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WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

Preparatory Committee
First Session
Geneva, 6-7 May 2004

Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Officers of the Preparatory Committee

DESIGNATION OF THE BUREAU FOR THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL UNIT FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON
DISASTER REDUCTION (WCDR) WITHIN THE INTER-AGENCY SECRETARIAT OF
THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (ISDR)

At its 58th session (December 2003), the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to convene a World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in 2005 and “to establish an open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee” for the WCDR. The General Assembly also decided to set up a “bureau consisting of five representatives of Member States elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution” (see Resolution A/RES/58/214, paragraphs 9 and 10) to support and guide the preparations towards the WCDR.

Based on the UNGA decision, the ISDR Secretariat, as the designated substantive secretariat of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, invited, on 13 January 2004, the UN regional groups to nominate their candidate for the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

Following a consultative process between regional groups, the Bureau was established and became fully operational in March 2004, with the following members:

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (GRULAC): ECUADOR - Selected by the Bureau as the Chair of the Bureau

❖ *Permanent Mission in Geneva*

- H.E. M. Hernán Escudero Martínez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
- Mr. Arturo Cabrera, Counsellor
- Ms. Mireya Muñoz, Counsellor

ASIAN GROUP: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN – Selected by the Bureau as the Rapporteur

❖ *Permanent Mission in Geneva*

- H.E. M. Ali A. Mojtahed-Shabestari, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
- Mr. Seyed Mohammad Sadati Nejad, Third Secretary

AFRICAN GROUP: MOROCCO

❖ *Permanent Mission in Geneva*

- H.E. M. Omar Hilale, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
- Mr. M’hamed Sidi El Khir, Counsellor

EASTERN EUROPE GROUP: RUSSIAN FEDERATION

❖ *Permanent Mission in Geneva*

- H.E. M. Leonid Skotnikov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
- Mr. Yuri Boychenko, Senior Counsellor
- Ms. Natalia Zolotova, Second Secretary

WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHERS GROUP: GERMANY

❖ *Permanent Mission in Geneva*

- H.E. Michael Steiner, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
- Mr. Andreas Pfaffernoschke, Counsellor

EX-OFFICIO member: JAPAN – Selected by the Bureau as the Co-Chair of the Bureau

❖ *Permanent Mission in Geneva*

- H.E. M. Shigeru Endo, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative
- Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Minister
- Mr. Masaaki Nakagawa, First Secretary
- Mr. Kenji Shinoda, First Secretary

In parallel, a special unit was established within the ISDR Secretariat to support and facilitate the preparatory work towards the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. The WCDR Unit is operational as of May 2004 with the following composition:

Mr. John Horekens	Conference Coordinator
Ms. Naoko Obi	Senior Adviser
Ms. Christel Rose	Programme Officer
Mr. John Harding	Programme Officer
Ms. Yuki Matsuoka	Programme Officer
Ms. Elena Dokhlik	Secretary

For further information on the composition and activities of the Bureau or the Special Unit, please contact the ISDR Secretariat (Tel: +41 (0)22 917 2759; E-mail: isdr-wcdr@un.org).