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WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

Preparatory Committee
First Session
Geneva, 6-7 May 2004
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PREPARATORY PROCESS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

Note by the secretariat

This report outlines the main areas of work in the process leading to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005.

The document contains an overview of accomplishments until mid-April and planned activities in the following areas:

Organizational aspects:

- (i) Designation of Bureau;*
- (ii) Conference secretariat;*
- (iii) Resource mobilization;*
- (iv) Logistical arrangements;*
- (v) Communication strategy; and,*
- (vi) Administrative and information system support.*

Substantive aspects:

- (i) Consultations with IATF members, experts and other agencies;*
- (ii) Review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action;*
- (iii) Request for national information on disaster reduction and analysis of results; and,*
- (iv) Preparation of elements for Conference outcomes.*

It also contains two annexes: (1) the outline for national reporting and information on disaster reduction, and, (2) the preliminary list of regional and thematic meetings that have produced recommendations relevant to WCDR. For the latter, the compilation of recommendations will be produced for the second session of the Preparatory Committee, 11-12 October, 2004.

* This document remains in the language of submission only, due to its late submission.

BACKGROUND AND MANDATE

In paragraph 7 of its resolution A/RES/58/214 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the UN General Assembly decided to ‘convene a World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005, at the senior-official level, designed to foster specialized discussions and produce concrete changes and results, with the following objectives:

- a) To conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century;
- b) To identify specific activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”) on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management;
- c) To share best practices and lessons learned to further disaster reduction, within the context of attaining sustainable development, and to identify gaps and challenges;
- d) To increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies, thereby facilitating and promoting the implementation of those policies;
- e) To increase the reliability and availability of appropriate disaster-related information to the public and disaster management agencies in all regions, as set out in relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.’

Activities carried out and planned for 2004 are listed below. They include those in response to the General Assembly resolution, inviting ‘Member States, all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, in particular members of the IATF, to participate actively in the Conference, as well as its preparatory process’ (para. 14); welcoming ‘contributions from all regions that could provide substantive inputs to the preparatory process and the Conference itself’ (para. 15) and encouraging (para. 16) ‘effective contributions from major groups’.

As set out in the General Assembly resolution, a series of key meetings are expected to take place, leading to the Conference in January 2005. Such meetings are:

Key meetings	Place and dates
Ninth session of Inter-Agency Task Force	Geneva, 4-5 May 2004
PrepCom 1st session	Geneva, 6-7 May 2004
Tenth session of Inter-Agency Task Force	Geneva, 7-8 October 2004
PrepCom 2nd session	Geneva, 11-12 October 2004
PrepCom 3rd session (if necessary)	One additional day during the WCDR, Kobe, 18 January 2005
World Conference on Disaster Reduction	Kobe-Hyogo, 18-22 January 2005

OVERVIEW

The General Assembly, in the above-mentioned resolution, decided ‘to establish an open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee for the Conference, to review the organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference, approve the programme of work of the Conference and propose rules of procedure for adoption by the Conference’. It also decided that ‘the preparatory committee will have a bureau consisting of five representatives of Member States elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation’, and requested ‘the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to serve as the secretariat of the Conference and coordinate preparatory activities’.

In light of the foregoing, the ISDR secretariat has been engaged in a number of activities. The table below provides an overview of activities in relation to the preparatory process of the World Conference.

MAIN AREAS OF WORK	STATUS AS OF MID-APRIL 2004	PLANNING
Organizational aspects		
<p>Designation of Bureau</p> <p>Bureau members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecuador (Chair) - Federal Republic of Germany - Islamic Republic of Iran - Japan (ex-officio & co-chair) - Morocco - Russian Federation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional groups nominated Bureau members; the full Bureau was operational as from 15 March. • Four Bureau meetings held between 1 March – 30 April 2004, to discuss procedural matters, review preliminary documentation for the Preparatory Committee and provide guidance to the secretariat on substantive and organizational aspects of the Conference. • Documents prepared for the first session of Preparatory Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provisional Agenda and Annotations; - Provisional Rules of Procedures for the WCDR; - Draft Annotated Outline of the Review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action; - Proposed Elements for the Programme Outcome of the WCDR; and, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In between PrepCom sessions (May – October), the Bureau and the Conference secretariat will ensure development of working documents for the conference outcomes based on the recommendations of the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

