



General Assembly

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Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Preparatory Committee

Second session

Geneva, 17-18 November 2014

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Organization of the World Conference

Progress on organization of the World Conference

Note by the secretariat*

I. Introduction

1. In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly decided to convene the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Through the same resolution, the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) was tasked to coordinate the preparatory activities for the Conference in consultation with all relevant stakeholders and serve as its secretariat¹.

2. In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 68/211 and decided that the Conference would be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015. The General Assembly further decided that the Conference would result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document. The resolution set the following objectives for the Conference:

(a) To complete the assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

(b) To consider the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for disaster risk reduction and their recommendations as well as relevant regional agreements under the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

(c) To adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

* This document was submitted late due to the need to consult on details of the preparation.

¹ A/RES/67/209.



- (d) To identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;
- (e) To determine modalities for periodic review of the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

II. Development of a draft programme

3. A draft agenda for the Conference² was adopted at the first Preparatory Committee meeting to the Conference, held in Geneva from 14 to 15 July 2014.
4. A draft programme of work for the Conference was developed by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau for the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and the host country and will be considered at the second session of the Preparatory Committee from 17 to 18 November 2014³.
5. A provisional draft schedule of the Conference was also developed as a complement to the draft programme of work. The draft schedule provides a visual overview of the Conference. The provisional draft schedule is available in annex I.
6. A list of substantive topics proposed for the ministerial roundtables and the working sessions was produced by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau for the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and the host country. A description of the provisional substantive programme is available in annex II and on the Conference website⁴. Concept notes of the sessions will be made available on the Conference website throughout September and October 2014⁵.
7. The Conference's programme of work includes three main segments:
 - (a) An intergovernmental segment composed of the following elements:
 - (i) Opening and closing ceremonies that will be held during the morning on 14 and 18 March, respectively;
 - (ii) A high-level dialogue on "Global Partnership in Addressing Emerging Risks in a post-2015 Global Agenda" that will discuss the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;
 - (iii) Ministerial roundtables that will focus on commitments for implementation and attempt to build on commitments by governments in various ministries: planning, finance, development, education and health, among others. The roundtables are expected to support the implementation of a global partnership for disaster risk reduction and resilience and will benefit from professional moderators who will guide the discussions and capture the essence of future actions and commitments;
 - (iv) An official plenary session with statements running from 14 to 17 March;
 - (v) Dialogues with major groups (women, children and youth, farmers, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, trade unions,

² A/CONF.224/PC(I)/L.3

³ A/CONF.224/PC(II)/L.1

⁴ http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads/WCDRR-Provisional-Summary-Substantive-Programme_280814.pdf

⁵ <http://www.wcdrr.org/conference/programme>

local authorities, scientific and technological community and business and industry) that will enable participants to interact, exchange views and forge partnerships in support of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Commitments made by major groups will be compiled by the Conference secretariat to support the outcomes of the Conference in Sendai in March 2015⁶;

(b) A multi-stakeholder segment that will be opened to participation by government delegates and registered non-governmental organizations and other major groups, during which participants will contribute to the discussions, share their experience and forge partnerships and commitments in support of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction implementation. The multi-stakeholder segment will include the following components:

- (i) Preparatory events are scheduled for Friday, 13 March. Requests for preparatory events are being compiled by the Conference secretariat;
- (ii) Beginning on Saturday, 14 March, a number of working sessions will focus on the development of a concrete and result-oriented implementation plan and attempt to forge innovative partnerships around key priority areas in support of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The working sessions will: report on progress in implementing the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the continuous work planned in support of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction; focus on implementation in light of emerging risks and new priorities identified through the consultations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction; present commitments for an effective implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction; and focus on the identification of priority areas to help accelerate disaster risk reduction implementation under a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction⁷;
- (iii) Study tours will be arranged from 14 to 18 March around the Tohoku region to learn about the Great East Japan Earthquake and ongoing efforts at reconstruction. Accredited Conference participants will be able to attend for free⁸;
- (iv) Excursions (which will include disaster-affected areas) will be organized for Conference participants and their spouses from 18 to 20 March⁹;
- (v) Receptions by the Government of Japan, the local government of Sendai and the private sector, and ceremonies — the Sasakawa Award Ceremony and the Risk Award Ceremony — will be held from 14 to 18 March.
- (vi) The Ignite Stage will be opened as of 14 March. It will serve as a platform for short presentations (maximum 15 minutes) on a disaster risk reduction topic, project or initiative. The Ignite Stage will

