

# DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME DOCUMENTS

*A compilation of verbatim references to disaster risk reduction in selected outcome documents on sustainable development.*

## Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970)

September 2014 | New York | USA

### Disaster risk reduction references in goals and targets

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#### *Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere*

- 1.5** By 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

#### *Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture*

- 2.4** By 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality

#### *Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*

- 3.d** Strengthen the capacity of all countries, particularly developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks

#### *Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all*

- 4.a** Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

#### *Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*

- 6.6** By 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

#### *Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*

- 9.1** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
- 9.a** Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

## ***Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable***

- 11.4** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5** By 2030 significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of affected people and decrease by% the economic losses relative to GDP caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with the focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- 11.6** By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality, municipal and other waste management
- 11.b** By 2020, increase by x% the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, develop and implement in line with the forthcoming Hyogo Framework holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- 11.c** Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, for sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

## ***Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\****

- 13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning
- 13.3** Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning

## ***Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development***

- 14.2** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans

## ***Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss***

- 15.1** By 2020 ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.3** By 2020, combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world

*\* Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.*

## **General Assembly Resolution GA Resolution 66/288 (A/RES/66/28)**

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Decides that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained in the report shall be the basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing fully that other inputs may also be considered in this intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

### Disaster risk reduction

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**51.** We recognize that small island developing States continue to grapple with the effects of disasters, some of which have increased in intensity and some of which have been exacerbated by climate change, which impede their progress towards sustainable development. We also recognize that disasters can disproportionately affect small island developing States and that there is a critical need to build resilience, strengthen monitoring and prevention, reduce vulnerability, raise awareness and increase preparedness to respond to and recover from disasters.

**52.** In consideration of the special case of small island developing States and their unique and particular vulnerabilities, we are committed to supporting their efforts:

- To gain access to technical assistance and financing for early warning systems, disaster risk reduction and post-disaster response and recovery, risk assessment and data, land use and planning, observation equipment, disaster preparedness and recovery education programmes, including under the Global Framework for Climate Services, and disaster risk management;
- To promote cooperation and investment in disaster risk management in the public and private sectors;
- To strengthen and support contingency planning and provisions for disaster preparedness and response, emergency relief and population evacuation, in particular for people in vulnerable situations, women and girls, displaced persons, children, older persons and people with disabilities;
- To implement the Hyogo Framework for Action and work for an ambitious renewed international framework for post-2015 disaster risk reduction that builds on previous achievements, prioritizes prevention and mitigation and incorporates implementation frameworks to address implementation gaps if and when they exist;
- To mainstream policies and programmes related to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development, as appropriate;
- To harmonize national and regional reporting systems, where applicable, to increase synergies and coherence;
- To establish and strengthen risk insurance facilities at the national and regional levels and place disaster risk management and building resilience at the centre of policies and strategies, where applicable;
- To increase participation in international and regional disaster risk reduction initiatives.

### Other DRR references in the document:

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- Sustainable tourism (Paragraph 30)
- Food security and nutrition (Paragraph 63)
- Desertification, land degradation and drought (Paragraph 92)

<sup>1</sup> Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Apia, 1-4 September 2014.

### Disaster risk reduction (Chapter V-A, Paragraphs 186-189)

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- 186.** We reaffirm our commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and call for States, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, subregional, regional and international organizations and civil society to accelerate implementation of the Framework and the achievement of its goals. We call for disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and, as appropriate, to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and considered within relevant future frameworks. We invite governments at all levels as well as relevant subregional, regional and international organizations to commit to adequate, timely and predictable resources for disaster risk reduction in order to enhance the resilience of cities and communities to disasters, according to their own circumstances and capacities.
- 187.** We recognize the importance of early warning systems as part of effective disaster risk reduction at all levels in order to reduce economic and social damages, including the loss of human life, and in this regard encourage States to integrate such systems into their national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans. We encourage donors and the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of disaster risk reduction in developing countries, as appropriate, through technical assistance, technology transfer as mutually agreed, capacity-building and training programmes. We further recognize the importance of comprehensive hazard and risk assessments, and knowledge- and information sharing, including reliable geospatial information. We commit to undertake and strengthen in a timely manner risk assessment and disaster risk reduction instruments.
- 188.** We stress the importance of stronger interlinkages among disaster risk reduction, recovery and long-term development planning, and call for more coordinated and comprehensive strategies that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation considerations into public and private investment, decision-making and the planning of humanitarian and development actions, in order to reduce risk, increase resilience and provide a smoother transition between relief, recovery and development. In this regard, we recognize the need to integrate a gender perspective into the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk management.
- 189.** We call for all relevant stakeholders, including Governments, international, regional and subregional organizations, the private sector and civil society, to take appropriate and effective measures, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development, including through strengthening coordination and cooperation to reduce exposure to risk for the protection of people, and infrastructure and other national assets, from the impact of disasters, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and any post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