MAIN AREAS OF WORK	STATUS AS OF MID-APRIL 2004	PLANNING
Designation of Bureau (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggested arrangements for accreditation and participation in the preparatory process and in the World Conference on Disaster Reduction of relevant Non-Governmental Organizations and other major groups. • Organization of first session of the Preparatory Committee underway. 	
Conference Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Special Unit for the WCDR within the ISDR Secretariat has been established and will be fully operational in May 2004. It includes staff exclusively lined for and dedicated to the WCDR, as well as regular ISDR secretariat staff. 	
Resource mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A budget covering all requirements pertaining to the WCDR and the Preparatory Committee has been prepared and circulated to the ISDR Support Group and to the Bureau. • The Government of Japan has committed to provide resources for the 'actual additional costs' for holding the Conference in Kobe. • Additional funding is being sought from other donor governments to cover additional needs for the Conference and its preparatory process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotional campaign to be designed and implemented. • Additional resources to be mobilized through ISDR Support Group.
Logistical arrangements (in coordination with Host Government, Hyogo Prefecture, and UN Conference Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conference secretariat has undertaken the first preparatory mission to Japan to discuss logistical arrangements, budget and host arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of public forum events in coordination/liaison with Hyogo Prefecture.

MAIN AREAS OF WORK	STATUS AS OF MID-APRIL 2004	PLANNING
Communication strategy (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Conference Announcement has been printed and posted on the ISDR website: www.unisdr.org • Consultations are on-going with UN partners, including UNOPS, UNDP, WMO and UNIC Tokyo, with a view to establishing 'a communication team' (to be consolidated in May 2004). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy to be determined on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elaboration of key messages for promotion - Production of support information - Media briefs and public awareness information - Engaging with partners and relevant organizations • The International Day for Disaster Reduction, 13 Oct 2004, will be a further opportunity to highlight the topics to be addressed at the World Conference.
Administrative and information system support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat is developing relevant databases and is enhancing its website to include a special web page on the WCDR. Additionally the Secretariat documentation unit is being developed gradually into a resource centre for disaster reduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further development of these information system components is expected following WCDR in close collaboration with key partners.
Substantive aspects		
Consultations with IATF members, experts and other agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First informal meeting held back-to-back to IATF-8, October 2003. • Several IATF members are committed to support substantive discussions at the WCDR (OCHA, UNESCO, UNDP, UNCRD, UNU, WMO, among others). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Working Group meeting to be held back-to-back to IATF-9 on 5 May 2004. • Ongoing consultations with partner-organizations and IATF Working Group.

MAIN AREAS OF WORK	STATUS AS OF MID-APRIL 2004	PLANNING
Consultations with IATF members, experts and other agencies (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider on-line consultation planned for August 2004.
Review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution from experts, regional organizations and country case studies were reflected in the 2002/2003 versions of <i>Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives</i> (available for sale in June 2004). This process provided the first basis for the review of the Yokohama Strategy. • The ISDR Secretariat is preparing an interim report of the “Yokohama Review” in consultation with experts as a contribution to the PrepCom1. • Draft annotated outline of the review is presented at PrepCom1 for comments (A/CONF.206/PC(I)/3). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interim report to be available at IATF-9: 4-5 May 2004. • The Secretariat will prepare a more substantive document for PrepCom2 incorporating comments from PrepCom1, as well as findings from and analysis of national information. • A publication (co-publication between UN and Tudor Rose) on good practices and examples will be ready for dissemination at the WCDR (tentatively due mid-September 2004).
Request for national information on disaster reduction and analysis of results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request sent by secretariat to Permanent Missions in Geneva by end of February 2004, and copied to UN Resident Coordinators (see Annex 1). • A joint letter signed by the Under Secretary-General of Humanitarian Affairs and the UNDP Administrator sent out to all the UN Resident Coordinators to support this undertaking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISDR and UNDP jointly plan to facilitate preparation of national reporting and compilation of results. • Deadline for response: 15 June 2004. • Secretariat to prepare summary for PrepCom2 in collaboration with UNDP (due in September 2004).

