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WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

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PROPOSED ELEMENTS FOR THE PROGRAMME OUTCOME OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION**

Note by the Secretariat

In response to the objectives set out in the General Assembly resolution A/RES/58/214 (paragraph 7), the following suggested elements for the programme outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction stem from the work of the Inter-Agency Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), in its capacity as Conference Secretariat. The ISDR Secretariat consulted a number of country representatives, including the members of the Bureau for the Preparatory Committee, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and technical experts.

To address the objectives set out by the General Assembly for the Conference, it is proposed that two main documents be presented to the Preparatory Committee for discussions and negotiations and for subsequent adoption by consensus at the Conference. These two documents will be produced based on the conclusions of the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action and the recommendations of a number of regional and thematic meetings.

* Re-issued for technical reasons.

** The document was submitted late to the conference services due to late designation of the all Bureau members for the Preparatory Committee.

- **a political declaration with a strategy and vision** to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural and technological hazards in the period 2005-2015, as required to achieve the objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on sustainable development. In addition to updating the Yokohama Strategy, it would call for an increase of the political momentum for disaster risk reduction. Elements for such a declaration will be discussed at the second session of the Preparatory Committee.
- **a programme document** containing policy measures to implement the strategic vision set out in the declaration by Governments and the partner organizations. Initial elements for discussion are described in this document.

The third outcome would be the launching of a number of specific partnerships to support the implementation of the above strategy and programme, in addition to commitment by Governments and relevant organizations. These partnerships would be voluntary and would aim at providing additional resources and means for implementation, and share responsibilities and burdens involved.

Action required: *The preparatory committee is invited to consider the proposed outline for the Conference programme document.*

The following paragraphs describe the proposed outline of the Conference programme outcome.

I. Introduction

1. The introduction will provide the rationale for the proposed actions and policy measures. It will recall the official mandate provided in the General Assembly resolution A/RES/58/214 and introduce the substantive elements of the document, namely priorities for 2005-2015 in the form of objectives with targets for disaster risk reduction, accompanied by a mechanism for implementation and follow-up.

2. The key elements of the General Assembly resolution (A/RES/58/214), which provides the formal basis for convening the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), will be spelled out, including the agreed objectives of the WCDR, references to the conclusions of the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action as well as a summary of the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). The link with the Millennium Development Goals will equally be highlighted.

3. Based on the conclusions of the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, and with a view to meeting the objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on risk reduction, the concept and format for the proposed programme will aim at facilitating the implementation by Governments and other relevant institutions in various sectors and at various levels, of specific objectives and targets agreed upon at the Conference.

4. The rationale for a mechanism for implementation and follow-up will be provided. In the context of this proposed mechanism, the concept of the voluntary partnership mechanism will be described.

II. Main findings and recommendations from the review of the 1994 Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action

5. This section will provide a summary of the achievements, conclusions and recommendations stemming from the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action. The full review will incorporate the inputs generated through the diverse regional and thematic consultations carried out during 2003 and 2004, including landmark events such as the Second Conference on Early Warning held in Bonn, Germany in 2003, as well as national information provided by Governments and relevant stakeholders. The recommendations will be structured in such a way as to provide clear evidence to the priority areas for further action that Governments will commit to.

6. In addition to the rationale resulting from the Yokohama review, references to disaster risk reduction commitments from past key inter-governmental and ministerial meetings and declarations will be made. These will include, among others, the Barbados Programme of Action on Small Island Developing States (SIDS, 1994)¹, Habitat Agenda (1996), the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Programme of Action (2001)², the International Conference on Freshwater, Bonn (2001), the Millennium Declaration (2000) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002)³, and the Third World Water Forum (2003).

III. Elements for disaster risk reduction objectives and targets

¹ A/CONF.167/9

² A/CONF.191/11

³ A/CONF.199/1

7. This section will propose core priorities to strengthen the implementation of the reduction of disaster risk over the next decade. The selected objectives would focus on the following requirements for disaster risk reduction, as guided by the findings of the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action:

- i) Political commitment, policy development and integration,
- ii) Organizational and institutional aspects,
- iii) Risk identification and monitoring,
- iv) Education and knowledge of risk and disaster risk reduction,
- v) Implementation of disaster risk reduction measures (including environmental, social and economic development practices),
- vi) Disaster preparedness and contingency planning,
- vii) International and regional support for disaster risk reduction.

