Follow-up Discussion at ECOSOC on the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Two side-events on the follow-up to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) as discussed at the Global Platform took place at this year’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) session, held in Geneva. "The Global Platform is meant to be a venue for exchanging experiences, retaining lessons learned, and monitoring the HFA's implementation," explained Margareta Wahlström, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs representing the Chair of ISDR system and the GP/DRR, at the first event. "The main challenge – she added – is to communicate the importance of disaster risk reduction to those that are not yet 'converted,' which is why it is crucial to prove that change and improvements are possible".

Sálvano Briceño (UN/ISDR secretariat) welcomed increasing commitments to the ISDR system, which should build on this momentum not only to generate further consultations with governments and partners, but also to initiate a movement at the regional level. In this spirit, panellists representing different stakeholders of ISDR system reiterated their commitment to the HFA and to the GP/DRR: Miguel Bermeo (UNDP/BCPR) stressed the support of BCPR agencies to the ISDR system through the intensification of partnerships as well as the promotion of specific areas such as engendering disaster reduction. Furthermore, Maryam Golnaraghi (WMO) promoted Early Warning Systems as a key tool for climate change response. Marcus Oxley, Chair of the Global Network of NGOs, called upon genuine action by reiterating the importance of bringing grassroots-level people into the process. Finally, Yvette Stevens (Drought Risk Reduction Network) noted the need to bring down legislative barriers and improve networking between stakeholders.

The second side-event co-chaired by H.E. Ambassador Mr Makio Miyagawa, Permanent Mission of Japan, and Mr John Holmes, Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, focused more on the progress made in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action. Lorna Inniss (Government of Barbados) informed that "Barbados is developing strong links with national disaster coordinators and regional disaster management agencies: regional collaboration is flourishing towards the establishment of a Caribbean Tsunami Warning Centre and an Interim Tsunami Information Centre." Martin Owor (UN/ISDR Africa), on behalf of Madagascar, outlined the progress made at national level in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the National Poverty Reduction Strategy. Ibrahim Osman (IFRC) explained that IFRC is scaling-up and refining existing projects for the implementation of the HFA on the basis of experiences drawn by various countries. Saroj Kumar Jha (World Bank/GFDRR) illustrated how the World Bank GFDRR's strategic framework for assistance could be an enabling financing instrument for the implementation of the HFA. Miguel Bermeo, Chair of the International Recovery Platform (IRP), informed of the efforts to provide for common post-disaster need assessment and web-based information-sharing tools, complemented with additional information on the collaboration between ILO, UNDP, FAO, UNISDR and WB to support local authorities and stakeholders in the adoption of measures for a quick livelihood recovery process.

For more information on the Global Platform please visit www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform, GP/DRR Bulletin at: http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/ymbvol141num1e.pdf; on the Global Network of NGOs, please visit www.unisdr.org/ngos, or contact Mr. Marcus Oxley: marcus.oxley@tearfund.org; and on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, please visit the UN/ISDR website at: www.unisdr.org
Swiss National Platform for Disaster Reduction Shares Ten Years of Experience

Switzerland’s PLANAT, among the oldest national disaster reduction platforms, celebrated its 10th anniversary by sharing experiences and lessons learned with the international community. In this spirit, a brochure and folder were prepared for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction that analyze the creation and efficient-running of national disaster risk reduction platforms. For example, the Swiss experience shows that a dedicated team and interaction between key players from line ministries, disaster management authorities, academia, civil society, and other sectors are vital to the creation of broadly acceptable national disaster risk reduction policies and strategies. Nonetheless, seeing as some of the answers in these documents are specific to the Swiss context, other countries are expected to adapt these lessons to their own socio-political and economic realities.

For a copy of the brochure and folder visit: www.planat.ch
For more information contact: Walter J. Ammann, wamm@sif.ch

Nepal: Finalising a National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management

The Nepalese National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management development process marked a milestone with the final national consultative workshop on 29 June 2007 in Kathmandu. The resulting product is a set of implementation strategies for all key development sectors – health and nutrition, education, livelihood protection, etc. – as well as the establishment of a national multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary platform for the effective implementation and monitoring of the National Strategy. Once this proposed strategy refined in accordance with suggestions made at the workshop, it would be presented to the Cabinet for approval. The strategy is expected to guide future national disaster policy and regulatory frameworks in Nepal. The Hyogo Framework for Action – adopted in 2005 – provided guidance for the strategy’s formulation process while the Inter-Agency Standing Committee cluster approach – now globally recognized as the international approach for disaster response – provided some guiding principles. Although the development process was led by the Government of Nepal and funded by the European Commission for Humanitarian aid Office, all key in-country players and stakeholders, i.e. civil society and communities at risk, central and local government, donor agencies, national and international development organizations, UN agencies and corporate bodies, were engaged through a series of workshops and consultations.

