



UNITED NATIONS



Information Document

Extracts Relevant to Disaster Risk Reduction

From International Policy Initiatives

1994-2003

This document provides extracts from relevant sustainable development (development and environment), and humanitarian international policy initiatives during the period 1994-2003, following the first world conference on natural disaster reduction (Yokohama, 1994) and pertinent to the Yokohama Review process and the outcome document of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Hyogo, 18-22 January 2005)

INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

**NINTH MEETING
GENEVA, 4-5 MAY 2004**

Table of Contents

Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: the Barbados Programme of Action (1994).....	3
The International Conference on Population and Development: Programme Action of (Cairo, 1994)	4
Fourth World Conference on Women: Platform for Action (Beijing, 1995)	4
Conference on Hunger and Poverty: Programme of Action (Brussels, 1995).....	5
World Food Summit: Rome Declaration and Plan of Action (Rome, 1996).....	6
UN Conference on Human Settlements: The Habitat Agenda and Istanbul Declaration (Istanbul, 1996).	6
IDNDR Programme Forum: A Safer World in the 21st Century: Disaster and Risk Reduction (Geneva, July 1999).....	9
United Nations Millennium Declaration: General Assembly A/RES/55/2 (New York, 2000).....	9
(a) United Nation Millennium Development Goals (New York, 2000).....	10
(b) Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration: Report of the Secretary-General (New York, 2001).....	10
Second World Water Forum: Ministerial Declaration of The Hague on Water Security in the 21 st Century (Hague, 2000).....	11
World Education Forum: Dakar Framework for Action (Dakar, 2000).....	12
Cotonou Agreement between ACP and EC countries (Benin, 2000).....	12
Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: Programme of Action for the LDC for the Decade 2001-2010 (Brussels, 2001).....	13
Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium: General Assembly Resolution A/RES/S-25/2 (New York, 2001).....	15
International Conference on Freshwater: Bonn Ministerial Declaration and Recommendations for Action (Bonn, 2001).....	15
UNFCCC/COP7 (Marrakech, 2001)	16
International Conference on Financing for Development: Report of the Conference (Mexico, 2002).....	18
World Summit on Sustainable Development: Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (Johannesburg, 2002) ..	18
Third World Water Forum: Ministerial Declaration (Kyoto, 2003).....	21
UNCCD/COP6 (Havana, 2003)	22
Second International Conference on Early Warning: Conference Statement (Bonn, 2003)	22
Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Disaster Reduction: Declaration of Madrid (Madrid, 2003).....	22
World Summit on the Information Society: Declaration of Principles and WSIS Plan of Action (Geneva, 2003).....	23
28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies: Agenda for Humanitarian Action- Reducing the risk and impact of disasters (Geneva, 2003)	23

Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: the Barbados Programme of Action (1994)

<http://www.sidsnet.org/docshare/other/BPOA.pdf>

II. 20. A. National action, policies and measures

(i) Establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, including building codes and regulatory and enforcement systems, in order to mitigate, prepare for and respond to the increasing range and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and promote early warning systems and facilities for the rapid dissemination of information and warnings.

(ii) Strengthen the capacity of local broadcasting to assist remote rural and outer island communities within countries and among neighbouring countries during disaster events.

(iii) Establish a national disaster emergency fund with joint private and public sector support for areas where insurance is not available in the commercial market, taking into account the relevant experience to be gained from the operation of similar funds.

(iv) Integrate natural and environmental disaster policies into national development planning processes and encourage the development and implementation of public and private sector pre- and post-disaster recovery plans, drawing on the capacity of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs and bearing in mind the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

(v) Strengthen cultural and traditional systems that improve the resilience of local communities to disaster events.

II. 20. B. Regional action

(i) Establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, regional institutions to complement and support national efforts in disaster mitigation, preparedness and management.

(ii) Establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, mechanisms for sharing experience, information and resources, including expertise, among Small Island Developing States.

(iii) Increase access to telecommunication links and satellite facilities for disaster monitoring, assessment and information exchange.

(iv) Establish and/or strengthen existing regional mechanisms and communication systems for rapid response to disasters.

(v) Facilitate, as appropriate, the setting up of necessary regional committees for the International Decade, which could serve as a platform for the exchange of ideas, information and strategies for natural disaster reduction in each region.

(vi) Support the operation of a national disaster emergency fund, taking into account the relevant experience to be gained from the operation of similar funds, as well as the enactment of standardized building codes and relevant legislation.

II. 20. C. International action

(i) Assist Small Island Developing States in establishing and/or strengthening national and regional institutional mechanisms and policies designed to reduce the impacts of natural disasters, improve disaster

preparedness and integrate natural disaster considerations in development planning, including through providing access to resources for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

(ii) Improve access to technology and relevant training to assist with hazard and risk assessment and early warning systems, and to assist with the protection of islands from environmental disasters consistent with national and regional strategies for disaster management.

(iii) Provide and facilitate technical support and training for disaster preparedness (including early warning) and relief programmes through the offices of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Maritime Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant international organizations.

(iv) Encourage the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, which will be held in May 1994, to give special recognition to Small Island Developing States so that their unique characteristics will be taken into account in developing natural disaster reduction management programmes.

(v) Through the offices of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, support and facilitate the collection, storage, exchange and dissemination of information useful for pre-disaster planning, as well as disaster preparedness (including early warning), response and recovery, and facilitate the exchange of cooperation between regions.



The International Conference on Population and Development: Programme Action of (Cairo, 1994)

<http://www.un.org/popin/icpd2.htm>

9.14. Governments should increase the capacity and competence of city and municipal authorities to manage urban development, to safeguard the environment, to respond to the need of all citizens, including urban squatters, for personal safety, basic infrastructure and services, to eliminate health and social problems, including problems of drugs and criminality, and problems resulting from overcrowding and disasters, and to provide people with alternatives to living in areas prone to natural and man-made disasters.

