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### WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

Preparatory Committee  
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#### 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 progress leading to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005. It contains an overview of accomplishments until end-July and planned activities, in the following areas:

Organizational aspects:

- (i) Bureau;
- (ii) Logistical arrangements;
- (iii) Resource mobilization; and,
- (iv) Communications strategy.

Substantive aspects:

- (i) Consultations with IATF members, experts and other agencies;
- (ii) Review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action;
- (iii) Compilation of national information on disaster reduction and its analysis;
- (iv) Regional and thematic consultations;
- (v) Preparation of programme outcome document; and,
- (vi) Preparation of declaration.

## OVERVIEW

The General Assembly resolution A/RES/58/214 established an open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) 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 (ISDR) to serve as the secretariat of the Conference and coordinate preparatory activities.

Since the first session of the Preparatory Committee, the ISDR secretariat including the special unit for WCDR has been engaged in different areas of preparatory 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 END-JULY 2004	PLANNING
<b>Organizational aspects</b>		
<b>Bureau</b> Bureau members: - Ecuador (Chair) - Federal Republic of Germany - Islamic Republic of Iran (Rapporteur) - Japan (ex-officio & co-chair) - Morocco - Russian Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Bureau has been meeting on a regular basis to discuss substantive and organizational aspects of the Conference.</li> <li>- Organization of the second session of Preparatory Committee is well underway.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Bureau will continue to take the lead in overseeing the Conference preparations, including the forthcoming negotiation and discussion on the programme outcome document.</li> </ul>
<b>Logistical arrangements</b> In consultation with Host Government, Hyogo Prefecture, UN Conference Services and UNOG Security and partner organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Conference secretariat has undertaken a second preparatory mission to Japan to discuss organizational and logistical matters as well as the host country arrangement.</li> <li>- Preparations are underway with regard to the three segments of the Conference (intergovernmental, thematic and public forum): registration, accreditation, coordination with and participation of other organizations, security, allocation of space in the Conference premises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The discussion with relevant entities (host country, local authorities, and IATF/DR) will continue with a view to finalizing the programme of each segment and putting all the necessary logistical arrangements in place.</li> </ul>

MAIN AREAS OF WORK	STATUS AS OF END-JULY 2004	PLANNING
<b>Resource mobilization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Government of Japan has pledged to cover the cost of the Conference for an amount of US\$2.5 million, including support to ISDR.</li> <li>- Several governments have expressed their commitment to provide financial support, in particular for travel of delegates and NGOs from developing countries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional funding is being sought from other donor governments to cover additional needs for the Conference and its preparatory process, in particular, to support the participation of representatives from developing countries (Government delegates and NGO representatives).</li> </ul>
<b>Communications strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A specific webpage on WCDR has been developed.</li> <li>- A communications strategy has been developed by ISDR and discussed with key partners, including UNDP, WMO, IFRC, and UNOPS which now form a communications team for WCDR. The communications team will act as a network of agencies, in order to ensure coordination and coherence across communication related activities of WCDR. A consultant has been hired to assist with the communications work, including liaison with the media.</li> <li>- The Conference logo was approved by the UN Publications Board in New York.</li> <li>- The second (and the last printed) announcement has been posted on the ISDR website: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr">www.unisdr.org/wcdr</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The main areas of focus in relation to communications for WCDR will include the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) production and dissemination on TV channels of a short video-clip, carrying a main message;</li> <li>2) production and dissemination of 3 short TV spots, illustrating good practices;</li> <li>3) creation of a press-room on the website, for access to journalists; and,</li> <li>4) establishment of a multi-language, multi-regional journalist network, to be used as an advocacy group for disaster reduction.</li> </ol> </li> <li>- Planning is on-going for the International Day for Disaster Reduction, 13 Oct 2004 and Sasakawa Award: an opportunity to highlight the topics to be addressed at the WCDR.</li> </ul>
<b>Substantive aspects</b>		
<b>Consultations with IATF members, experts and other organizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Second meeting of the IATF Working Group was held as part of the ninth session of the IATF meeting on 5 May 2004.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Third Working Group meeting is scheduled to be held as part of the tenth session of the IATF meeting on 9 October 2004.</li> </ul>

MAIN AREAS OF WORK	STATUS AS OF END-JULY 2004	PLANNING
<b>Consultations with IATF members, experts and other organizations (continued)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-line dialogue on 'priority areas for further action to implement disaster risk reduction, 2005-2015' was undertaken from 15 June to 15 July 2004. (Summary available on <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr">www.unisdr.org/wcdr</a>)</li> <li>- Several IATF members have expressed specific commitment to support the preparations for and their participation in the thematic sessions. Advice and inputs are sought from individual experts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultations are ongoing with partner-organizations, individual experts and IATF Working Group.</li> </ul>
<b>Review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The publication, entitled: <i>Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives</i> which forms the first basis for the review of the Yokohama was launched on 14 July 2004 by USG Jan Egeland at a press briefing and a delegations briefing during ECOSOC in New York.</li> <li>- The draft report, incorporating comments from the first session of Preparatory Committee, as well as findings from and analysis of national information, is presented at the second session of Preparatory Committee for comments. (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A publication (co-publication between UN and Tudor Rose) on good practices and examples will be ready for dissemination at the WCDR.</li> </ul>
<b>Compilation of national information on disaster reduction and its analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As of the end of July 2004, approximately 60 countries submitted their contributions. Analysis is underway so as to feed into the Yokohama review process.</li> <li>- The compilation of national reports is presented to the second session of Preparatory Committee. (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/INF.3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A CD-ROM will be produced compiling all the national information submitted (due by the end of 2004).</li> </ul>

MAIN AREAS OF WORK	STATUS AS OF END-JULY 2004	PLANNING
<p><b>Regional and thematic consultations</b> (Results expected to contribute to the review of Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, and the programme outcome of WCDR.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The recommendations are taken into account in the working documents prepared by the Conference secretariat for the second session of Preparatory Committee.</li> <li>- The compilation of the information of and recommendations from regional and thematic meetings is submitted to the second session of Preparatory Committee. (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/INF.2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ISDR Secretariat will continue to support these regional and thematic consultations of partner organizations.</li> <li>- The secretariat will continue to ensure that the recommendations are reflected in the working documents for the Conference.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Preparation of programme outcome document</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Based on the initial findings of the Yokohama review, the secretariat developed a first draft outline of policy and programme elements in consultation with experts, IATF and the Bureau. (A/CONF.206/PC(I)/4)</li> <li>- The 31 May draft of programme outcome document was issued early June, based on elements discussed in the first session of Preparatory Committee and comments received thereafter. The document is tentatively entitled "<i>Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters, in support of sustainable development</i>".</li> <li>- Comments submitted on the 31 May draft were incorporated by the Conference secretariat, under the guidance of the Rapporteur. The revised draft (9 August) is submitted to the second session of Preparatory Committee for discussion and negotiation. (A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negotiation and discussion will continue after the second session of Preparatory Committee, on the basis of a well-defined mechanism to be agreed upon at the second session of Preparatory Committee.</li> </ul>

<b>MAIN AREAS OF WORK</b>	<b>STATUS AS OF END-JULY 2004</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>
<b>Preparation of declaration</b>	- An initial draft will be prepared by the Host country before the World Conference on Disaster Reduction.	- Discussion on the declaration and negotiation of a text is expected to start at the second session of Preparatory Committee.

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