



Global Platform
for Disaster Risk Reduction
Third Session, Geneva, Switzerland
8-13 May 2011

Aligning Regional and Global Disaster Risk Reduction Agendas

Key regional political
& disaster risk
priorities



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**Summary of key regional political
commitments & disaster risk
reduction priorities**

Mai 2011



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I. Background

The mechanisms set for disaster risk reduction coordination at the regional level are linked to the level of political awareness on disaster risk reduction prevailing in each region as well as the level of mobilization, technical capacity and actual needs for disaster risk reduction measures.

- Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction are led by Governments and successfully bring together key stakeholders from the respective regions, including Governments, regional Inter Governmental Organizations, technical and scientific institutions involved in disaster risk reduction, the non governmental organizations, the private sectors, donors and the media. As such, they provide a perfect illustration of the political commitment reached at the highest level in a given region thanks to an effective mobilization of all countries' commitment and technical partners' engagement in disaster risk reduction. Ministerial Conferences have so far taken place in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East.
- Regional Platforms appear so far slightly more technical and are mostly driven by regional inter-governmental organizations. The latter have been duly empowered over the past few years in the area of disaster risk reduction and have increasingly taken charge of risk reduction and Hyogo Framework for Action follow-up. Regional Platforms have so far taken place in the Americas and the Pacific.

In both cases, the multi-stakeholder nature of these processes allows for an effective mobilization and coordination of regional action in support of the Hyogo Framework for Action's implementation and the advancement of UNISDR's core Strategic Objectives linked to 1) Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, 2) Disaster Risk Reduction Investment and 3) Safe Cities, Hospitals and Schools. They are supported by UNISDR regional and sub-regional offices who serve as supporting secretariat in the preparation phase and in monitoring progress of decisions' implementation. Whilst respecting the specificity of each region in terms of technical capacity, disaster risk reduction requirements and needs as well as existing disaster risk

reduction partnerships, UNISDR is seeking to harmonize Regional Platforms and Ministerial Conferences' approaches. In this context, Regional Platforms and Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction are held every two years in between sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. They serve that way as operational arms to facilitate the implementation of Global Platforms Chairman's Summary decisions at the regional level. They also represent a strategic forum through which key regional priorities and achievements are defined and brought to the attention of UNISDR Headquarters so they duly inform the agenda and preparations of Global Platform sessions. Targeting the right participation is the cornerstone of successful regional processes. As such, priority is given to inviting Government representatives in decision-making positions (Ministers of Finance, Economy, Planning, Environment, Health and Education) as well as high-quality and thought-provoking technical experts to ensure that concrete decisions and commitments are made in support of UNISDR's core Strategic Objectives.

These processes are gradually being institutionalized and represent unique regional opportunities for stakeholders to share experiences, plan, monitor progress and take collective strategic decision and action to enhance the implementation of disaster risk reduction along the Hyogo Framework for Action. The outcomes are used by states, sub-regional organizations and development partners to align priorities and seek investment opportunities. Equally, they are used as benchmarks in the regions to monitor the implementation of the Hyogo Framework.

Regional Platforms and Ministerial Conferences for Disaster Risk Reduction held in 2010-2011 have adopted the following regional disaster risk reduction strategies and plans of action:

- **2nd Africa Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-16 April 2010, Nairobi, Kenya** - Adopted the extended Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) and a substantive Ministerial Declaration, endorsed by the African

Union Executive Council at the Head of States summit in Addis Ababa, January 2011.

- **Second Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for The Americas, 14-17 March 2011, Mexico** – Endorsed the Communiqué of Nayarit on Lines of Action to Strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas
- **4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (4AMCDRR), 25-28 October 2010, Incheon Republic of Korea** - Adopted the Incheon Declaration and the Incheon Regional Road Map on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (Incheon REMAP)
- **2010 Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, 9-13 August 2010, Suva, Fiji** - Adopted a key outcome document with recommendations for enhancing the implementation of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Framework for Action 2005 - 2015.
- **Meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, December 2010** - Adopted an Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020 (ASDRR)
- **Europe Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, 6-8 October 2010, Stenungsund, Sweden** – Adopted decisions and way forward

The Outcomes of the above meetings were taken into account when setting the agenda for the Third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk reduction. Regional preparatory discussions will also be held on Monday 9th May 2011 in Geneva in the context of the Third Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. They are expected to play an important role in the discussions and outcomes of the Global Platform 2011.

II. Analysis of Regional Outcomes and Priorities for Disaster Risk Reduction

AFRICA

2nd African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Programme of Action

Background

In January 2011, the Executive Council of the African Union endorsed the Report of the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) (Nairobi, 14-16 April 2010-Decision EX.CL/Dec.607(XVIII)). The Executive Council endorsed the recommendations contained in the Ministerial as well as the HFA-based strategic areas of intervention, key activities, expected results and indicators of the Extended Programme of Action (PoA) for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) at continental, sub-regional and national levels. Regional Economic Communities are being duly empowered to provide effective coordination and strategic guidance to their Member States to align their sub-regional strategies and programmes to the Africa Regional Strategy and Programme of Action and facilitate their effective implementation in their sub-regions. The work programme of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) now integrate disaster risk reduction as a priority in support of HFA and the Africa Regional Strategy and Programme of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction implementation.

Key regional commitment and priorities to disaster risk reduction

- To institutionalise **multi-sectoral National Platforms** for DRR, or similar coordinating mechanisms, that integrate disaster and climate risk management in different sectors,
- To reconstitute the **Africa Working Group on DRR** to provide coordination and technical support to Member States for the implementation of the Africa Strategy and PoA. An initial meeting took place in

December 2010 and next one is planned in Nairobi end March 2011.

- To call upon IGOs and Member States to create a network of **capacity development** institutions for training, research, and information management and exchange at country, sub-regional and regional levels in collaboration with international and regional partners.
- To urge Member States to increase their investments in disaster risk reduction through the **allocation** of certain percentage of their national budget and other revenue dedicated to DRR. To call upon development and humanitarian partners to invest one percent (1%) and ten percent (10%) respectively in DRR, preparedness and recovery, and to conduct a study for the establishment of a regional funding mechanism for DRR.
- To **decentralise** DRR until community level, incorporate gender equity in DRR programmes, develop institutional capacities, undertake vulnerability assessment of schools, health facilities and urban centres, along with the campaign for making cities resilient

Expected contribution to the 3rd Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Continue strengthening advocacy activities on DRR and climate change adaptation and to create an enabling environment for DRR implementation at regional and sub-regional levels. Regional capacity building, urban risks - through resilient cities campaign - and climate change adaptation will be the building blocks to DRR investment at local level in Africa while health related risk will be explored for larger alliances with interested parties. Appropriate partnership will be strengthened and/or developed to support DRR agenda and priorities areas in Africa as well as tools and mechanisms to build strong and durable DRR institutional capacity and coordination mechanisms. Specific attention will be given

to increase the relation with RECs to support related DRR plans and involve in better conditions for an appropriate DRR guidance in UN Development assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes. DRR partners in Africa will use their participation in the GP to explore better

ways for an increased role in recovery and reconstruction phases. GP is an important occasion for knowledge sharing and networking within the region and between regions on enhanced DRR programming.

AMERICAS

Second Regional Platform of the Americas for Disaster Risk Reduction Declaration

Background

All representatives gathering at the Second Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas (15-17 March 2011, Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico) including national and local Governments, regional Inter-governmental organizations, scientific and technical institutions, the non-governmental organizations networks, the donor community, private sector, media and others recognized the growing vulnerability of the Americas region to disasters and urged for the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as one of the most urgent priorities for the Americas region.

Key regional priorities and commitments to disaster risk reduction

1. Strengthen mechanisms allowing for a joint and permanent review of DRR and CCA strategies, plans, programmes and actions through participatory approach of all stakeholders;
2. Emphasize the need to strengthen the coordination between the national, sub-national and local level concerning the implementation of DRR and CCA actions in the framework of sustainable development policies. Call for enhanced support for the implementation of the UNISDR campaign: "Building resilient cities: My city is getting ready";
3. Enhance coordination mechanisms and synergies between DRR and CCA as well as sectoral development and cross-cutting topics for the effective implementation of related support programmes at all levels;
4. Urge the development and strengthening of existing horizontal cooperation mechanisms on issues concerning DRR and CCA such as technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and dissemination of lessons learned and good practices about the integration of DRR and CCA within the framework of sustainable development;
5. Urge for the setting up of a regional development agenda that explicitly includes DRR and CCA vari-

ables and takes into account gender, cultural diversity as well as economic and governance inequalities at the local level;

6. Emphasize the need to strengthen a comprehensive approach on land management, biodiversity, fragile ecosystems, soil degradation processes and water resource management to reduce vulnerability to different types of hazards in particular in the context of Heads of State and Ministerial meetings, such as the Rio plus 20 Earth Summit.

Expected regional contributions to the 3rd Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Based on success stories emerging from the Regional Platform, it is strongly recommended to build on and possibly replicate selected regional success stories in other regions and at the global level. These relate in particular to: 1) the design and implementation of DRR policies - such as the Central American Policy for Integral Disaster Risk Management (SICA/CEPRE-DENAC-PCGIR) – to build synergies between regional, national and local levels.; 2) the development and implementation of guidelines to facilitate the incorporation of risk considerations in public investment process, 3) the design and implementation of development plans and oversight instruments as vital elements to ensure that disaster risk reduction mechanisms are integrated into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation activities (the Guatemala experience), 4) the design and implementation of DRR instruments to finance relief and development like the "Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance facility", which was designed having in mind challenges faced by small islands states in the aftermath of disasters and 5) the design of instruments enabling a better understanding of risk and at the same time to facilitate risk management decision making such as the Comprehensive Probabilistic Risk Assessment tool kit (CAPRA). There are quite high expectations that the above regional good practices and successful regional experiences will be duly mainstreamed throughout the Global Platform discussions and support the development of related initiatives, policies and guidelines at the global level.



ARAB STATES

Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020

Background

Arab nations recognize the impacts of on-going environmental degradation, rapid unplanned urbanization, acute water scarcity, a changing demography and migration trends on achieving sustainable development goals for the region. Secondary risks associated with population displacement, disease outbreak, pandemic influenza, food insecurity, conflict and civil unrest pose multi-fold challenges to the region, on a larger scale than ever before. This recognition is coupled with the immediate responsibility to effectively manage and cope with frequent local and trans-boundary disasters that arise from changing geologies and increasing climate variations across the region.

In response to the increasing frequency and intensity of recent disasters in the region and in recognition of the necessity to reduce risks associated with disaster trends in the region, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment have adopted in December 2010 an Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020 (ASDRR). The ASDRR was further welcomed by Heads of States at the 2nd Arab Summit for Socio-Economic Development in January 2011.

Key regional priorities and commitments to disaster risk reduction

The ASDRR has been developed with a two-fold purpose:

1. To outline a vision, strategic priorities and core areas of implementation for disaster risk reduction in the Arab region;
2. To enhance institutional and coordination mechanisms, and monitoring arrangements to support the implementation of the Strategy at the regional, national and local level through preparation of a Programme of Action

The ASDRR has five corresponding key priorities that underline necessary actions for disaster risk reduction in the region:

1. Strengthen commitment for comprehensive disaster risk reduction across sectors
2. Develop capacities to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks
3. Build resilience through knowledge, advocacy, research and training
4. Improve accountability for disaster risk management at the sub national and local level
5. Integrate disaster risk reduction into emergency response, preparedness and recovery

Expected regional contribution to the 3rd Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The GP provides a timely opportunity for Arab countries to anchor the recently adopted regional vision – outlined in ASDRR – within a global context that views increased investment in local action as a key priority to reduce future losses from disasters. In order for ASDRR to be effective, its priorities will have to be translated into local actions, increased investments and strengthened linkages between the development agenda and the disaster management practice in the region. Learning from other regions' experiences, including on cities' resilience and climate change adaptation, is critical for the Arab Region as it starts to map-out the necessary steps for translating the strategic vision and priorities into actions nationally and locally.

ASIA

Incheon Regional Road Map on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (Incheon REMAP)

Background

The Incheon Declaration of 2010 and the Incheon REMAP adopted at the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) identified the integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) as the key priority focus area to facilitate an effective disaster risk reduction implementation over 2011 in the Asian region. It builds on the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, adopted at the 3rd Ministerial Conference. A Roadmap was Adopted in Incheon that provides comprehensive guidance to convert the Ministerial decisions into concrete actions at the national and local levels for vulnerable communities and countries to implement in the Asian region. The Incheon Conference builds on previous Ministerial Conferences and strategies organized at the initiative of China (2005), India (2007), Malaysia (2008) that contributed to a gradual institutionalization of high-level political commitments and monitoring processes of disaster risk reduction and HFA implementation in the Asian region.

Key regional priorities and commitments to disaster risk reduction

1. Raising awareness & building capacity for DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) to improve understanding of DRR as delivering evidence-based adaptation actions and strengthen knowledge on climate hazards, vulnerabilities and risks in key socio-ecological system and to support DRR and CCA training for government and other stakeholders;
2. Promoting investments on DRR and CCA to apportion at least 10 percent of humanitarian assistance and two percent of development assistance for DRR by 2015, build capacities for tracking investments and for developed countries to offer their support to developing countries in terms of financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building.
3. Promoting the integration of DRR and CCA into development for green growth, in particular in the areas of urban development, land use planning and physical planning through the adoption

of standard hazard profiles for use by all national and regional stakeholders in development planning processes, and the elaboration of guidelines for policy-makers to facilitate the integration of DRR and CCA into development and to enhance linkages between DRR and CCA institutions at the national level.

Expected regional contribution to the 3rd Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The priorities for DRR in the Asian region defined at the Incheon Ministerial are fully in line with the expected outcomes of the Third Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. In particular, the commitments made in the areas of awareness-raising and building capacity for DRR and CCA, including through the promotion of the Making Cities Resilient campaign, will contribute to supporting local actions in protecting the most vulnerable. The experiences gained and lessons learnt from the existing and past initiatives on integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in the different countries of the region as well as their commitment to develop a platform for sharing information, technologies and sound practices in DRR and CCA and implement joint DRR and CCA projects in selected countries for key identified development sectors, shall guide similar models at the global level and open new opportunities for building alliances and partnerships in climate adaptation action. Finally, the commitment made by Asian countries to develop and share information, technology, sound practices, and lessons learned in climate and disaster risk management shall contribute to prioritizing investments in compiling national disaster loss information and comprehensive risk assessments, building safe infrastructure, increasing public awareness and strengthening early warning and preparedness at the regional and global levels.

EUROPE

European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction

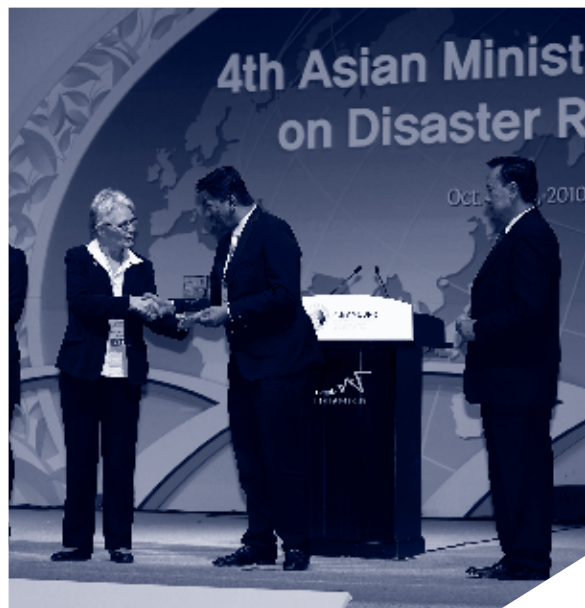
Background

In Europe, recent Ministerial conferences have contributed to increasing the political commitment for disaster risk reduction at the regional and sub-regional levels and to the integration of DRR as a core priority of key European institutions' mandate such as the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA), the European Commission and the South East European cooperation. These political processes are duly complemented and supported by technical exchanges of information, knowledge and experiences on DRR among HFA Focal Points National Platforms for DRR and regional/sub regional partners in the context of the European Forum for DRR.

Key regional priorities and commitments to disaster risk reduction

- The need for a more comprehensive approach in disaster risk reduction, tracking status of and protecting critical infrastructure, coordination and active participation of the competent national authorities in the context of the South East European cooperation process (SEEC) Ministerial Conference (Antalya, 13 May 2010)
- A new Medium Term Plan for 2011-2015 was adopted at the 12th Ministerial Session of EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement (28 September 2010, St Petersburg) to: "improve prevention and preparedness and promote good risk governance, use knowledge to reduce vulnerability, improve preparedness for emergencies.." and discussed the consequences of climate change on the frequency and intensity of natural disasters and the measures to strengthen societies' adaptation and resilience.
- The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Commission communication "A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man made disasters" that welcomes the Commission's commitment to ensuring that disaster-prevention-related issues are taken into account more coherently in EU policies and programmes, and stresses the need for a holistic approach to disaster prevention Members consider it necessary to enhance cooperation, both at regional and EU level, based on complementarity of action, dissemination of best practices and the principle of solidarity between Member States.