9.21. Countries should address the causes of internal displacement, including environmental degradation, natural disasters, armed conflict and forced resettlement, and establish the necessary mechanisms to protect and assist displaced persons, including, where possible, compensation for damages, especially those who are not able to return to their normal place of residence in the short term. Adequate capacities for disaster preparedness should be developed. The United Nations, through dialogue with Governments and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, is encouraged to continue to review the need for protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, the root causes of internal displacement, prevention and long-term solutions, taking into account specific situations.



Fourth World Conference on Women: Platform for Action (Beijing, 1995)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/index.html>

Strategic objective K.2. Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development

256, f) Promote knowledge of and sponsor research on the role of women, particularly rural and indigenous women, in food gathering and production, soil conservation, irrigation, watershed management, sanitation,

coastal zone and marine resource management, integrated pest management, land-use planning, forest conservation and community forestry, fisheries, natural disaster prevention, and new and renewable sources of energy, focusing particularly on indigenous women's knowledge and experience;

Strategic objective K.3. Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women

258. By Governments, regional and international organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate:

b) Develop gender-sensitive databases, information and monitoring systems and participatory action-oriented research, methodologies and policy analyses, with the collaboration of academic institutions and local women researchers, on the following:

ii. The impact on women of environmental and natural resource degradation, deriving from, *inter alia*, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, drought, poor quality water, global warming, desertification, sea level rise, hazardous waste, natural disasters, toxic chemicals and pesticide residues, radioactive waste, armed conflicts and its consequences;

iii. Analysis of the structural links between gender relations, environment and development, with special emphasis on particular sectors, such as agriculture, industry, fisheries, forestry, environmental health, biological diversity, climate, water resources and sanitation;

.....
Conference on Hunger and Poverty: Programme of Action (Brussels, 1995)

<http://www.ifad.org/events/past/hunger/action.html>

In the Programme of Action.

In II. The path to creating a popular coalition to eradicate hunger and poverty:

.....priority attention must be paid by international organizations to the role of women. Investing in poor women through literacy training, other education, nutrition, reproductive health and productive activities leads to strengthened household resistance to disasters. International organizations should collaborate with other partners in the coalition to work equally with women and men in defining the needs and potential of vulnerable regions.

D. Initiate a global programme in emergency prevention

Pilot programmes in emergency preparedness and prevention should be undertaken. Specifically we ask the involved international organizations, bilateral donors and other interested parties to participate in the participatory design and implementation of at least two pilot programmes to provide long-term resources:

(i) to regions prone to emergencies; and

(ii) directly into the hands of vulnerable households.

The pilot programmes should include at least one situation of long-standing crisis. They should also include both situations of refugee repatriates and ex-combatants as well as natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes.

E. Ensure early implementation of the convention to combat desertification, globally while giving particular attention to the resolution on urgent action for Africa
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World Food Summit: Rome Declaration and Plan of Action (Rome, 1996)

http://www.fao.org/wfs/index_en.htm

In Rome Declaration on World Food Security

Particular attention should be given to those who cannot produce or procure enough food for an adequate diet, including those affected by war, civil strife, natural disaster or climate related ecological changes.

In the World Food Summit - Plan of Action

COMMITMENT FIVE

We will endeavour to prevent and be prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development and a capacity to satisfy future needs.

45. Objective 5.2:

To establish as quickly as possible prevention and preparedness strategies for LIFDCs and other countries and regions vulnerable to emergencies. To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society and with international organizations where necessary, will, as appropriate:

(a) Prepare and/or maintain for each LIFDC, and other countries and regions vulnerable to emergencies, vulnerability information and mapping, drawing on, amongst others, a food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping system, once established, with an analysis of the major causes of vulnerability and their consequences, making maximum use of existing data and information systems to avoid duplication of effort;

(b) Maintain, promote and establish, as quickly as possible, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other organizations, as appropriate, the preparedness strategies and mechanisms agreed upon at the ICN, including development and application of climate forecast information for surveillance and early-warning, drought, flood, other natural disasters, pest and disease alertness;

(c) Support international efforts to develop and apply climate forecast information to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of emergency preparedness and response activities, with special efforts to create synergy and avoid duplication;

(d) Promote the development of appropriate community-based and regional surveillance systems to gather and assess information and to implement prevention and preparedness programmes.

.....

UN Conference on Human Settlements: The Habitat Agenda and Istanbul Declaration (Istanbul, 1996).

The Habitat Agenda and Istanbul Declaration

<http://www.unhabitat.org/unchs/english/hagenda/>

In Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements:

4. To improve the quality of life within human settlements, we must combat the deterioration of conditions that in most cases, particularly in developing countries, have reached crisis proportions. To this end, we must address comprehensively, inter alia, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, particularly in industrialized countries; unsustainable population changes, including changes in structure and distribution,

giving priority consideration to the tendency towards excessive population concentration; homelessness; increasing poverty; unemployment; social exclusion; family instability; inadequate resources; lack of basic infrastructure and services; lack of adequate planning; growing insecurity and violence; environmental degradation; and increased vulnerability to disasters.

In the Habitat Agenda:

Chap III, Commitments, B. Sustainable human settlements

43. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(z) Preventing man-made disasters, including major technological disasters, by ensuring adequate regulatory and other measures to avoid their occurrence, and reducing the impacts of natural disasters and other emergencies on human settlements, *inter alia*, through appropriate planning mechanisms and resources for rapid, people-centred responses that promote a smooth transition from relief, through rehabilitation, to reconstruction and development, taking into account cultural and sustainable dimensions; and rebuilding disaster-affected settlements in a manner that reduces future disaster-related risks and makes the rebuilt settlements accessible to all;

(In Chap IV global Plan of Action, C, 11. Disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, and post-disaster rehabilitation capabilities)

172. In improving natural and human-made disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, and in close consultation and cooperation with such entities as insurance companies, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, organized communities, and the academic, health and scientific community, should:

(a) Develop, adopt and enforce appropriate norms and by-laws for land-use, building and planning standards that are based on professionally established hazard and vulnerability assessments;

(b) Ensure the participation in disaster planning and management of all interested parties, including women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities, in recognition of their particular vulnerability to human-made and natural disasters;

(c) Encourage continued mobilization of domestic and international resources for disaster reduction activities;

(d) Promote and disseminate information on disaster-resistant construction methods and technologies for buildings and public works in general;

(e) Devise programmes to facilitate, where possible, voluntary relocation and access by all people to areas that are less disaster-prone;

(f) Develop training programmes on disaster-resistant construction methods for designers, contractors and builders. Some programmes should be directed particularly towards small enterprises, which build the great majority of housing and other small buildings in the developing countries;

(g) Take measures to upgrade, where necessary, the resistance of important infrastructure, lifelines and critical facilities, in particular where damage can cause secondary disasters and/or constrain emergency relief operations.

