



Concept Paper

Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2013

Introduction

The Third Session of the Global Platform in 2011 motivated participants to coalesce into one voice for strong community involvement and engagement in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Participants emphasized that not only local communities and governments, but civil society, children and young people, academia and the private sector must be involved in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The Global Platform in 2011 essentially resolved to find political and economic solutions to reduce the risks of disasters.

The aim of the Fourth Session will be to continue the momentum into a durable and sustained effort from all actors (governments, NGOs and civil society, international agencies and organizations, academic and technical institutions, and the private sector) to take shared responsibility in reducing risks and reinforcing resilience in our communities. The Fourth Session will also be an opportunity to progress and consult on the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform will be held in Geneva at the International Conference Centre from Sunday 19 May to Thursday 23 May 2013. Sunday 19 May will be reserved for a preparation day. Monday 20 May will be a day for innovative dialogue. The official agenda will be from Tuesday 21 to Thursday 23 May.

Key outcomes to achieve during the Fourth Session

- A stronger and more sustainable disaster risk reduction and resilience movement world-wide that leads to increased responsibility for reinforcing resilience to disasters.
- A dynamic and trend-setting forum for decision makers, partners, experts and practitioners to announce initiatives, launch products, share information, promote campaigns, and provide evidence around disaster risk reduction.
- Directions and new alliances for the development and use of new tools and methodologies aimed at understanding and applying the economics and investment

in disaster risk reduction; building resilience in communities; and, climate change adaptation.

- A forum to discuss progress and consult over a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (post-HFA), including on issues raised in consultations.
- Events that follow-up and progress on the 2011 Global Platform (e.g. update on disaster loss in schools and hospitals, accounting for disaster losses, the status of National Platforms, and the Children's Charter for Disaster Risk Reduction).
- Priorities and directions reflected in the outcome document - the Chair's Summary.

Consulting and preparing for the Fourth Session

The Fourth Session will include a longer preparation and consultation period of over 12 months. Encouragement will be given to a more focused and less crowded agenda and to the provision of 'trend-setting' modalities for participation and communication in disaster risk reduction.

Taking into account the importance of a gender-balanced approach to the analysis and implementation of disaster risk reduction priorities, we will strive for practical and action-oriented ideas and discussions with a panel participation of at least 50% women.

More opportunities will be provided for partners to design and implement their own sessions. For example a stronger partnership with the scientific and technology community in disaster risk reduction is required to assist with modeling, engineering, social and economic understanding.

A particular focus will be placed on understanding the economics of disaster risk reduction more fully. Although this is a long-term endeavor, there is information and experience that can apply economic principles to ensure sustainability of risk reduction efforts. An important component will be data on disaster risk reduction from selected surveys and assessments, carried out by partners and governments collaborating in the context of the Global Assessment Report.

The outcomes of Regional Platforms as well as issues arising from National Platforms will also be reflected in the discussions at the Global Platform.

Climate change adaptation will merit attention as cooperation among stakeholders is key to building sustainable policies and programmes.

As outlined in the 2011 Chair's Summary, an Advisory Group will assist in the follow-up to the Global Platform and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction consultations. UNISDR will also utilize the extensive disaster risk reduction networks in civil society, government, private sector, international agencies, and the technical, scientific and academic institutions to consult on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

During the pre-conference consultations, attention will be given to the following:

Local Governments and Cities: To address the increasing urban challenges, more knowledge and practical application of risk reduction and resilience measures for cities are required. Such applications include legislative, organizational and budgetary measures; local planning processes to apply risk assessments to infrastructure improvement; urban design; ecosystem protection; and emergency preparedness. The *Making Cities Resilient Campaign* and the application of a Local Government Self Assessment Tool will support multi-stakeholder engagement, define baselines and identify priorities in disaster risk reduction planning.

Parliamentarians are instrumental in addressing questions such as how to carry disaster risk assessment at national and local levels, how to help create a deeper awareness in finance and planning ministries of the need to invest in disaster risk reduction, how to apply risk assessment for development planning.

The Global Platform will also gather the disaster risk reduction champions to outline new ideas and proposals to address countries' vulnerabilities to disasters. Champions raise the profile of disaster risk reduction and help ensure that solutions and methodologies are tailored to local and national needs.

Academic and science networks are well poised to help steer and guide an ongoing dialogue on linking risk assessment, disaster risk reduction methodologies, and new technological developments. For instance, applied science can provide modeling and research to determine the trends for 2050. They can also point the way to the required laws and regulatory frameworks for disaster prevention and mitigation and provide evaluations, samples and case studies. Finally, such networks show how we can use new technologies (e.g. Google Earth, NASA Wind, simulation models) to support local and national risk reduction efforts.