- The European Forum on DRR members agreed on the need to continue and strengthen exchanges on DRR, including with National Platforms, HFA Focal Points, the scientific community and local level practitioners, in the following areas: training, exchange of experts and sharing of lessons learnt, capacity development, national platform building as well as risk mapping and assessment.



Expected regional contribution to the 3rd Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

It is proposed to make the valuable information-sharing and exchange on DRR and CCA undertaken in Europe available to support global adaptation strategies to climate change and extreme weather events as well as enhanced partnerships and alliances for climate adaptation action. In the same vein, it is expected that experiences and success stories identified at the regional, national and local levels in harmonizing risk mapping and assessments including data collection throughout Europe will significantly support the Making Cities Resilient and the protection of critical infrastructures (such as hospitals and schools) discussions so as to serve local level / community level approaches for DRR. Finally, emphasis will be placed on selected cost-benefit analysis case studies undertaken in Europe to effectively support the discussions and promotion of DRR investment.

PACIFIC

2010 Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management

Background

The Pacific Platform was formally endorsed in October 2008 by the SOPAC Governing Council and seeks to harmonise existing regional mechanisms for DRM and serve as the link between Pacific Island Countries and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the ISDR system. In recognition of the success and wide acceptance of the existing regional DRM mechanisms, it was decided that the meetings of the Pacific Regional Disaster Managers; the Pacific Chief Executive Officers; and, the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network (Partnership Network), will be considered the Pacific Platform. The Pacific Platform is co-convened by the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific. The Platform is actively supported by members of the Partnership Network.

Key regional priorities and commitments to disaster risk reduction

The 2010 Platform convened under the overarching theme *Enhancing the Implementation of the Pacific DRR and disaster management (DM) Framework for Action through a Multi Stakeholder Approach* committed to the following:

1. Enhance Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) linkages at the national and regional level including through enhanced coordination and the development of an integrated funding modality at national level;
2. Investments for Disaster Risk Reduction: Pacific Island countries are urged to invest 1 percent of national development budgets, 10 percent of international recovery assistance and 10 percent of relief funds in risk reduction measures; all investments into DRM and CCA to be guided by national priorities and action plans.
3. Foster DRR mainstreaming in national policies, budget and all national sector plans where feasible, including school curricula, based on DRM partners' expertise and resourcing. The latter should aim at fostering a critical assessment of vital infrastructure resilience to disasters and at establishing national action plans for safe schools and hospitals for all by 2015;
4. Sharing DRR Information and Expertise through Multi-Stakeholder Involvement, and especially the participation of communities, women and youth, politicians and parliamentarians, as well as civil society and sector experts when developing and implementing DRM plans and efforts as a means to facilitate DRM mainstreaming nationally and ultimately increase regional resilience to disasters;

Expected regional contribution to the 3rd Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

All assessments and studies made on DRM advancements in the Pacific region, through the Mid-term Review consultations and the National and Regional HFA Reviews will represent useful contributions to the Global Platform discussions on local action for DRM. Considering Pacific Island Countries' extreme vulnerability to the impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, a number of regional assessments and political decisions as well as south-south cooperation projects were carried out highlighting the need for the integration of DRM and climate Change Adaptation that provide useful success stories, good practices and possible models for replication at the global level in building alliances and partnerships for adaptation action and risk reduction.

III. Summary of selected regional work programmes integrating disaster risk reduction

In addition to high level political commitments made for disaster risk reduction implementation at the regional level through Ministerial or Regional Platforms conferences, several crucial parallel processes have been taking place in each region / sub-region, with regional Inter-Governmental Organizations having successfully prioritized DRR into their strategies and work programmes. Over the years, these important regional partners have built growing expertise in disaster risk reduction and represent powerful vehicles and implementing partners to facilitate disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action advancement at the regional level.

A few of them involve the following regional and sub-regional processes (non exhaustive list):

ASIA & PACIFIC

Southeast Asia

- The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its Work Programme for 2010-2015

South Asia

- The Thimpu Statement on Climate Change adopted at the 16th SAARC Summit, held in Thimpu, April 2010.
- The SAARC Framework for Disaster Management aligned with HFA-Disaster Management in South Asia: A Framework for Action 2006-2015
- SAARC Plan of Action on Integration of DRR with CCA, including a SAARC Inter-governmental Climate-related Disaster Initiative
- SAARC Road Map for Regional Cooperation on Application of Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in South Asia
- SAARC Road Map on Community Based Disaster Risk Management In South Asia
- SAARC Regional Cooperation on Earthquake Risk Management in South Asia

The Pacific

- The Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015

AFRICA

- Programme of Action for the implementation of the ECOWAS policy on DRR 2010-2014.
- Regional Economic Commissions (RECs)' respective programme of action integrating DRR: Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), East Africa Community (EAC)
- The SADC and West Africa annual forum for preparedness plans based on regional climate outlook forums.
- African Centre for Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD)'s regional discussion on building partnership for climate services for DRR.

AMERICAS

- Central American Policy on Integrated Risk Management (SICA/CEPRENAC-PCGIR)
- Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CAN/CAPRADE-EAPAD); Comprehensive Disaster Management
- Strategy and Program Framework for the Caribbean region (CARICOM/CDEMA-CDM);
- The Specialized Meeting on Social and Natural Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Defense, Civil Protection, and Humanitarian Assistance (REHU-MERCOSUR)
- Buenos Aires Declaration by Latin American Parliament (policy instrument)
- Cartagena Declaration, joint declaration of the XII Tuxtla Summit (Declaración de Cartagena: Declaración conjunta del XII Cumbre de Tuxtla)
- CIDI: Declaration of Santo Domingo for the sustainable development of the Americas
- Conclusions and Recommendations: Meeting on the Institutional Framework for
- Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa
- Conclusions and Recommendations: Regional Seminar on Public Investment and Financial Mechanisms, Insurance and Reinsurance against Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean: Recent Experiences
- The Saint Marc Plan of Action adopted by the Asso-

ciation of Caribbean States as the body for consultation, cooperation and concerted action for disaster risk reduction in the Greater Caribbean.

ARAB STATES

- League of Arab States Arab Framework Action Plan on Climate Change 2010-2020
- Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) integrates early warning and drought risk management in its work programme and reporting processes including by producing the first regional drought risk reduction report in 2011.
- Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport

EUROPE

- European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Council of Europe and EUR-OPA Major Hazard Agreement Ministerial Conferences on disaster risk reduction
- EUR-OPA Major Hazard Agreement Medium term Plan 2011-2015-http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/Apcat2010/StPetersburg/APCAT2010_05rev2_MediumTermPlan2011-2015_EN.pdf
- South East European Cooperation Process Ministerial And Experts Meeting On Disaster And Emergency Management

Selected cases of regional and sub-regional work programmes highlighting key DRR priorities and recommendations

AMERICAS

The Central American Policy on Integrated Risk Management (PCGIR) was approved by the XXXV Summit of Heads of State and Governments of member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) in Panama City, Panama in June 2010. The document defines five areas of intervention to move forward the DRR agenda in the region: DRR integrated in investments for sustainable development; development and social compensation to reduce vulnerability; environment and climate change; Territorial management, governability and governance; and disaster management and recovery.;

Buenos Aires Declaration by Latin American Parliament (policy instrument).

This declaration emphasizes that, due to the Latin America region's high vulnerability to natural hazards, prevention and risk mitigation should be a priority. It stresses that concrete measures for the mitigation of risk and adaptation to climate change should be integrated in national development and sectoral plans

Cartagena Declaration, joint declaration of the XII Tuxtla Summit:

A declaration of the Leaders of APEC, gathered in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, October 24-26, 2010, during the "XII Cumbre de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno del Mecanismo de Dialogo y Concertacion de Tuxtla", in which they "emphasise the importance of the Hyogo Framework for Action aimed to raise awareness, mobilise action and build global, regional, national and local, existing practices to reduce loss of life, social and environmental needs of communities following a disaster, including climate change adaptation, as well as highlight the work of the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR) in its role to promote, and monitor its application, particularly through the campaigns 'Disaster risk reduction begins at school', 'Safe hospitals' and 'Making cities resilient', promoted by the Strategy"

CIDI: Declaration of Santo Domingo for the sustainable development of the Americas:

A declaration of the ministers and high-level authorities responsible for the sustainable development of the Americas, adopted during the eighth plenary session held on November 19, 2010, which considers the links between vulnerability, poverty, inequity, environmental degradation, and disasters, as well as the need to incorporate comprehensive disaster risk management into the public agenda of the states and to promote international and regional coordination to respond, in a coordinated, effective, and efficient manner, to emergency situations.

Strategy and Program Framework for the Caribbean region (CARICOM/CDEMA-CDM);

The objective of the strategy is that Comprehensive Disaster Management is integrated into the development processes of CDERA member countries. The essence of the strategy is the organization of activities needed to achieve the strategic objective within a structured framework. Five intermediate results (IRs) have been identified which, if achieved, will together lead to the strategic objective:

IR-1: Stronger regional and national institutions promote CDM; IR-2: Research, education and training support CDM; IR-3: Major regional institutions and donors incorporate CDM in their own programs and promote CDM to their national members/clients; IR-4: Preparedness, response and mitigation capability is enhanced and integrated; and IR-5: Hazard information is incorporated into development planning and decision making.

ARAB STATES

League of Arab States Arab Framework Action Plan on Climate Change 2010-2020.

The Arab Framework Action Plan on Climate Change proposes elements for adaptation actions to reduce the risk of climate disasters and includes activities to reduce the risk of natural disasters, related to weather events. The framework, promotes the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, following up and integrating disaster risk reduction in all programs related to adaptation and seeks further cooperation on this aspect with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction at the national, regional and international levels.

The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport co-established with UNISDR and partners the Regional Center for Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted at the Academy premises in Egypt with focus on capacity development and knowledge management. The Academy has further integrated risk reduction in its training and education online modules offered in collaboration with the World Bank.

Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)

integrates early warning and drought risk management in its work programme and reporting processes including by producing the first regional drought risk reduction report in 2011.

Successful cooperation on disaster risk reduction in the Arab region

The League of Arab States, UNEP and the Center for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe published the 1st Environmental Outlook Report for the Arab Region in 2010 with focus on disaster risk reduction as one of the main challenges and opportunities for environment in the region.

AFRICA

The Africa Programme of Action and Ministerial Declaration - Key regional commitments and priorities

- To institutionalise **multi-sectoral National Platforms** for DRR, or similar coordinating mechanisms, that integrate disaster and climate risk management in different sectors,
- To reconstitute the **Africa Working Group on DRR** to provide coordination and technical support to Member States for the implementation of the Africa Strategy and PoA
- To call upon IGOs and Member States to create a network of **capacity development** institutions for training, research, and information management and exchange at country, sub-regional and regional levels in collaboration with international and regional partners.
- To urge Member States to increase their investments in disaster risk reduction through the **allocation** of certain percentage of their national budget and other revenue dedicated to DRR. To call upon development and humanitarian partners to invest one percent (1%) and ten percent (10%) respectively in DRR, preparedness and recovery, and to conduct a study for the establishment of a regional funding mechanism for DRR.
- Among others, it request Member States to **decentralise** DRR until community level, incorporate gender equity in DRR programmes, develop institutional capacities, undertake vulnerability assessment of schools, health facilities and urban centres, along with the **campaign** for making cities resilient

Africa Ministerial Declaration - Climate change and financial instruments.

The Africa Ministerial Declaration, recalls AU Decisions related to climate change adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN, Nairobi May 2009) and the Decision of the African Ministers of Finance (Lilongwe, 29-30 March 2010) to “*support efforts towards enhancing national and regional capacities to mitigate exposure to disaster risk through institutionalising effective financial and other instruments such as strategic grain reserves, budgeted contingency funds as well as through sharing risk across [sub]regions*”.

ASIA & PACIFIC

South Asia: SAARC Roadmap on Community based DRM

- Promotes and strengthens the community lead disaster management systems to reduce vulnerabilities, build resilience to reduce risks, enhance response and recovery management;
- Facilitate effective partnership between communities at risk and local government
- Integrate CBDRM into local and national level planning process
- Create institutional arrangements for knowledge sharing and capacity enhancement on CB-DRM good practices and lessons learnt;
- Define roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders - SDMC, National, Provincial, Local Governments, Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, CBOs and Communities

South Asia: SAARC Roadmap on Community based DRM

- Promotes and strengthens the community lead disaster management systems to reduce vulnerabilities, build resilience to reduce risks, enhance response and recovery management;
- Facilitate effective partnership between communities at risk and local government
- Integrate CBDRM into local and national level planning process
- Create institutional arrangements for knowledge sharing and capacity enhancement on CB-DRM good practices and lessons learnt;
- Define roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders - SDMC, National, Provincial, Local Governments, Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, CBOs and Communities

South Asia: SAARC Plan of Action on Integration of DRR with CCA and Timphu Statement on Climate Change

- Make a comprehensive study of the policy, institutional landscape and resource allocation for DRR in the Member States of the SAARC;
- Make a similar study on the policy, institutional framework and resources for CCA projects in the Member States of the SAARC;
- Analyze the issues of convergence and divergence of policies and institutions for DRR and CCA in the Member States;
- Recommend how the diverse policy and institutional framework of DRR and CCA can be effectively integrated for reducing the risks of disasters in the region;
- Prepare an inventory of the DRR projects already implemented and under implementation in the Member States of the SAARC;
- Make a similar inventory of the CCA projects implemented and under implementation in the Member States of the SAARC;
- Analyze the divergences and similarities in the two types of projects and activities;
- Recommend how DRR and CCA projects can be effectively integrated at the project level for avoiding duplicity in efforts, better delivery of results and optimum utilization of scarce resources;
- Recommend similar steps to be taken for integration of DRR and CCA initiatives at the regional level;
- Develop a set to tools, methodologies and guidelines for integration of DRR and CCA in the specific contexts of South Asia.

Southeast Asia: ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response as the unique HFA legally binding document

AADMER strategic priorities supporting HFA's implementation in the ASEAN region and 3rd Global Platform discussions

- **Public Education, Awareness and Advocacy.** Communication of disaster risk to stakeholders is critical in building communities' disaster awareness, education and resilience.
- **Integrating DRR in School Curriculum.** Vulnerability of children to disasters highlights the imperative to integrate DRR in the educational system. To contribute to ensuring children's safety and the whole community's resilience.
- **Disaster Safety of Educational and Health Facilities** Strengthening school (also as community shelters during disasters) and health related infrastructures before a disaster strikes will protect children and patients and related staff from death and injury, allow health facilities to remain operational and deliver medical care and life saving services during and in the aftermath of a disaster, mitigate long-term costs, and ensure functional continuity after a disaster event.
- **Recovery** covering the whole spectrum of the recovery process that includes rehabilitation and reconstruction. This priority aims at empowering Member States in leading, managing, and coordinating the overall recovery process, while ASEAN through AADMER mechanisms will provide full support, based on need and upon request of the affected Member States.
- **Implementing National Action Plans on Disaster Risk Reduction and Strengthening Legal and Institutional Frameworks** for disaster risk reduction
- **Disaster Risk Financing including Microfinance** as a major step towards dealing with the challenge of DRR and CCA and a tool to increase impact and sustainability within the DRR-CCA framework.
- **Building Partnerships between DRR and Climate Change Adaptation** to amplify the synergies between DRR and CCA
- **Prioritize Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)** in national policies and frameworks on DRR as a way of dealing with local risk patterns and trends, building local communities' capacity in managing disaster risk
- **Risk Assessment.** Identifying high risk populations and geographic areas and understanding underlying hazards, vulnerabilities, and disaster management capacities are critical to effectively plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters.
- **Continuous Monitoring** in support of risk identification and early warning activities
- Continued development and enhancement of multi-hazard early warning systems **Early Warning** in the ASEAN region will allow for more accurate and integrated observations, better impact assessments, as well as timely and coordinated dissemination of warning information through improved decision support systems.
- **Urban Disaster Risk Reduction.** The convergence of urbanization and disaster risk in major cities pushes to the fore the necessity for national and city governments to assist one another and prioritize urban disaster risk reduction to promote an innovative strategies for DRR within the broader sustainable development

Pacific: SOPAC/SPC Strategic Plan 2011-2015

Monitoring & Assessment of Natural Hazards, Resources & Processes

- Increased availability of accurate scientific and technical information for disaster risk management
- Strengthened networks and institutions to monitor and assess natural hazards

Management of Vulnerability & Risks

- Island and ocean baselines and assessments to support vulnerability reduction, disaster risk management and climate change

IV. ANNEXES

OFFICIAL TEXTS

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES AND REGIONAL PLATFORMS DECLARATIONS & ACTION PLANS ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Per Region

AFRICA

Second African Ministerial Conference On disaster risk reduction 14 -16 April 2010, Nairobi, Kenya

Declaration of the Second African Ministerial Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa having met in Nairobi, Kenya on 16 April 2010 at the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, concurrently with the First Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa held from 15 – 16 April 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya.