174. With respect to the mitigation of disasters, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, in partnership with all interested parties, should, as appropriate:

- (a) Establish a comprehensive information system that identifies and assesses the risks involved in disaster-prone areas and integrate it into human settlements planning and design;
- (b) Promote and support low-cost, attainable solutions and innovative approaches to addressing critical risks of vulnerable communities through, *inter alia*, risk-mapping and community-focused vulnerability reduction programmes;
- (c) Encourage, promote and support low-cost, attainable solutions, innovative approaches and appropriate building standards to address critical risks of valuable communities, through, *inter alia*, risk-mapping and community-focused vulnerability reduction programmes;
- (d) Introduce a clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities of, and communication channels among, the various key functions and actors in pre-event disaster management, mitigation and preparedness activities, such as hazard and risk assessment, monitoring, prediction, prevention, relief, resettlement and emergency response;
- (e) Promote and encourage all parts of society to participate in disaster preparedness planning in such areas as water and food storage, fuel and first-aid, and in disaster prevention through activities that build a culture of safety;
- (f) Strengthen and/or develop global, regional, national and local early-warning systems to alert populations to impending disasters.

175. In order to prevent technological and industrial disasters, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, as appropriate, should:

- (a) Pursue the objectives of preventing major technological accidents and limiting their consequences through, *inter alia*, land-use policies and the promotion of safe technology;
- (b) Take the necessary measures to control the siting of new developments surrounding dangerous industrial activities that may be liable to increase the risk of the effects of a major accident through appropriate consultation procedures to facilitate the implementation of the policies established under subparagraph (a) above;
- (c) Introduce a clear definition of roles and responsibilities and of communication channels between the various key functions of disaster preparedness and prevention, including assessment, monitoring, prediction, prevention, relief, resettlement and emergency response;
- (d) Promote and encourage broad-based participation in disaster preparedness activities by giving to the population living in the vicinity of a dangerous activity adequate and regular information on the potential hazards;
- (e) Strengthen and/or develop global, regional and local early-warning systems to alert populations in case of a major technological accident.



IDNDR Programme Forum: A Safer World in the 21st Century: Disaster and Risk Reduction (Geneva, July 1999)

http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/bd-safer-world-eng.htm

In Goals:

- Increase public awareness of the risks that natural, technological and environmental hazards pose to modern societies.
- Obtain commitment by public authorities to reduce risks to people, their livelihoods, social and economic infrastructure, and environmental resources.
- Engage public participation at all levels of implementation to create disaster-resistant communities through increased partnership and expanded risk reduction networks at all levels.
- Reduce the economic and social losses of disasters as measured, for example, by Gross Domestic Product.

In Objectives:

- Stimulate research and application, provide knowledge, convey experience, build capabilities and allocate necessary resources for reducing or preventing severe and recurrent impacts of hazards, for those people most vulnerable.
- Increase opportunities for organizations and multi-disciplinary relationships to foster more scientific and technical contributions to the public decision-making process in matters of hazard, risk and disaster prevention.
- Develop a more proactive interface between management of natural resources and risk reduction practices.
- Form a global community dedicated to making risk and disaster prevention a public value.
- Link risk prevention and economic competitiveness issues to enhance opportunities for greater economic partnerships.
- Complete comprehensive risk assessments and integrate them within development plans.
- Develop and apply risk reduction strategies and mitigation measures with supporting arrangements and resources for disaster prevention at all levels of activity.
- Identify and engage designated authorities, professionals drawn from the widest possible range of expertise, and community leaders to develop increased partnership activities.
- Establish risk monitoring capabilities, and early warning systems as integrated processes, with particular attention being given to emerging hazards with global implications such as those related to climate variation and change, at all levels of responsibility.
- Develop sustained programmes of public information and institutionalized educational components pertaining to hazards and their effects, risk management practices and disaster prevention activities, for all ages.
- Establish internationally and professionally agreed standards/methodologies for the analysis and expression of the socio-economic impacts of disasters on societies.
- Seek innovative funding mechanisms dedicated to sustained risk and disaster prevention activities.

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United Nations Millennium Declaration: General Assembly A/RES/55/2 (New York, 2000)

<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

(In IV. Protecting our Common Environment

23. We resolve, therefore, to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship, and, as first steps we resolve:

- To press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.
- To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters.

(In VI. Protecting the Vulnerable)

26. We will spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilian populations who suffer disproportionately the consequences of natural disasters,, and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection, so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible.

(a) United Nation Millennium Development Goals (New York, 2000)

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

MDG8: Develop a global partnership for development

- Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction—nationally and internationally
- Address the least developed countries’ special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction
- Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries’ debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term
- In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies—especially information and communications technologies

(b) Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration: Report of the Secretary-General (New York, 2001)

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/56/a56326.pdf>

GOAL: To intensify our collective efforts to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters.

187. In 1999, natural disasters resulted in the loss of more than 100,000 human lives. If the projected impact of climate change on disasters is also factored into the equation, human and economic losses resulting from disasters will be significant unless aggressive measures are implemented to prevent the occurrence of or mitigate the effects of natural and man-made disasters.

188. There has been a major conceptual shift from the traditional emphasis on disaster *response* to disaster *reduction*. The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-1999) led to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the establishment of an inter-agency task force and secretariat. Disaster reduction prevents, mitigates and prepares for the adverse impact of natural hazards and related environmental and technological disasters. It must be promoted as an urgent priority on the international development agenda.

189. Many countries, with the assistance of non-state actors, have begun to adopt initiatives, including the increased application of science and technology, designed to reduce the impact of natural hazards and related technological and environmental phenomena.