Agenda for the Fourth Session

The main events will include: Opening and closing sessions, official plenary statements, informal plenary discussions on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, a targeted set of side events, a market place, and an Ignite Stage.

UNISDR will work with partners and constituencies to more fully develop the agenda and substance for sessions. At this stage UNISDR proposes that the official agenda for the Fourth Session in May 2013 focus on three main constituencies to determine policies, practices and measures for disaster risk reduction and to take responsibility for reinforcing resilience to disasters. These include:

(i) *Private Sector for Disaster Resilient Societies*

Around 85% of all investments worldwide stem from the private sector, including companies but also small and medium enterprises and individual investors (for example through remittances) which make up a large proportion of investment as well as display innovation. Following the strong interest of the private sector at the Third Session, the

momentum can be continued into tangible policy and concrete plans for the private sector as a core partner in reinforcing resilience in our communities. Some questions to address could include:

- In a changing and increasing risk environment what does a resilient business look like? What are the elements of a sound business continuity plan or risk assessment?
- Where are the gaps in risk analysis and what measures (for instance in legislation, guidance, policies and standards) are important to the private sector to reinforce resilience to disasters.
- How do you convince shareholders to address future risk?
- What needs to be done to further implement the Disaster Risk Reduction Five Essentials for Business?
- How can microcredit and remittances be used as a means to reduce disaster risk?
- How does the private sector help building resilient cities?

(ii) Potential of Communities and Networks

There is a wealth of energy, action and drive in our local communities to reinforce resilience. Many types of social and professional networks can have further mobilizing effect on local communities. Schools, hospitals, children, parliamentarians, women as agents for change are becoming more vocal as the exposure to risk and disasters increases especially as the world's cities grow. Continued campaigns and efforts to release the potential of local communities is the key to future and concrete action around disaster risk reduction. Some questions to address could include:

- What measures (campaigns, targets, policies) can be used to increase social demand to reinforce resilience in communities?
- How does civil society and volunteer organizations influence and cooperate with the private sector in disaster risk reduction?
- How can we further harness a gender approach to promote local practices and education for disaster risk reduction?
- How do we use the power of social networks to reinforce resilience in our communities?
- What ways can we think of to better address especially vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, young children and older people.

(iii) National Governments and Local Authorities Securing Sustainable Risk Management

National governments and local authorities remain the key driver towards risk management and reinforcing disaster resilience in communities. Many governments have adopted policies and legislation, but there are still gaps in implementation. While analysis and evidence on risk management has improved remarkably still more nuanced information and practical application particularly around economics, urbanization and climate change adaptation is still required. One key message is to systematically record disaster losses in order to feed into analysis and evidence-based models for risk mitigation. Some questions to address could include:

- What better regulation or national policies can be provided to implement disaster risk reduction?
- What are the practical ways and experiences of cities to overcome well-known challenges in urban rehabilitation and change?
- Why is the recording of disaster losses an important investment in risk mitigation?
- How do you pragmatically apply disaster risk reduction to climate change adaptation? What works and what doesn't?

Budget and Logistics

For the Fourth Session, UNISDR anticipates around 3,000 participants. UNISDR anticipates an operational budget of around USD 3.16 million (and an additional USD 1.4 million for staff costs in the preparation). Tapping into a wider resource base, and finding savings through more efficient outsourcing and recruitment will assist in managing the budget and keeping costs similar to the Third Session. In terms of logistics, UNISDR will create more spaces where people can gather, engage and discuss. Technological innovations in communicating (videolinks, social media) will be utilized in order to increase participants' ownership. We will continue and extend the use of volunteer services. Finally, UNISDR will adopt stronger criteria and selection for market place booths and presentations at the Ignite Stage.

Timeline

WHEN	WHAT
2012	
February	Define scope and concept for Global Platform with partners.
March	Launch Global Platform 2013 website.
April	High-level guests and speakers identified and invitations sent.
April	Save the date communication to high-level invitees, partners, address lists and website.
May	Issue First Formal Announcement.
June	First draft schedule of GP 2013 and invitations.
All year	Multi-stakeholder and Advisory Group consultations.
November	Panels finalized. Invited speakers confirmed and sessions prepared.
2013	
January	Issue Second Announcement (including agenda and timetable for the week).
Jan-May	Regular stakeholder consultations.
March	Conference programme confirmed and room assignments finalized.
Early May	Printing of publications, including the GP Programme, complete.