### Capacity Building (Chapter VI-C, Paragraph 280-b)

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- 277.** We emphasize the need for enhanced capacity-building for sustainable development and, in this regard, we call for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. We reiterate the importance of human resource development, including training, the exchange of experiences and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities.

**278.** We call for the continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, adopted by UNEP.

**279.** We encourage the participation and representation of men and women scientists and researchers from developing and developed countries in processes related to global environmental and sustainable development assessment and monitoring, with the purpose of enhancing national capabilities and the quality of research for policy- and decision-making processes.

**280.** We invite all relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to support developing countries and, in particular, the least developed countries in capacity-building for developing resource-efficient and inclusive economies, including through:

- Sharing sustainable practices in various economic sectors;
- Enhancing knowledge and capacity to integrate disaster risk reduction and resilience into development plans;
- Supporting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for the transition to a resource-efficient economy;
- Promoting public-private partnerships.

Other DRR references in the document:

1. Sustainable cities and human settlements (Chapter V, Paragraph 135)
2. Small Island Developing States (Chapter V, Paragraph 178)
3. Climate Change (Chapter V, Paragraph 190)
4. Mountains (Chapter V, Paragraph 210)

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. "The Future We Want". 19 June 2012. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

(<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N12/381/64/PDF/N1238164.pdf?OpenElement>)

## Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020<sup>3</sup>

United Nations Document A/Conf/219/3 | Pages 34-35

May 2011 | Istanbul | Turkey

### Disaster risk reduction

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**104.** The scale and impact of natural disasters has increased over recent decades, threatening hard-won development gains.

**105.** Changing demographic, poor technological and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, underdevelopment and poor infrastructure, weak adaptive capacity, environmental degradation, climate variability, climate change, exposure to geological hazards, competition for scarce resources, and the impact of epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis all increase the vulnerability of least developed countries to natural hazards.

**106.** Least developed countries, given their structural constraints and multiple vulnerabilities, often bear a disproportionately heavy impact of these hazards and face the most daunting reconstruction challenges. Increased efforts are needed to reduce disaster losses and to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005- 2015 and its successor Framework or agreement.

**107.** Actions by the least developed countries and their development partners will be along the following lines:

## 1. Action by least developed countries

- Take appropriate and effective measures, including public awareness and preparedness, to reduce disaster risk for the protection of people, infrastructure and other national assets from the impact of disasters in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- Promote coherence between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation policies and programmes, including through integrating risk reduction into national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and medium and long-term development planning;
- Encourage the decentralization of responsibility and resources for disaster risk reduction, where appropriate, and encourage community participation, voluntary actions, awareness raising and disaster preparedness in risk reduction programmes to better meet local needs for disaster risk reduction;
- Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, risk mitigation strategies and strengthen social protection policies and programmes that take account of natural disasters;
- Integrate risk reduction principles into all post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.

## 2. Action by development partners

- Provide financial and technical assistance to least developed countries to support their disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and post-disaster reconstruction efforts, and, in this regard, strengthen sharing of knowledge and expertise as well as transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms to least developed countries;
- Support least developed countries to strengthen their capacity to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters and to benefit from regional and international early warning systems and other information-sharing mechanisms.

<sup>3</sup> Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Istanbul, 9-13 May 2011.

# Outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>4</sup>

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

October 2010 | Port Louis | Mauritius

## General Assembly Resolution 65/2 (A/RES/65/2)

11. Recognize that small island developing States continue to grapple with the effects of natural disasters, some with increased intensity, including those due to climate change, which impede progress towards sustainable development;
12. Also recognize the need to enhance and establish, if necessary, means and tools at the international level aimed at implementing a preventive approach for natural disasters in small island developing States, reducing risks and properly integrating risk management into development policies and programmes, including through the further implementation of the internationally agreed framework for disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015.<sup>5</sup> We call upon the international community to continue to support small island developing States in enhancing their efforts to strengthen regional and national efforts in disaster risk reduction, management and coordination, including creating or strengthening insurance mechanisms, where appropriate, for natural and environmental disasters in small island developing States;

# Keeping the promise: United to achieve the Millennium Development Goals<sup>6</sup>

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

September 2010 | New York | USA

## General Assembly Resolution 65/1 (A/RES/65/1)

- 35.** We acknowledge that disaster risk reduction and increasing resilience to all types of natural hazards, including geological and hydro-meteorological hazards, in developing countries, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,<sup>6</sup> can have multiplier effects and accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Reducing vulnerabilities to these hazards is therefore a high priority for developing countries. We recognize that small island developing States continue to grapple
- Adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development progress towards sustainable development.

<sup>6</sup> Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) UN Summit, New York, 20-22 September 2010.

## Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

September 2002 | Johannesburg | South Africa

## Section IV: Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, Paragraph: 37

- 37.** An integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, is an essential element of a safer world in the twenty-first century. Actions are required at all levels to:

- Strengthen the role of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and encourage the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to its Trust Fund;
- Support the establishment of effective regional, subregional and national strategies and scientific and technical institutional support for disaster management;
- Strengthen the institutional capacities of countries and promote international joint observation and research, through improved surface-based monitoring and increased use of satellite data, dissemination of technical and scientific knowledge, and the provision of assistance to vulnerable countries;
- Reduce the risks of flooding and drought in vulnerable countries by, inter alia, promoting wetland and watershed protection and restoration, improved land-use planning, improving and applying more widely techniques and methodologies for assessing the potential adverse effects of climate change on wetlands and, as appropriate, assisting countries that are particularly vulnerable to those effects;
- Improve techniques and methodologies for assessing the effects of climate change, and encourage the continuing assessment of those adverse effects by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- Encourage the dissemination and use of traditional and indigenous knowledge to mitigate the impact of disasters and promote community-based disaster management planning by local authorities, including through training activities and raising public awareness;

- Support the ongoing voluntary contribution of, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations, the scientific community and other partners in the management of natural disasters according to agreed, relevant guidelines;
- Develop and strengthen early warning systems and information networks in disaster management, consistent with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;
- Develop and strengthen capacity at all levels to collect and disseminate scientific and technical information, including the improvement of early warning systems for predicting extreme weather events, especially El Niño/La Niña, through the provision of assistance to institutions devoted to addressing such events, including the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño phenomenon;
- Promote cooperation for the prevention and mitigation of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from major technological and other disasters with an adverse impact on the environment in order to enhance the capabilities of affected countries to cope with such situations.

## Agenda 217

Adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development - Earth Summit

June 1992 | Rio de Janeiro | Brazil

### Section I: Social & Economic Dimensions, Chapter 7: Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development

#### *F. Promoting human settlement planning and management in disaster-prone areas*

##### BASIS FOR ACTION

**7.55.** Natural disasters cause loss of life, disruption of economic activities and urban productivity, particularly for highly susceptible low-income groups, and environmental damage, such as loss of fertile agricultural land and contamination of water resources, and can lead to major resettlement of populations. Over the past two decades, they are estimated to have caused some 3 million deaths and affected 800 million people. Global economic losses have been estimated by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator to be in the range of \$30-50 billion per year.

**7.56.** The General Assembly, in resolution 44/236, proclaimed the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The goals of the Decade bear relevance to the objectives of the present programme area.

**7.57.** In addition, there is an urgent need to address the prevention and reduction of man-made disasters and/or disasters caused by, inter alia, industries, unsafe nuclear power generation and toxic wastes (see chapter 6 of Agenda 21).

##### OBJECTIVE

**7.58.** The objective is to enable all countries, in particular those that are disaster-prone, to mitigate the negative impact of natural and man-made disasters on human settlements, national economies and the environment.

##### ACTIVITIES

**7.59.** Three distinct areas of activity are foreseen under this programme area, namely, the development of a “culture of safety”, pre-disaster planning and post-disaster reconstruction.

