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**World Conference on Disaster
Reduction**

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Agenda item 8

Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer world

**Draft elements and considerations for a
resolution on early warning for natural disasters**

Draft resolution proposed by Germany

The following draft resolution is proposed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for adoption by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction.

Germany proposes a resolution for a Third International Conference on Early Warning – to be convened and organized by the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, through its Platform for Promotion of Early Warning, to be held at Bonn, Germany, in early 2006, and financed by the Government of Germany – to advance the growing desire of world leaders for implementing early warning systems for natural hazards worldwide.

For reasons of simplicity, this draft resolution uses essentially the same language as was agreed by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/214 when deciding to hold the World Conference on Disaster Reduction.

The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany would like to take this opportunity to introduce the draft resolution.

Draft resolution

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on early warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters (A/50/526) and improved effectiveness of early-warning systems with regard to natural and similar disasters (A/52/561),

Having considered also the report of Technical Committee F of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction convened by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (A/CONF.172/9, chap. V, paras. 39-46), the 1998 Progress Report of the Committee on the Earth Observation Satellites Disaster Management Support Project, the Early Warning Programme Action Plan for the Future of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, presented at the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Programme Forum, held from 5 to 9 July 1999, at Geneva, the final report of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and the report of the Sub-Forum on Science and Technology in Support of Natural Disaster Reduction convened by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and General Assembly resolution 52/200 entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Nino phenomena",

Having considered in particular chapters II, IV, VII, and IX of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.199/20, chap. I, resolution 2) adopted by the Summit, which was held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2004,

Recalling that the International Conference on Early Warning System for Natural Disaster Reduction, held in Potsdam, Germany, in 1998, was the first international conference on early warning and laid emphasis on technical aspects of the issue,

Recalling also that the Second International Conference on Early Warning, convened under the auspices of the United Nations and held in Bonn, Germany, in 2003, brought together for the first time scientists, practitioners and politicians, who called upon all national, regional and international authorities to act with resolve to implement the conference recommendations, particularly the implementation of the early warning programme and the integration of the programme into disaster reduction strategies and policy at all levels,

Recalling as well that the General Assembly took note of the outcome of Second World Conference on Early Warning in its resolutions 58/215 and 59/231, and, in its resolution 58/214, recommended the implementation of the outcome of the Conference, which consisted of the following five focuses for action as elaborated to advance the development of early warning

systems worldwide: (a) integration of early warning into relevant development policies and programmes, (b) improvement of data collection, facilitating access to relevant data and forecasting, (c) enhancement of early warning capacities, (d) people-centred warning systems, in particular ensuring gender balance, and (e) a platform (organizational capacity) to sustain the early warning dialogue in the future,

Commending the excellent work in developing early warning for public use or providing early warning for international and internal use by the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations University, the Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations, and other international bodies such as the Council of Europe,

Commending especially the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, established through General Assembly resolutions 54/219 and 56/195, for co-ordinating all disaster reduction activities and building on the expertise of the above-mentioned committed United Nations agencies and programmes, for having set up expeditiously an International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning,

1. **Requests** the Secretary-General to convene a World Conference on Early Warning in early 2006 and to invite the international community and all relevant United Nations agencies and programmes and financial institutions and related international organizations at the senior-official level, designed to foster specialized discussions and produce concrete changes and results, with the following objectives:

(a) To implement the International Early Warning Programme launched and adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe from 18 to 22 January 2005;

(b) To identify priority areas for the implementation of early warning systems, taking into account the vulnerabilities of countries to different hazards, the current status and capacities of their warning systems, and the potential for quickly improving the effectiveness of such systems;

(c) To assess and monitor the implementation of early warning systems, taking into account criteria and guidelines for effective early warning systems, the ongoing support, technical and institutional capacities, engagement of relevant actors, and shortcomings, gaps and barriers to implementation;

2. **Accepts with appreciation** the offer of the Government of Germany to host the Conference at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, seat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning;

3. **Decides** 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, and also decides that the preparatory committee will meet at Geneva or Bonn, following the 2005 semi-annual sessions of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, for up to two days each time, and that it will hold a one-day meeting in Bonn within the dates of the conference yet to be decided;

4. **Also decides** that the intergovernmental preparatory committee will have a bureau consisting of five representatives of Member States elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation;

5. **Invites** regional groups to nominate their candidates for the bureau of the preparatory committee by the end of August 2005, so that they can be involved in the preparations for the first meeting of the preparatory committee, and to notify the secretariat of the Conference of those nominations;

6. **Requests** the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction through the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning to serve as the secretariat of the Conference and to coordinate preparatory activities, the costs of which will be funded extrabudgetarily through the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and in close cooperation with the host country and the preparatory committee for the Conference, with the full support of the relevant departments of the Secretariat;

7. **Invites** Member States, all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, in particular the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to participate actively in the Conference, as well as its preparatory process;

8. **Welcomes** contributions from all regions that could provide substantive inputs to the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

9. **Encourages** effective contributions from major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, invites them to seek accreditation to the Conference and its preparatory process, and decides that their accreditation and participation will be in accordance with the rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the established practice of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the participation and engagement of major groups;

10. **Decides** that the actual additional costs of the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be funded through extrabudgetary resources, without negatively affecting programmed activities, and through specific voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Strategy;

11. **Requests** the Secretariat to provide conference services for the preparatory process and the Conference itself, the costs thereof to be borne by the host country, on the understanding that the Secretariat will ensure that its existing human resources are utilized to the maximum extent possible, without further charge to the host country;

12. **Encourages** the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the Strategy and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups, as well as to facilitate the preparations for the Conference;

13. **Expresses** its appreciation to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to its Trust Fund;

14. **Requests** the Secretary General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

15. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the state of preparations for the World Conference on Early Warning.