MAIN AREAS OF WORK	STATUS AS OF MID-APRIL 2004	PLANNING
<p>Regional and Thematic consultations (Results expected to contribute to the review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, and for the outcomes of WCDR with a view to defining priorities for the future.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Annex 2 • A compilation of main recommendations made available for the first PrepCom. • The recommendations have been taken into account in the working documents prepared by the Conference secretariat for the first PrepCom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISDR Secretariat will continue to support these regional and thematic consultations of partner organizations. • The secretariat will ensure that the recommendations are reflected in the working documents for the Conference.
<p>Preparation of elements for Conference outcomes Final outcomes to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political declaration/strategy and vision (first draft for PrepCom2); and, - Policy and Programme elements for 2005-2015 and partnership mechanism (first draft for PrepCom1). <p>Additional supporting and background documentation will be prepared by the secretariat for each PrepCom and Conference (in English only).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the initial findings of the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, the secretariat developed a first draft outline of policy and programme elements in consultation with experts, IATF and Bureau (A/CONF.206/PC(1)/4). • A preliminary draft of contents has been prepared in consultation with experts, IATF and Bureau and will be made available to Prep Com I (in English only). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ISDR Secretariat, with advice from experts, the IATF and in consultation with Bureau, will develop second draft for PrepCom2 with input from PrepCom 1 in period June-Sept. 2004. • A wide on-line consultation will be organized for further inputs. • The ISDR Secretariat to develop third draft for the Conference with input from PrepCom 2: November 2004.

Annex I

**Outline
for national reporting and information on disaster reduction
for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction**

(Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005)

Background

The Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action was adopted at the World Conference on Natural Disasters, held in 1994 as a mid-review of the progress during the International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR, 1990-1999).

As the successor of the IDNDR, the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) coordinated a global review of disaster reduction initiatives, "Living with Risk", published in 2002.

National authorities and platforms on disaster reduction are invited to provide information for the preparatory process for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005. This information will be used to identify needs and future policy recommendations to be adopted at the Conference.

The preparation of this information provides an opportunity to bring together national stakeholders from Government, academic and other sectors dealing with disaster risk reduction. **Therefore we encourage consultations with institutions specializing in disaster management, environmental planning, education, meteorological services, key NGOs and other key domains.**

If a national platform or network for disaster reduction does not already exist in your country, this might be the time to call for such a mechanisms (ad-hoc or formalized). For more information on national platforms for disaster reduction, contact Mr. Haris Sanahuja at the ISDR Secretariat (sanahuja@un.org).

Deadline for receiving inputs at UN/ISDR: **15 June 2004**. Later submissions will also be made available at the Conference, but will not form part of the proposed policy recommendations.

Information provided will be utilized by ISDR for various information products, including in the website as country information. Therefore, please indicate if any information is of restricted nature.

HOW TO USE THESE GUIDELINES TO PREPARE YOUR NATIONAL INFORMATION

The information should be provided under the following headings (please indicate N/A, if no information is available). For each section please indicate *current status, main difficulties or gaps encountered, and challenges for the future*:

1. ***Political Commitment and Institutional Aspects (Component 1)***
2. ***Risk Identification (including early warning) (Component 2)***
3. ***Knowledge Management (education, research, information, public awareness) (Component 3)***

4. **Risk Management Applications/Instruments (technical, social, financial, environmental)**
(Component 4)
5. **Preparedness and Contingency Planning** (Component 5)
6. **Good practices in disaster risk management** (Component 6)
7. **Priorities to address at WCDR** (Component 7)

If no information is available, leave the questions unanswered marked as N/A. Short answers and analyses are encouraged. When applicable, please indicate any relevant documentation or other sources of information on the subject.