We express our sincere condolences and solidarity with the people and communities seriously affected by disasters in all its manifestations across Africa and other parts of the world and commend the efforts made by them, their governments and the international community to respond to and overcome those tragedies.

We are convinced that disasters seriously undermine the results of development and poverty eradication and prosperity. Development efforts that fail to appropriately consider disaster risk could seriously increase vulnerability of people and their livelihoods. We therefore believe that coping with and reducing disaster risk to build resilience for sustainable development is a most critical challenge facing governments, communities and the international community. African countries, cognisant of our joint endeavours to build our disaster risk reduction efforts, believe it is our collective responsibility to support each other.

I. Take note of the proceedings of the Second Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction consultative meeting held in Nairobi from 5-7 May 2009, at which Governments, Regional Economic Communities (REC), the African Union Commission (AUC), NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), and United Nations (UN) and non-UN partners, discussed and proposed a draft extended Programme of Action (2006-2015) for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, in

line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: 'Building the Resilience of Communities and Nations to Disasters';

- II.** Endorse the Executive Summary of the Proceedings of the Second Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Consultative Meeting, which includes the recommendations of the Africa Platform to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Geneva from 16-19 June 2009;
- III.** Endorse the Proceedings of the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction "Creating Linkages for a Safer Tomorrow" which contains the Chair's Summary;
- IV.** Recall the African Union Assembly Decision on the Revised 1968 African Convention (Algiers Convention) on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) at the Second Ordinary Session, held in July 2003, in Maputo, Mozambique;
- V.** Recall also the African Union Executive Council Decision on the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the African Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (2006 – 2010) adopted at the Eighth Ordinary Session of the AU, January 2006 held in Khartoum, Sudan;
- VI.** Recall further the African Union Executive Council Decision on the Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AM-CEN) on climate change held at Nairobi, Kenya, May 2009, adopted at the Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit held in Sirte, Libya, June 2009.

- VII.** Recall all previous decisions on climate change.
- VIII.** Recall the decision of African Ministers of Finance in Lilongwe, Malawi (29-30 March 2010), to “support efforts towards enhancing national and regional capacities to mitigate exposure to disaster risk through institutionalising effective financial and other instruments such as strategic grain reserves, budgeted contingency funds as well as through sharing risk across [sub]regions”.
- IX.** Acknowledge the positive efforts that many national governments in Africa have made in integrating disaster and climate risk reduction in their development policies and planning processes, as well as into emergency response and recovery activities and recognise the difficulties of many States to institutionalize, enact and decentralize these efforts and turn them into action;
- X.** Stress the need for the Africa Regional Platform to continue to advocate and provide technical advice and support mechanisms by Regional Economic Communities, national governments and partners, for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action (2006-2015);
- XI.** Stress the fact that there is a need for assessing the progress made by the African Union Commission, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, Regional Economic Communities and Member States in order to accelerate the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR through its Programme of Action (2006-2015);
- XII.** Call the attention of African leadership to the urgent need to strengthen sub-regional mechanisms in order to achieve the objectives of the HFA and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, through the implementation of the Programme of Action (2006-2015);
- XIII.** Emphasize the need for Member States, to promote the creation of partnerships with institutions dealing with disaster risk reduction, such as National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), the health and financial sector institutions, academia, specialised centres, research and scientific institutions, NGOs and civil society organisations, for purposes of achieving the objectives of the Africa Regional Strategy and Programme (2006-2015) and form part of a multi-sectoral National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

- XIV.** Recognise the negative impacts of climate variability and change, including the increase in the occurrence and severity of disasters and increased competition over natural resources;
- XV.** Stress the special needs of most vulnerable countries and Small Island Developing States and recognise their aspirations for sustainable development and need for cooperation;
- XVI.** Recognise also that poorly planned urbanisation increases vulnerabilities which calls for concerted actions by local governments and communities.
- XVII.** Stress the need for Member States to leverage new entry points for disaster risk reduction by taking advantage of new developments since the inception of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR, and integrate them into existing mechanisms.

Hereby recommend to the African Union Summit:

- 1.** To request the African Union Commission to continue mobilising political support, and to advocate for international community, institutions and development partners to support Member States to institutionalise multi-sectoral National Platforms for disaster risk reduction, or similar coordinating mechanisms, that integrate disaster and climate risk management, emphasising the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in planning and finance, the health, education, urban development, infrastructure, energy, water and sanitation, industry, agriculture and food security sectors, among other national priorities;
- 2.** To call on the African Union Commission to reconstitute the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction to provide coordination and technical support to Member States for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action;
- 3.** To call upon the African Union Commission, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States to create a network of capacity development institutions for training, research, and information management and exchange at country, sub-regional and regional levels in collaboration with international and regional partners;
- 4.** To request African Union Commission, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, regional and sub-regional organisations and Member States to continuously monitor the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action in line with the HFA and to assess and report biennially on the progress made;
- 5.** To request Member States to decentralize and implement local and community-based disaster risk reduction strategies and programmes, supported by adequate, realistic and predictable funding mechanisms, with an enhanced role for local governments and empower local and regional NGOs, including volunteers;
- 6.** To strongly call upon Member States to incorporate gender equity and empowerment considerations in implementing the Programme of Action;
- 7.** To strongly urge Member States to increase their investments in disaster risk reduction through the allocation of a certain percentage of their national budgets and other revenue dedicated to disaster risk reduction and report to the next Ministerial Conference, considering other related African Ministerial resolutions;
- 8.** To call upon development and humanitarian partners to ensure that disbursement of one percent (1%) of development assistance and ten percent (10%) of humanitarian assistance, in line with the Chair's Summary of the Second Session of the Global Platform, supports disaster risk reduction, preparedness and recovery, including from violent conflicts and/or severe economic difficulties;
- 9.** To call upon Member States, under the auspices of the African Union Commission, to explore the feasibility of continental financial risk pooling in working towards the creation of an African-owned Pan-African disaster risk pool, building on existing and emerging tools and mechanisms for financing disaster risk reduction;



10. To call for a study into the establishment of a regional funding mechanism for disaster risk reduction which allows Member States to access existing, and future, regional and global funds for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
11. To make disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation a national education priority, through their integration into the educational system, including the development of curricula, and the training of teachers;
12. To call upon Member States to undertake vulnerability assessments of schools, health facilities and urban centres, and develop and implement plans to ensure their safety and resilience;
13. To encourage the development of capacities of, and partnerships among, Member States to access and utilise existing traditional knowledge, space-based and other technologies for disaster risk reduction;
14. To call on the African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities to establish and/or strengthen, within their organisational structures, functional, sustainable, affordable and dedicated disaster risk reduction units for coordination and monitoring;
15. To call on the Regional Economic Communities to enhance the implementation of their roles and responsibilities as stated in the Africa Strategy and Programme of Action;
16. To call upon the Member States to adopt the revised Programme of Action for the Implementation of the African Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015) and to monitor progress;
17. To invite the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and partners to engage with African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and African countries to support the implementation of this Declaration, as appropriate; and
18. To request the African Union Commission to take note of this Ministerial Declaration, and to submit to the African Union Summit.

AMERICAS

Second Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico, March 15-17, 2011

Communiqué from Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico on Lines of Action to Strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas – March 23, 2011

1. The participants in the Second Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, representatives of States and Territories, local governments, international, regional and subregional agencies, civil society, the academic, scientific and private sectors from North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.
2. Meeting in Nayarit, Mexico to contribute to and be part of the process of developing a regional development agenda that explicitly and effectively includes disaster risk reduction along with the considerations of adaptation to climate change, present this statement as a contribution to promote and reinforce the development of the countries and territories of the region, in which we express our concerns and proposals, so that they be taken into account at the next session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held from 8-13 May 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, and for their consideration in the outcomes and management mechanisms resulting therefrom;
3. We express our solidarity with and condolences to the people of Japan for the earthquake and tsunami of 11 March 2011, the consequences of which make evident the need to prioritize DRR at the highest level of action;
4. We recognize the actions and efforts for disaster risk reduction (DRR) being undertaken by the countries of the region and by respective institutions;
5. We recognize that for numerous factors the region of the Americas is highly vulnerable to the potential hazard posed by natural, socio-natural and technological events to which all of the region's countries are to a greater or lesser extent exposed; recent experience has shown that these phenomena can lead to a high cost in human life as well as economic and environmental losses that set back national efforts to advance along the road to the development of countries and communities, especially the poorest and most disadvantaged. This has been demonstrated by the recent large-scale disasters affecting Haiti, Chile, Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Brazil and Guatemala, as well as other disasters, which, although on a smaller scale and less visible, occur repeatedly at the local level;
6. We underscore the fact that this priority of developing a hemispheric development agenda that explicitly and effectively includes disaster risk reduction is taking place in a context of declining cooperation resources in many countries of the region, because they are considered to be middle income countries. However, these countries still have enormous inequalities in income generation and distribution and in local management capacity for the sustainable use of natural resources, which translates into the presence of significant pockets of extreme poverty;
7. Taking into consideration the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held in agreement with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 58/214, which adopted the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters;
8. Remembering the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/200 of December 21, 2009 which refers to the report of the Secretary-General on im-

plementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and that specifies guidelines for strengthening the work done; Resolution 65/1 of October 19, 2010 in which the member countries reaffirm their commitments to attaining the Millennium Development Goals; and taking into account Resolution 57/270B of June 23, 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation and monitoring of decisions adopted at large United Nations economic and social conferences and summit meetings;

9. Remembering, in addition, the Declaration of the Incheon Conference, "Building a Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction," held in August 2009, which lays the groundwork for the World Disaster Reduction Campaign, "Making Cities Resilient: My City is getting ready" which considers the progress of the initiative for safe schools and hospitals;
10. Taking note of the decisions adopted by the Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico (COP 16/CMP 6) in December 2010, in particular the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, which makes reference to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) as an instrument to be considered within strategies for climate change variability and adaptation and disaster risk reduction associated with these types of events and within the Cancun Adaptation Framework;
11. Taking note of Resolution 65/264 of January 28, 2011 by the 65th plenary of the United Nations General Assembly, in which it calls on Member States and United Nations response agencies to promote a shift in emphasis from disaster relief to sustainable development assistance in global cooperation projects, and in which the Assembly likewise urges updating of early warning systems, improvement of disaster preparedness, and implementation of risk reduction measures;
12. Taking note of the decisions adopted by the Cancun Declaration of the XXI Summit of the Rio Group and the Latin America and Caribbean II Summit on Integration and Development (CALC for its Spanish acronym) in the Mayan Riviera, Mexico on 23 February 2010, in particular the decisions on cooperation among regional and sub regional mechanisms for integration, social development, eradication of hunger and poverty, food security, climate change, disasters and South-South cooperation;
13. Reaffirming the role of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas as a broad-based, ongoing and inclusive forum, whose purpose is to bring together existing sub regional platforms, national platforms, government agencies, United Nations Agencies, intergovernmental organizations in the region, civil society organizations, regional and sub regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, funding institutions, the academic and scientific communities, the private sector, civil society in general, members of the ISDR system, inter alia, to advocate for disaster risk reduction and to be the primary regional mechanism for guiding the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA); recognizing in addition that the Regional Platform acts as a bridge for communication between national and global platforms;
14. Reaffirming that the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters defines the priorities and lines of action for achieving objectives related to disaster risk reduction and building the resilience of nations and communities throughout the region, at all territorial levels, in the face of all types of natural, socio-natural and technological hazards;
15. Taking note of the work for promoting good practices on disaster risk reduction by the Organization of American States (OAS) and its specialized entities and encouraging the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) to continue promoting cooperation and collaboration among member States, multilateral agencies, and regional organizations;
16. Underscoring progress being achieved at the national level as well as the work of different regional bodies and mechanisms and those for sub regional coordination to advance and consolidate achievements toward disaster risk reduction (DRR), including the considerations of climate change adaptation (CCA) in the region, which has enabled the preparation, adoption

and implementation of strategies, policies, plans and programs that articulate regional and sub regional efforts and strengthen national capacities, including: the Central American Policy for Integral Disaster Risk Management (SICA/CEPREDENAC-PCGIR); Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CAN/CAPRADE-EAPAD); Comprehensive Disaster Management: Strategy and Program Framework (CARICOM/CDEMA-CDM) for the Caribbean region; and the Specialized Meeting on Social and Natural Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Defense, Civil Protection, and Humanitarian Assistance (REHU-MERCOSUR), as well as the Association of Caribbean States' 2008 Saint Marc Plan of Action and the Plan of Action resulting from the Red Cross' Inter-American Conference;

17. Underscoring the dialogue and instruments developed by the Latin American and Caribbean States, with support from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the process of the Regional Meetings of International Mechanisms for Humanitarian Assistance (Mexico 2008, Florianopolis, Brazil 2009, Buenos Aires, Argentina 2010), which allows for the exchange of experiences, consensus building and the development of specific tools for strengthening coordination of humanitarian assistance, including aspects of sustainability in the context of disaster risk reduction;
18. Recognizing the role of the national systems for disaster risk reduction as well as civil protection and defense, including the support and cooperation provided by the Red Cross societies;
19. Underscoring the work of coordination and regional consensus-building of the Forum for Sub regional Coordination and Cooperation Mechanisms on Disaster Risk Management in the Americas;
20. Taking note of the progress reports on implementation of the HFA at the various levels, and the outcomes of the HFA Mid-Term Review;
21. Recognizing the relevance of the World Disasters Report 2010 - Focus on Urban Risk by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and of the Views from the Frontline report by the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction on progress toward implementation of the HFA at the local level;
22. Taking note of the considerations on the economic impact of disasters and the recommendations along these lines set forth in the recent World Bank and United Nations publication Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters: The Economics of Effective Prevention¹ and the different seminars and meetings organized by the UNISDR, in conjunction with many national and international agencies, organizations and bodies with regard to the need to increase public investment in DRR;
23. Highlighting that the ultimate goal of actions aimed at reducing the risk of disaster, including food security as well as climate change variability and adaptation, is to contribute to the achievement of a sustainable and socially inclusive development in harmony with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and considering the cross-cutting themes of gender and cultural diversity;
24. Recognizing that in an increasingly interdependent world, the occurrence of disasters can have an impact that extends beyond national borders, in some cases forcing processes of displacement and migration of population groups, affecting the development processes of these groups and of the areas of refuge;
25. Reaffirming that securing the progress made with respect to DRR and resolving the challenges to sustainable development imposed by climate change and variability require strategies for strengthening capacities, in particular the capacity for resource management and civil society participation in the formulation of public policies, at all levels; and
26. Building on the contributions of the I Session of the Regional Platform held in Panama in March 2009, the Chair's summary of the II Session of the Global Platform held in Geneva in June 2009, the conclusion of the II Hemispheric Encounter held in Santa Marta, Colombia in April 2010, and taking into account the themes and objectives of the III Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in May 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, and having examined the outcomes of the multi-stake-

holder survey for identifying the main lines of action and mechanisms to enable and accelerate DRR and CCA established in the region,² as well as the outcome of the different sessions held during this II Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

WE HEREBY DECLARE our commitment to the guiding principles of DRR set forth in the HFA and those for CCA and we strongly encourage, by means of this Statement, the consideration of these priorities defined by the institutions and governments of the Americas, in the framework of the upcoming III Session of the Global Platform for DRR. Likewise, we strongly encourage action to be taken by all States and Territories, regional and sub regional agencies, civil society, the academic, scientific and private sectors, international agencies, and, in general, all those stakeholders committed to the development of the peoples of the region to:

27. With regards to the consolidation of the regulatory and institutional frameworks that prioritize DRR and CCA as explicit sustainable development objectives at the national, sub national and local levels: Urgently advance the integration of DRR and CCA policies, regulatory frameworks and development plans. We also strongly encourage governments and cooperation entities to jointly promote permanent training and capacity building programs for national and local authorities and officials, communities, civil society and the private sector on the regulatory and institutional frameworks (national, local) that provide the underpinnings of the integration of DRR and CCA into the context of sustainable development. We encourage promotion of the design and implementation of results-based management instruments, for example the development of evaluation systems, which enable the continuing review and adjustment of the process of implementation of the regulatory and institutional frameworks, including roles and responsibilities and in particular accountability, with consideration for multi-stakeholder representation, with all actors of civil society and the participation of all sectors and levels of government.

28. In terms of the process of knowledge generation about risk in a context of multiple hazards: We invite government entities at the national, sub national and local levels to allocate resources and

create management mechanisms for promoting the strengthening of ties among the academic sector, the private sector and civil society that support research and development that lead to concrete proposals for facing the challenges for articulating DRR and CCA in development processes with particular focus at the local level.

