

Factsheet on the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

The mandate of UNISDR

1. 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) as well as the Hyogo Framework for Action of 2005 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction of 2015 to undertake specific tasks and deliver specific products, including:
 - a. Support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (GA Res 69/283, para 47c) by:
 - preparing periodic reviews on progress, in particular for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and, as appropriate, in a timely manner, along with the follow-up process at the United Nations, supporting the development of coherent global and regional follow-up and indicators, and in coordination, as appropriate, with other relevant mechanisms for sustainable development and climate change, and updating the existing web-based Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor accordingly;
 - participating actively in the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators;
 - generating evidence-based and practical guidance for implementation in close collaboration with States and through the mobilization of experts;
 - reinforcing a culture of prevention among relevant stakeholders through supporting development of standards by experts and technical organizations, advocacy initiatives and dissemination of disaster risk information, policies and practices, as well as by providing education and training on disaster risk reduction through affiliated organizations;
 - supporting countries, including through national platforms or their equivalent, in their development of national plans and monitoring trends and patterns in disaster risk, loss and impacts;
 - convening the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and supporting the organization of regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in cooperation with regional organizations;
 - leading the revision of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience;

- facilitating the enhancement of, and continuing to service, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Scientific and Technical Advisory Group in mobilizing science and technical work on disaster risk reduction;
 - leading, in close coordination with States, the update of the publication entitled “2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction”, in line with the terminology agreed upon by States;
 - and maintaining the stakeholders’ commitment registry;
- b. Support the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group comprising experts nominated by States and with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, for the development of a set of possible indicators to measure global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, coherent with the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (GA Res 69/284)
 - c. 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).
 - d. 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).
 - e. 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).
 - f. 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.
 - g. 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”.
 - h. Coordinate the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience adopted by the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

Setting within the UN system

4. UNISDR is a major organisational unit of the UN Secretariat (ST/SGB/2015/3) headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSR) for Disaster Risk Reduction, accountable to the Secretary-General.

Offices and workforce

5. 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), and Almaty (Kazakhstan).. Its total workforce comprises 120 people.

The funding of UNISDR

6. UNISDR manages the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction, created in 2000 upon request of the GA resolution 54/219 of 1999, and funded from voluntary contributions to provide the necessary funding for UNISDR work. Since its creation, UNISDR has been funded entirely from voluntary contributions. In December 2011, for the first time 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. The post has been confirmed for the 2014-15 biennium.
7. 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.