

2005

First Announcement

# World Conference on Disaster Reduction

18-22 January 2005  
Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

## A safer world for all

*A milestone event to*

*increase the international profile of disaster risk reduction*

*promote integration of disaster risk reduction into  
development planning and practice*

*strengthen local and national capacities to address the  
causes of disasters that continue to devastate and  
impede the development of many countries.*

*A set of specific goals, activities and policy measures for implementation  
2005-2015 will be presented for consideration and adoption, drawing on  
a review of the past decade's progress with the Yokohama Strategy and  
Plan of Action for a Safer World that was adopted at the first world  
conference on the subject held at Yokohama, May 1994, during the  
International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)*



United Nations

## What is at stake?

*“Disaster reduction policies and measures need to be implemented to build disaster resilient societies and communities, with a two-fold aim: to reduce the level of risk in societies, while ensuring, on the other hand, that development efforts do not increase the vulnerability to hazards but instead consciously reduce such vulnerability.”*

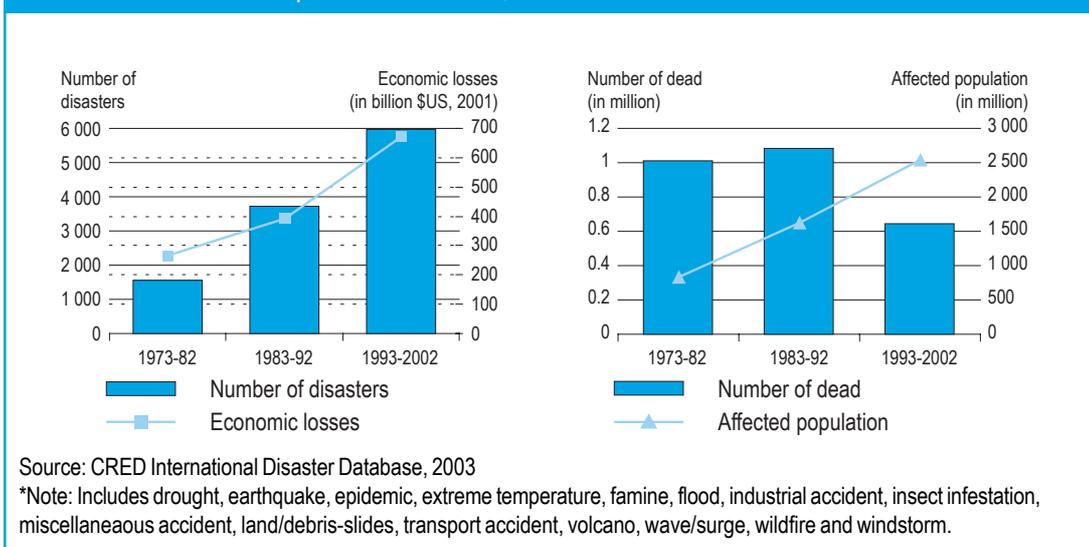
ISDR background document to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, August 2002

Human and economic losses due to natural disasters continue to increase despite efforts undertaken by communities, Governments and international organization. The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR, 1990-1999) helped to raise awareness on risk reduction needs, but was clearly not enough. Data for 2003 from reinsurance companies report the occurrence of around 700 disasters, with over 50,000 people killed, almost five times as many as in the previous year (11,000); such a high number of victims has only been recorded four times since 1980. Economic losses rose to over US\$ 60 billion (in 2002: US\$ 55 billion). Developing countries are disproportionately affected, with their losses rising to

about five times higher per unit of GDP than for the rich countries, sometimes exceeding years of hard-won and desperately needed economic development.

The underlying problem of growing vulnerability to hazards is partly related to development activities and in particular with poverty. Development decisions made at local and international levels often increase the vulnerability to hazards rather than reduce the risk. Poverty reduction strategies are still not taking into account the need to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural and technological hazards. More work is needed to improve social protection for vulnerable communities if the

Economic and human impacts of disasters\*, 1973-2002



Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved.

On the occasion of the mid-term review of the IDNDR, the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was held in Yokohama, Japan in 1994. Since then, the “Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation” and its Plan of Action, have served as the international blueprint in the field of disaster reduction.