We also strongly encourage promotion of the development and use of methodologies for the production and evaluation of multi-hazard risk scenarios that have flexible data requirements and are adaptable to different geographical and time scales and we seek to have the process of knowledge generation on risk include community participation and consider traditional and ancestral community knowledge. With special interest, we encourage promotion of capacity building for evaluating and generating knowledge about the environmental, economic and financial implications of DRR and CCA, as well as promotion of the establishment of procedures for conducting an ongoing assessment of the levels of risk that public infrastructure might be exposed to, with special reference to schools, hospitals, and basic services (water, sustainable food production, energy, communications and roads); and additionally, the strengthening of systems for climate, oceans and territorial observation to ensure the availability of relevant information, adopted and channeled to the local context and indigenous languages, for the development of early warning systems,³ with an approach based on active community participation, recognizing the importance of reaching those population groups that should be warned, and encouraging and motivating the informative and educational role of the mass media.

29. Regarding the use of knowledge, innovation and education for developing a culture of prevention and resilience at all levels: We call upon the entities responsible for the definition of the educational policies at the national, sub national and local levels to promote the inclusion of DRR as a cross-cutting element within the education system in all its facets and at all levels, adapted to the specific conditions of the geographic areas where educational activities occur, and promoting the rights of children and students of all ages to an education. We strongly encourage national, sub national and local governments to promote the creation and dissemination of information services tailored to specific users (public sector,

² The outcome of the survey can be seen at www.eird.org

³ Early warning systems (EWS) designed in accordance with the criteria established by the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

communities, individuals) that support DRR and CCA decision-making processes. We encourage the design and implementation of permanent communication strategies surrounding DRR and CCA targeting specific audiences, reaching urban and rural communities and adapted as necessary to local cultures and languages and including the analysis and dissemination of relevant DRR and CCA experiences. We highlight the need to involve the media to partake in formal educational processes surrounding DRR. We strongly encourage ministries of education, universities and other entities for higher education to take on a proactive role in DRR and to efficiently make use of the network of universities and other scientific and educational entities in order to contribute to the implementation of the HFA and provide substantive scientific inputs to related political decision-making processes.

30. With regard to the reduction of underlying risk

factors: We encourage promotion of the design of management instruments to ensure measurable increases in the inclusion of DRR and CCA criteria in processes for land use planning and public investment at the local, national and regional levels, including a focus on gender as a cross-cutting issue. We support the development and strengthening of capacities for managing economic resources and human capital and of productive abilities, bearing in mind the achievement of DRR and CCA objectives as a necessary condition for attaining the Millennium Development Goals. We encourage the design and implementation of financial services appropriate to the specific needs of the different types of populations, so that these groups can implement DRR measures and include aspects relating to CCA, such as savings and credit plans, macro and micro insurance, reduced insurance premiums for families, tax breaks for businesses. We also encourage the design and implementation of participatory plans and policies including aspects of food security, rural development, environment, economy and production, so that relevant development sectors include DRR and CCA.

31. In terms of preparedness for effective disaster response at all levels:

We strongly encourage national, sub national and local governments to develop and/or oversight instruments to ensure that disaster risk reduction mechanisms are integrated

into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation activities. It is important to improve instruments that facilitate access to financial reserves and special financial mechanisms created to transfer risk and support effective response and processes for early recovery from disaster. Likewise, to promote ongoing review and development of the response capacity of all corresponding territorial entities and levels, with particular emphasis on urban and rural areas. To strengthen the development of protocols (national, international) and procedures for facilitating the compilation and sharing of information during emergencies and disasters; compatible damage assessment methods and identification of post-disaster needs; promote compilation, analysis, systematization and dissemination of lessons learned and good practices regarding experiences with early disaster assistance and recovery; promote strengthening of regulatory frameworks and guidelines that support the rapid, timely intervention of the international community in disasters, taking into consideration, among other things, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL). To promote awareness-raising surrounding national legislature and frameworks relating to emergency management, in particular with relation to declarations of emergency and disasters; raise awareness surrounding the mechanisms and instruments for coordination of response and humanitarian assistance available throughout the hemisphere and at all levels, global (through the United Nations System), regional (through the Inter-American System) and sub regional (through CAPRADE, CEPREDENAC, CDEMA and REHU).

Recommendations to the Global Platform

32. We invite national, sub national and local governments to establish and/or strengthen mechanisms that enable the joint, continuous review of DRR strategies, plans, programs, and actions, including considerations for CCA, ensuring participation of all relevant stakeholders and with the support of regional and sub regional intergovernmental agencies;

33. We strongly encourage international cooperation agencies and mechanisms to support actions for DRR, including considerations for CCA, as well as any

agencies involved in sectoral development issues and cross-cutting themes to strengthen coordination mechanisms and promote synergies in the implementation of support programs at all levels;

34. We urge the development and strengthening of horizontal cooperation mechanisms on issues regarding DRR, including considerations of CCA, within the framework of sustainable development, that includes technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and the dissemination of lessons learned and good practices such as the INDM;
35. We reiterate that DRR, including considerations of CCA, are fundamental to sustainable development and human security and therefore these issues should be explicitly linked to the realization of the MDGs;
36. We urge the international community to continue its contribution and support to this priority issue, and to consider the major inequalities and disparities that persist in middle income countries, and where the setting up of a regional development agenda that explicitly includes DRR and takes into account considerations of gender, the particular needs of highly vulnerable sectors of society and cultural diversity, is hindered by significant gaps in management capacity at the local level;
37. We underscore the need to reinforce, from a sustainable development perspective, a comprehensive view towards land-use management, biodiversity, fragile ecosystems, environmental degradation processes, and water resources management as factors that can positively or negatively contribute to reducing vulnerability to different types of hazards and therefore to disaster risk management. Along these lines, we consider it fundamental for DRR to be included in meetings of Heads of State / Government and Ministers, such as for example the upcoming Rio +20 Earth Summit to be held in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;
38. We underscore the need to strengthen linkages among DRR-related actions being implemented at the national, sub national and local levels. In this context, we recognize the importance of advancing with implementation of the campaign "Making Cities Resilient: My city is getting ready";
39. Lastly, we invite national, sub national and local governments to apply, monitor, and report on progress in the implementation of the decisions adopted at major United Nations conferences and summits on topics related to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, DRR and CCA.
40. The participants thank the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), all entities that facilitated the thematic and parallel sessions, the United Nations system agencies, the Organization of American States (OAS) and its specialized entities, the Government of Mexico, and in particular the Government of Nayarit for the organization and support provided to this II Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas.

ARAB STATES

The Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020

Purpose

The specific purpose of the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ASDRR) is two-fold:

1. To outline a vision, strategic priorities and core areas of implementation for disaster risk reduction in the Arab region;
2. To enhance institutional and coordination mechanisms and monitoring arrangements to support the implementation of the Strategy at the regional, national and local level through preparation of a Programme of Action.

The Strategy will build upon good practices and experiences from other regions, including experiences in the development, implementation and monitoring of regional strategies and frameworks for disaster risk reduction. It will form a critical contribution to the deliberations and conclusions of the 2011 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the national platform mechanisms across the Arab region.

Expected Outcome

The expected outcome of the ASDRR is the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries across the Arab region.

The strategic direction for implementation of disaster risk reduction actions in the Arab region will derive from the HFA's five key priorities for action:

Priority for Action 1: Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;

Priority for Action 2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning;

Priority for Action 3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels;

Priority for Action 4: Reduce the underlying risk factors;

Priority for Action 5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response and recovery at all levels

Key Priorities

Based on the HFA's strategic goals, its priorities for action, conclusions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, experiences of other regional institutions in formulating strategies on disaster risk reduction, and key findings from national HFA progress reports completed by Arab states and Arab regional progress report of 2009.

The ASDRR outlines a strategic direction for five key priorities as follows:

Strengthen commitment for comprehensive disaster risk reduction across sectors

- Include risk reduction considerations in national policies, plans and legal frameworks of all critical sectors relevant to achievement of the MDGs: reducing poverty, promoting livelihood diversification in peri-urban and rural centres, provision of universal primary education, addressing the vulnerability of women, children and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable groups, combating disease and public health challenges, promoting environmental sustainability, and ensuring partnerships for development;
- Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into development strategies while ensuring scientific capacities, resources, stakeholder involvement and public awareness in this regard;
- Ensure decentralization of dedicated and adequate resources, community participation and collaboration with civil society groups and the private sector during all planning and implementation efforts for disaster management and risk reduction.
- Ensure that national multi-sectoral platforms take account of underlying risk factors, while prioritizing high-risk areas and most vulnerable populations/groups (especially in conflict zones and urban settlements);

Develop capacities to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks

- Ensure national and local multi-hazard risk assessments are periodically made available and include risk assessments for key sectors with specific regard to urban settlements;
- Ensure capacities and systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities at the regional, national and local level;
- Ensure inclusion of gender disaggregated data for risk assessments;
- Intensify efforts to understand and assess the likely impacts of climate change in areas and sectors exposed to risk from climatic hazards;
- Establish regional early warning systems and networks to monitor multiple hazards affecting the region;
- Develop and maintain a regional roster of experts for disaster risk management and related areas

Build resilience through knowledge, advocacy, research and trainings

- Ensure that relevant information on disaster risks and events is accessible and available at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems, regional databases, etc.) and especially in relevant local languages;
- Ensure use of up-to-date educational materials, curricula and approaches that account for emerging national and local risk contexts/ realities;
- Promote public awareness, advocacy campaigns/ activities to emphasize disaster risk reduction measures and disaster management practices among communities at risk (i.e. through online games; school, educational institutions and hospital preparedness drills; public dissemination of flyers on how to assess and strengthen the structural safety of key buildings, etc.);
- Establish regular opportunities for training and skills development for administrators, decision makers and community volunteers, while ensuring the participation of women;
- Secure flow of resources to support continual scientific research geared for devising solutions that can be especially implemented in the short – medium term.
- Develop standardized tools and commonly accepted indicators for tracking progress in risk reduction and demonstrating the cost-benefit ratio of investment in this area;

Improve accountability for disaster risk management at sub national and local level;

- Ensure that sub national and local risk reduction strategies involve a long-term capacity development plan matched by dedicated and adequate allocation of budgets;
- Implement economic and productive sectoral policies and plans to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities and basic services (addressing tourism, shipping and ports, agriculture, industry, infrastructure especially for securing public health, among others);
- Institute legislation and assessment procedures to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially large infrastructure projects;
- Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes;
- Analyse existing and emerging financial mechanisms for disaster reduction while identifying and developing the most adequate risk transfer and risk finance instruments;
- Ensure that disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes.

Integrate disaster risk reduction into emergency response, preparedness and recovery:

- Establish strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster management that include risk reduction perspectives;
- Establish disaster preparedness plans, contingency plans, recovery and reconstruction plans at all administrative levels with the participation of women, the aged, children, IDPs and people with special needs;
- Establish emergency health support systems that offer free health care to victims and help address psychosocial (and other long term) health impacts of disasters;
- Ensure that national/ local financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place and well understood by all stakeholders to ensure effective response and recovery when required;
- Ensure that sub national and local coordination procedures are in place to exchange critical and timely information during hazard events and disasters, also with a view to undertake post-event reviews.
- Incorporate international quality standards in disaster response (SPHERE, IASC guidelines);



- Ensure institutional and surge capacities for conducting damage and loss assessments
- Address national trans-boundary cooperation on disaster response, preparedness and recovery among Arab states

Institutional, Financial and Coordination Arrangements

Effective implementation of the strategy depends on institutional arrangements, capacities and resources made available at the global, regional, national and local level.

The Chair's Summary of the 2009 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction⁴ concluded that sustained financing for disaster risk reduction is of critical importance if risk reduction goals are to be realized by 2015. Proposals submitted by country representatives, international organizations and financing institutions at the Global Platform in 2009 included a variety of innovations including - incentives for retrofitting, introduction of risk transfer tools, adoption of risk-sensitive development financing, private sector involvement, debt swap to finance disaster reduction measures and linkages with adaptation financing, among others.

Institutional innovations proposed included more direct resourcing of local initiatives and groups that are effective in reducing risks, such as grassroots women's

organizations. Globally, there is agreement that more explicit information is needed on the effectiveness and cost of specific measures and on the patterns of current investments in disaster risk reduction. There was support by many participants at the Global Platform to target the equivalent of 10% of humanitarian relief funds to disaster risk reduction work. Similarly, a 10% figure has been proposed as a target share of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery projects and national preparedness and response plans. Calls also were made for at least 1% of all national development funding and all development assistance funding to be allocated to risk reduction measures, with due regard for quality of impact.

In the Arab region, funding remains the main challenge that faces national and local authorities, civil society organizations and humanitarian workers implementing disaster risk reduction measures targeting communities at risk. In keeping with emerging global commitments, the League of Arab States encourages its member states to dedicate at least 1% of national development funding and development assistance towards disaster risk reduction measures.

Countries in the Arab region currently also have access to a range of existing regional financing mechanisms for socio-economic development in addition to dedi-

⁴ <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2009/>

cated national disaster relief and response budgets. Countries could also assess the possibility of utilizing the existing regional funds and mechanisms by allocating a dedicated budget for disaster risk reduction and recovery activities at the sub regional, national or local level within these Funds.

Development and humanitarian donor assistance plays an important part in developing sustainable measures for risk reduction at the national level across the Arab region. The League of Arab States encourages international development and humanitarian partners to intensify efforts in view of the expressed commitment of the Arab states.

The following stakeholders will have a key role to play in the development and implementation of the Strategy and its Programme of Action:

The League of Arab States: will focus on providing leadership and strategic guidance, facilitation, promoting implementation of the Strategy, monitoring progress and seeking support from regional and international development partners for coordination at the regional level.

United Nations specialized agencies including regional social and economic commission/s: will focus on interpreting the strategic guidance received for member states, incorporate the objectives of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in their programmes by developing relevant activities, regularly reporting progress on implementation and provide coordination and training support to sub-regional, national and local authorities, as relevant.

Regional centres of excellence on Disaster Risk Reduction: will support the implementation of the ASDRR through capacity development, training and research activities in collaboration with international partners and in response to national needs.

National authorities: will lead the process of developing disaster risk reduction capacities, national platforms and the integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development measures. National authorities will ensure the establishment of an enabling environment by adoption of timely and relevant legislation and policies at the national and sub national level.

Civil society organizations, including Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and the Private sector: will participate in the development of the ASDRR by collaborating with authorities at the local, national and regional level and provide coordination and implementation support and guidance in niche sectors/ as applicable.

Media: print, video and social media will work with all partners to widely disseminate key risk reduction messages, priorities and generate public awareness through open forums and by engaging relevant political and public entities in debates that highlight topical risk issues.

International development partners: All the above-mentioned institutions and groups will work together to provide guidance to the international development and humanitarian community on provision of assistance and resources for disaster risk reduction. The development partners' assistance will be mainly targeted towards the key sectoral areas based on their comparative advantages. These include, but are not limited to the following areas: capacity development, trainings, knowledge management, risk assessments, integration of disaster risk reduction in the environment, health and education sectors, supporting the coordination and harmonization of disaster risk reduction tools at national and local levels, among others.

Monitoring the implementation of the Strategy

Monitoring responsibilities for implementation of the Strategy will be delineated to mainly include functions performed by the League of Arab States, regional specialized agencies and national governments in implementing this Strategy.

Baseline indicators to monitor the ASDRR's implementation will be derived from the global HFA Progress Monitoring and Reporting Framework's indicators and will be included in the Programme of Action.

To facilitate effective monitoring of the implementation of the ASDRR Programme of Action, the League of Arab States, and in cooperation and partnership with UNISDR, will coordinate and follow-up the biennial HFA monitoring and progress reporting process by reviewing national multi-sectoral progress on disaster risk reduction, and submitting regional biennial progress report on the status of disaster risk reduction in the Arab region.

ASIA

4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Red 25-28 October 2010, Songdo, Republic of Korea

“Incheon Regional Roadmap and Action Plan on DRR through CCA in Asia and the Pacific”

The objective of the roadmap is:

“By 2015, establish climate resilient disaster risk management (DRM) systems that contribute to sustainable development at regional, national, sub-national and community levels”

With the following proposed indicators of success:

National Governments (priority for 2 years)

- 5 countries with climate resilient national development strategies (PRSPs, CAS, UNDAF, 5-year development plans, sector plans, post disaster plans), community and local authorities plans, land use plans, city development plans, spatial plans (for 5 years)
- 10 countries with national budget line on DRR system enhancement
- Increase by 100% of measured national investments on climate resilient DRR (in development, post disaster, sectoral, private sector, and other investments)
- 20 countries using climate change screening tools for national development investments (national, bilateral, UN, etc)
- 10 countries with integrated approach/institutional structure to promote synergistic financing between DRM and CCA
- 5% of local government budgets allocated for climate resilient DRM activities within local authority and community levels
- DRR and CCA investment tracking in place in 10 countries

Partners and Governments (priority for 2 years)

- A masters degree equivalent training programme or certificate programme for national and local government officials in place on DRR and CCA provided by partners at the regional level
- 10 programmes in place for exchange and sharing technical expertise and technology on building climate resilience (for 5 years)

- 10 agreements between international or regional partners and national governments for supporting climate resilient development investments
- 10 countries sharing best practice on DRR investments

Partners (priority for 2 years)

- 100% of regional partners have coordinating mechanism in place for joint DRR-CCA programming (for 5 years)
- 100% of regional partners combine DRR and CCA programme or funding

Principles

This road map should be comprehensive, collective, cooperative and anticipatory.