8. For each objective, a set of targets will be identified. Voluntary time-bound and measurable targets will be developed and implemented by countries and organizations as appropriate to their circumstances. This will require the establishment of national baselines for selected targets.

Example of one objective and its critical focus for targets

Objective: Use of information and education to build a culture of prevention

Critical focuses for targets

- Provision of information on disaster risks and protection options to citizens in high-risk areas that recognizes gender, age, poverty and other social factors.
- Inclusion of education on disaster risk reduction in relevant curricula at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education.
- Implementation of school-based local risk assessment and response programmes.
- Implementation of risk management training for civil servants and local leaders who are responsible for risk reduction and response.
- Establishment of international standards for training curricula and public information programmes.

IV. Elements for a mechanism for implementation including partnership

9. The elements of the proposed approach set out above will be strongly complemented by a follow-up mechanism to support countries and organizations in their efforts to implement the Conference agreements. Such a mechanism is necessary to support the development and achievement of voluntary targets. The coordination of the mechanism should be the responsibility of the ISDR Secretariat as part of its current mandates, though many aspects of the necessary reporting and supporting would be undertaken by other entities, for example UNDP, as part of their existing mandates. It is important that the processes adopted be reviewed regularly and adjusted to reflect progress made and changing circumstances and capacities.

- (a) **At the national and local level**, each country will adapt objectives and targets to their own priorities and timetables, developing as appropriate implementation plans. Many of the activities will take place at local levels. Work in larger urban areas will be of particular relevance, given the rapid urban and vulnerability growth expected in the coming years in these areas.
- (b) **At the regional level**, countries will cooperate in sharing information and resources, exchanging experiences and seeking solutions to common problems in similar contexts. Regional organizations, regional development banks, extending to NGOs and the private sector, will provide guidance as well as technical support and assistance for national implementation, monitoring and reporting of progress. They can integrate the Conference programme document into their priorities; work programmes; and, investment and technical cooperation, capacity building and assistance policies.
- (c) **At the international level**, donors, international financing institutions, the UN system and other international organisations, extending to NGOs and the private sector will provide incentives and guidance, as well as technical and financial support for national and local implementation, addressing sectoral needs and requirements. They can integrate the Conference programme document into their priorities, work programmes, investment and technical cooperation, capacity building and assistance policies, as appropriate.

For coordination purposes at the global level and in line with the recommendations of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the ISDR inter-agency secretariat will report on progress on implementation with the support from partners, including the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction. Additionally it will coordinate the registration and tracking of the proposed partnership mechanism in its initial phase.

10. Partnerships can be described as specific additional and voluntary commitments and initiatives by institutions to contribute to, and reinforce the implementation of the disaster risk reduction objectives and targets in the field of disaster risk reduction. A number of key partnerships, existing or new ones, to support the implementation of national priorities will be launched at the Conference and afterwards. Partnerships are not intended to substitute governmental and inter-governmental commitments to be made at the Conference, but to contribute to their implementation.

11. Partnerships would be open to Governments, organizations at all levels and major groups including local authorities, NGOs, civil society organizations and private sector. Even though a formal selection process is not envisaged, specific modalities would be provided along which to develop partnerships. A number of partnerships will be developed in the process leading to the Conference. Development and registration of partnerships would continue beyond the Conference dates.

12. For partnerships to be launched at the Conference itself, interested leading partners serving as partnerships' focal points would be asked to take the necessary steps to develop their

initiative, in order to be able to present it with as much details as possible at the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

13. The partnerships would be an additional contribution to the partnerships-process launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and maintained by the Commission on Sustainable Development. The ISDR secretariat may be designated as the central repository for registration. In that capacity it will organise the collection and dissemination of information on partnerships activities. Modalities would be made available to interested partners shortly after the first meeting of the preparatory committee, in close consultation with the Bureau. These modalities and the launching process would then be further considered at the second session of the preparatory committee.