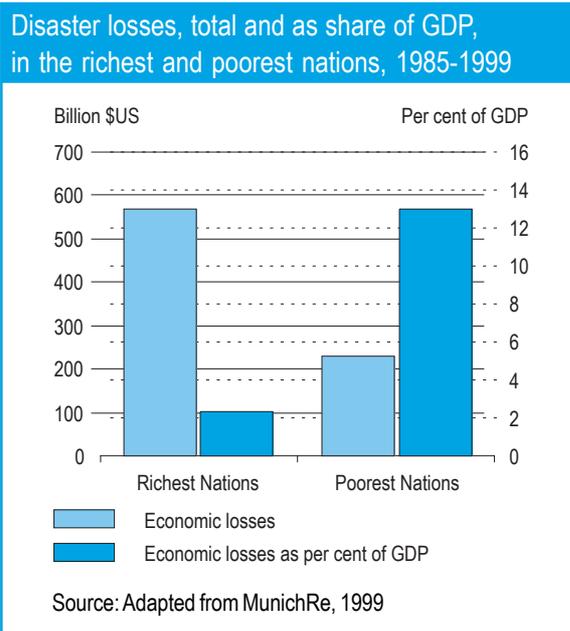
The UN General Assembly adopted the International Strategy for

Disaster Reduction (ISDR) in December 1999 to follow up on the IDNDR achievements as well as facilitate the implementation of disaster reduction worldwide. Progress has been made and disaster reduction is now recognized as a crucial component for sustainable development in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002). Progress and challenges were highlighted in the first global summary of disaster reduction initiatives – *Living with Risk* – published by the ISDR Secretariat in 2002.

*“Natural disaster prevention and mitigation ranks among the top twenty most important and urgent global issues of the twenty-first century. The issue has taken on such proportions and brings so much suffering that global disaster prevention and mitigation measures seem to be a must... These disasters have grown so in scope and frequency that they imply responsibilities for the global community.”*

*Reducing world poverty is arguably the main global challenge of the next twenty years. Why? First, for moral reasons, and for the sake of justice and balance. It has become clear that poverty means more than lack of income: it includes isolation and powerlessness, insecurity, lack of services, and lack of control over one’s future... and feeling constantly exposed to catastrophic risks.”*

Source: J.F. Rischard (2002) *High Noon: Twenty Global Issues, Twenty Years to Solve Them*



## Why the World Conference on Disaster Reduction?

While commitment to the reduction of disasters has been growing – demonstrated through several existing international initiatives, agreements and declarations – actual materialization is still slow. Disaster impacts are increasing and remain a major obstacle to development. New risks are emerging. In some cases development itself is contributing to growing risks.

A detailed review of the achievements, gaps and critical challenges facing the international community since the adoption of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action of 1994 is presently underway, with numerous international, national and local policies, initiatives, scientific and technical achievements demonstrating the feasibility and worth of investment in risk reduction. Emerging issues and opportunities related to environmental and climate change, pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, gender balance and education are also coming to the fore of public attention.

Much remains however to be done to coordinate and strengthen further these movements and integrate them into effective national policies.

**Millennium Development Goal:**  
*“To intensify our collective efforts to reduce the number and effects of natural and manmade disasters.”*  
*Protecting our common environment*

Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, 2001, GA (A/56/326)

A shift in focus from relief to sustainable development is occurring. The current situation calls for an international meeting that brings together local, national and international policymakers active in social and economic development and environmental management issues, disaster risk managers and practitioners, as well as civil society and community groups. The conclusion of the Yokohama review coinciding with the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in addition to the Government of Japan’s offer to host the Conference in the city of Kobe-Hyogo, provides the ideal occasion and setting for the event.

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction is expected to motivate and guide

governments and their policymakers to pay more attention, identifying practical and concrete ways to incorporate disaster risk reduction into poverty reduction.

The Conference will build on the findings of the review of implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, aiming at:

- Assessing achievements and identifying good practices since its adoption in 1994;
- Defining the remaining challenges, critical needs and opportunities in disaster reduction initiatives worldwide, and to examine emerging issues;
- Developing elements for an articulated programme for disaster risk reduction to implement the relevant Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for sustainable development.

