



GOVERNING DISASTER RISK: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Ministerial Roundtable

CONCEPT NOTE

PURPOSE OF THE ROUNDTABLE

This roundtable intends to identify pragmatic ways and means to address the identified gaps in governance which condition the effective management of disaster risk at national and local levels, and to drive the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

The discussions will offer the opportunity for leaders to share their experience, taking into account local, national and regional experiences, achievements to date, and the outcome of the regional and national consultations for the post-2015 framework.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

The roundtable discussion will be guided by the following questions:

- What is your experience and what steps can you recommend should be taken to effectively govern disaster risk in both public development and private investment in your country?
- How do governments enable national policies programs for risk-resilient development to be implemented through the active and inclusive participation of all stakeholders across public and private sectors and at all levels?

CONTEXT

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA) recognized governance as one of the challenging areas. It acknowledged that sustainable development, poverty reduction, and disaster risk governance are mutually supportive objectives, and that efforts to reduce disaster risks must be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction. Over the past 10 years, all countries have undertaken important efforts to strengthen their institutional, legislative and policy frameworks. Some integration across climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and development planning has been noted. The science, economic, social and political evidence for disaster risk reduction has strengthened significantly.

Learning from the HFA implementation has indicated that Governments' lead in taking measures to reduce disaster risk and create an enabling environment for partnerships across all stakeholders is of primary importance. All institutions of a legislative and executive nature have a role to play to prevent and reduce disaster risk. Effective coordination among sectors remains necessary to integrate disaster risk-considerations in the work of, and investments across, all sectors and more efforts are needed to strengthened it, including a stronger science-policy interplay. Moreover, it has clearly emerged that Governments alone cannot shoulder the consequences of disasters nor the full adoption of preventive measures, and as such close and innovative collaboration across the public

and the public sectors at all levels, especially at local level are most needed. In this connection, the full active participation of all stakeholders is instrumental to the definition and implementation of effective policies, plans and programs. The worldwide learning from the 10 year HFA implementation has underlined that reducing disaster risk is not a stand-alone part of a larger planning and development context, but rather it needs be part of development and investment planning, and larger risk management strategies.

In particular, countries through their voluntary biennial HFA national reports and the three years of consultations on the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction have identified a few gaps, including: 1) most national legislation while, mentioning disaster risk reduction focuses on disaster management (preparedness and response), not on how to reduce and prevent risk; 2) guidance for the integrated planning of adaptation, disaster risk and development; 3) internal coordination mechanisms; 4) understanding of the responsibilities and resources allocation between national and local levels for optimal effectiveness; 5) inclusive and participatory planning and implementation systems; 6) financial and budgetary approaches and mechanisms often not accounting for risk; 7) monitoring and measuring systems to assist in demonstrating impact and progress; 8) better defined institutional responsibilities and adequate capacity.

TIMING AND VENUE

The Ministerial round table “Governing Disaster Risk: Overcoming Challenges” will be held in Meeting Room 1 and 2 of the Sendai International Centre on 16 March 2015, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS and MODALITIES

The Conference includes five Ministerial Roundtables, held in parallel with the plenary meetings. Each roundtable will have 45 participants. Each participant may be accompanied by one adviser. Participants will include up to 40 from Government delegations, and 5 other from the United Nations system, other accredited intergovernmental organizations, and major groups). Each roundtable will have a Chair. The 5 other participants will be selected by the Chair on the advice of the Conference secretariat. Member States and other participants are encouraged to be represented at the roundtables at the highest possible level.

Any given State, observer, entity of the United Nations system or other accredited intergovernmental organization or representative of a major group may participate in only one of the roundtables. Each participant may be accompanied by one adviser. The list of participants in each roundtable will be made available prior to the meeting.

Each Chair of a roundtable will be appointed by the President of the Conference from among the ministers attending the Conference in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution and taking into account invitations for nominations to be extended to the Chairs of regional groups.

The Chair, with support from DGACM, will moderate the roundtable. Interventions shall not exceed three minutes. Participants will raise their name plate to request the floor. Interpretation in six UN languages will be available. Each roundtable will be webcast.