For more details contact: Rahul Sengupta, rahul.sengupta@undp.org

The UK Department for International Development incorporates Disaster Risk Reduction

The Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) has adopted a policy for DRR as a cross-cutting issue in development. As a part of this policy, DFID is taking initiative to enhance the capacity of its staff members through training. The staff members from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Pakistan received orientation in disaster risk reduction concepts, good practices, international and DFID commitments, strategic planning, and humanitarian response as well as disaster risk reduction links to climate change. The programme was most appropriately placed within the ‘international architecture’ on the issue. The points of reference included the current global frameworks which guide development and DRR, such as the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) and the Millennium Development Goals; as well as the major programme initiatives such as the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR). The core resource team from DFID was complemented by representatives of a number of organizations involved in mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development in the region: the World Bank spoke on GFDRR; the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent

WEB RESOURCES

Gender and Disaster Sourcebook
www.gdnonline.org/
The Gender and Disaster Sourcebook is an electronic compilation of international resources on policy, practice, and research designed to address gender concerns in disaster risk reduction. Developed by an international writing team, the sourcebook was supported by the Public Entity Risk Institute and the Pacific Disaster Centre of the East-West Centre. The sourcebook is available on the Gender and Disaster Network Web site at www.gdnonline.org/. Readers are invited to submit additional resources from their region and sector as they become available.

Young Professionals for Disaster Risk Reduction
http://www.ypdrdavos.blogspot.com/
The goal of YPDR blog is to establish an international network between young professionals and relevant organizations whose mission is to strengthen disaster management and risk reduction initiatives.

First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Reduction
http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform
The official Global Platform website holds all the main official documents: Summary of the Chair, contributions and statements from Governments and International Organizations as well as presentations given at workshops.
Societies on its DRR II programme and disaster preparedness promotion; the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP on national governments and regional programmes, and on its complementary partnership with UN ISDR on reaching HFA goals; and the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition on a Cost-Benefit Analysis of disaster risk reduction in Nepal, Pakistan, and India; and the UN/ISDR on the integration of disaster risk reduction and gender into early recovery and humanitarian assistance, and on regional dynamics and entry points for disaster risk reduction. The training demonstrated the organizational commitment, and the importance of placing the global agreements into the organizational agenda.

For more information, please contact: Olivia Coghlan, Disaster Risk Reduction Adviser Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department, o-coghlan@dfid.gov.uk

Updating the Central American Plan for Education Risk Reduction in progress
As part of their contribution to the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2006-2007 “Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School”, the Central American Education and Cultural Coordination (CECC) convened a meeting to update the Central American Plan for Disaster Reduction within the framework of the Regional Plan for Disaster Reduction 2006-2015 in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action. The proposal for the plan’s improvement will incorporate the following components: 1) integrating disaster risk reduction into school curricula, 2) preparing school emergency plans, and 3) making schools structurally safer. During the meeting, participants from the education sector and Disaster Risk Managers shared their experiences and priorities for the education sector of Central America. This meeting was the product of inter-agency collaboration between OAS, USAID/OFDA, UN/ISDR, and UNICEF and was carried out under the “Program for the strengthening of the Local Risk and Disaster Management in the Education Sector in Central America” of DIPECHO. The meeting took place in Panama City on 17-19 July 2007.

For more information, Ruth E. Custode, rcustode@eird.org

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:
www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:
www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:
www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:
www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

Drought Risk Reduction in the Horn of Africa
Following the 2006 Special UN Envoy’s mission in response to the drought crisis in the Horn of Africa, the UN/ISDR Africa Outreach Office is coordinating a regional initiative which aims at building strong multi-sectoral national platforms as well as mechanisms for the reduction of the disaster’s impact on the region. The Project was launched during regional workshop at the Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in Kenya in October 2006. Although previous meetings held at national and regional levels had served as forums for identifying key national issues, learning from communities and raising awareness of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Platforms’ role; current follow-up meetings (Kenya, Djibouti and Uganda) have taken the debate into concrete methods for increasing synergies and harmonizing existing policies and programmes into one common Drought Risk Reduction Framework, which should also strengthen coordination mechanisms amongst all relevant actors. The outcome of the latest of these meetings, held in Uganda on 25-26 July 2007, was a set of recommendations and follow-up actions for reviewing existing policies and coordinating mechanisms in the country to enhance drought risk reduction actions and impact. The follow-up will be implemented under the leadership of the National Platform for Disaster Reduction at the Prime Minister’s Office with the technical guidance and support of UN/ISDR.

For more information on future meetings please contact: Martin Owor: martin.owor@unep.org

Preparing for Climate Change
To assist countries in benefiting from current knowledge in the assessment, prediction, and management of climate related risks and extreme events, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held the first of a series of technical workshops on 18-20 June 2007 in Cairo, Egypt. Countries and organizations shared their experiences in agriculture and food security, coastal zones, water resources, and health. The inclusion of traditional risk management practices was also discussed. The next UNFCCC workshop will focus on adaptation in the same sectors and will be held in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization on 10-12 September in Rome, Italy. These workshops represent the first two in a series of nine toward the implementation of the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation to Climate Change. The UNFCCC has invited participants and others to make action pledges to further the implementation of the Nairobi Work Programme and will discuss the result of these workshops at the 27th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice in May 2008.