The Conference will also raise awareness of the urgency to focus on the vulnerable, taking into account community needs to address disaster risk, as well as emphasize policy development and action at global, regional, national and local levels for the development of a culture of prevention.

## Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action

The **'Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World'** was adopted at the **World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction** (May 1994, Yokohama, Japan), as the main outcome of the mid-term review of the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

### Principles of the Yokohama Strategy

1. Risk assessment is a required step for the adoption of adequate and successful disaster reduction policies and measures.
2. Disaster prevention and preparedness are of primary importance in reducing the need for disaster relief.
3. Disaster prevention and preparedness should be considered integral aspects of development policy and planning at national, regional, bilateral, multilateral and international levels.
4. The development and strengthening of capacities to prevent, reduce and mitigate disasters is a top priority area.
5. Early warnings of impending disasters and their effective dissemination using telecommunications, including broadcast services, are key factors to successful disaster prevention and preparedness.
6. Preventive measures are most effective when they involve participation at all levels, from the local community through the national government to the regional and international level.
7. Vulnerability can be reduced by the application of proper design and patterns of development focused on target groups, by appropriate education and training of the whole community.
8. The international community accepts the need to share the necessary technology to prevent, reduce and mitigate disaster; this should be made freely available and in a timely manner as an integral part of technical cooperation.
9. Environmental protection as a component of sustainable development consistent with poverty alleviation is imperative in the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters.
10. Each country bears the primary responsibility for protecting its people, infrastructure, and other national assets from the impact of natural disasters. The international community should demonstrate strong political determination required to mobilize adequate and make efficient use of existing resources, in the field of natural disaster reduction, bearing in mind the needs of the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries.

## Objectives of WCDR

The UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/58/214 on 23 December 2003, stating the Conference objectives as follows:

- (a) To conclude and report on 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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## Expected outcome of the Conference

- Increased awareness, recognition and political endorsement for implementing of disaster risk reduction and mobilizing local, national and international resources.
- Clearer directions and priorities for action at international, regional, national and local levels to ensure implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation<sup>2</sup>.
- Adoption of a set of goals and policy measures for guiding and stimulating the implementation of disaster risk reduction, both on what to achieve and 'how-to-do' risk reduction<sup>3</sup>.
- Launching of specific initiatives and partnerships to support the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26*

*August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>2</sup> See framework of thematic areas in Annex 1.

<sup>3</sup> See recent discussion on-line in 2003: [www.unisdr.org/dialogue](http://www.unisdr.org/dialogue)

## Format of the Conference

The Conference will be organized around three main processes:

- a) **Intergovernmental process** to engage the attention and participation of national and international authorities to formulate and ensure the adoption of the expected outcome, as guided by the UN General Assembly and to be discussed with the Bureau (comprising five UN member states) during the Preparatory Committees.
- b) **Knowledge exchange (technical and policy developments):** Various parallel events on specific thematic issues and good practices, organized by sponsoring and participating organizations (international, regional, sub-regional, national, local, Governments, NGOs, academic, private sector) in the form of:
  - Panels and roundtables (as appropriate with ministers, parliamentarians, mayors, business and community leaders, heads of UN and others agencies)
  - Poster sessions
  - Workshops/seminars/symposiums (key technical and scientific experts and local/community practitioners)
  - Field visits
- c) **Public participation – promoting awareness to the wider public:** Activities to be carried out in the preparatory phase, during and as a follow up to the Conference, to be organized by Hyogo Prefecture, Japanese institutions, other organizations, Governments, academic institutions, UN public information services and the ISDR Secretariat:
  - Public forum (e.g. open debates)
  - Japanese public events (e.g. involving schools)
  - Media events, coverage and campaigns
  - Public exhibition open for the general public (particularly school and university students) and Conference participants

### Related processes

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction will draw upon the commitments made by the following processes, and will also contribute to their implementation:

- IDNDR (1990-1999), World Conference on natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama (1994) and the ISDR (2000);
- Small Island Developing States Barbados Programme of Action (1994) and its ten-year review in 2004 (BPoA + 10);
- Millennium Development Goals (2000);
- Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for Sustainable Development (2002);
- UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014;
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);
- UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III);
- Ministerial Declaration of the 3rd World Water Forum (2003)

## **Tentative Thematic Areas for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction**

The following list of thematic areas based on a framework to guide and monitor disaster risk reduction to be addressed in seminars and workshops leading up to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (coordinating responsibility for each thematic area to be assigned).