190. The Geneva Mandate on Disaster Reduction reaffirms the necessity for disaster reduction and risk management as essential elements of government policies. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction will help societies in their endeavours to mitigate and to the extent possible to prevent the effects of natural hazards. Separately, the General Assembly mandated the Strategy to continue international cooperation to reduce the impacts of El Niño and other climate variability, and to strengthen disaster reduction capacities through early warning.

191. Strategies for moving ahead include:

- Supporting interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships, improved scientific research on the causes of natural disasters and better international cooperation to reduce the impact of climate variables, such as El Niño and La Niña;
- Developing early warning, vulnerability mapping, technological transfer and training;
- Encouraging Governments to address the problems created by megacities, the location of settlements in high-risk areas and other man-made determinants of disasters;
- Encouraging Governments to incorporate disaster risk reduction into national planning processes, including building codes.

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Second World Water Forum: Ministerial Declaration of The Hague on Water Security in the 21st Century (Hague, 2000)

<http://www.worldwaterforum.net/Ministerial/declaration.html>

In the Main Challenges: ...Managing risks: to provide security from floods, droughts, pollution and other water-related hazards.

In Meeting the Challenges:

C. We will work together with other stakeholders to develop a stronger water culture through greater awareness and commitment. We will identify best practices, based on enhanced research and knowledge generation capacities, knowledge dissemination through education and other channels and knowledge sharing between individuals, institutions and societies at all appropriate levels. This will include co-ordination at regional and other levels, as appropriate, to promote arrangements for coping with water-related disasters and for sharing experience in water sector reform. It will also include international co-operation in technology transfers to, and capacity building in, developing countries.

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World Education Forum: Dakar Framework for Action (Dakar, 2000)

http://www.unesco.org/education/efa/wef_2000/index.shtml

Education for All: Meeting our Collective Commitments:

5. Meet the needs of education systems affected by conflict, natural calamities and instability, and conduct educational programmes in ways that promote mutual understanding, peace and tolerance, and that help to prevent violence and conflict

57. Conflicts, instability and natural disasters take their toll on education and are a major barrier towards attaining education for all. The capacity of governments and civil society should be enhanced to rapidly assess educational needs in contexts of crisis and post-conflict situations for children and adults, to restore learning opportunities in secure and friendly environments, and to reconstruct destroyed or damaged education systems.

12. Build on existing mechanisms to accelerate progress towards education for all.

79. The heart of EFA activity lies at the country level. National EFA forums will be strengthened or established and countries will prepare national EFA plans by 2002 at the latest. For those countries with significant challenges such as crises or natural disasters, special technical support will be provided by the international community. Members of the international community commit themselves to working in a consistent, co-ordinated and coherent manner in supporting national EFA plans.



Cotonou Agreement between ACP and EC countries (Benin, 2000)

http://www.acpsec.org/InternalSheet.aspx?ArticleFileName=2003/Cotonou_en.html

Partnership Agreement between the Members of the of the one part and The European Community and its Members States of the other part.

Article : 72

3. Humanitarian and emergency assistance shall aim to:

- Safeguard human lives in crises and immediate post-crisis situations brought about by natural disasters, conflict or war;
- Carry out short-term rehabilitation and reconstruction to enable the parts of the population affected to benefit once more from a minimum of socio-economic integration and, as soon as possible, create the conditions for a resumption of development on the basis of long-term objectives set by the ACP country concerned;
- Address the needs arising from the displacement of people (refugees, displaced persons and returnees) following natural or man-made disasters... and assist the ACP State in setting up disaster prevention and preparedness mechanisms, including prediction and early warning systems, with a view to reducing the consequences of disasters.



Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: Programme of Action for the LDC for the Decade 2001-2010 (Brussels, 2001)

<http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrls/lcd/reports.htm>

<http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G01/517/34/PDF/G0151734.pdf?OpenElement>

Adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

In Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities

A. 32. (ii) (e) Assisting LDCs in developing effective safety nets and swift response mechanisms to cope with natural disasters and socio-economic shocks,.....

C. 37. (ii) (b) Helping LDCs develop or strengthen national plans of action for education, with provision of special technical support to countries facing significant challenges, such as complex crises and natural disasters;

In Commitment 6: Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment

A. Protecting the environment

74. LDC-specific objectives defined in Agenda 21 and Rio + 5, as well as commitments from multilateral environmental agreements, must be the basis for actions.

75. Actions by LDCs and the development partners will be along the following lines:

(i) Actions by LDCs

(a) Developing and implementing national strategies for sustainable development, with the assistance of development partners, so as to reverse trends in the loss of national environmental resources;

(b) Increasing efforts to ensure integrated responses to environmental and economic constraints, in the light of country-specific environmental and economic constraints and profiles of poverty and vulnerability;

(c) Strengthening the institutional and technological capacity to promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development by increasing the ability of policy makers to formulate and implement relevant legislation and environmental management plans;

(d) Strengthening the important role of women in land and forest management and in the choice and dissemination of appropriate technology;

(e) Encouraging sensitization and advocacy activities through greater reliance on local communities and their traditional knowledge and practices, civil society and educational institutions;

(f) Building their capacity in order to be able to respond adequately to existing and new environmental challenges;

(g) Identifying the special vulnerabilities and possible adaptation measures that need to be fully integrated into the country's development strategies, including development cooperation programmes.

(ii) Actions by development partners

(a) Continuing to make available financial resources from all sources, including new and additional resources on an adequate and predictable basis and technical or other resources and facilitating and financing

access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and supporting LDCs' efforts in environmental protection in the context of sustainable development;

(b) Bringing to fruition the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development by, *inter alia*, and where appropriate, granting special priority to LDCs in international support, as well as facilitating relevant actions as recommended in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and implementing multilateral environmental agreements to which they are parties, *inter alia* the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. This involves, among other elements, financial transfers and capacity-building efforts, including for the development and dissemination of modern and nonpolluting energy resources, as well as improved technology for traditional energy resources, including fuel wood, especially in rural areas;

(c) Renewing the international community's commitment towards LDCs to continue to support the formulation of national environmental policies, development of human resources and institutional capacities, and environmental data bases;

(d) Supporting the strengthening of the capacity of the LDCs to participate in international environmental negotiations;

(e) Providing assistance, through financial, technical and/or other forms of assistance, to LDCs' efforts to develop and implement national strategies for sustainable development in every country so as to reverse the current trends in the loss of national environmental resources;

(f) Supporting the LDCs in their efforts to integrate the environmental component into national development policies and strategies;

(g) Assisting LDCs in establishing public-private sector partnerships to address environmental challenges.

