

Second Announcement¹

3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015

Introduction

On 20 December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to hold the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan, outlining the modalities for the preparations of the 3rd World Conference (A/RES/68/211).²

This Second Announcement summarizes the expected outcomes at the 3rd World Conference per Assembly resolution A/RES/68/211, reviews steps to be taken towards the World Conference, and provides updates on activities towards the development of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and United Nations System engagement in the future framework, advocacy and media activities, budget and resources, and tips for planning participants' attendance.

Background

1. The work of the international community on reducing disaster risk is built on the knowledge and experience matured by countries and other stakeholders over the past several decades. Milestones include: in 1987, the 1990s was declared the international decade for natural disaster reduction (A/RES/42/169) by the United Nations General Assembly; in 1989, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the International Framework for Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/RES/44/236); in 1994, the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World was adopted by the 1st World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction; in 1999, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/RES/54/219); and in 2005, in Kobe, Japan, the 2nd World Conference on Disaster Reduction adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA).
2. In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly (A/RES/67/209) decided to convene the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to review implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and to adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The 2012 resolution requested UNISDR to serve as secretariat of the World Conference in 2015, to facilitate development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2), and to coordinate the preparatory activities in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

¹ First Announcement was a save-the-date notice for the World Conference released on 9 October 2013.

² A copy of the agreed text of the 2013 resolution can be found at <http://www.unisdr.org/2013/docs/resolutions/2013text.pdf>.

Expected Outcomes of the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

3. As specified in the 2013 UN General Assembly resolution, the objectives of the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction include:
 - a) To complete assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of 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 of Action.
 - c) To adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
 - 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.
4. The 3rd World Conference will have an intergovernmental session, a high level segment, as well as multi-stakeholder sessions and events.
5. A National Platform Forum and a Youth Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction will also be organized. In addition, announcements related to a Global Safe Schools campaign (as agreed at the High Level Segment at the Global Platform in May 2013) will be encouraged.

Regional Platforms and Meetings

6. The General Assembly stresses the importance of regional coordination in the 3rd World Conference preparatory process. As such, the Assembly welcomed Regional Platforms for their critical contribution to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and their importance in promoting broad participation at the 3rd World Conference. The Assembly looks forward to the upcoming Regional Platforms whose dates and hosts are:

May 5-8: Africa (Abuja, Nigeria)
May 27-29: Americas (Guayaquil, Ecuador)
June 10-12: Arab States (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt)
June 2-4: Pacific (Suva, Fiji)
June 23-26: Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
June/July (tbc): Europe (Brussels, Belgium: Ministerial Session on Disaster Risk Reduction)

In addition, a consultative meeting will be held in April 2014 for Central Asia and the south Caucasus (Almaty, Kazakhstan). The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction will held in October 2014 (Madrid, Spain).

7. The formulation of voluntary commitments at the regional and global levels by all stakeholders through the Regional Platforms, and their integration into the 3rd World Conference outcome will constitute an enriching and powerful drive for the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Voluntary commitments would represent the proposal by stakeholder groups for concrete actions to implement the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction at local, national, regional and/or global levels. They would constitute an expression of leadership, provide a very solid basis for the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, and indicate how all stakeholders could work together.

Intergovernmental Preparatory Process

8. An Open-ended Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) is to be established, to be led by a 10-member Bureau and one ex-officio member (Japan). The General Assembly will appoint the Bureau by mid-February. The PrepCom will meet twice in Geneva from 14-15 July and 17-18 November 2014. A third meeting could be held in Sendai as needed.
9. The PrepCom will:
 - a) Review organizational and substantive preparations for the 3rd World Conference.
 - b) Approve the Conference programme of work.
 - c) Propose rules of procedure for adoption by Conference.
 - d) Develop the draft of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction based on the synthesis report from regional consultations and other inputs.
10. Non-governmental organizations and other major groups whose work is relevant to disaster risk reduction may apply as observers to PrepCom meetings and the formal components of the World Conference subject to PrepCom approval. Detailed guidance on process and dates will be provided by mid-January.

Update on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

11. The elaboration and adoption of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction comes at a critical time, when two other major instruments relevant to the increase and management of disaster risk– the post-2015 development agenda and goals and climate change – are under discussion. The synchronicity is a major opportunity to define and agree on an overall cohesive, coherent and, to the extent possible, harmonized post-2015 global agenda.
12. Consultations with all stakeholders started in early 2012 and included eight Regional Platforms and the 4th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013 as well as online and local, national, regional and global events. There were open dialogues with relevant stakeholder groups, including governments and local authorities; Parliamentarians; the private sector; science and technical based institutions; NGOs, civil

society and community-based organizations. The reports, results and outcomes of these consultations can be found at <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/>.

13. To further inform and support the preparation and deliberations of the upcoming Regional Platforms, Prep Comm meetings and consultations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction during 2014, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction released the “Proposed Elements for a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for Consideration” on 17 December 2013 (available at <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/proposed-elements>).

Engaging the United Nations

14. The UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, agreed by the Chief Executive Board of the United Nations in April 2013, will be the vehicle to engage the senior leadership of United Nations Funds, Agencies and Programmes on in-country work on disaster risk reduction, including advice and implementation support of post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Advocacy and Media Activities

15. The achievements and success of disaster risk reduction has been the result of our collective effort to date. Stakeholders will be invited to join UNISDR to take part in advocacy activities before, during and after the Conference to celebrate the results of the Hyogo Framework of Action, promote the main outputs and outcomes of the World Conference, and raise awareness of the main issues for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
16. Accredited media from around the world are invited to attend the 3rd World Conference. A separate note will be released with information on how to register for accreditation.

Budget and Resources

17. The Government of Japan and UNISDR places the budget for organizing the Conference and events related to the preparatory process at an estimated US\$10 million. As the cost will be borne on a voluntary basis, UNISDR encourages support from all donors.

Planning Participants’ Attendance

18. An estimated 6,000 to 8,000 delegates and observers are expected, alongside several thousand members of the Japanese public. The website <http://www.preventionweb.net/wcdrr/home> provides current information on hotels, travel and safety. Details on meeting venue, timetable, registration, accommodation reservation system, administrative arrangements will be regularly updated on the website. A Practical Information Note will be sent in first quarter of 2014.

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