For more information on the framework and thematic areas, please refer to [www.unisdr.org/dialogue](http://www.unisdr.org/dialogue).

### **A. Governance: Institutional and policy frameworks for risk reduction**

- Socio-economic policies and effective utilization of resources (linking to poverty eradication, private and public resources)
- Environmental policies (integration into existing environmental policies and management practices)
- Risk reduction and sustainable development
- National policies, institutional developments and legislation
- Local authorities and municipality policies for risk reduction
- Community action and participation- a policy option
- Regional institutional frameworks and policies
- Transparency- accountability
- Science and technology policies

### **B. Knowledge management: building a culture of resilient communities**

- Education for sustainable development- disaster risk reduction in schools
- Disaster risk reduction at university level and postgraduate
- Research agendas
- Training: formal and informal (community action)
- Media and disaster risk reduction- public awareness raising tools

### **C. Risk identification: emerging risks**

- Hazard and vulnerability assessments- methodologies
- Disaster impact assessments and methodologies
- Forecasting and early warning
- Climate and environmental risk assessment
- Data-collection and information use to reduce risk
- Urban risk
- Drought

### **D. Lessons-learnt: “good practices”**

- Rebuilding safer communities- sustainable solutions
- Land use planning
- Insurance- financial instruments- micro finance- safety nets
- Safer construction- compliance with codes and corruption
- Business and private sector investing in disaster risk reduction
- Environmental management and risk reduction
- Community action: where it has worked
- Networks and partnerships (private-public, government-NGOs, academic-government, etc.)
- Gender issues and disaster risk reduction

### **E. Preparedness for effective response**

- From relief to development

### Preparatory process

A comprehensive preparatory process will help ensure the successful outcome of the Conference. The ISDR Secretariat will serve as the secretariat of the Conference and will coordinate preparatory activities, in close cooperation with Japan as the host country and with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, and with the support of relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat.

Member States, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, particularly the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR), will participate actively in the Conference, and its preparatory process.

The preparation of the Conference will be supported by the following mechanisms:

- Two **open-ended inter-governmental preparatory committee meetings**, to be held in association with meetings of the IATF/DR in May and October 2004, and conducted by a bureau consisting of five representatives of Member States elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation to discuss specific conference outcomes

- **The Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction** will provide additional guidance on the content and the preparation of the Conference and the coordination of the participation and engagement of its members.
- A working group under the IATF/DR will act as an **organizing and advising committee** to the Secretariat. It will be composed of those organizations directly involved in the preparations of the Conference. Potential members include UNESCO, UNU, UNDP, WMO, IFRC, OCHA, DESA, UNCRD among others. Some consultations and meetings of this working group may be conducted electronically before IATF/DR and Preparatory Committee meetings and on other relevant occasions, as needed.

The IATF/DR working group will provide specific advice and guidance on organizational and substantive work of the Conference. Additional expertise and further guidance will be sought through wide consultation to engage/involve representatives from various sectors and levels in different disaster prone regions of the world. The possibility of a high-level personality to increase the profile of the Conference is currently being discussed with the Office of the UN Secretary-General.

### Why Hyogo, Japan?

On 17 January 1995 the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake struck the Hyogo prefecture, including the City of Kobe (population 1.5 million), resulting in thousands of fatalities. It was the first major earthquake in a large city in a developed country in recent history. The people of the city of Kobe as well as the Hyogo Prefecture will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the tragedy on 17 January 2005.

Located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, Japan has a long history of living with geological hazards such as earthquakes. Heavy snow in the northern parts in the winter, and frequent tropical storms or typhoons approaching from the south are but a few examples of hydrological hazards in Japan.

With such a wide array of experiences coping with natural hazards to learn from, Japan is one of the leading countries in disaster reduction engineering and planning.