B. Alleviating vulnerability to natural shocks

76. Post-emergency action, using effective and flexible mechanisms, must ease the transition from the emergency phase to the development phase, promote the socio-economic reintegration of the parts of the population affected, remove as far as possible the causes of the crisis and strengthen institutions and ownership by local and national actors of their role in formulating a sustainable development policy. Both LDCs and development partners should encourage the involvement of the private sector, *inter alia* in the areas of disaster mitigation and disaster preparedness.

77. Actions by LDCs and the development partners will be along the following lines:

(i) Actions by LDCs

(a) Strengthening disaster mitigation policies and mechanisms, with a particular focus on the poor, especially women and children, and with the involvement of local communities and NGOs in disaster mitigation, early warning systems and preparedness and relief efforts;

(b) Pursuing or intensifying efforts to strengthen national early warning and forecasting mechanisms, implementing preventive measures and sensitizing relevant parts of the population to the benefits of disaster preparedness and prevention;

(c) Developing and implementing comprehensive disaster mitigation and preparedness, policies and actions. Such policies should also respond to prolonged disasters with a slow onset such as drought, which often has very severe economic, environmental and social impacts;

(d) Considering the creation of innovative financial instruments, such as special insurance schemes, to facilitate post-disaster reconstruction with a view to maintaining standards of living and productive capacities in the LDCs.

(ii) *Actions by development partners*

(a) Giving priority attention to the LDCs in the substantive programme and institutional arrangements for implementing the new International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

(b) Providing assistance for disaster mitigation, at the request of affected countries, as well as for improving the capacity of LDCs to identify mitigation scenarios and establishing protective measures and contingency plans;

(c) Supporting LDCs' enhancement of capacity to effectively participate in and benefit from regional and international early warning and disaster mitigation and response networks, including through satellite-driven technologies;

(d) Sharing operationally useful disaster information, including satellite data, as widely as possible within the international disaster relief community, through appropriate programmes such as the UN web site ReliefWeb.

.....
Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium: General Assembly Resolution A/RES/S-25/2 (New York, 2001)

http://www.unhabitat.org/declarations/declaration_cities.asp

43. Are committed to improving prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response capacities, with the contribution of national and international cooperation networks, in order to reduce the vulnerability of human settlements to natural and human-made disasters and to implement effective post-disaster programmes for the affected human settlements, aimed, *inter alia*, at meeting immediate needs, reducing future disaster risks and making rebuilt human settlements accessible to all;

55. Further resolve to address seriously the challenges to human settlements posed by wars, conflicts, refugees and human-made disasters, and commit ourselves, through enhanced international cooperation mechanisms, to support post-conflict and post-disaster countries,...

.....
International Conference on Freshwater: Bonn Ministerial Declaration and Recommendations for Action (Bonn, 2001)

<http://www.water-2001.de/>

In the Ministerial Declaration

...Resources also need to be made available to assist developing countries to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and to assist in adapting to the impacts of climate change....

In Bonn Recommendations for Action

9. Manage risks to cope with variability and climate change

- Water management arrangements should take account of climate variability and expand the capacity to identify trends, manage risks and adapt to hazards such as floods and droughts. Anticipation and

prevention are more effective and less expensive than having to react to emergencies. Early warning systems should become an integral part of water resources development and planning.

- Closer links should be established between development and disaster management systems. This should be achieved both by reducing poor people's vulnerability to disasters and by strengthening post-disaster recovery systems.
- Decision-making mechanisms under uncertainty should ensure flexibility to respond to both rapid onset disasters and long-term changes to water resources. Risk management should be an integral part of water resources management. This should include establishing close co-ordination beyond the water sector.
- Exposure to flood risks should be minimized through wetland and watershed restoration, better land use planning and improved drainage.
- Particular attention needs to be paid to the poor in both rural and urban areas who are typically resident on land vulnerable to disasters and whose livelihoods are particularly vulnerable to their impacts.
- Organizations that deal with disaster preparedness and management should be strengthened.

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UNFCCC/COP7 (Marrakech, 2001)

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/cop7/13a01.pdf>

Addendum Part Two: Action taken by the COP7. In Guiding principles and approaches:

9. Capacity building is crucial to developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The special circumstances of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States need to be taken into account in the implementation of this framework. They include:

- (a) Fragile ecosystems;
- (b) High population pressure and isolated geographic locations;
- (c) Weak economies, low incomes, high levels of poverty
- (d) Land degradation, desertification;
- (e) Undeveloped services, *inter alia*, meteorological and hydrological services and water resources management;
- (f) Lack of early warning systems for natural disaster management;
- (g) Inadequate food security.

In I. Adverse effects of Climate Change

7. (a) Information and methodologies:

(iv) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional systematic observation and monitoring networks (sea-level rise, climate and hydrological monitoring stations, fire hazards, land degradation, floods, cyclones and droughts);

(v) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional centres and institutions for the provision of research, training, education and scientific and technical support in specialized fields relevant to climate change, utilizing information technology as much as possible;

(vi) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national and regional research programmes on climate variability and climate change, oriented towards improving knowledge of the climate system at the regional level, and creating national and regional scientific capability;

(vii) Supporting education and training in, and public awareness of, climate change related issues, for example through workshops and information dissemination;

7. (b) Vulnerability and adaptation:

(i) Supporting enabling activities for vulnerability and adaptation assessment;

(ii) Enhancing technical training for integrated climate change impact and vulnerability and adaptation assessments across all relevant sectors, and environmental management related to climate change;

(iii) Enhancing capacity, including institutional capacity, to integrate adaptation into sustainable development programmes;

(vi) Supporting capacity building, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular, for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events;

(vii) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing early warning systems for extreme weather events in an integrated and interdisciplinary manner to assist developing country Parties, in particular those most vulnerable to climate change;

8. (c) Supporting capacity building, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular, for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events;

(In Decision 6/CP.7: Additional guidance to an operating entity of the financial mechanism)

1. (a) Strengthening, in particularly vulnerable countries and regions identified in stage I activities and especially countries vulnerable to climate-related natural disasters,

1. (b) Establishing pilot or demonstration projects to show how adaptation planning and assessment can be practically translated into projects that will provide real benefits, and may be integrated into national policy and sustainable development planning, ...