## *A) Developing a culture of safety*

**7.60.** To promote a “culture of safety” in all countries, especially those that are disaster-prone, the following activities should be carried out:

- Completing national and local studies on the nature and occurrence of natural disasters, their impact on people and economic activities, the effects of inadequate construction and land use in hazard-prone areas, and the social and economic advantages of adequate pre-disaster planning;
- Implementing nationwide and local awareness campaigns through all available media, translating the above knowledge into information easily comprehensible to the general public and to the populations directly exposed to hazards;
- Strengthening, and/or developing global, regional, national and local early warning systems to alert populations to impending disasters;
- Identifying industrially based environmental disaster areas at the national and international levels and implementing strategies aimed at the rehabilitation of these areas through, inter alia:
  1. Restructuring of the economic activities and promoting new job opportunities in environmentally sound sectors;
  2. Promoting close collaboration between governmental and local authorities, local communities and non-governmental organizations and private business;
  3. Developing and enforcing strict environmental control standards.

## *B) Developing pre-disaster planning*

**7.61.** Pre-disaster planning should form an integral part of human settlement planning in all countries. The following should be included:

- Undertaking complete multi-hazard research into risk and vulnerability of human settlements and settlement infrastructure, including water and sewerage, communication and transportation networks, as one type of risk reduction may increase vulnerability to another (e.g., an earthquake-resistant house made of wood will be more vulnerable to wind storms);
- Developing methodologies for determining risk and vulnerability within specific human settlements and incorporating risk and vulnerability reduction into the human settlement planning and management process;
- Redirecting inappropriate new development and human settlements to areas not prone to hazards;
- Preparing guidelines on location, design and operation of potentially hazardous industries and activities;
- Developing tools (legal, economic etc.) to encourage disaster-sensitive development, including means of ensuring that limitations on development options are not punitive to owners, or incorporate alternative means of compensation;
- Further developing and disseminating information on disaster-resistant building materials and construction technologies for buildings and public works in general;
- Developing training programmes for contractors and builders on disaster-resistant construction methods. Some programmes should be directed particularly to small enterprises, which build the great majority of housing and other small buildings in the developing countries, as well as to the rural populations, which build their own houses;
- Developing training programmes for emergency site managers, non-governmental organizations and community groups which cover all aspects of disaster mitigation, including urban search and rescue, emergency communications, early warning techniques, and pre-disaster planning;

- Developing procedures and practices to enable local communities to receive information about hazardous installations or situations in these areas, and facilitate their participation in early warning and disaster abatement and response procedures and plans;
- Preparing action plans for the reconstruction of settlements, especially the reconstruction of community life-lines.

### *C) Initiating post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation planning*

**7.62.** The international community, as a major partner in post-reconstruction and rehabilitation, should ensure that the countries involved derive the greatest benefits from the funds allocated by undertaking the following activities:

- Carrying out research on past experiences on the social and economic aspects of post-disaster reconstruction and adopting effective strategies and guidelines for post-disaster reconstruction, with particular focus on development-focused strategies in the allocation of scarce reconstruction resources, and on the opportunities that post-disaster reconstruction provides to introduce sustainable settlement patterns;
- Preparing and disseminating international guidelines for adaptation to national and local needs;
- Supporting efforts of national Governments to initiate contingency planning, with participation of affected communities, for post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

### *A) Financing and cost evaluation*

**7.63.** The Conference secretariat has estimated the average total annual cost (1993-2000) of implementing the activities of this programme to be about \$50 million from the international community on grant or concessional terms. These are indicative and order-of-magnitude estimates only and have not been reviewed by Governments. Actual costs and financial terms, including any that are non-concessional, will depend upon, inter alia, the specific strategies and programmes Governments decide upon for implementation.

### *B) Scientific and technological means*

**7.64.** Scientists and engineers specializing in this field in both developing and developed countries should collaborate with urban and regional planners in order to provide the basic knowledge and means to mitigate losses owing to disasters as well as environmentally inappropriate development.

### *C) Human resource development and capacity-building*

**7.65.** Developing countries should conduct training programmes on disaster-resistant construction methods for contractors and builders, who build the majority of housing in the developing countries. This should focus on the small business enterprises, which build the majority of housing in the developing countries.

**7.66.** Training programmes should be extended to government officials and planners and community and non-governmental organizations to cover all aspects of disaster mitigation, such as early warning techniques, pre-disaster planning and construction, post-disaster construction and rehabilitation.