Japan has spent around 1 per cent of its annual governmental budget on disaster countermeasures since the 1950s such as the promotion of national conservation projects, improvement in weather forecasting technologies and the development of disaster management systems. Japan has shown that through commitment and consistent effort the negative impacts of hazards can be greatly reduced, contributing to more sustainable development.

## 8. Regional and thematic meetings and other events contributing to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction during 2003-2004

Regional and thematic meetings in 2003 and 2004 will review achievements and lessons learnt on disaster risk reduction, identifying areas that need to be addressed as well as propose needs for future action. These meetings are being organized by partner organizations and the ISDR Secretariat has proposed additional discussions on disaster reduction as a contribution to WCDR. The following table lists those meetings contributing to the process (04 February 2004).

<b>Regional Meetings</b>	
<b>2003</b>	
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
<b>2004</b>	
6	Third Asian consultation (Governments of Cambodia and Japan, ADRC), Cambodia, 4-6 February
7	Third Asian Consultative Meeting of Regional Organizations and Regional Offices 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
10	Third Southeast Asia Disaster Management Practitioners Forum, (ADPC, UNESCAP, ECHO, IFRC-SE ASIA), Bangkok, Thailand, 26-29 April
11	International Conference on Disaster Reduction in Central Asia (Government of China), Beijing, China, 17-19 or 25-27 May
12	African consultation, (UNDP, UNEP, AU/NEPAD), Nairobi, Kenya (tent.), May/June
13	International Seminar on Risk Reductions following the Bam Earthquake, Iran, June/July
14	Caribbean consultation, (UWI, CDERA) October
15	Second Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, November
<b>Thematic Meetings</b>	
<b>2003</b>	
1	Regional consultations on Early-Warning Asia: Bandung, Indonesia, 26-28 May - Africa: Nairobi, Kenya, 23-24 June Americas: Antigua, Guatemala, 3-5 June - 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
7	Asian International Conference on Total Disaster Risk Management (OCHA, ADRC, UNDP), Kobe, Japan, 2-4 December
6	International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, topic includes Risk Reduction (IFRC), Geneva, 2-5 December
8	First Meeting of ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management –ACDM, (ASEAN), Brunei Darussalam, 8-10 December

### 2004

- 9 Inter-regional preparatory meeting for SIDS BPoA + 10 (UN/DESA) Bahamas, 26-30 January
- 10 Sustainable Community Empowerment for Disaster Management organized (UNCRD), Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, 6-7 February
- 11 Disaster Reduction Forum 2004 - transfer lessons of catastrophic disasters – (Disaster Reduction Alliance -DRA). Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, 8 February
- 12 World Congress on Natural Disaster Mitigation New Delhi, India, 19-21 February
- 13 Thirty-first session WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1-6 March
- 14 World Water Day (WMO and ISDR), 22 March, Geneva & worldwide
- 15 World Meteorological Day, 23 March 2004
- 16 Risk Management as a Sustainable Development Factor on Human Scale- Ibero-America Civil Protection (ONEMI, Chile) Santiago, Chile, 24-26 March
- 17 Eighth Annual Meeting of the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program, (ADPC, USAID), Dhaka, Bangladesh, 26-28 March
- 18 Global Disaster Information Network Conference (GDIN), Washington DC, USA, 26-29 March
- 19 Ministerial Conference on Earth Observations, Tokyo, Japan, second quarter of 2004
- 20 Conference on International Cooperation in Fire Management and Emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean, Balkans, Near East and Central Asia, Antalya, Turkey, 30 March - 2 April
- 21 Commission on Sustainable Development, UN, New York, April + PrepCom SIDS, 14-30 April
- 22 Hospitals and Water Disaster Mitigation (PAHO), Nicaragua, 21-23 April
- 23 Twenty-sixth session RA IV Hurricane Committee (WMO), Miami, USA, 13-24 April
- 24 International Consortium on Landslides (ICL), Geneva, 3-4 May
- 25 Executive Council WMO, 8-18 June 2004
- 26 Third Mekong Annual Flood Forum, (Mekong River Commission), Vientiane, Laos, June
- 27 Second Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness (Red Cross Centre on Climate Change), the Hague, Netherlands, 9-11 June
- 28 Twentieth Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (UNFCCC), Bonn, Germany 14-25 June
- 29 Fourteenth World Conference on Disaster Management (Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness), Toronto, Canada, 20-23 June
- 30 International Conference on Storms, Brisbane, Australia, 5-9 July
- 31 Third International Conference on Continental Earthquakes, Beijing, China, 11-14 July
- 32 2004 Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Boulder, Colorado, USA, 13-17 July
- 33 Thirteenth World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (International Association of Earthquake Engineering), Vancouver, Canada, 1-6 August
- 34 Gender Equality and Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop (University of Hawaii Social Science Research Institute, USAID, ISDR), Honolulu Hawaii, 10-12 August
- 35 Thirtieth IGU International Geographical Congress, Glasgow, UK, 15-20 August
- 36 Thirty-second International Geological Congress: Geological hazards-Assessment and Mitigation, Florence, Italy, 20-28 Aug.
- 37 South Pacific Forum, Niue, August
- 38 International Conference to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action/SIDS + 10 (UN/DESA), Mauritius, 30 August - 3 September
- 39 International Conference on Education (UNESCO/IBE), Geneva, Switzerland, 8-11 September
- 40 World Urban Forum (UN-HABITAT), Barcelona, Spain, 13-17 September
- 41 European Seismological Commission General Assembly, Potsdam, Germany, 13-17 September
- 42 Ministerial Conference on Earth Observations, European Union, fourth quarter of 2004
- 43 International Day on Disaster Reduction, 13 October
- 44 Asian Seismological Commission, Fifth General Assembly, Yerevan, Armenia, 18-21 October
- 45 Thirty-seventh session ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, China, 15-20 November
- 46 International Workshop Water and Disasters, London, Ontario, Canada, 13-14 December 2004
- 47 COP 10, (UNFCCC), Buenos Aires, Argentina, 29 Nov-10 December
- 48 Meeting on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development and aid policies, venue and dates TBC
- 49 International Forum on Earthquake Insurance, (CBS), Beijing dates TBC