1. (d) Enhancing the capacity of their sub-regional and/or regional information networks to enable such networks to serve as repositories of climate change related information on vulnerability and adaptation assessments and geographic information systems;

1. (h) Undertaking more in-depth public awareness and education activities and community involvement and participation in climate change issues;

1. (i) Building the capacity, including, where appropriate, institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness for disasters related to climate change, including in particular, contingency planning for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events;

1. (j) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing early warning systems for extreme weather events in an integrated and interdisciplinary manner to assist developing country Parties, in particular those most vulnerable to climate change;

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International Conference on Financing for Development: Report of the Conference (Mexico, 2002)

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/aconf198-11.pdf>

37. Multilateral assistance is also needed to mitigate the consequences of depressed export revenues of countries that still depend heavily on commodity exports. Thus, we recognize the recent review of the International Monetary Fund Compensatory Financing Facility and will continue to assess its effectiveness. It is also important to empower developing country commodity producers to insure themselves against risk, including against natural disasters. We further invite bilateral donors and multilateral aid agencies to strengthen their support to export diversification programmes in those countries.

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World Summit on Sustainable Development: Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (Johannesburg, 2002)

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POIToc.htm

Chapter II. P Poverty eradication

7. (l) Combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and floods through such measures as improved use of climate and weather information and forecasts, early warning systems, land and natural resource management, agricultural practices and ecosystem conservation in order to reverse current trends and minimize degradation of land and water resources, including through the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as one of the tools for poverty eradication;

11. (b) Use low-cost and sustainable materials and appropriate technologies for the construction of adequate and secure housing for the poor, with financial and technological assistance to developing countries, taking into account their culture, climate, specific social conditions and vulnerability to natural disasters;

Chapter IV. Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development

24. Human activities are having an increasing impact on the integrity of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activities. Managing the natural resources base in a sustainable and integrated manner is essential for sustainable development. In this regard, to reverse the current trend in natural resource degradation as soon as possible, it is necessary to implement strategies which should include targets adopted at the national and, where appropriate, regional levels to protect ecosystems and to achieve integrated management of land, water and living resources, while strengthening regional, national and local capacities.

26. Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, through actions at all levels to:

(d) Develop programmes for mitigating the effects of extreme water-related events.

37. An integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, is an essential element of a safer world in the 21st century. Actions are required at all levels to:

(a) Strengthen the role of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and encourage the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to its Trust Fund;

(b) Support the establishment of effective regional, sub-regional and national strategies and scientific and technical institutional support for disaster management;

(c) Strengthen the institutional capacities of countries and promote international joint observation and research, through improved surface based monitoring and increased use of satellite data, dissemination of technical and scientific knowledge and the provision of assistance to vulnerable countries;

(d) Reduce the risks of flooding and drought in vulnerable countries by, inter-alia, promoting wetland and watershed protection and restoration, improved land-use planning, improving and applying more widely techniques and methodologies for assessing the potential adverse effects of climate change on wetlands and, as appropriate, assisting countries that are particularly vulnerable to these effects;

(e) Improve techniques and methodologies for assessing effects of climate change and encourage the continuing assessment of these adverse effects by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

(f) Encourage the dissemination and use of traditional and indigenous knowledge to mitigate the impact of disasters, and promote community-based disaster management planning by local authorities, including through training activities and raising public awareness;

(g) Support the on-going voluntary contribution of, as appropriate, NGOs, the scientific community, and other partners in the management of natural disasters according to agreed, relevant guidelines;

(h) Develop and strengthen early warning systems and information networks in disaster management, consistent with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

(i) Develop and strengthen capacity at all levels to collect and disseminate scientific and technical information, including the improvement of early warning systems for prediction of extreme weather events, especially El Niño/La Niña, through the provisions of assistance to institutions devoted to addressing such events, including the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño phenomenon;

(j) Promote cooperation for the prevention and mitigation of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from major technological and other disasters with an adverse impact on the environment in order to enhance the capabilities of affected countries to cope with such situations.

38. Change in the Earth's climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind. We remain deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks of negative impacts of climate change and recognize that, in this context, the problems of poverty, land degradation, access to water and food and human health remain in the centre of global attention...

41. Strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa to address causes of desertification and land degradation in order to maintain and restore land, and to address poverty resulting from land degradation. This would include actions at all levels to:

(d) Integrate measures to prevent and combat desertification as well as to mitigate the effects of drought through relevant policies and programmes, such as land, water and forest management, agriculture, rural development, early warning systems, environment, energy, natural resources, health and education, and poverty eradication and sustainable development strategies;

(e) Provide affordable local access to information to improve monitoring and early warning related to desertification and drought;

42. Mountain ecosystems support particular livelihoods, and include significant watershed resources, biological diversity and unique flora and fauna. Many are particularly fragile and vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and need specific protection. Actions at all levels are required to...