(For additional details, see the “*Framework for Guiding and Monitoring Disaster Risk Reduction*” <http://www.unisdr.org/dialogue/basicdocument.htm>) or contact the ISDR Secretariat.

Please provide your information if possible by electronic means to the ISDR Secretariat c/o Mr. Haris Sanahuja (sanahuja@un.org, tel: +41-22-917 2808) and Ms. Christel Rose (rosec@un.org, tel: +41-22-9172786 or by fax to: ISDR Secretariat, United Nations, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland

In Africa, please contact the UN/ISDR Office in Nairobi, Kenya, for more information: Tel.: +254 20 62 45 68 - Fax: +254 20 62 47 26 - E-mail <ISDR-Africa@unep.org>
In Latin America and the Caribbean, please contact the UN/ISDR Office in San José, Costa Rica, for more information: Tel.: +506 224 11 86 - Fax: +506 224 77 58 - E-mail <eird@eird.org>

Information on national contact and provider of info:

Name:

Position:

Organization:

Address:

State/Province:

Zip/Post Code:

Country:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Website:

Was the information provided consulted with other institutions? YES

NO

If yes, please list these organizations here-below:

Annex II

Preliminary list of regional and thematic meetings that have produced recommendations relevant to WCDR

Regional meetings

2003

1. First Asian consultation (Government of Japan, ADRC), Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, 17 January
2. Pacific Regional Consultation (SOPAC), Fiji, 5-7 May
3. Safer Sustainable communities 2003 Australian disaster Conference (EMA), Canberra, 10-12 September
4. Euro-Mediterranean consultations (Council of Europe, Spain), Madrid, Spain, 6-8 October
5. Forum Mitch+5 (CEPREDENAC, UNDP, COPECO), Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 9-11 December

2004

6. Third Asian consultation (governments of Cambodia and Japan, ADRC), Cambodia, 4-6 February
7. Third Asian Consultative Meeting of Regional Organizations and Regional Officers of UN Agencies (WHO/WPRO, ADPC), Manila, Philippines, 24-26 February
8. EUR-OPA (Council of Europe), Rabat, Morocco, 11-13 March
9. Third Asian consultation during 4th meeting of Consultative Committee on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management (ADPC and Government of Bangladesh), Dhaka, Bangladesh, 29-31 March

Thematic meetings

2003

1. Regional consultations on Early Warning
Asia: Bandung, Indonesia, 26-28 May; Africa: Nairobi, Kenya, 23-24 June;
Americas: Antigua, Guatemala, 3-5 June; and Europe: Potsdam, Germany, 28-29 July
2. Online Conference to develop Framework for Disaster Risk reduction, by ISDR/UNDP, 25 August – 25 September
3. International Wildland Fire Summit (GFMC), Sydney, Australia, 8 October
4. Second International Conference on Early Warning (ISDR, Government of Germany), Bonn, Germany, 16-18 October
5. Sixth International Conference on Disaster Management (Civil Defense, Government of Cuba), Havana, Cuba, 25-28 November
6. Asian International Conference on Total Disaster Risk Management (OCHA, ADRC, UNDP), Kobe, Japan, 2-4 December
7. International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, topic includes Risk Reduction (IFRC), Geneva, 2-5 December

2004

8. Inter-regional preparatory meeting for SIDS BpoA +10 (UN/DESA), Bahamas, 26-30 January
9. Sustainable Community Empowerment for Disaster Management organized (UNCRD), Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, 6-7 February
10. Disaster Reduction Forum 2004 – transfer lessons of catastrophic disasters – (Disaster Reduction Alliance – DRA), Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, 8 February
11. World Congress on Natural Disaster Mitigation, New Delhi, India, 19-21 February
12. Thirty-first session WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1-6 March
13. Risk Management as a Sustainable Development Factor on Human Scale – Ibero-America Civil Protection (ONEMI, Chile), Santiago, Chile, 24-26 March
14. Global Disaster Information Network Conference (GDIN), Washington D.C., USA, 26-29 March
15. Commission on Sustainable Development, UN, New York, April + PrepCom SIDS, 14-30 April
