice Generale de la Prevention des Risques (Director General for Risk Prevention), welcomed all the participants to the meeting. She expressed the leadership role of the Minister of Interior in DRR in Gabon and his decision to create la Direction de la Prevention des risques as a department along with the classic civil protections department which still focuses on saving lives and rescue. The Department de la Reduction des Risques focuses on DRR in terms of strategic policy, planning, mainstreaming, institutional engagement, knowledge, coordination mechanisms and linkages with development agendas.

HFA1

Remarks and Overview of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

1. There is a consensus on the leadership role played by the Minister of Interieur (Internal Affairs in Gabon) who continues to progress the DRR agenda in a significant way.

2. The National Platform is functional, has a physical address with a conference room and basic equipment (computers, telephone and secretariat).
3. The National Platform has been in place “only” since 2011 and needs some time to develop and play its role in coordination, and to become “mature”.
4. Operational coordination with more effectiveness remains a challenge (the HOW question).
5. Even if all stakeholders are involved (under the lead of the Minister) the role of sectors is not as effective as it should be.
6. Other sectors and members of the National Platform should use their initiative and not wait for directions from the de la prevention des risques to organize activities at all times.
7. Community participation is still an issue, while greater involvement of Governors and municipalities in DRR dialogue is being observed.
8. Maintaining the HFA was welcomed, as it is seen to be now mature enough and well placed to galvanise national energy on DRR

HFA2 - Ideas discussed during the HFA2 brain- storming activity with participants;

The HFA2 will not replace HFA1. The HFA2 will be an opportunity to address emerging risks and to get on board “unusual” partners like the economic sector (public and private) as well as civil society.

1. Decentralization processes should be an opportunity to define the role of local authorities in DRR. Link political processes (of decentralization) to DRR.
2. Equity and unemployment of “the young with diploma” should be addressed as a development opportunity and also as a risk for political volatility and instability.
3. Risk transfer targeting the poorest through both social nets (is part of equity) and the investment of capital to avoid absolute economic losses.
4. Increased role of internet in all sectors and the risk of cyber-attack on financial systems, defense, energy production other strategic sectors.
5. Bank crises and the risk for people to lose their savings.
6. Linking climate science to predict disasters, prevent and or mitigate as “lead time allow” and take early action. Linking early warning to early action systems.
7. Build risk information data base for strategic planning and for citizens.
8. As 80% of Gabon’s population lives in cities, urban risk reduction, related knowledge and local capacity building for DRR should be a priority.
9. Poverty and obesity seems to be a significant health risk in Africa.
10. Health risks related to mobile telephones seems to be a shared preoccupation.

11. Electronic waste management (some of the components are radioactive) was presented by most of the participants as a future major risk and as an issue that needs to be addressed by HFA2, in order to support countries to build related programme management and to support national regulations.

Participants

All key sectors from within Government, private sector, academia and research institutes participated in the consultation, however, civil society was poorly represented. The list of participants is attached.

For more information:

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