

**BUREAU OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE THIRD WORLD  
CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**Draft minutes of the eighteenth Bureau meeting  
for consideration by the Bureau**

**30 January 2015, (15h00-18h00)  
ILO, Room 7**

1. The eighteenth meeting of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held on 30 January 2015 in Geneva.

2. The meeting was attended by:

*Bureau members:*

- H.E. Mr. M. Shameem Ahsan (Bangladesh)
- H.E. Ms. Kateřina Sequensová (Czech Republic)
- H.E. Mr. Amr Ramadan (Egypt)
- H.E. Ms. Päivi Kairamo (Finland)
- H.E. Mr. Wayne McCook (Jamaica)
- H.E. Ms. Misako Kaji (Japan)
- H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi (Thailand)
- H.E. Mr. Toni Frisch (Switzerland)

*Others in attendance:*

- Mr. Md. Alimuzzaman (Bangladesh)
- Ms. Monica Martinez (Ecuador)
- Ms. Irina Moreno Gonzalez (Ecuador)
- Mr. Mohamed Nasr (Egypt)
- Mr. Renne Klinge (Finland)
- Ms. Tyesha Turner (Jamaica)
- Mr. Kotaro Suzuki (Japan)
- Mr. Shinobu Yamaguchi (Japan)
- Mr. Natalia Zolotova (Russian Federation)
- Mr. Martin Hakim Samuel (South Sudan)
- Mr. Oliver Hoehne (Switzerland)
- Mr. Pakawat Srisukwattana (Thailand)

*Secretariat in attendance:*

- Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Mr. Neil McFarlane, Chief, Regional Programmes and DRR Coordination (UNISDR)
- Mr. Marco Toscano-Rivalta, Chief, Office of the Special Representative (UNISDR)
- Ms. Dizery Salim, Programme Officer (UNISDR)

**AGREED ACTIONS**

1. Technical briefing session(s) to be convened in Geneva on questions relating to the draft post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction that may benefit from technical clarifications by the secretariat.

2. The Permanent Mission of Japan to convene a one-day negotiation session in Geneva before the end of February to produce a draft political declaration for submission to Sendai.
3. The co-Chairs to circulate a letter regarding the conduct of the third session of the Preparatory Committee on 13 March 2015 (“Prep Com 3”).

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Agenda item 1. Opening and adoption of minutes of previous Bureau meetings.**

1. The meeting was opened by co-Chair H.E. Ms. Päivi Kairamo (Finland) and the agenda was adopted.

### **Agenda item 2. Stocktaking of progress on post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and political declaration.**

2. The chair commended States for their engagement during the preparatory process. Around 65 per cent of the draft post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction was agreed, ad referendum. An advanced unedited version of the draft will be circulated with a covering letter from the co-Chairs and submitted for translation into the other official United Nations languages.
3. The Bureau expressed appreciation to the co-Chairs for their leadership and hard work in steering the negotiations.
4. The Bureau discussed how to use the weeks between now and Sendai to help prepare for continued negotiations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. It was noted that some delegations were continuing their informal consultations to seek convergence on outstanding issues. The Bureau also noted that, in some instances, delegates were unable to conclude their negotiations due to lack of information at the time. In that connection, the Bureau asked the secretariat to provide supporting information through, for example, the convening of technical briefing sessions for permanent missions in Geneva.
5. H.E. Ms. Misako Kaji (Japan) presented a compilation of States’ inputs to the draft political declaration resulting from discussions held on 27 January 2015. She noted that areas containing brackets reflect similarly bracketed language in the draft post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
6. The Bureau discussed the way forward and negotiation process for the draft political declaration. It was agreed that the drafting process would benefit from an additional negotiating session. H.E. Ms. Kaji, as the facilitator for the text, proposed to convene such a meeting before the end of February.

**Agenda item 3. Conduct of third session of the Preparatory Committee, Sendai, Japan (13 March).**

7. The Bureau agreed that the third session of the Preparatory Committee should be convened during the morning of 13 March 2015, focusing on procedural issues and transmitting the texts of the draft post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the draft political declaration to the World Conference.
8. The Bureau also agreed that it would be useful to convene informal discussions during the afternoon of 13 March 2015, to seek convergence on outstanding issues in order to prepare the ground for negotiations at the World Conference. In this connection, further details would be communicated to all delegations to ensure the appropriate attendance level of delegations.

**Agenda item 4. Update on World Conference preparations.**

9. The Bureau discussed the nomination of candidates to the Bureau of the World Conference, noting that candidates had been put forward by the Western Europe and Others Group, the Eastern Europe and Others Group, and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Group. Nominations from the African Group and Asia-Pacific Group remain outstanding.
10. The Bureau heard a briefing by the secretariat on Conference preparations. The secretariat appealed to the Bureau to encourage their respective regional groups to submit possible candidates to chair ministerial roundtables and other sessions.

**Any other business**

11. Bureau member H.E. Mr. Riek Puok Riek (South Sudan) has taken up a new post in Nigeria, with news of his successor to be communicated soon by the Permanent Mission of South Sudan.

The next meeting will take place on 19 February 2015.

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