VII. Sustainable development of Small Island developing States

58. (h) Extend assistance to small island developing States in support of local communities and appropriate national and regional organizations of small island developing States for comprehensive hazard and risk management, disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, and help relieve the consequences of disasters, extreme weather events and other emergencies;

(i) Support the finalization and subsequent early operationalization, on agreed terms, of economic, social and environmental vulnerability indices and related indicators as tools for the achievement of the sustainable development of the small island developing States;

(j) Assist small island developing States in mobilizing adequate resources and partnerships for their adaptation needs relating to the adverse effects of climate change, sea level rise and climate variability, consistent with commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where applicable;

VIII. Sustainable Development for Africa

65. Deal effectively with natural disasters and conflicts, including their humanitarian and environmental impacts, recognizing that conflicts in Africa have hindered, and in many cases, obliterated both the gains and efforts aimed at sustainable development, with the most vulnerable members of society, particularly women and children, being the most impacted victims, through efforts and initiatives, at all levels, to:

(a) Provide financial and technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of African countries, including institutional and human capacity, including at the local level, for effective disaster management, including observation and early warning systems, assessments, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery;

(b) Provide support to African countries to enable them to better deal with the displacement of people as a result of natural disasters and conflicts and put in place rapid response mechanisms;

(c) Support Africa's efforts for the prevention and resolution, management and mitigation of conflicts and its early response to emerging conflict situations to avert tragic humanitarian consequences;

(d) Provide support to refugee host countries in rehabilitating infrastructure and environment, including ecosystems and habitats, that were damaged in the process of receiving and resettling refugees.

X. Means of implementation

89. Reduce unsustainable debt burden through actions as debt relief and, as appropriate, debt cancellation and other innovative mechanisms geared to comprehensively address the debt problems of developing countries, in particular the poorest and most heavily indebted ones...

a) Implement speedily, effectively and fully the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative, which should be fully financed through additional resources, taking into consideration, as appropriate, measures to address any fundamental changes in the economic circumstances of those developing countries

with unsustainable debt burden caused by natural catastrophes, severe terms of- trade shocks or affected by conflict, taking into account initiatives which have been undertaken to reduce outstanding indebtedness;

105. Promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, as set out in Chapter 34 of Agenda 21, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

(e) Promote the access and transfer of technology related to early warning systems and to mitigation programmes to developing countries affected by natural disasters.

109. Improve policy and decision-making at all levels through, inter alia, improved collaboration between natural and social scientists, and between scientists and policy makers, including actions at all levels to:

(a) Indigenous knowledge in a manner respectful of the holders of that knowledge and consistent with national law;

(b) Make greater use of integrated scientific assessments, risk assessments and interdisciplinary and intersectoral approaches;

130. Encourage further work on indicators for sustainable development by countries at the national level, including integration of gender aspects, on a voluntary basis, in line with conditions and priorities.

134. Support efforts to prevent and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, including through actions at all levels to:

(a) Provide affordable access to disaster-related information for early warning purposes;

(b) Translate available data, particularly from global meteorological observation systems, into timely and useful products.

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Third World Water Forum: Ministerial Declaration (Kyoto, 2003)

http://www.world.water-forum3.com/jp/mc/md_final.pdf

In the Ministerial Declaration: In Disaster Mitigation and Risk Management

27. The growing severity of the impacts of floods and droughts highlights the need for a comprehensive approach that includes strengthened structural measures such as reservoirs and dikes and also non-structural measures such as land-use regulation and guidance, disaster forecasting and warning systems and national risk management systems, in harmony with the environment and different water uses, including inland waterway navigation.

28. We will cooperate to minimize damage caused by disasters through enhancing the sharing and exchange, where appropriate, of data, information, knowledge and experience at the international level. We encourage the continuation of collaboration between scientists, water managers, and relevant stakeholders to reduce vulnerability and make the best prediction and forecasting tools available to water managers.

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UNCCD/COP6 (Havana, 2003)

(In Decision 18/COP.6)

1. *Invites* the Parties, according to their financial and technical capacities, to carry out pilot studies on early warning systems utilizing the recommendations of the ad hoc panel, and to report on progress to the CST.
2. *Encourages* Parties and international organizations to provide technical and financial support to developing country Parties wishing to carry out such pilot studies on early warning systems.

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Second International Conference on Early Warning: Conference Statement (Bonn, 2003)

<http://www.ewc2.org/>

Calls for:

- The integration of early warning systems into government and requests the organizers to disseminate widely to authorities at all levels the relevant guidelines recommended by the Conference,
- Governments and relevant organizations including the private sector to support the implementation of the early warning programme as recommended by the Conference and to integrate the programme into disaster reduction strategies at all levels,
- The early warning programme to focus on: (i) integration of early warning into relevant development policies and programmes; (ii) improvement of data collection, facilitating access to relevant data and forecasting; (iii) enhancement of capacities; (iv) people centred warning systems in particular ensuring gender balance and a; (v) platform to sustain the early warning dialogue.
- the ISDR Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the proposed early warning programme, to sustain the dialogue on early warning and mobilize resources to strengthen partnerships and capacities at all levels,

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Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Disaster Reduction: Declaration of Madrid (Madrid, 2003)

<http://www.unisdr.org/news/madrid/Declaration%20of%20Madrid.pdf>

In Conclusion and Recommendations:

It is proposed to launch a Euro-Med programme on “Citizens Education” based on:

- Risk education curricula in schools;
 - Specific risk prevention awareness linked with safety plans for school infrastructures.
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World Summit on the Information Society: Declaration of Principles and WSIS Plan of Action (Geneva, 2003)

<http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html>

In Declaration of Principles

7) (1) The usage and deployment of ICTs should seek to create benefits in all aspects of our daily life. ICT applications are potentially important inprotection of environment and management of natural resources, disaster prevention, and culture, and to promote eradication of poverty and other agreed development goals

In the WSIS Plan of Action

C7. 21. c) Establish monitoring systems, using ICTs, to forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in developing countries, LDCs and small economies.

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28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies: Agenda for Humanitarian Action- Reducing the risk and impact of disasters (Geneva, 2003)

[http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/5Y4DK7/\\$File/conference_ang-final.pdf](http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/5Y4DK7/$File/conference_ang-final.pdf)

General objective 3 – Minimize the impact of disasters through implementation of disaster risk reduction measures and improving preparedness and response mechanisms.