- **Comprehensive** with the clear outline of the steps that need to be undertaken to reach the overall objectives, and a clear delineation of what is doable based on existing resources and capacity;
- **Collective** with overlaps minimized, and gaps filled;
- Focus and involve most vulnerable and least capable - It should be focused on promoting efficient and equitable climate risk management, with specific initiatives looking at understanding the hazards, reducing vulnerability, managing exposure and reducing risks with due focus on gender inequalities and social exclusion.
- Cooperative, building on ongoing work by sub-regional inter-governmental organizations, national organizations, and with joint work promoted among various stakeholders in the region, multilaterally, and bilaterally; and
- **Anticipatory** with advanced prevention and preparation of disaster based on climate change expectation

Main Themes of the Roadmap

The roadmap aims to promote regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction through climate change adaptation in Asia. Taking a climate risk management approach, the three main themes for this road map are:

- Raising Awareness and Building Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) & Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)
- Developing and Sharing Information, Technology, Sound Practices, and Lessons Learned in Climate and Disaster Risk Management
- Promoting Integration of DRR & CCA into Development for green growth

I. Raising Awareness and Building Capacity for DRR & CCA

The number of disasters can be considerably reduced if people are well informed and government and technical agencies pay high attention to capacity building at all levels. There are several plans to raise awareness and building disaster risk capacity, which are outlined below

A. Improve understanding of DRR as delivering evidence-based adaptation actions and strengthen knowledge on climate hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks in key socioecological system in at least 5 countries

- Establish mechanisms to evaluate the development linkages of long term and short term exposure to climate related hazards
- Develop regional and national capabilities for climate change downscaling and promote the conduct of national level multi-hazard risk assessments, which should be adopted by all national stakeholders
- Provide targeted capacity building for data gathering, data processing, information interpretation and knowledge building and awareness raising products for dissemination
- Promote research of development induced hazards
- Examine the vulnerability of key socio-economic and ecological systems to climate hazards
- Engage existing regional scientific and technical group to focus on understanding identifying risk related to climate change, which will also set the regional research agenda on the topic

B. Promote and support DRR and CCA training for government and other stakeholders

- Deliver training and capacity building programme targeted to various stakeholders, incorporating needs related to vulnerable population and with gender parity, work with relevant training providers

in a consortium, including national training centers, and attempt to develop a Masters equivalent degree programme or certificate programme for government officials on climate resilient DRR.

- Regional partners to develop joint course modules dealing with DRR & CCA within newly developed or existing programs.
- Promote training of government officials through existing programmes on the utilization of [space and] information and communication technologies for DRR and CCA
- Promote secondment of staff, peer-to-peer staff exchange among governments, and regional institutions.

C. Implement awareness-raising programmes at all levels on the costs and benefits of CCA options and those provided by ecosystem services for DRR and CCA in at least 10 countries

- Promote partnerships between regional and national partners and media associations like the Asian Broadcasting Union on DRR-CCA awareness raising
- Regional partners to establish or support and expand existing regional website/portal for awareness raising, where DRR and CCA concepts, practices and issues are explained in simple language
- Develop and spread user friendly tools and public awareness materials translated into and delivered in local languages and educate vulnerable groups
- Promote better use of ecosystem services through understanding of environmental friendly land use technology. Promote awareness of disaster and climate risks within communities through appropriate communication approaches.
- Promote research on understanding the benefits and value of ecosystem services for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

D. Develop a strong communication plan on national priorities on DRR and CCA to be reached out to governments at sub-national and local level including cities in at least 5 countries

- Encourage training and capacity building for local stakeholders on HFA and CCA issues.
- Encourage cities to sign up to the global campaign "Making Cities Resilient- My city is getting ready!"
- Measure progress of HFA implementation against available set of indicators for measuring local level resilience, along with local stakeholders.

E. Promote child and people-centered education for community preparedness and risk reduction

- Implement child-focused disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation related awareness programmes and tools;
- Advocate national government and development partners to include disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation within the curricula of the formal and informal education systems;
- Enhance community preparedness through the participation and contribution of children and young people in initiatives that would reduce disaster risk and enhance climate change adaptation.

F. Strengthen education and training programmes for DRR and CCA focal persons**G. Promote and facilitate the funding of joint DRR and CCA projects from existing and new funding sources****H. Continue all of the activities above****I. Promote awareness of DRR and CCA for development stakeholders and communities at risk**

- Implement awareness programme on DRR-CCA issues that will result in better understanding of climate related risks, costs and benefits by finance, planning and budget related stakeholders
- Advocate development partners for the promotion of national, multilateral and bilateral mechanisms that focus on integrated approaches to DRR & CCA in development programming and investments
- Conduct cost-benefit analysis for key themes, such as ecosystem based adaptation
- Provide training for media and media associations on DRR and CCA integration issues

J. Promote multi-hazard risk assessments and capacities in local settlements

- Invite participatory risk assessments with local stakeholders in an inclusive manner incorporating the concerns of women, and the most vulnerable.
- Identify indigenous practices that may be validated scientifically for replication and up-scaling
- Carry out detailed risk assessments in cities with high risk.
- Assess current state of physical infrastructure for exposure to disaster risks and climate change impacts

K. Build capacity on identifying and protecting local natural ecosystems recognizing their importance as buffers to climate change risks

- Inventorize and secure natural ecosystems within local areas that can counter impacts of climate change.
- Promote conservation of ecosystems specially in areas where livelihoods of local communities areas are dependent on them

II. Developing and Sharing Information, Technology, Sound Practices, and Lessons Learned in Climate and Disaster Risk Management

With the increased disaster risks brought by climate change, many countries in the region are taking actions to alleviate their vulnerabilities to disasters. To achieve development and assistance for the countries in the region better, sharing previous lessons, and cooperating between stakeholders in government, civil society organizations and international or regional organizations is indispensable. Information is indispensable in reducing disaster risk. Timely and accurate information helps policy and decision makers and local communities and ownership. It improves community and individuals' capacity and resilience in the disasters. Disaster risk reduction knowledge, tools, and good practices can be shared through information sharing system.

A. Collect sound practices and lessons learned in DRR & CCA and Develop a platform for sharing information, technologies and sound practices in DRR & CCA

- Collect sound practices and lessons learned on DRR & CCA integration into development including engendered Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) and engendered Community Based Adaptation (CBA)
- Establish or support and improve existing data base systems for good and sound practice on DRR and CCA, including supporting the improved collection of national post disaster damage and loss data including sex-disaggregated death toll data.
- Share lessons on projected socio-economic costing of climate change effects in local communities Promote use of space technology for recovery and mitigation activities.
- Develop the platform as a 'platform of platform' ensuring effective links with existing platforms such

as Asia Pacific Gateway on Development and DRR, IAP DRR Project Portal, SAARC Knowledge Network, ASEAN Work Programme, Pacific Climate Change and DRR Programs, Adaptation Knowledge Platform, Sentinal Asia, Adaptation Learning Mechanism and similar efforts at the regional and national level.

B. Promote sharing early warning information and systems through existing mechanisms

- Promote and develop feedback on effectiveness of EW systems/mechanisms at National, Sub-National and Community levels (strengthening capacities of national agencies)
- Share early warning systems for short, medium and long term climate variability
- forecasting
- Improve hydro-meteorological systems and capacities in countries including effective links with civil authorities at all levels and communities in order to improve preparedness, forecasting, risk transfer, early warning and evacuation systems and enable communities to take protective actions.
- Organize periodic multi-stakeholder integrated climate risk management forums to enable greater sharing information and lessons learning processes.
- Promote and expand the coverage of integrated end to end early warning systems that are volunteer-based and backed by protected infrastructure.

C. Continue activities above

D. Support and facilitate informed actions at all levels (community, city, district, provincial and national) linked to increased availability of user friendly climate information at all scales

- Improve incorporation of climate information into local action planning for urban and rural areas
- Undertake sectoral and area basic adaptation actions in partnership(s) with DRR and CCA stakeholders utilizing user friendly climate information
- Create adaptive learning mechanisms at local level for continuously informed planning and implementation

E. On improved linkages between CCA and DRR institutions at national and regional level

- Facilitate dialogue and effective partnership between national agencies responsible for CCA and DRR as well as their scientific and operational counterparts
- Enable national agencies to mainstream CCA in National Action Plans on DRR and DRR in NAPA/ National strategies for climate change;
- Promote and develop national integrated climate risk management plan where appropriate
- Promote improved understanding on CCA among national DRR agencies, and networks through web-



- sites, publications and sharing workshops
- Conduct regional high level regional/sub-regional meetings linked with planned activities under the SAARC, ASEAN and South Pacific Plans of Actions on Climate Change and DRR

F. Collect and share information and technologies on emerging risks and vulnerability

- Share results of research on evaluation of emerging risks due to climate change, environmental degradation, population increase and movement in order to improve current disaster prevention design criteria and DRM systems
- Share risk assessment systems with countries; make them available in an understandable way to local communities.

G. Use South-South Cooperation among countries of the region

- Transfer lessons learned and contribute to develop programs on early warning systems such as, the Cyclone Preparedness Program in Bangladesh
- Establish South-South Cooperation within and between South, South East, South Pacific and Northern and Central Asia.

III. Promoting Integration of DRR & CCA into Development for green growth

Disasters are a big concern for most countries and have great impact on our economy. Disasters can take significant number of lives and leave long lasting negative impact on our properties. Without disaster prevention and reduction, we cannot attain millennium development goal and sustainable development. Disaster prevention is not only environmental and social issue, but development issue as well. As there is a saying "Disasters can be an opportunity," we need to turn disaster into opportunity and create new type of growth. Thus, ensuring disaster reduction policy is a part of broader economic and development policy in environmentally-friendly way.

A. Promote the adoption of standard hazard profiles for 20 countries, for use by all national and regional stakeholders in development planning processes

- Collect information on climate change-induced, and development-induced hazards
- Strengthen existing disaster impact assessment systems

- Develop systematic national hazard and risk profiles of countries by sub-region

B. Promote integration of DRR & CCA in urban development, land use planning and physical planning in at least 5 countries

- Integrate DRR & CCA as components of urban development and land use planning at national and local levels
- Develop, and promote the use of guidelines for integrating DRR and CCA into urban development and land use planning

C. Promote the increased investments on DRR & CCA in at least 10 countries

- Develop, promote and adopt DRR & CCA resource tracking methodology
- Develop, collect and disseminate cost and benefit methodologies with regard to DRR & CCA in investment planning

D. Implement joint DRR & CCA projects in selected countries for selected development sectors promoted by partners in at least 2 countries

- Regional and national partners will promote joint national projects ready for cohesive DRR-CCA programmes in at least 2 priority sectors. This could be modeled after the flagship programme done by a consortium of partners in Nepal in 2009

E. Continue Activities Above

F. Promote integration of DRR and CCA into Development Processes in at least 5 countries

- Explore the linkages between DRR & CCA and green growth
- Promote DRR and CCA stakeholders to be represented in each others policy development processes including international negotiations
- Develop legislations and policies that promote the integrated approaches for DRR and CCA in development planning and investments
- Widespread knowledge sharing of technical tools which integrate DRR & CCA into Development

G. Promote the decoupling of the increase of disaster exposure from economic growth

- Improve DRR and CCA needs assessments capability for inclusion into future Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs)



Promote risk transfer and financing systems (Risk transfer, Risk pooling, Micro finance, etc.)

H. Promote with local governments to incorporate risk reduction in planning and zoning regulations, building regulations especially for communities at highest level of exposure

- Build awareness and capacities of local governments on risk integrated planning zoning, building codes.
- Identify and facilitate conditions of enabling environment for Local
- Government engagement
- Make the required resource material available in local languages
- Programmes to build public opinion on risks, safety, and
- Accountability

I. Initiate development of guidelines for policy-makers for integrating DRR and CCA into development, and to enhance linkages between DRR and CCA institutions at the national level.

Monitoring and Evaluation

It is proposed that this roadmap be reviewed two years after its adoption at the Fifth Asian ministerial Conference on DRR in 2012. At which time, it is also proposed that an additional set of proposed prioritized actions be developed for further adoption by Ministers.

EUROPE

South East European Cooperation Process Ministerial And Experts Meeting On Disaster And Emergency Management in Antalya-Turkey, 13 May 2010

Declaration

<http://preventionweb.net/go/14040>

We, Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the SEECP Participating States and the international organizations, meeting in Antalya at the invitation of Turkey as the Chair in Office of the South East European Cooperation Process;

AWARE that in South East Europe disasters have a regional dimension and all that countries share common risks and many similar challenges in the area of disasters;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the Ministerial and Experts Meeting on Disaster and Emergency Management of the SEECP's role in strengthening capacities of regional countries for disaster and emergency management and protection of populations in case of disasters having transboundary impact or affecting one single country;

ACKNOWLEDGING that disasters can cause severe damage threatening the safety, security and prosperity of the countries in the region and their citizens;

STRESSING the need for a more comprehensive approach in disaster risk reduction, tracking status of and protecting critical infrastructure, coordination and active participation of the competent national authorities in these processes;

REALIZING that regional cooperation in disaster and emergency management purposes will strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between peoples of the region and advance the state of science and technology of all countries in disaster risk reduction;

EMPHASIZING that disaster risk reduction is the responsibility of all countries and there is a need for regional cooperation to better achieve DRR in the region;

RECOGNIZING that good bilateral and regional cooperation in the field of disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery can save lives, protect social, economic and environmental assets and support the stability and prosperity to the region and their citizens;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the crucial role of education, training and international exercises in the process of building capacities particularly for emergency response;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to integrate scientific and technological data into policy making practices at all levels of disaster and emergency management;

INVITING member states share and make available best practices, lesson learnt and relevant data on disasters;

ENCOURAGING the development of bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation including humanitarian, technical and financial assistance;

CALLING for the establishment of regional cooperation between governmental organizations, academic community and non-governmental organizations of SEE countries;

NOTING that recent trends, where applied, in disaster risk reduction in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action enhance on-going efforts in achieving DRR;

WELCOMING this meeting as a major opportunity for exchange information, views and experience with international partners and for developing a common approach to the disaster and emergency management and specifically disaster risk reduction challenges within the region;

HAVE AGREED TO:

ENCOURAGE national disaster and emergency management authorities in South East Europe to strengthen capacity in community resilience and preparedness for disasters and their collaboration in the field of disaster and emergency management;

INVITE all partners from the international community involved in disaster and emergency management to promote synergy and compatibility and to interact with DPPI thereby further enhancing regional cooperation and collaboration in this field;

ENHANCE the cooperation with UN-ISDR, UN-OCHA, DPPI, NATO-EADRCC;

UTILIZE similar exchanges in the future to sustain the existing high level dialogue,

DEVELOP policies to reduce suffering from hazards;

REAFFIRM our support for regional structures such as DPPI Secretariat which can help implement these commitments;

EXPRESS our gratitude to the international community for its contribution to date and look forward to its continued support in the future; and

REQUEST the in-coming Chair in Office of the SEECPC to convene a ministerial meeting on this subject in early 2011 to allow us to assess progress in implementing our commitments.