⁶ <http://www.wcdrr.org/preparatory/commitments>

⁷ See details in annex II

⁸ More information is available at: <http://www.bosai-sendai.jp/en/studytours.html>

⁹ More information will be available at <http://www.bosai-sendai.jp/en/studytours.html>

provide presenters an opportunity to discuss and explore an array of topics to complement those included in the official sessions;

(c) Public forum events on disaster risk reduction-related initiatives and achievements are open to the participants and public. The events are intended to foster a sense of shared responsibility for reducing risk and building resilience. The events (such as symposiums, seminars, workshops and exhibitions) will be held over a number of venues during the Conference in close vicinity to the main facilities. A full listing of events will be available on the Conference website from November 2014. Interactive events will also take place at the public forum, for example a children and youth forum, an architecture exhibition and a TV documentary¹⁰.

III. Organizational matters

8. The intergovernmental segment of the Conference will take place within the Sendai International Center exhibition building at Aobayama, Aoba-ku, Sendai. The multi-stakeholder segment will take place at the Sendai International Centre conference building at the same location. The public forum will be held in various venues around Sendai, including the Sendai Museum, Mediatheque, Sendai Civic Auditorium among others, in Miyagi and other prefectures in Iwate and Fukushima.

9. A note verbale announcing the dates of the Conference was sent to all Member States in May 2014, with copy to intergovernmental organizations holding observer status with the General Assembly, through their Permanent Missions in Geneva and New York. Member States were invited to share the composition of their delegation and were reminded that the General Assembly, pursuant to paragraph 18 of resolution 68/211, recognized the importance of the contributions and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Hyogo Framework for Action, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations. Furthermore, the General Assembly recognized the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, as well as persons that are particularly exposed and vulnerable in disaster situations, such as children, older persons and persons with disabilities, to the Conference and its preparatory process¹¹.

10. Invitation letters were sent to United Nations Executive Heads by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction in April 2014.

11. An online accreditation and registration system for non-governmental organizations and other major groups wishing to participate as observers at the Conference and its Preparatory Committee meetings was launched on 23 April 2014. The deadline for registration to the Conference is 30 November 2014¹².

12. A budget for the Conference and related preparatory process was developed by UNISDR in consultation with the host country. A funding proposal to cover UNISDR component was launched in April 2014. The Government of Switzerland committed resources for the organization of two meetings of the Preparatory Committee in Geneva. The Government of Japan committed resources for host-related costs for the Conference. Other donors made earmarked pledges: Australia, European Commission, Germany, and

¹⁰ <http://www.wcdrr.org/conference/programme/publicforum>

¹¹ Paragraph 20 of resolution 68/211

¹² Detailed information is available at <http://www.wcdrr.org/majorgroups>

the United States of America. In addition, UNISDR is dedicating its core resources to the strategic process leading up to the post-2015 agreement on disaster risk reduction and the organization of the Conference. On this point, UNISDR has un-earmarked contributions pledged or received from Colombia, Denmark, Lichtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Additional resources are urgently required from donors and organizations in support of the Conference.

13. Arrangements are being made to secure financial support to delegates from least developed countries and small island developing States. A banking system for per diem delivery on the Conference facility ground is being arranged in coordination with Japan.

14. Preparatory missions by the Conference secretariat are planned to discuss communications-related arrangements on site. A third United Nations preparatory mission to Japan involving United Nations Security and Conference Management Services is planned in December 2014 when all conference facilities are complete. The allocation of responsibility for security arrangements was clarified between the Government of Japan and the United Nations.

15. Arrangements are being made with the United Nations Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management regarding documentation and interpretation.

