

Preparatory Committee of the Third UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Informal Working Group on Targets and Indicators, Third Meeting Thursday 6 November, 10.00-11.30

Facilitator's Summary Report and Decisions

1. Introduction

The Facilitator introduced the agenda of the meeting.

Decisions:

- The Agenda for the first meeting was approved.

2. Summary of Decisions taken at the second meeting

The Facilitator reminded the Informal Working Group on the draft Decisions from the second meeting, including the adjustments to the Terms of Reference; informing the Co-Chairs to align timelines in targets with timelines of the SDGs and UNFCCC climate change process.

Decisions:

- Following comments and clarifications, it was agreed to adjust the ToRs to refer to 'agenda emanating from the World Humanitarian Summit' rather than the 'humanitarian agenda'.

3. Secretariat briefing on questions asked at the second meeting

The secretariat informed about the expert consultation carried out on the questions raised by the Working Group at the second meeting. Main suggestions could be summarised follows:

- Regarding *affected people*, it was recommended to consider affected people as combination of five parameters, namely the *number of injured people*, the *number of people evacuated*, the *number of people relocated*, and *houses damaged and houses destroyed* as proxy indicators for the number of homeless people. Data for these are available in the majority of current disaster loss databases.
- Regarding *direct and indirect losses* it was recommended to consider direct economic losses, as the data is more concrete, comparable, verifiable and easier to obtain.
- Regarding *damage to Education and Health facilities* it was pointed out that this variable is commonly available, concrete and verifiable and affecting two critical sectors of society.
- Regarding the potential *baseline* the suggestion is made to consider a baseline of 10 years, with consideration of yearly reports on absolute mortality and direct economic losses. It was clarified that the 10 years baseline would be for ten years in the period preceding the start of any review process.

A question was raised in relation to the measuring of livestock losses. The secretariat clarified that currently livestock losses are measured as part of direct losses in relations to agricultural crop production.

A question was raised regarding the number of countries that have disaster loss databases. The secretariat informed that, in the context of developing countries, the UN system in cooperation with the World Bank have been sponsoring the development of disaster loss databases in over 85 countries. In addition the European Union is working towards an integrated and standardised set of disaster loss databases across its members. Disaster loss databases are also available at different levels of development in other countries. Global targets would potentially serve as an incentive for increasing this percentage.

The secretariat clarified, in response to a question by a Member State, that it is possible to establish baselines for countries that do not yet systematically record their disaster losses, using global proxies.

There was a suggestion to consider *missing people* a category of affected people. The secretariat informed the Working Group that currently, *missing people* are accounted for in most disaster loss databases, as part of the mortality losses.

4. Further considerations of global targets for a post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction

The Facilitator invited comments on Targets 4 and 5 that were not addressed at the second meeting.

On proposed Target 4: “reduce disaster damage to health and educational facilities by [a given percentage in function of number of hazardous events] by 20[xx]”, Informal Working Group participants raised:

- Questions on the scope of the proposed Target 4 and the availability of data to measure the target.
- To consider modification of the Target to *Reduce the number of closures of health and education facilities* as a proxy for interruption of services.
- To consider to broaden the scope of Target 4 to address additional critical sectors or infrastructures.

On proposed Target 5: “increase number of countries with national and local strategies by [a given percentage] by 20[xx]”, Informal Working Group suggested:

- To include climate change adaptation strategies under proposed target 5, in addition to national disaster risk reduction strategies, in order to strengthen coherence between agendas.
- To strengthen Target 5 to make it more relevant to national processes, policies and programmes on disaster risk management.
- To refer to the % of population covered by national plans and measuring the availability of risk assessment, and capacity assessment to drive national strategies.

- To refer to “Increase number of countries with national and local disaster risk management strategies as well as integrated multi-hazard risk assessment and assessment of their capabilities to manage the identified risks by 20[xx]”.

Regarding a proposed **sixth Target** on *International Cooperation and Global Partnership* proponents suggested that such a target :

- would provide a metric for international support to developing countries and technical cooperation.
- A concrete wording for target 6 was suggested: “International cooperation to stimulate the creation and strengthening of national capacities and technology transfer at the regional and sub regional levels”.
- Members were invited to share specific suggestions of wording with the Working Group for discussion at the 4th meeting.

A seventh Target was suggested to *increase the number of people, including vulnerable people, with access to early warning and risk information by [given percentage] by 20 [xx].*

On general considerations, Members reiterated the need for targets to be coherent and mutually supportive across poverty reduction, sustainable development and climate change. Targets are useful to better emphasise, incentivise national action, and monitor implementation.

Some Members expressed the need to consult further once the elaboration of language of targets would be provided.

Decisions:

- Member States are invited to provide specific suggestions of wording on the proposed Targets by 10 November. The secretariat will compile suggestions and options for the 4th meeting of the Working Group on 12 November.

5. Other Business and next meeting

- The next meeting of the Informal Working Group will be:
 - A Joint meeting with Major Groups on Monday 10 November from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm (room XI);
 - A fourth meeting of IWG on Wednesday 12 November from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. (room XI).

Annex 1: Revised Terms of Reference of the IWG on Targets and Indicators.

Annex 1: Answers and recommendations by the secretariat on questions raised at the second meeting, based on expert consultation.

Meeting was adjourned on 6 November 2014 at 12h