European Parliament resolution of 21 September 2010 on the Commission communication: A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters (2009/2151(INI))
European Parliament Meeting, Strasbourg, France
21 September 2010

Key excerpts

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/>

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission Communication of 23 February 2009 entitled “A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters”(1) and the corresponding impact assessment(2), and to the Commission working document of 14 December 2007 on strengthening early warning systems in Europe(3),
- having regard to its resolutions of 16 September 2009 on forest fires in the summer of 2009(4), 4 September 2007 on natural disasters(5), 7 September 2006 on forest fires and floods(6), 5 September 2002 on floods in Europe(7), 14 April 2005 on the drought in Portugal(8), 12 May 2005 on the drought in Spain (9), 8 September 2005 on natural disasters (fires and floods) in Europe(10), its resolutions of 18 May 2006 on natural disasters (forest fires, droughts and floods) – agricultural aspects(11), regional development aspects(12) and environmental aspects(13), its resolution of 11 March 2010 on the

- major natural disaster in the autonomous region of Madeira and the effects of the storm “Xynthia” in Europe(14), and its legislative resolution of 18 May 2006 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund(15),
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 16 June 2008 on reinforcing the Union’s disaster response capacity(16), and points 12 to 15 of the Presidency conclusions of the Brussels European Council of 15-16 June 2006 on the European Union’s responsiveness to emergencies, crises and disasters(17),
- having regard to Decision 2007/162/EC, Euratom of 5 March 2007 establishing a Civil Protection Financial Instrument(18),
- having regard to Council Directive 96/82/EC on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (Seveso II Directive)(19),
- having regard to Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and Council on the assessment and management of flood risks (Floods Directive)(20),



- having regard to Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive)(21),
- having regard to the Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, adopted on 22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo(22),
- having regard to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted on 5 June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro,
- having regard to Article 196 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- having regard to Rule 48 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the opinions of the Committee on Regional Development, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A7-0227/2010),
 - A.** whereas prevention should constitute an increasingly important stage in disaster management and be given greater social importance,
 - B.** whereas natural disasters compromise ecosystems and biodiversity, affect sustainable development and jeopardize social cohesion,
 - C.** whereas factors such as, inter alia, intensive land use, haphazard industrial and urban growth, abandonment of the countryside, desertification and the increased frequency of extreme weather events make Member States, and convergence regions in particular, more vulnerable to disasters, both natural and man-made,
 - D.** whereas climate change is causing ever more frequent natural disasters (floods, extreme droughts and fires), resulting in loss of human life and serious environmental, economic and social damage,
 - E.** whereas disasters generally have many causes, they are not always solely attributable to extreme natural phenomena, but are frequently made more likely by mankind's flawed relationship with the surrounding physical environment,
 - F.** whereas disasters may be caused by technological and industrial accidents which can entail the release of dangerous chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) agents with major effects on health, crops, infrastructure, or livestock,
 - G.** whereas often to a large extent damage caused by natural and man-made disasters could have been prevented; whereas, furthermore, EU policies must ensure consistent incentives for the national, regional and local authorities to develop, fund and implement more efficient prevention and conservation policies,
 - H.** whereas a holistic, proactive, intelligence-led and effective approach to disaster prevention should incorporate various levels of cooperation between local, regional and national authorities and should also involve other actors with links to and, therefore, a knowledge of the land,
 - I.** whereas disaster prevention measures in force have been shown to be lacking, and the previous European Parliament proposals have not yet been fully implemented, thus hindering the implementation of a consolidated strategy for the prevention of natural and man-made disasters at EU level,
 - J.** whereas persistent drought and fires are also speeding up the process of desertification, especially in southern Europe, above all affecting Mediterranean forest areas and extensive woodlands comprising a single, non-native species which is highly vulnerable to fire, threatening the lives of citizens and the quality of life of the populations affected,
 - K.** whereas the balanced occupation/ utilisation of land, economic and social development that are in harmony with nature, respect for energy, natural resources and the environment, reinforced cohesion across the EU, combating rural depopulation, desertification and soil erosion, and maintaining an environmentally sustainable agricultural activity are some of the fundamental elements of disaster prevention,
 - L.** whereas forests play a crucial role in preserving the environment through the balances created in both the carbon cycle and the water cycle,
- 1.** Notes that natural and man-made disasters may have very serious consequences for the economic and social development of regions and Member States; points out that the main objective of disaster prevention is to safeguard human life, the safety and physical integrity of individuals, fundamental human rights, the environment, economic and social infrastructures, including basic utilities, housing, communications, transport and the cultural heritage;

2. Stresses that a proactive approach is more effective and less costly than one based simply on reacting to disasters; takes the view that knowledge of the local geographical, economic and social context is fundamental to the prevention of natural and man-made disasters;
3. Welcomes the commitment made by the Commission to ensuring that disaster-prevention-related issues are taken into account more coherently in EU policies and programmes, and stresses the need for a holistic approach to disaster prevention; recalls that all types of natural and man-made disasters must be taken into account and that these may include, among other hazards(23), floods, storms, droughts, tsunamis, earthquakes, forest fires, extreme temperature events, volcanic eruptions, avalanches, landslides, technological and industrial accidents, soil erosion, contamination of the subsoil and groundwater and pollution of the seas, lakes and rivers;
4. Invites the Commission to encourage the exchange of good practices between Member States in preventing man-made disasters, and calls on the Member States to ensure that regional authorities undergo disaster management training;
5. Considers that, given the scale and/or the cross-border nature that disasters may assume, it is appropriate and necessary to enhance cooperation, both at regional and EU level, based on complementarity of action, dissemination of best practices and the principle of solidarity between Member States;
6. Takes note of the proposal to set up a network made up of representatives of the various competent national services of all the Member States; stresses that this network should operate within the scope of the cooperation between national, regional and local authorities with responsibilities in disaster management, spatial planning and risk mapping and management; emphasises the role of this network in exchanging experience and prevention measures and in establishing a common methodology and minimum requirements for hazard and risk mapping at EU level; calls for the inclusion in this network of representatives from agriculture and for consideration also to be given to hearing UNEP, social and non-governmental organisations working in this area and other actors with links to and, therefore, a knowledge of the land;
7. Regards as essential cooperation on the dissemination of information and experience, technical and scientific applications and also the coordination of strategies for the development of intervention capacities;
8. Calls on regions to build on already existing territorial and cross-border coordination networks in order to develop cooperation focusing more specifically on disaster prevention; believes that cross-border cooperation structures, such as the macro-regions, with their functionally-oriented cooperation, can become effective platforms for cooperation in the field of disaster prevention; advocates making use of the valuable experience acquired in this field through projects implemented in the past under the Community's INTERREG Initiative;
9. Takes the view that coordinated actions and strategies between Member States, the different sectors and the different actors involved in the disaster management cycle can lead to real advances in the field of disaster prevention; highlights the role that voluntary work can play in these strategies and calls on the Member States to foster cooperation to this end at national, regional and local level; suggests that the possibility be assessed, in the context of the European Year of Volunteering 2011, of organising voluntary work cooperation at Member State level with a view to disaster prevention;
10. Urges cooperation between Member States, countries neighbouring the EU and developing countries in cross-border projects sharing best practice and disseminating practical knowledge through the EU's neighbourhood policy programmes and development programmes;
11. Emphasises that the principle of non-discrimination must be included in aid provision; notes that assistance should be provided on the basis of need, without discrimination based on the race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status of recipients;
12. Points out that environmental problems, caused and exacerbated by climate change, are currently responsible for a growth of forced migration and therefore wishes to highlight the increasing link between asylum seekers and areas of environmental decline; calls for better protection and resettlement of "climate refugees";
13. Stresses that it is the regions and local communities that bear the brunt of natural disasters and that, generally speaking, neither their material and human resources nor their know-how or financial

resources are sufficient to cope with these disasters under a purely national and/or regional approach, and that these disasters call for an effective European-level solidarity-based response;

14. Points out the importance of reducing inequalities between regions and Member States in terms of their capacity to protect their populations, and their property, including the cultural heritage, by supporting their efforts to improve prevention, particularly in the regions and Member States that are highly vulnerable to the risk of disasters; urges that particular attention be paid to the most isolated, most sparsely populated, mountainous and border regions of Europe, and the most economically disadvantaged European regions;
15. Stresses that the natural characteristics and constraints of isolated regions, mountainous regions, regions with low population density and those suffering from depopulation, outlying and outermost regions, islands, naturally disadvantaged regions, as well as regions facing a combination of risks, need to be acknowledged and taken into due account; draws attention to the added difficulties faced by these regions in tackling disasters; asks for special attention to be paid to those regions through the various financial instruments available and calls for the conditions for mobilising the Solidarity Fund for those areas to be made more flexible;
16. Highlights the need for the Solidarity Fund Regulation to be revised by adapting the eligibility criteria to the characteristics of each region and each disaster, including slowly evolving disasters such as drought, paying particular attention to production sectors, the most vulnerable areas and the populations affected, and enabling mobilisation to be more flexible and timely; considers that the eligible operations listed in Article 4 of the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) are too restrictive; takes the view that, when setting eligibility thresholds, consideration of the regional dimension is vital, as otherwise regions facing very serious disasters can find themselves excluded because the threshold set for the whole Member State is not reached;
17. Stresses the need to create a suitable financial framework for disaster prevention, with adequate financial resources for preventing and combating disasters, that will strengthen and link existing instruments such as cohesion policy, rural development policy, regional policy, the Solidarity Fund, the Seventh Framework Programme and the Life+ programmes; asks that, in this context, prevention should be taken into account in the 2014-2020 Financial Perspective; calls on the European Commission to assess the possibility of proposing a more systematic pooling of available resources in order to strengthen the effectiveness of prevention mechanisms across the EU;
18. Urges the Commission to ensure that the current budgetary pressures arising from the crisis do not lead to a reduction in the resources allocated to existing disaster prevention policies and, as part of the current budget review, to carefully assess any gaps in the field of prevention and ascertain whether each type of disaster is covered by the instruments available;
19. Points out that cohesion policy is an essential tool in natural disaster risk prevention; considers that it must be possible for the various funds and instruments to operate flexibly and in a coordinated manner in order to improve the functioning and effectiveness of that policy; stresses that risk prevention must also dovetail with other policies pursued in the field of prevention, in order to prevent the fragmentation of measures and increase their effectiveness and added value;
20. Reaffirms the need to verify that EU funds have been used in an adequate manner, and for any misused funds to be repaid;
21. Emphasises that responsibility for disaster prevention lies primarily with the Member States and that the principle of subsidiarity in this area should continue to be considered;
22. Calls on the Member States who are responsible for land management to introduce criteria and legislation in order to prevent catastrophes in areas at risk of flood and landslides and other geological risks, taking into account the problems created by indiscriminate deforestation, and furthermore to prevent construction in these areas;
23. Invites the Member States to assess the possibility of improving the inclusion of disaster prevention in national operational programming of EU funding, as well as in national, regional and local operational programmes; considers that all public actors involved in environmental protection should be engaged and participate effectively in this process; urges the Commission to support the need to reformulate the operational programmes identified by Member States in this area; with a view to exchanging experience, asks the Commission

to invite Member States to supply details of their operational programmes in place for dealing with natural and man-made disasters;

- 24.** Considers that, inter alia, the following prevention measures should be the subject of priority support from the EU to the Member States:
- a)** drafting and revising building safety and land use legislation;
 - b)** action to remedy situations conducive to future risks: renaturalising river beds; restoring and protecting river basins, wetlands and related eco-systems; monitoring erosion and sedimentation in water courses; increasing the through-flow capacity of bridges and water pipelines; clearing up and reordering forests; reforestation; and protecting and defending the coastline;
 - c)** protecting and refurbishing inhabited areas, especially urban areas, that are particularly vulnerable to certain types of disasters, with the involvement of residents;
 - d)** maintaining and inspecting the safety of existing major infrastructures, with particular emphasis on dams, fuel pipelines, road and rail bridges, energy, water supply, sanitation, communications and telecommunications facilities;
 - e)** sustaining the agricultural activity in areas affected by depopulation and subject to the risk of natural disasters, and contributing to the reintegration of human activity by creating infrastructures to enable those who live in such areas to remain on the territory;
- 25.** Calls on the Commission to support Member States in promoting awareness-raising campaigns for prevention and in adopting best practices, providing relevant updated information and training to the general public through channels that are easily accessible to all citizens on identified risks and procedures to be adopted when faced with natural or man-made disaster situations; urges that, in training schemes for populations, particular attention be paid to young people from school age on and to rural communities; in the context of public awareness-raising, stresses also the role of the European single emergency telephone line "112" and the need to make it better known;
- 26.** Recalls that water is often involved in natural disasters, not only in floods – often due to inadequate planning – frost, hail and contamination of river ba-

sins, but also through its scarcity, which can wreak significant change, such as the desertification of large areas of southern Europe and south-eastern Europe;

- 27.** Highlights the fact that persistent droughts have in recent years encouraged the proliferation of forest fires in Europe, at the same time worsening the desertification of a large number of regions;
- 28.** In view of the interconnections between drought, forest fires and desertification, calls on the Commission to present a proposal for a directive, similar to the directive on floods, to promote the adoption of an EU policy on water scarcity, drought and adaptation to climate change;
- 29.** Reiterates its call on the Commission to promote the entry into operation of the European Drought and Desertification Observatory which would be responsible for studying, mitigating and monitoring the effects of droughts and desertification, aiming to enhance sound, strategic decision-making and better coordination between Member States; considers that the interconnections between drought, forest fires, desertification and climate change adaptation should be taken into consideration and that serious and solidarity-based objectives should be set in the context of drought risk prevention and management policy.
- 30.** Since forests are important for the production of wood, maintaining biodiversity, the prevention of floods, avalanches and erosion, management of groundwater resources and carbon capture, the fact that they are threatened by fire should be an issue of concern to all Member States; therefore calls on the Commission to present and to carry out, together with the Member States, legislative proposals and initiatives in the area of forest protection and fire prevention; considers that reforestation and reforestation projects should be supported, with preference given to native species and mixed forests, to encourage biodiversity and greater resistance to fire, storms and disease, as well as the sustained collection and use of residual forest biomass - a renewable energy source; considers that, within the framework of a genuine cooperation in this domain, the regular collection of data, preparation of risk maps, preparation of fire risk management plans, identification of the resources needed and those available in the 27 Member States and coordination at different levels should be carried on;



- 31.** Given that the starting of fires and the increase in their frequency are by nature environmental offences, calls on the Commission to study and propose to the Council and the European Parliament ways of implementing coercive measures which will discourage negligence and deliberate action in the starting of fires;
- 32.** Highlights the importance of viewing prevention from a cross-cutting perspective, incorporating it in the relevant sectoral policies to promote balanced land occupation and cohesive economic and social development that is in tune with nature;
- 33.** Recognises that some sectoral policies have led to certain regions being more exposed to risk by encouraging abandonment of the countryside and excessive concentration of the population in urban areas;
- 34.** Considers that agricultural and forestry production are vulnerable to climatic phenomena such as drought, frost, ice, hail, forest fires, storms, floods, torrential rainfall and storms, to health risks such as pest infestations, animal diseases, epidemics, and epizootics, to destruction due to wild animals, and to consequences of human activities like climate change, pollution, acid rain and unintentional and deliberate genetic contamination, to landslides because of problems related to urban and regional planning, to technological and transport-related hazards, to the desertification of mountain areas and to forest fires primarily due to absence of forest maintenance and criminal behaviour, and to contamination of rivers due to chemical discharges from factories, nutrient leakage and the negligence of forest visitors;
- 35.** Calls on the Commission and the Member States to encourage the implementation of good agricultural practices, which in some Member States has made it possible to halve infiltration of nitrogen-based fertilisers without reducing crop yields;
- 36.** Advocates, as an essential element in the effective prevention of natural disasters, an environmentally and socially balanced agricultural policy that takes into account the need to support and stimulate sustainable agricultural production and rural development in the various countries and regions; advocates effectively strengthening incentives for agro-environmental and agro-rural jobs, encouraging people to settle in rural areas, as a key factor in conserving ecosystems, tackling the current trend of depopulation and impoverishment of these locations and relieving the pressure on urban areas; furthermore, highlights the role played by farmers as custodians of the countryside and regrets the insufficiency of key elements concerning the agricultural sector in the Commission communication;
- 37.** Advocates the creation of an European agricultural public insurance scheme; urges the Commission to come forward with a proposal for an European public insurance system to better address the risk and income instability of farmers related to natural and man-made disasters; stresses that it must be more ambitious than the present model in order to avoid a multiplicity of different insurance schemes in the EU, creating huge imbalances between farmers' incomes; considers it urgent for a minimum compensation scheme for natural or man-made disasters to also be accessible to farmers across all Member States;
- 38.** Calls on the Commission and Member States to include in the calculation of agri-environmental premiums the additional costs borne by farmers in order to take measures designed to prevent fires (such as cleaning of firebreaks, removal of dead arboreal plants, working of the soil along the perimeter of land parcels, etc.) and to dispose of water (cleaning of collecting ditches and canals);
- 39.** Points out the importance of studying rural and urban adaptation measures, given the increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events in various geographical areas; considers that foreseeable negative effects of climate change will represent an additional constraint for agricultural activity and food security and sovereignty, and stresses the need to respond to this and to other challenges in the context of adapting to climate change and reducing its negative effects;
- 40.** Emphasises the importance of public research and development (R&D) in preventing and managing disasters and calls for increased coordination and cooperation between the R&D institutions of Member States, especially those facing similar risks; calls for enhanced early warning systems in Member States and the creation and strengthening of links between the various early warning systems; recommends to the Commission that it should take due note of these needs and ensure appropriate funding;
- 41.** Stresses the need to prepare the healthcare systems of the Member States from the point of view of human resource structure, good practice and

risk awareness so that they are able to cope with disaster situations;

42. Underlines that it is important to have a comprehensive collection of data and information on the risks and costs of disasters and to share them at EU level, with a view to carrying out comparative studies and determining the likely cross-border impact of the disasters, thus making it possible for Member States to pool information on national civil capabilities and medical resources, and that we should use and develop already existing structures such as the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) rather than build up new ones;
43. Regrets the fact that the Commission has still not carried out a study on hazard and risk mapping practices in the Member States, as provided for in its Communication of 23 February 2009 on “A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters”; urges the Commission to make good on this commitment in an effective way during the first half of 2010;
44. Considers that a common methodology and minimum requirements for hazard and risk mapping need to be established at EU level;
45. Underlines the importance of drawing up standards to analyse and express the socio-economic impact of disasters on communities;
46. Recommends that issues relating to disaster prevention should be more fully included in the revision of the EIA Directive, particularly with regard to the assessment, communication and publicising of risks;
47. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States

12th Ministerial Session of EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement 28 September 2011, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Resolution 2010-1 “Working together in Europe and the Mediterranean for the prevention of disasters, preparedness and response : Priorities of Action ”

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/Apcat2010/StPetersburg/RES_2010-1_PreventionPreparednessResponse_EN.pdf

Committee of Permanent Correspondents, supported as appropriate by the Executive Secretariat of the EUR-OPA Agreement.

