

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT 13 – 16 July 2015, Addis Ababa

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) reached agreement on an outcome document in Addis Ababa on July 16, 2015.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) points the way to the mobilization of the resources, technologies, and partnerships. There are several references to the Sendai Framework and the critical importance of the disaster risk reduction and resilience agenda (i.e. in paragraphs 4, 34, 62, 66, 68, 102 and 103). These will be important as the disaster risk reduction community continues to engage with post-2015 development agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September, and the climate change COP 21 in December 2015.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognizes the Sendai Framework as the instrument to manage and reduce risks. The Action Agenda also: encourages the consideration of climate and disaster resilience in development financing; refers to the need to manage and finance disaster risk as part of sustainable development strategies and cost effective measures; and recognizes that shocks and disasters are on the rise and we need enhance efforts to build resilience. A number of countries made references to and supported the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 as a guiding implementation plan as part of Financing for Development and the post-2015 development agenda.

UNISDR in Addis

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) was actively engaged to ensure the Sendai Framework and disaster risk reduction in general were well reflected in the outcomes of FfD. UNISDR had a strong presence in Addis Ababa presenting an official statement, organizing of side events, and engaging in several other events and the conference roundtables.

The UNISDR official statement at the Financing for Development Conference outlined some of the coming threats and costs of disasters – particularly in Africa, LLDCs and SIDS - if we do not act. Development financing must be risk informed. UNISDR welcomed the Sendai Framework references on disaster risk reduction in the financing for development outcome document and put forward ideas for further coherence and mutual reinforcement between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change.

UNISDR also outlined some areas to further action including: to ensure systematically that foreign direct investment (FDI) decisions are risk-informed; to maintain supply chains in the face of disasters; to consider the opportunities and benefits in investing in risk reduction measures; to build a stronger insurance system that covers more people and more communities; and, to ensure that donor ODA policies and projects are designed to consider the risk of disasters.

UNISDR, jointly with the European Union, Africa Union Commission, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank, launched the Programme on Building Disaster Resilience to Natural Hazards in Sub-Saharan African Regions, Countries and Communities – an EUR 80 million commitment to provide analysis and accelerated implementation of risk reduction and risk management in Africa. The Programme will be implemented jointly by the four partners through five result areas ranging from disaster risk reduction coordination to risk knowledge and financing. The Programme was officially launched by the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, HE Rhoda Peace. The Programme represents a model of collaboration and partnerships in disaster risk reduction.

UNISDR also hosted a side event on Disaster Resilient Investments for Sustainable Development to demonstrate how risk-informed development is key to future strategies for financing and sustainable development. Governments (Mexico and Mozambique), development partners (UNECA and the World Bank), civil society and the private sector (International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation and Ecological Sequestration Trust) discussed how financial and fiscal instruments can reduce the risk of disasters. The outcomes included using community-based approaches to risk transfer mechanisms (like microfinance) and to gather more specific and user-defined data.

In addition to delivering the UNISDR official statement in the plenary, the Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Disaster Risk Reduction engaged in the two UNISDR side events, was a panelist on the side event on Financing Sustainable Urban Development and engaged with the official roundtable on Global Partnership and the Three Dimension of Sustainable Development.

Looking ahead, UNISDR will need to promote and advocate for countries to make sound risk-informed investment decisions in the future and to make good use of the financing opportunities around disaster risk reduction activities.

Key Media Outputs:

<http://www.unisdr.org/archive/45148>

<http://www.unisdr.org/archive/45144>

<http://www.unisdr.org/archive/45141>

<http://www.unisdr.org/archive/45135>

<http://www.unisdr.org/archive/45134>

<http://www.unisdr.org/archive/45127>

<http://www.unisdr.org/archive/44852>