16. A strategy is under development to promote and make the Conference “paper-smart.” Documents are planned to be made available electronically using a special App and will be accessible through electronic tablets and smart phones. Official documents related to the Preparatory Committees and the Conference will also be placed on the Conference website¹³.

17. The Conference website¹⁴ provides information to prospective participants and members of the media, including information for media accreditation registration.

18. General practical information on Sendai (travel and accommodation, local transportation, tourism, tsunami-affected areas in Tohoku, among others) is available online for Conference participants¹⁵.

¹³ <http://www.wcdrr.org>

¹⁴ <http://www.wcdrr.org>

¹⁵ <http://www.wcdrr.org/conference/information>

Annex I

The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction¹⁶ 14-18 March 2015, Sendai¹⁷, Japan (Provisional draft)



UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan

	Friday Mar. 13		Saturday Mar. 14			Sunday Mar. 15		Monday Mar. 16		Tuesday Mar. 17		Wednesday Mar. 18		
	AM	PM	AM		PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM		
Intergovernmental Segment	Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee (as necessary) ¹⁸		Opening	Plenary Organizational matters	High Level Segment	Plenary Official Statements						Adoption of a Post-2015 Framework for DRR, Declaration and Commitments ¹⁹	Closing	
						Ministerial Roundtables Dialogue with Major Groups								
Multi-stakeholder Segment	Informal Preparatory & Stakeholders Meetings		Working Sessions											
					Reception by Host Country			Reception by Host City			Risk Award Ceremony			Sasakawa Award Ceremony
			Study Tours											Excursions
Public Forum			Symposium, Fora, Side Events, TV Documentary Festival, Exhibitions, Children and Youth Forum <i>(Diverse locations: Tohoku University, Sendai Civic Auditorium, Sendai Prefectural Auditorium, Sendai Mediatheque, Yume Messe)</i>											

¹⁶ OP 10 of GA Resolution A/RES/67/209

¹⁷ OP 10 of A/RES/68/211

¹⁸ OP 13 of A/RES/68/211

¹⁹ OP 10 of A/RES/67/209, OP 12 of A/RES/68/211

Annex II

Provisional substantive programme – Ideas for consideration²⁰

<p>Intergovernmental segment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level dialogue on “Global Partnership in Addressing Emerging Risks in a post - 2015 Global Agenda” • High-level segment followed by official plenary statements • Ministerial roundtables <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Governing Disaster Risk: Overcoming Challenges B. Inclusive Disaster Risk Management: Governments, Communities and Groups Acting Together C. Reducing Disaster Risk in Urban Settings D. Risk Sensitive Investment: Public-Private Partnerships E. Reconstructing after Disasters: Building Back Better
<p>Multi-stakeholder segment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working sessions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Progress on existing Hyogo Framework for Action priorities 1. Governance and Development Planning at National/Local Levels (Priority 1) 2. Risk Identification and Early Warning (Priority 2) 3. Education and Knowledge in Building a Culture of Resilience (Priority 3) 4. Underlying Risk Factors (Priority 4) 5. Preparedness for Effective Response (Priority 5) <p>Emerging risks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Technological Hazards: From Risk Reduction to Recovery 7. Disaster and Climate Risk: Accelerating National and Local Initiatives 8. Ecosystems Management and Resilience 9. Global Risk Trends 10. Integrated Water Resource Management 11. Food Security through a Disaster-Resilient Agriculture 12. Disaster Management for Healthy Societies <p>Commitments to implementation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Business and Private Sector: Investing in Resilient Infrastructure 14. Applying Science and Technology to DRR decision-making 15. Communities Addressing Local Risks 16. Mobilizing Women's Leadership in DRR <p>Accelerating implementation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Commitments to Safe Schools 18. Measuring and Reporting Progress <p><i>The above list is subject to revisions and is expected to integrate more working sessions</i></p> • Ignite stage • Study tours • Excursions

²⁰ This list is a preliminary reflection of the host country and the secretariat .and is being circulated as a working document in order to solicit further views, to be agreed by the second session of the Preparatory Committee.