The Ministers,

- A.** Warmly thank the government of the Russian Federation for the excellent preparation and hosting of the 12th Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA).
- B.** Express their concern for the increase in the effects of disasters having occurred in Europe and the Mediterranean since they last met in Marrakech in October 2006 and extend their sincere condolences and sympathy to the communities affected by those disasters.
- C.** Note that many of those disasters are linked to extreme weather conditions, coastal hazards and forest fires, threats which are all likely to increase with climate change.
- D.** Welcome the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement and hope other States may accede in the coming years.
- E.** Welcome the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Council of Europe (European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement, EUR-OPA) and the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) in April 2008 and note its successful implementation since its signature.
- F.** Welcome the establishment in December 2009 of a European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction grouping European National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction and Hyogo Framework of Action Focal Points and its close cooperation with the EUR-OPA Agreement.
- G.** Take note with interest of the summary report on the implementation of the Medium Term Plan adopted at the last Ministerial Session held in Marrakech in October 2006 and express their satisfaction for the way in which it has been steered by the

RESOLVE to:

- 1.** continue promoting that disaster risk reduction – including prevention, preparedness and efficient response to emergencies – becomes a political priority at all levels of government and that international negotiations recognise the need to prepare societies to the challenges of increased risk from climate change and other phenomena;
- 2.** invite European and Mediterranean States which are not part of the Partial Agreement to join this co-operation structure so as to create coherent European and Mediterranean synergy;
- 3.** support an increased collaboration with the European Union, the United Nations and other appropriate organisations and fora concerned with disaster reduction and relief;
- 4.** adopt the Medium Term Plan 2011-2015 (document AP/CAT 2010 05 rev.) of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) as guidelines for priority action in his field over the next five years;
- 5.** instruct the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the Agreement to follow the implementation of the Medium Term Plan, adapting it as required to new circumstances and making proposals and recommendations to improve its effectiveness;
- 6.** instruct the network of twenty-six Euro-Mediterranean Specialised Centres of the Agreement to support, in their respective spheres of competence, the implementation of the priorities set in the Medium Term Plan, working in a cross-sectoral manner, pooling their expertise in the accomplishment of sound, coordinated programmes.

Furthermore REQUEST

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to support as appropriate the implementation of the Medium Term Plan 2011-2015 of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)

and to encourage the member States of the Council of Europe which are not party to the Partial Agreement to consider joining this intergovernmental co-operation framework.



12th Ministerial Session of EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement 28 September 2011, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Resolution 2010-2 on Ethical Values and Resilience to Disasters

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/Apcat2010/StPetersburg/RES_2010-2_EthicsResilienceDisasters_EN.pdf

The Ministers,

- A.** Noting the increase in the risks of natural and technological disasters and their frequency;
- B.** Considering that disasters pose a major threat not only to the survival of populations and society as a whole, but also to the dignity of individuals;
- C.** Noting that the disorder which disasters cause may result in serious infringements to human rights;
- D.** Considering the various potential consequences for human life, safety, dignity, property, cultural heritage, the environment and sustainable development;
- E.** Considering that, through their impact on the environment, disasters jeopardise sustainable development, while environmental degradation entails economic and social vulnerability by increasing all forms of inequality and contributing to increased risks;
- F.** Convinced that the vulnerability of communities and the environment is a major factor in exposure to disaster risks, which limits the potential for resilience, but these risks do not affect everybody in the same way and convinced that poor people and socially disadvantaged groups suffer most from disasters;
- G.** Drawing attention to the increasing risks of disasters and population movements because of climate change, and their consequences for human rights, which requires disaster risk reduction to be incorporated in climate change impact management strategies;
- H.** Taking due note of the Council of Europe objectives to protect human rights, fight discrimination, sustain the rule of law and find common solutions to the challenges facing modern societies;
- I.** Considering the impact of disasters on human rights and the need to incorporate this aspect into prevention, relief and reconstruction strategies;
- J.** Considering that such strategies, should help to strengthen resilience to disasters by ensuring that everyone, both among the victims and among the relief workers, is protected both physically and in terms of human dignity;
- K.** Considering that increased resilience is dependent on reducing vulnerability as a whole, whether it is linked to poverty, gender, health, insecurity, family breakups, fear or panic, and that ethically responsible practices are required to achieve this;
- L.** Considering that the international community and regional and national authorities have a duty to adopt prevention, assistance and reconstruction measures to protect individuals, natural, historical and cultural heritage, property and means of development and survival from the risks of a disaster, while taking account, at all times, in all places and without discrimination, of the need to protect the fundamental human rights of those concerned;
- M.** Considering that the cross-border impact of disasters requires preventive measures, a
 - A.** common, concerted response, co-operation between governments, communities and regional
 - B.** authorities and the involvement of civil society;
- N.** Considering that some public and private development projects may increase the risk of disaster and that they must therefore include a sustainable development and human rights component, assessing through impact studies what risks may affect human rights in the event of a disaster, focusing in particular on vulnerable people, and taking account of these effects in various disaster prevention measures and plans designed to strengthen resilience to disasters;
- O.** Taking note of the wish of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in their reply of 8 July 2009 to Recommendation 1862 (2009) of the Parliamentary Assembly that the EUROPA Major Hazards Agreement works on ethics and disasters;
- P.** Sharing the principles and provisions of the international humanitarian law, international human rights law, refugee law and taking note of the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in

Disaster Response and of the Code of Conduct for International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations in Disaster Relief;

RESOLVE to:

recognise the value of applying best ethical principles in disaster risk reduction, in improving the resilience of societies and in responding efficiently to emergencies.

12th Ministerial Session of EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement 28 September 2011, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Recommendation 2010-1 on Reducing Vulnerability in the face of Climate Change

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/ressources/Apcat2010/StPetersburg/REC_2010-1_Vulnerability_EN.pdf

The Ministers,

- A.** Noting that human induced climate change makes European and Mediterranean societies more vulnerable to a number of hazards, particularly those linked to extreme climate events, marine risks and other water-related hazards. A non exhaustive list include drought and shortages in food production, heat waves, increased wild fires, desertification and aridification of natural systems, environmental stress, floods and flash floods, landslides, storms, and coastal and marine risks;
 - B.** Noting furthermore that environmental degradation linked to climate change is a threat to sustainable development of societies, as reduced availability of food and water and possible human migration may weaken the capacities of certain communities in Europe and the Mediterranean to cope with growing hazards and may impede an adequate response to disasters;
 - C.** Aware that climate change is a powerful supplementary reason to reinforce and deepen the disaster risk reduction agenda, paying particular attention to integrate climate change and disaster risk reduction concerns, thus improving governance and creating the appropriate partnerships with a varied range of stakeholders (authorities at all levels, industry, rescuers, scientist and technicians, volunteers, insurers, environmentalists, etc.) so that the issue of protecting lives, property, livelihoods and the environment becomes a common concern of the whole society;
 - D.** Highlighting that governments have a particular responsibility and should show leadership, promoting more education to risk, creating the fora for debate, proposal and innovation in promoting sustainability and disaster risk reduction, such as the national platforms for disaster risk reduction being built in many countries;
 - E.** Convinced that an integration and harmonisation of policies is essential to success and that economic and development policies need to consider disaster risk reduction, safety of populations and sustainability as the inspiring driving forces for change, thus giving adaptation to climate change high priority;
 - F.** Noting that international cooperation, exchange of knowledge and experiences and solidarity will be key factors to control or limit the effects on people of climate change and the expected rise in risk and recognising the pioneering and important role of United Nations programmes and initiatives, in particular the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and encouraging the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) to be a key player in that field;
 - G.** Aware that societies need to identify the areas and sectors where climate change may produce an increase in vulnerability and set up appropriate prevention policies and early warning and rapid response mechanisms;
- RECOMMEND** that member States of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA):
- I. Identify problems and vulnerabilities**
 - 1.** Identify how climate change, in the context of global change, will affect the vulnerability of population, paying special attention to the following:
 - a. the way climate change will affect specific hazards, such as floods, marine risks, wild land fires, droughts, heat waves, melting of permafrost, landslides and storms on local and regional scale;
 - b. identification of populations at risk, specially the most vulnerable because of social inequalities;
 - c. risk mapping, paying attention to areas and regions that may become more vulnerable as a result of climate change, such as mountains, areas prone to flooding, coastal areas and urban areas, arid and semi-arid areas, as well as the Arctic and the Mediterranean Regions;

2. Evaluate the human, economic and environmental costs of the increase in vulnerability of populations, assessing at the same time the cost of preventive adaptation action and improvement of response in emergencies, so that decisions on action may be supported on reliable data and appropriate cost-benefit analysis;
- II. Reinforce the disaster risk reduction agenda and integrate it with the climate change agenda**
3. Reinforce as appropriate at the national level the disaster risk reduction agenda, devoting adequate resources to improve the resilience of populations and ensuring that adaptation to climate change are integrated into development and act as a driving force for change and modernisation of societies, making sustainability and safety principles of good governance and progress;
 4. Improve existing legal and technical tools for early warning, response and prevention of disasters to integrate the new or increased threats brought by global warming, changes in rainfall patterns and rise of sea level; devise new tools specially as "aid to decision" in crisis situations and prevention, reinforce in this context the building of a culture of risk, integrating as appropriate climate change;
 5. Improve governance of disaster risk reduction, involving all authorities, integrating science, industry and citizens into appropriate partnerships and encouraging all to act both for mitigation of climate

change and contribute to the implementation of adaptation measures that may reduce vulnerability; take account, in that framework, of the important federating role of multi-stakeholder national platforms for disaster risk reduction;

III. Adopt a knowledge-based approach to prevention and response. The role of science and innovation

6. Recognise the role of knowledge, both science and traditional knowledge, in disaster risk reduction, using existing resources to encourage innovation and favouring exchange of knowledge and good practices; integrate social sciences in to disaster risk reduction, as the human dimension is a key aspect of both preparedness and response;

IV. Recognise the role of cooperation and solidarity

7. Reinforce international cooperation on disaster risk reduction at the global and the European and Mediterranean levels, making disaster risk reduction an important part of the climate change negotiations and supporting global and regional mechanisms of cooperation.

INVITE the member States of the Council of Europe which are not parties to the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), to examine the above recommendations and to use them as a source of inspiration for their policy and practice.

1st Meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) 6-8 October 2010, Stenungsund, Sweden

Decisions Made and the Way Forward

<http://preventionweb.net/go/15110>

The following represents a list of the decisions and focuses that were made during the meeting and that can be used as a basis for work in 2011 and beyond:

1. Global Platform

- Representatives from National Platforms (NPs) and HFA Focal Points are encouraged to participate in the 3rd Session of The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which will convene in Geneva from the 8th-13th May 2011.
- The EFDRR requested that UNISDR facilitate a side event for European National Platforms and HFA Focal Points. The meeting will also provide the opportunity to exchange information on how to develop a National Platform as well as to emphasize the work being done by the HFA Focal Points and Platforms.
- The value of organizing a global National Platform and HFA meeting at the Global Platform was pointed out. Exchanges during such a meeting should include lessons learnt from recent disasters such as the one in Asia.
- UNISDR created a dedicated webpage and e-mail address to collect comments and suggestions and will offer, as requested, electronically moderated discussions for the preparations of the Third Session of the Global Platform.

2. Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

- The role of the National Platforms has been identified as key in the process of bringing the two scientific communities as well as DRR practitioners together.
- National Platforms and HFA Focal Points are invited to share their experiences and success in showing examples on how climate change adaptation and DRR have moved forward at the national level. The existing task force on climate change adaptation and DRR can continue to embrace this issue as well as informing, sharing and when possible influenc-

ing European regional policy papers and documents emerging from the European Commission.

- In February 2011, the Second-Order Draft of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report will be circulated. The opportunity for commenting on and reviewing this report should be used.
- A more prominent role of the private sector in CCA and DRR is encouraged. UNISDR pointed out how the "Briefing Notes on CCA and DRR" represent a good source of information related to key concepts, good practices and examples on how to move forward these issues at the national level and within the NPs.

3. Information Sharing and Exchanges

- The participants agreed on the need to continue and strengthen exchanges on DRR. Seminars/conferences emerged as a valuable form of exchanges, followed by exchanges of experts and twinning of National Platforms and HFA focal points.
- The following topics were identified as particularly relevant for training, exchange of experts and sharing of lessons learnt: capacity development, national platform building as well as risk mapping and assessment. In addition to National Platforms and HFA Focal Points, the scientific community and local level practitioners should be also part of the expert exchanges. Financial assistance is needed for these exchanges.
- UNISDR will produce a monthly e-bulletin to increase awareness on news, activities and progress in Europe. The first issue will cover the month of November.
- UNISDR will create a workspace for the EFDRR (accessible only to EFDRR members) on PreventionWeb. This workspace will allow for the EFDRR to exchange draft documents and facilitate discussions. It was also agreed that PreventionWeb will include key documents related to the forum, to increase visibility of EFDRR.
- Participants agreed to develop a brochure on EFDRR for easy reference and knowledge. UNISDR will facilitate this process based on guidance from the Chair, Co-Chair and the Friends of the Chair.



4. 2010-11 World Disaster Reduction Campaign

- The EFDRR members pointed out the value of the campaign, particularly in reaching the local level communities. Participants agreed to encourage the local governments in their respective countries to join 'Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!' Campaign and will actively the campaign and share experiences at the regional and global level.

5. Other Focus areas for the EFDRR in 2011

- In addition to the above identified areas of interest (climate change adaptation, campaign on making city resilient, information sharing and exchanges)

the harmonization of risk mapping and assessments including data collection) the topics of media and awareness raising, local level / community level approach including protection of critical infrastructures such as hospitals and schools, and cost-benefit analysis case studies, were considered as relevant in the context of EFDRR exchanges for 2011.