For more information, please visit the UNFCCC website at: http://unfccc.int/2860.php

July 2007
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events
August 2007 - November 2007

### August
- **6-9** Brunei: Disaster Management Workshop
  - [www.apcss.org/core/Conference/Conference%20Future%20Summary.htm](http://www.apcss.org/core/Conference/Conference%20Future%20Summary.htm)
- **12-18** Stockholm: World Water Week
  - [www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org)
- **22-25** Pune, India: Settlement Planning and Shelter in Emergencies
  - [www.redr.org/india/training/index.htm](http://www.redr.org/india/training/index.htm)

### September
- **5-6** Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Dealing with Disasters 2007 “Resilience, Response and Investigation”
  - [www.tees.ac.uk/disasters](http://www.tees.ac.uk/disasters)
- **17-19** Freising, Germany: 14th German Dam Symposium and the 7th ICOLD Club Dam Symposium
  - [www.conventus.de/taalsperre](http://www.conventus.de/taalsperre)
- **17-20** Ancona, Italy: International Conference of the Italian Ecological Society and the Italian Association of Limnology and Oceanography
  - [www.univpm.it](http://www.univpm.it)
- **17-05 Oct.** Bangkok, Thailand: Use of GIS and RS in DRM (Gis-1)
  - [www.adpc.net/](http://www.adpc.net/)
- **19-21** Stressa, Italy: Seventh IIAA-DPRI Forum on Integrated Disaster Risk Management
  - [www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/RAV/conf/IDRiM07/index.html](http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/RAV/conf/IDRiM07/index.html)

### October
- **1-3** Geneva, Switzerland: FERMA Risk Management Forum - 2007
  - [www.ferma.eu/](http://www.ferma.eu/)
- **5-7** Innsbruck, Tyrol/Austria: 3rd European Security Conference Innsbruck
  - [www.european-security.info](http://www.european-security.info)
- **15-16** Karlsruhe, Germany: 8th Forum on Disaster Reduction on DKKV
  - [www.dkkv.org/](http://www.dkkv.org/)
- **17-18** Jeoffreys Bay, South Africa: Disaster Risk Reduction 2007
  - [www.disaster.co.za](http://www.disaster.co.za)
- **22-26** Bangkok, Thailand: Disaster Risk Communication
  - [www.adpc.net/](http://www.adpc.net/)
- **23-25** Stockholm, Sweden: Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery Dialogue and consultative group
  - [www.gfdr.org](http://www.gfdr.org)

### November
- **5-8** Malta: 32nd Conference on Pacem in Maribus (PIMXXXII) “Women, Youth and the Sea: Partnering for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Use of its Resources”
  - [www.capemalta.net/pim2007](http://www.capemalta.net/pim2007)
- **5-9** Frascati, Rome, Italy: 2007 International Geohazards Week in ESPRIN
  - [http://earth.esa.int/workshops/2007Geohazards/](http://earth.esa.int/workshops/2007Geohazards/)
- **12-13** New Delhi, India: 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
  - [Ministry of Home Affairs, India](http://Ministry of Home Affairs, India)
- **12-30** Bangkok, Thailand: Disaster Management Course (DMC-36), ADPC
- **22-23** Brussels, Belgium: 2nd Civil Protection Forum
  - Contact details: Cecile.WENDLING@ec.europa.eu

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**Library Corner**


UNESCO-World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), 2006. A joint undertaking of the 24 UN agencies comprising UN-Water, and partnership with governments and other entities concerned with freshwater issues, this volume, covering all regions and most countries of the world, provides an up-to-date global overview of the state and uses of freshwater, critical water-related problems and societies' coping mechanisms. Drawing on an extensive database, expert analyses, case studies, and hundreds of graphic elements, it is the most comprehensive assessment of freshwater issues to date, providing a mechanism for monitoring changes in the resource and its management and progress towards achieving development targets, particularly the Millennium Development Goals.

**Water Resources of Arid Areas.**

D. Stephenson, E.M. Shemang & T.R. Chaoka. A.A. Balkema Publishers, 2004. This book comprises the proceedings of the International Conference on Water Resources of Arid and Semi-Arid regions of Africa held August 3-6, 2004 in Gaborone, Botswana. After an introduction about the difficulties in obtaining data, the main subject of groundwater recharge is extensively discussed in various aspects: natural and artificial; socio-economic aspects of water demand management; geophysical, GIS and remote sensing techniques for groundwater exploration; climate change and its impact on water resources; vulnerability and risk assessment, and water management. Audience: This book is intended for researchers and practitioners in the field of surface water hydrology, groundwater hydrology, environmental engineering, agricultural engineering and earth sciences, as well as those engaged in water resources planning, development and management in arid and semi-arid areas.

Progress in Landslide Science

Kyoji Sassa, Hiroshi Fukuoka, Fawu Wang, Gonthui Wang (Editors). Springer 2007. This book presents current progress in landslide science and consists of four parts: (1) Progress in Landslide Science, (2) Landslide Dynamics, (3) Landslide Monitoring, and (4) Landslide Risk Assessment. It provides useful information to academics, practitioners, and government officers working on landslide risk-mitigation planning. This book can be also used as an introductory textbook for college students who wish to learn fundamental scientific achievements in the field of landslide disaster reduction.