The aim is to protect human dignity, lives and livelihoods from the devastating impact of disasters,

- By fully integrating disaster risk reduction into national and international planning and policy instruments and implementing appropriate operational measures to reduce risks, and
- By implementing appropriate legal, policy and operational measures to facilitate and expedite effective responses to disasters,
- In order to reduce the risks and effects of disasters on marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Final Goal 3.1 – Acknowledge the importance of disaster risk reduction and undertake measures to minimize the impact of disasters on vulnerable populations

Comprehensive disaster risk reduction, including disaster management, prevention and mitigation can be achieved through education and awareness-raising activities. Other measures to minimize the impact of disasters include: effective management of natural resources and protection of the environment; the implementation of early warning systems; ensuring that building codes, particularly in disaster prone countries, are implemented and enforced to limit suffering caused by structural damage; supporting sustainable recovery; and optimizing capacity-building opportunities for vulnerable populations. Of particular importance is directing such efforts towards populations that are most at risk, including those marginalized because of poverty, discrimination or social exclusion, or those that do not have access to disaster preparedness and response services as a consequence of their circumstances or legal status.

Actions proposed

3.1.1 States should, in accordance with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, review their existing legislation and policies to fully integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into all relevant legal, policy and planning instruments in order to address the social, economic, political and environmental dimensions that influence vulnerability to disasters.

3.1.2 State authorities should take appropriate operational measures to reduce disaster risks at the local and national levels, including sustainable natural resource, environmental and land-use management, appropriate urban planning, and enforced building codes. States should, in cooperation with National Societies and other concerned agencies, implement disaster risk awareness programmes, public education programmes, early-warning systems, contingency planning, disaster management training and other mitigation and preparedness measures, based on risk, vulnerability and capacity assessments.

3.1.3 States, in cooperation with National Societies, are urged to incorporate risk reduction as a central feature in national development plans, poverty-reduction strategies and post-disaster recovery plans, be it on their own territory or through their development and cooperation assistance in a bilateral, multilateral or regional context, with a special emphasis on reducing the vulnerability of populations in hazard-prone areas or otherwise at risk owing to poverty, marginalization, social exclusion or discrimination.

3.1.4 States are strongly encouraged to prioritize and provide resources to implement comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures, including measures to address issues relating to climate change and variability. National Societies will increase their cooperation with States and experts in the area of climate change in order to limit the potential negative impact on vulnerable populations. In so doing, they may draw on the recommendations outlined in the report “Preparedness for climate change” as requested by the Plan of Action of the 27th International Conference in 1999.

3.1.5 States, recognizing the importance of the independent and auxiliary role of National Societies with respect to the public authorities in providing humanitarian services in the field of disaster management, should negotiate clearly defined roles and responsibilities with their respective National Societies in risk reduction and disaster management activities. This may include National Society representation on relevant national policy and coordination bodies as collaborative partners with States. States should also take specific legal and policy measures to support and assist National Societies in building sustainable volunteer and community capacity, particularly promoting the participation of women, in the areas of risk reduction and disaster management.

3.1.6 The components of the Movement, in cooperation with States, will prioritize and scale up efforts to build sustainable capacity and improve performance in the area of disaster risk reduction, including disaster management, awareness-raising and advocacy activities at the local, national and regional levels. This will include an emphasis on building effective and inclusive partnerships with populations that live in hazard-prone areas or are otherwise vulnerable owing to poverty, marginalization, social exclusion or other forms of discrimination and will involve all relevant partners.

3.1.7 The International Federation will support the efforts of National Societies to strengthen their capacity in the field of disaster risk reduction through continued knowledge sharing on best practices, resource mobilization and advocacy on disaster risk reduction issues with States and other relevant inter-national, regional and national actors, including with the private sector.

Final Goal 3.2 – Enhance international disaster response through support for the compilation and application of the laws, rules and principles applicable to international disaster response

It is essential to provide neutral and impartial assistance to all populations affected by disasters, without discrimination and on the basis of vulnerability and need. Experience has shown that achieving this goal depends to a significant extent on improved understanding of the regulatory framework within which international disaster response is provided. Global research conducted as part of the International Federation’s IDRL Project identified that there are many instruments aimed at improving international disaster response but that awareness of them is often lacking and implementation inconsistent.

Actions proposed

3.2.1 All members of the Conference welcome the work undertaken by the International Federation in cooperation with National Societies, States, the United Nations and other bodies to collate and examine the effective-ness of laws, rules and principles applicable to international disaster response, as noted in United

Nations General Assembly Resolution on strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance (A/RES/57/150).

3.2.2 All members of the Conference recognize that improved awareness, clarification, application and development of laws, rules and principles applicable to international disaster response will assist in facilitating and improving the coordination, timeliness, quality and accountability of international disaster response activities and can therefore make a major contribution to the protection of human dignity in situations of disasters.

3.2.3 States and the components of the Movement are encouraged to work together to ensure the fullest possible consideration and application, where appropriate, of the laws, rules and principles that pertain to international disaster response, as well as the recommendations of Resolution 6 of the 23rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on measures to expedite international relief and United Nations General Assembly Resolution on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and its accompanying Annex (A/RES/46/182).

3.2.4 States, recognizing the importance of the independent and auxiliary role of National Societies with respect to the public authorities in providing humanitarian services in the event of disaster, are encouraged to work in cooperation with their respective National Societies and the International Federation to review existing disaster management laws and operational instruments at the national, regional and international levels so as to enhance harmonization with relevant laws, rules and principles, and where feasible, guidelines applicable to international disaster response.

3.2.5 States that have not yet done so are encouraged to consider acceding to and implementing the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations in order to facilitate the effective use of telecommunications in disaster and emergency relief operations. States will, as appropriate, also implement the relevant resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, International Telecommunication Union and United Nations related to the use of telecommunications in disasters, as well as access and protection of disaster response and mitigation workers.

3.2.6 The International Federation and National Societies will continue to lead collaborative efforts, involving States, the United Nations and other relevant bodies, in conducting research and advocacy activities relating to the compilation of the laws, rules and principles applicable to international disaster response. This includes identifying any outstanding needs in terms of the legal and regulatory framework and the development of models, tools and guidelines for practical use in international disaster response activities. This also includes the active promotion of the awareness, dissemination, clarification and application, where appropriate, of the laws, rules and principles applicable to international disaster response, as well as applicable guidelines by States and the international community at all levels. The International Federation will submit a progress report to the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2007.

