

Factsheet on the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

The mandate of UNISDR

1. The secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) was created in December 1999 with General Assembly (GA) resolution 54/219 as a successor arrangement of the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) with the purpose of ensuring the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) adopted by the General Assembly with the same resolution.
2. In 2001, the GA, with resolution 56/195, specified that the mandate of UNISDR is to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields. This was in response to the need identified during the IDNDR to mainstream disaster risk reduction within the development and other areas of work of the UN.
3. In the context of its “mandate”, UNISDR has been requested by the GA and the Secretary-General (SG) to undertake specific actions or deliver specific products, which are listed below for easy reference:
 - a. Support the implementation of the “Hyogo Declaration” and the “Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters” (HFA), endorsed by the GA in 2005 with resolution A/RES/60/195; and as a consequence:
 - Facilitate the preparation of periodic risk reviews and assessments (Global Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction) and
 - Monitor the HFA implementation (HFA Monitor Tool).
 - b. Facilitate the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (GA Res 66/199).
 - c. Service the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GA Res 61/198), including preparations and follow-up, as a successor arrangement of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Risk Reduction.

- d. Provide updates on progress and opportunities for making further progress in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction more effectively across the whole United Nations system (GA Res 66/199).
- e. Provide support to countries and HFA focal points in the establishment and development of national platforms for disaster risk reduction and backstop their policy and advocacy activities; develop improved methods for predictive multi-risk assessments, including on the economics of disaster risk reduction and socio-economic cost-benefit analysis of risk reduction; and integrate early warning systems into their national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans (GA Res 56/195, 59/231, 60/195, 63/216).
- f. Disseminate through all available channels the information necessary for the effective management of international cooperation in the fields of disaster prevention (GA Res 54/219, 56/195).
- g. Lead the implementation, including reporting on, of Subprogramme 3 (Natural Disaster Reduction) of Programme 22 (Humanitarian Assistance) of the UN Strategic Framework and UN Programme Budget.
- h. Prepare the annual SG report on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for consideration by the General Assembly, and its 2nd Committee for Economic and Financial questions, under the item "Sustainable development".
- i. Lead the development of a UN system-wide plan for disaster risk reduction, under the auspices of the CEB/HLCP (HLCP decision of March 2012).

Distinction between ISDR and UNISDR

4. UNISDR is the inter-agency secretariat that was established by the GA in 1999 to support the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), adopted with the same resolution. Therefore, "UNISDR" indicates the UN office for disaster risk reduction, and "ISDR" the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, i.e. a strategic and conceptual framework.

Setting within the UN system

5. UNISDR is part of the UN Secretariat and is headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. The SRSG's functions include: *leading and overseeing UNISDR in the executions of its functions as entrusted to it by relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as policy directions by the Secretary-General; and overseeing the management of the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.*

Offices and workforce

6. UNISDR's main office is in Geneva (Switzerland). It also maintains five regional offices in: Brussels (Belgium) for Europe; Panama City (Panama) for Latin America and the Caribbean; Cairo (Egypt) for Middle East and Northern Africa; Bangkok (Thailand) for Asia and Pacific; and Nairobi (Kenya) for East, West and Southern Africa; as well as a liaison office in New York (United States) and presences in Kobe (Japan), Suva (Fiji), Bonn (Germany), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). Its total workforce comprises 100 people.

The funding of UNISDR

7. With the founding resolution 54/219 of 1999, the GA requested the Secretary-General to establish, a trust fund for disaster reduction from voluntary contributions, to provide the funding of UNISDR. Consequently, in 2000, the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction was set up.
8. Since its creation, UNISDR has been funded entirely from voluntary contributions. In December 2011, the UN GA approved funding from the UN regular budget for the 2012-13 biennium for a D1 post based in Geneva to coordinate the UNISDR's regional programme activities. UNISDR's yearly budget for the 2012-2013 biennium is estimated at US\$32.45m.
9. The UN regular budget (UN programme budget, Section 26) also includes a grant of US\$2,263,900 for disaster risk reduction activities for the implementation of Subprogramme 3 (Natural Disaster Reduction) of Programme 22 (Humanitarian Assistance) of the UN Strategic Framework. This grant is allocated to UNDP and UNISDR is not a recipient of any quota of those funds. UNISDR is responsible for the coordination and implementation of, and reporting on, Subprogramme 3.
10. UNISDR also manages the *Sasakawa Disaster Prevention Award Endowment Fund* for the allocation of awards to individuals and organizations who have particularly distinguished themselves in the furtherance of disaster risk reduction. The funds from this *Endowment Fund* do not cover UNISDR's operational and program costs.

Core functions to execute the mandate entrusted by the General Assembly

11. UNISDR's core areas of work include: coordination within the UN system on risk reduction-related issues; partnership development; communications and advocacy; generation of evidence and knowledge for action; knowledge management; resource mobilization; regional coordination and support; and servicing of intergovernmental and interagency mechanisms and other cooperation fora at global and regional levels.
12. UNISDR prepares its cost and work plans on a biennial basis (the current cycle is the 2012-2013 biennium), and it monitors and evaluates their implementation through its regularly convened internal review bodies, i.e. the Programme Management Group and the Senior Leadership Group (SLG). UNISDR also carries out a mid-year and mid-term (annual) review for possible adjustments to the work and cost plan.