PACIFIC

2010 Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management

5th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network

1. The 5th Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network Meeting was convened in Suva, Fiji from the 12th-13th August 2010. The theme of the meeting was *Enhancing the Implementation of the Pacific DRR and DM Framework for Action through a Multi Stakeholder Approach* and specific objectives were to:
 - Review the outcomes of regional and global meetings that are of key relevance to DRM in the Pacific;
 - Provide updates on the work of the Partnership Working Groups operating under the Partnership Network;
 - Broaden the membership of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network to embrace additional stakeholder groups keen to support DRM capacity building in the Pacific;
 - Consult partners on the Mid-term Reviews of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) and the Pacific DM & DRR Framework for Action (RFA) and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), and share preliminary findings of the regional progress review in implementing the RFA;
 - Strengthen South-South Cooperation with the Caribbean community by providing a platform for exchange among Pacific Island Countries, Pacific Territories and the Caribbean.
2. As well as members of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network (henceforward referred to as the "Partnership Network"), the Meeting was attended by representatives of other international, regional and national organisations, a delegation of representatives of DRM partner organisations from the Caribbean as well as national disaster managers of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). A full list of participants is in Annex 1.
3. The Meeting was opened by Dr Russell Howorth Director of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC).
4. Dr Howorth welcomed participants to the Meeting, extending a special welcome to representatives from the French Territories who joined the meeting for the first time as well as to participants from the Caribbean, attending as part of a programme of South-South cooperation concerning disaster risk management supported by the UNDP.
5. Acknowledging the recent earthquake and tsunami in Vanuatu, Dr Howorth conveyed the sentiments of the Meeting to Vanuatu.
6. Dr Howorth acknowledged the assistance of Partner agencies including AusAID and NZAid in sponsoring of the Meeting. He noted with pleasure growth in the Partnership and the participation of new members including those of the private sector and new members from civil society.
7. He reminded the Meeting of the emphasis Forum Leaders had recently given to the need for improved DRM. He noted the convergence between DRM and CCA, acknowledging the recent emergence of a combined DRM and CCA National Action Plan for Tonga (plus requests for the same from RMI, Cook Islands and Fiji) and urged Partners to work together to support closer ties in regional frameworks.
8. Given the recent transfer of functions from SOPAC to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Dr Howorth advised the Meeting that the remaining core functions of SOPAC would be officially integrated to SPC from 1 January 2011. While SOPAC would from this point operate as an Applied Science and Technology (SOPAC) Division of the SPC, he assured the Meeting that the SOPAC Division would continue to deliver on-going DRM services to the region.
9. Opening statements were also made by or on behalf of a selection of organisations co-funding the Meeting: Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Repre-

sentative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Kathryn Hawley of The Asia Foundation/USAID Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (TAF-OFDA), Peter Muller of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Karen Bernard, Programme Specialist, Natural Disaster Reduction and Transition of the UN Development Programme – Pacific Centre (UNDP-PC) and Helga-Bára Bragadóttir, International Disaster Response Law Delegate of the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

KEY OUTCOMES

10. The Meeting :

- i. Acknowledged the continuing importance of DRM in the region, including the need to improve understanding of hazards and underlying risk factors, and continue to collaborate with NDMOs in building regional DRM capacity;
- ii. Acknowledged the continuing will of international, regional and national organisations across the Pacific to conduct DRM training, including the continuation for the next 3 years of the partnership with TAF/OFDA;
- iii. Acknowledged the outcomes of the 16th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting/ Professional Development Workshop, including the request from Regional Disaster Managers for continued technical and financial support as well as professional capacity development building of NDMO managers. In this respect, the Meeting noted the potential of the Partnership Training and Capacity Building Working Group to support this by promoting sustainability and consistency in training provision across the region;
- iv. Noted the outcomes of the delegation from the Pacific region (country and partner representatives) at the 2ND session of the Global Platform for DRR in 2009, including the prominence of gender issues throughout the Global Platform meeting, as well as recommendations that Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) be integrated, that advocacy on the impact of disasters in Pacific countries be enhanced, that national investment as well as multilateral/bilateral support be increased and that capacity within Pacific island countries (PICs) to conduct post disaster assessments be increased;
- v. Acknowledged preliminary plans for the 3rd Session of the Global Platform to be held in May 2011 which will include amongst other sharing of findings of the mid term review of the Pacific DRR and DM Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015;
- vi. Noted the background and purpose of the Mid Term Review of the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC), as well as its preliminary recommendations to improve the focus of the Framework to elaborate on linkages with other relevant regional policies such as the RFA and the adoption of high level strategies including a strengthened capacity to respond to climate change and disaster;
- vii. Re-emphasised the need for improved coordination through joint programming and implementation of Climate Change and DRM regional and national initiatives guided by PIFACC and RFA, as well as the need to use the funds related to these issues most effectively. Related to this, the Meeting re-emphasised the need to strengthen national capacity to access funds from various sources and opportunities for joint implementation of CC and DRM priorities, thereby increasing resilience in PICTs. In respect of these issues, the Meeting noted with satisfaction that several PICTs had committed to establish joint national DRM/CCA action plans to enhance their national capacity in both areas while enabling more cost effective and efficient implementation;
- viii. Acknowledged the recent 2010 Communiqué by Forum Leaders and its statements concerning DRM and Climate Change, including the need for sustainable funding mechanisms for CC;
- ix. Noted the challenge in securing CCA funds for DRM purposes on occasion, while there existed at the same time a need to better coordinate existing funding opportunities at the country level. In this respect, the Meeting acknowledged the opportunities that DRM presents in the use of CCA funds in addressing issues of mutual concern. Related to this, the Meeting also recognised the need to clarify working modalities for the DRM and CCA Frameworks (who is responsible for what) to clarify funding arrangements;
- x. Noted with interest the preliminary findings of National/Regional Progress Reviews in Pacific,

including the presentation by Vanuatu of the preliminary findings of the review undertaken there;

xi. Noted progress updates from the Partnership Working Groups including:

- a) The progress of the Pacific Humanitarian Team in promoting and strengthening the Pacific cluster approach in a number of international emergency responses. This included the December 2009 Samoa/Tonga tsunami response. Additionally, the Meeting noted the number of in-country inter-agency contingency planning workshops that had been conducted to strengthen the relationship between regional and national coordination mechanisms and recognized that, while progress had been made, much work remained to be done, particularly around improving response preparedness in the regional clusters and national coordination structures;
- b) That assistance to Pacific island countries and territories (PICTs) from the PHT following a disaster (including but not limited to, strategic planning, coordination, joint assessments, aerial surveys and information management) may be initiated by making a direct request to the UN Resident Coordinator through UNOCHA) but also recognise that PICTs can still seek assistance directly through bilateral mechanisms such as under the FRANZ Agreement);
- c) Progress by the Fiji Disaster Information Management System (DIMS) project;
- d) The continuing need for consistent and effective information management to underpin disaster preparedness, management and recovery, while acknowledging the disparities in geographical size and organisational capacity in DRM information management across the region;
- e) The need to consider information-sharing legislation in national DRM arrangements, particularly between Ministries;
- f) The vital role of the media in communicating with disaster-affected communities, the need for this communication to be two-way and the need for communications to be targeted to ensure important community messaging is included early in a response;
- g) The need to share information regionally on domestic early warning systems in-country and that this exchange could be managed through an online forum hosted by SOPAC;
- h) The terms of reference for the Partnership Mainstreaming Working Group towards greater coherence among partners when supporting initiatives to mainstream DRM and CCA to national planning and budgetary processes;
- i) The continued recognition that, while the RFA and PIFACC are separate, they share a common objective to reduce vulnerability and more resources are needed to implement the joint NAPs subsequently generated, particularly to achieve risk reduction in sectors that drive development in respective PICs. On a related issue, the Mainstreaming Working Group emphasised the need to continue work to advocate to most effectively coordinate the development and implementation of DRM and CCA NAPs, as well as focus on sector specific policy and interventions;
- j) The request by PICTs for Partners to be more responsive in providing PICT support in mainstreaming, especially when combining national actions plans for DRM and CCA;
- k) The need to continue to advocate with Parliamentarians and representatives of key development sectors for integrated DRM and CCA NAPs that become part and parcel of PICT development plans and policies. In this respect, the Meeting encouraged Pacific island governments to continue to advocate for disaster risk reduction as a core strategy for adaptation in the climate change talks leading to the COP 16 in Mexico City later this year;
- l) The potential for the Partnership Working Group on Mainstreaming DRM and CCA to provide technical input or review of the draft Climate Change Mainstreaming Guide developed by SPREP through the PACC project;
- m) The analysis of progress in recent years with mainstreaming DRM and CCA into National Sustainable Development Plans shared by UNISDR;
- n) The need to include youth, women and volunteer stakeholder groups to support mainstreaming;

- o) That detailed notes of discussions and actions conducted by the various Partnership Working Groups throughout the year can be found for those that are unable to attend on PDN;
 - p) The continued gaps in community based DRM and the need for this to be implemented on the ground. Related to this, the Meeting noted the terms of reference for the Community Based DRM Working Group, including its objective to identify good practice in community based DRM, support resource mobilisation and enhance advocacy for community based DRM;
 - q) The need for improved advocacy as a common theme for DRM (eg., for mainstreaming, community based DRM, legal preparedness, livelihoods etc.) and, given that advocacy often targets similar interest groups, the potential need for different groups to share experiences in advocacy within the Partnership;
 - r) That, based on the findings of the 16th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting/ Professional Development Workshop, and in line with the Group's Terms of Reference, the Partnership Working Group on Training and Capacity Building will establish a matrix of the actors and topics of DRM training in the region, as well as further explore the idea of developing a Pacific Competency Framework for DRM targeting the DRM community and a code of conduct for training. The Meeting also noted the emphasis of this Working Group of the need to monitor the sustainability of training provided in the region;
 - s) UNOCHA's statement of intent to conduct a training needs analysis for humanitarian response in the Pacific and its desire to work closely with the TCB WG and partners;
 - t) The ongoing need for stronger collaboration, improved information sharing at the planning stage between Partners who deliver training;
 - u) The recognised need to better coordinate training and capacity building activities with mainstream education sector programmes and, as practical, the need to strengthen the efforts and expertise of education sector agencies in capacity building in DRM and CCA. To facilitate this, the Meeting noted the value in establishing a separate Working Group on DRM education within the Partnership based on experts in the region, such as SPC, SPBEA (South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment), UNICEF, UNESCO, Live and Learn and the Red Cross Movement;
 - v) On a related issue, the Caribbean delegation advised that ECLAC, UNESCO and UNICEF and Caribbean National Emergency Management Agencies had previously brought together managers in education together with managers of disaster organisations to explore the needs of education establishments in order to support DRM curricular development;
 - w) the establishment of a tertiary program such as a Certificate in Disaster Management with TAF-OFDA and USP, and the Graduate Certificate in DRM and Emergency Health with Fiji School of Medicine of the Fiji National University;
- xii. Acknowledged the importance of multi-stakeholder involvement in DRM nationally and across the region and the need to engage new stakeholders that can add value to the Partnership Network. In this respect, the Meeting noted with pleasure the real opportunities for DRM stakeholders that exist with Vodafone Fiji telecommunications to facilitate DRM through, for example, the dissemination of awareness campaigns and provision of updates and advice, as well as facilitating mass communication to disseminate alerts and warnings during disasters;
 - xiii. Acknowledged the potential contribution of the South Pacific Engineers Association in supporting DRM through, for example, supporting the establishment/ harmonisation of technical standards to underpin construction, ensuring credibility of engineers and supporting governments, donors and partners to uphold safe building standards before a disaster and providing support for post disaster needs assessments;
 - xiv. Noted with interest the presentation from Fem-Link Pacific and acknowledged the importance of gender to increase community resilience, disaster preparedness and DRM policy while improving human rights. On this issue, the Meeting noted the value of women in identifying post disaster needs for women (women's needs), families gen-

erally and communities more broadly (eg., village food security), following a disaster;

- xv.** On a related issue, acknowledged the ongoing need for improved communications to underpin DRM including the need to improve weather communications to address rural needs, the value of community radio stations for communications to and from rural communities and the importance of implementing the Pacific Digital Strategy;
- xvi.** Welcomed the soft launch of the DRR Project Portal to support better coordination and planning of DRR initiatives in the Pacific as well as Asia and noted the excellent cross-regional cooperation between Asia and the Pacific;
- xvii.** Welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the regional consultations on the mid-term review process of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Pacific Framework for DRR and DM. On this issue, the Meeting acknowledged the methodol-

ogy, time frame, as well as progress and preliminary findings of the mid-term reviews of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Pacific Framework for DRR and DM;

- xviii.** Recognised that the outcome of the ongoing mid-term reviews of the RFA, HFA and PIFACC currently underway should be forward-looking and clearly establish the differences, synergies and interlinkages between the two frameworks and other closely related regional and international frameworks. In this respect, the Meeting recommended that SOPAC, SPREP and UNISDR, as the organisations responsible for these reviews, work together more closely and in collaboration with partners to ensure this outcome is achieved;
- xix.** Considered that the RFA had been instrumental in bringing together DRM actors and facilitating partnerships and provides some useful guidance, but observed that it would be difficult to





determine the extent to which work supported by the HFA had tangibly contributed to reduced disaster losses as many activities do this. The Meeting thus noted the need for case studies and national DRM progress reviews to assess what contributions the RFA itself in making to the region;

- xx.** Observed that many PICTs lack the capacity to implement the RFA and may thus need specialised DRM officers to manage these RFA issues. The Meeting also acknowledged the often limited capacity within PICTs to absorb technical assistance for DRM implementation;
- xxi.** Noted the findings of the review of progress of the Vanuatu DRM NAP that has recently been conducted, including that the NAP has increased sectoral awareness of DRM in Vanuatu and facilitated the move to bring together key government agencies responsible for DRM under the one roof. The Meeting noted the challenges being faced by the Vanuatu in implementing the DRM NAP, including insufficient government and donor partner investment in DRR measures, institutional and legislative constraints and ongoing poor coordination between various actors involved in DRM. It noted the various recommendations from this review;
- xxii.** Noted that the DRM progress review in Vanuatu and other PICs will inform the global review of progress in implementing the Hyogo Frame-

work for Action and the 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction;

- xxiii.** Noted with interest the report of the Pacific delegation to recent DRM meetings in Cuba as part of South-South cooperation and acknowledged with gratitude the support provided by UNDP-PC in supporting this;
- xxiv.** Noted with interest the work and experiences of the Caribbean delegation in DRM, particularly work on future climate scenarios and their impacts and community based disaster risk management.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

11. After consideration of the issues noted above, the Partnership Network identified concrete initiatives for greater immediate focus following deliberations amongst Partners in working groups. The Meeting recommended that:

- i.** Given the funding available for climate change and the need to support DRM, Partners – in particular SOPAC (SPC) and SPREP as the regional organisations responsible for the coordination around the two regional frameworks – urgently enhance efforts to coordinate the implementation of the Frameworks generally, as well as by developing an integrated funding modality at national. On a related issue, the Meeting recommended that CROP agencies and other Partners better market DRM in order to access funds generally;

- ii. CROP and other agencies explore the development of a mechanism to coordinate DRM and CCA community work at a national level;
 - iii. 1 percent of national development budgets, 10 percent of international recovery assistance and 10 percent of relief funds be invested in risk reduction measures;
 - iv. Information sharing between Partners on funding and services available be strengthened to improve NDMO awareness of support opportunities;
 - v. Partners actively use national action plans for DRM and CCA in each country to guide in-country support;
 - vi. DRM Partners provide more expertise and resourcing for DRM mainstreaming (which could also potentially be made available through private sector and civil society organisations), particularly in developing national policies and mainstreaming DRM into budget planning and sector planning. In this respect, it was also recommended that information around DRM Partner activities be shared and monitored through the DRM Mainstreaming Working Group;
 - vii. New partners be part of future DRM meetings/discussion in the Pacific as they provide technical expertise and increased opportunities for funding;
 - viii. Partners and countries actively improve information sharing and collaborate better on issues such as mainstreaming, training and capacity building, community based DRM and early warning systems as well as sharing good practice in integrating DRM and CCA and using traditional knowledge through the existing DRM working groups;
 - ix. Partners and PICTs include key stakeholder groups, especially women and youth, when developing and implementing DRM plans and efforts as a means to facilitate DRM mainstreaming nationally and ultimately increase regionally resilience;
 - x. Integration of DRM to all national sector plans where feasible, including school curricular be actively pursued and supported, based on expert advice;
 - xi. Partners actively support the development of educational curricular for DRM and that a separate Partnership Working Group on Education for DRM be established. In particular, the Meeting recommended that SOPAC invite organisations that are active in the (formal and informal) education sector (i.e. SPC, SPBEA, UNICEF, UNESCO, Live & Learn, Red Cross movement) to encourage the establishment of such a Working Group;
 - xii. Partners work collaboratively to ensure DRM training in communities is coordinated, targeted and appropriately addresses capacity gaps, including by actively working through the Partnership Working Group on Training and Capacity Building;
 - xiii. Technical assistance from Partner agencies include capacity building elements to reduce ongoing reliance on overseas capacity where feasible;
 - xiv. Pacific island governments critically assess vital infrastructure resilience to disasters and establish national action plans for safe schools and hospitals for all by 2015;
 - xv. The culture of dependency in disaster response in the Pacific be reduced by increasing information and awareness in communities and governments of DRM. In this respect, the Meeting recommended that advocacy for DRM throughout be enhanced at all levels of government;
 - xvi. The revised RFA include a dedicated community theme to support community participation and the use of local knowledge. Additionally, that the role of politicians and parliamentarians in implementing the RFA be clarified and strengthened;
 - xvii. More work be conducted to generate baseline information on hazards, demographics social vulnerabilities and economic/livelihood information for improved decision making. This could include work to improve codes of conduct and standards;
 - xviii. The reduction of underlying risk factors be tackled including through the participation of expert stakeholder groups including sector specialists, engineers and community participation (eg., through the use of building codes);
 - xix. More gender sensitive, pro-poor cost-benefit analyses be conducted to support advocacy for investment in DRM.
12. The Partnership Network, in collaboration, consultation and cooperation with the National Disaster Management Offices, relevant national, regional and international agencies, the private sector and

civil society organisations, are called upon where possible to provide support, and work together for the realisation of the above recommendations.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

13. The Director of SOPAC reminded the Meeting that the SOPAC transition to SPC was now underway such that the Partnership Meeting for 2011 would occur under the auspices of a new Division of Applied Geoscience and Technology of SPC.
14. The Meeting extended its thanks to Partners, new members from French Polynesia and the delegation from the Caribbean for actively participating. It commended sponsors SOPAC, UNISDR, TAF/OFDA, UNOCHA, UNDP PC, AusAID and IFRC for their support to the Meeting.
15. Mr Knut Ostby UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative commended the Partnership for the Meeting, and conveyed his best wishes to Partners in their endeavours towards continued improvement in DRM and declared the Meeting closed.



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