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**SESSION CONCEPT NOTE**

**Disaster Risk Reduction Governance**

**Concept Note**

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| **Schedule** | May 25, 17:00 – 18:30 |
| **Room and Venue** | Arena E |
| **Organizers** | Collaborators: UNISDR ‘Words into Action’ Working Group on Governance and Accountability |
| **Chair and Co-Chair** | H.E. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Minister of Disaster Management, SRI LANKA Mr. Robert Sakic Trogrlic, PhD student, Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh (Children & Youth Group)  |
| **Focal Points** | Raul Salazar (rsalazar@eird.org)Dilanthi Amaratunga (d.amaratunga@hud.ac.uk) Richard Haigh (r.haigh@hud.ac.uk)  |
| **Background and Rationale**  | During the decade that followed the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2005, calls for greater public, private and civic accountability to reduce risk and vulnerability became increasingly vocal. These calls for recognition were explicitly reflected in the Sendai Framework, where countries stressed the need to “strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk” (see Sendai Framework Priority 2). The Open-ended Intergovernmental expert Working Group (OIEWG) mandated by the General Assembly to agree on the indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction of the Sendai Framework, furthered the definition and the scope of disaster risk governance as the “system of institutions, mechanisms, policy and legal frameworks and other arrangements to guide, coordinate and oversee disaster risk reduction and related areas of policy”. Some of the characteristics of good governance in disaster risk, as the working group suggested, refer to the need to be “transparent, inclusive, collective and efficient to reduce existing disaster risks and avoid creating new ones”.As indicated by the Sendai Framework, disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global level, is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk. Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance and coordination within and across sectors, as well as participation of relevant stakeholders, are essential elements for effective prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation. In the same manner, the implementation of these elements through an effective governance accountability, is a cross-cutting issue for which each state has the primary responsibility to ensure that the public are safe and aware of risks, and to prevent and reduce disaster risks, including through international, regional, sub regional, transboundary and bilateral cooperation. Ensuring clear accountability and transparency, and avoiding the creation of new and unnecessary risks, will then help generate opportunities and conditions for a safer and more resilient future. This session will elaborate on some of the challenging issues of disaster risk governance and also serve as an opportunity to broaden the disaster risk governance discussion not only from a government perspective as the central organizing point but also from the totality of the ways in which communities are organized.Most importantly, the session will share successful experiences on this topic and also present the first edition of the guide “Words into Action”, aiming to serve as a contribution for countries for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The first edition of the Words into Action, will address the key area of “Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Governance and Accountability”. The session will also consider areas of importance that will inform further editions of the “Words into Action” in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, such as the need for and how-to improve understanding of risk governance at the local level, including accountability and transparency, stakeholder participation and public awareness.  |
| **Session Objectives**  | Share and gain input on effective DRR governance and accountability approaches for central governments. The session will help countries and partners to move ahead with implementation of the Sendai Framework, in particular priority 2 and in support of the Sendai Framework Target “e” to be completed by 2020. |
| **Discussion agenda and structure**  | 1. Key issues to implement priority 2 of the Sendai Framework and in support of the 2020 target of the Sendai Framework by improving DRR governance and accountability.
2. Briefing on the first edition of the Words into Action Guide – the Sendai Framework’s implementation guide for governance and accountability and the implementation of the Sendai Framework – Approach and key components.
3. Sharing of country examples and case studies.
4. Gain input on areas of focus for future guides, such as the need for and how to improve understanding of risk governance at the local level.
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| **Proposed list of speakers**  | *SPEAKERS** Mr. Carlos Iván Márquez Pérez, Director National Unit for Disaster Risk Management in Colombia
* María Luisa Romero. Minister of Government of Panama
* Dr. Fadi Hamdan, Managing Director. Disaster Risk Management Center (DRMC), Lebanon
* Ms. Dilanthi Amaratunga - Chair of the DRR Governance Words into Action working group.
* Ms. Natalia Ilieva, Executive Assistant to the Secretary General of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)
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| **Expected outcomes**  | * Understanding of the importance of good DRR governance at the national and local levels to facilitate the DRR agenda and contribute to the Sendai Framework.
* Real actions addressing the challenge of the implementation and achievement of the Sendai Framework targets on Governance.
* *Successful case studies of reform in governance and governance accountability for* DRR.
* Release of the Sendai Words into Action implementation guide on Governance and Accountability.
* Identify contributions towards future editions of the “Words into Action” Implementation Guides on DRR Governance and Accountability.
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| **Commitment / special announcement in support of the Sendai Framework** | * Outcomes of the session will support implementation of the Sendai Framework’s Priorities for Action 2, and support a better understanding of the priorities for improving the effectiveness of DRR polices in different country contexts.
* Launch of the first edition of the Sendai Framework “Words into Action”: Implementation Guide on DRR Governance and Accountability. The focus of the first edition of the guide is on DRR accountability as a component of governance and targeting central government as a key actor in effective DRR governance.
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| **Technical Equipment Required** |  |
| **Background documents** | * First edition of the Sendai Words into Action implementation guide on Governance and Accountability
* GA A/71/644. Report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction
* Making Algeria Resilient –Achieving Disaster Risk Reduction in the Arab States: Good Practice Country Brief- [http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/disaster/Issue\_brief\_disaster\_risk\_reduction\_governance\_11012013.pdf](https://ex-gwweb.jica.go.jp/f5-w-687474703a2f2f7777772e756e64702e6f7267%24%24/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/disaster/Issue_brief_disaster_risk_reduction_governance_11012013.pdf)
* Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance - <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/disaster/Strengthening%20Disaster%20Risk%20Governance-Full-Report.pdf>
* Disaster Risk Governance – Unlocking progress and reducing risks - <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9048.pdf>
* Beyond the volcanic crisis: co-governance of risk in Montserrat - <https://appliedvolc.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s13617-014-0021-7>
* Hettige, S., Amaratunga, D. & Haigh, R. (2015) (Ed.), Ensuring Accountability in Disaster Risk Management and Reconstruction Book of Abstracts , University of Colombo and University of Huddersfield 2015 , ISBN 978-1-862181-34-2 (<http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/latestnews/abstractsonensuringaccountabilityindisasterriskmanagement.php> )
* Haigh, R., Amaratunga, D & Hettige, S. (2015). Briefing paper on “Ensuring Accountability in Disaster Risk Management and Reconstruction" organized as a part of a global, regional and national partnership by SPARC, University of Colombo-Sri Lanka and Global Disaster Resilience Centre (GDRC), University of Huddersfield-UK, and Essex Accounting Centre, UK. (<http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/gdrc/latestnews/briefingpaperondisastersandaccountability.php> )
* Amaratunga, D., Haigh, R & Hettige, S (2016), Ensuring Accountability in Disaster Risk Management and Reconstruction. In the Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Building Resilience 2016: “Building Resilience to Address the Unexpected”, organised jointly by the Construction Management Groups at Massey University and the University of Auckland, New Zealand. (<http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/30329/>)
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