### **Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and WCDR Preparatory Committee Meetings**

#### 2004

- Ninth IATF/DR meeting, Geneva, 4-5 May
- First PrepCom meeting, Geneva, 6-7 May
- Tenth IATF/DR meeting, Geneva, 6-8 October
- Second PrepCom meeting, Geneva, 11-12 October

**For more information contact:**



United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat  
of the International Strategy for Disaster  
Reduction (UN/ISDR)  
Palais des Nations  
CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 9172103 / 762 / 759  
Fax: +41 22 9170563  
isdr@un.org  
www.unisdr.org

UN/ISDR Latin America  
and the Caribbean  
P.O. Box 3745-1000  
San José, Costa Rica  
Tel: +506 224 1186  
Fax: +506 224 7758  
eird@eird.org  
www.eird.org

UN/ISDR Africa  
Block U Room 217  
UNEP, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: + 254 2 62 41 01  
Fax: + 254 2 62 47 26  
ISDR-Africa@unep.org  
www.unisdrafrika.org

ISDR Asia Partnership  
ADPC, ADRC, UN/ESCAP, UNDP  
<http://www.unisdr.org/asia/index-asia.htm>

**ISDR Mission**

*The ISDR aims at building disaster resilient communities by promoting the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, to reduce human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters.*

**ISDR main objectives**

- Increase public awareness to reduce risk to natural hazards
- Obtain commitment from public authorities
- Stimulate interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral partnership and expand risk reduction networking at all levels
- Improve further the scientific knowledge of the causes of disasters and the effects of natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters on societies

**Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction**

Current members include:  
Chaired by the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs  
African Union  
Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)  
Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC)  
Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, Catholic University of Lovain (CRED)  
Council of Europe  
Drought Monitoring Centre (Kenya based)  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
Global Fire Monitoring Centre  
Iberoamerican Association of Civil Defense and Civil Protection  
Organization of American States  
International Council of Science (ICSU)  
International CIS Council  
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
International Telecommunication Union  
Munich Reinsurance  
South Pacific Geosciences Commission (SOPAC)  
UN Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)  
UN Development Programme (UNDP)  
UN Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
UN Environmental Programme (UNEP)  
UN-HABITAT  
UN University  
World Bank  
World Food Programme (WFP)  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)