

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

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

**14 July 2014 (17h15-19h00)  
Geneva, CCV Room B**

1. The seventh meeting of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held on 14 July 2014 in Geneva.

2. The meeting was attended by:

*Bureau members:*

- H.E. Ms. María del Pilar Cornejo, Minister for the National Secretariat of Risk Management (Ecuador)
- H.E. Mr. Md. Abdul Hannan (Bangladesh)
- H.E. Ms. Kateřina Sequensová (Czech Republic)
- H.E. Dr. Walid M. Abdelnasser (Egypt)
- H.E. Ms. Päivi Kairamo (Finland)
- H.E. Mr. Wayne McCook (Jamaica)
- H.E. Mr. Takashi Okada (Japan)
- H.E. Mr. Toni Frisch (Switzerland)
- H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi (Thailand)
- Mr. Andrey Nikiforov (Russian Federation)

*Others in attendance:*

- Mr. Md. Alimuzzaman (Bangladesh)
- Ms. Jitka Brodska (Czech Republic)
- Ms. Cecilia Menoscal, Director of International Cooperation, National Risk Management Secretariat (Ecuador)
- Ms. Alina Sanchez, Advisor to the Minister, National Secretariat of Risk Management (Ecuador)
- Ms. Monica Martinez (Ecuador)
- Mr. Mohamed Nasr (Egypt)
- Mr. Antti Rytövuori (Finland)
- Ms. Tyesha Turner (Jamaica)
- Mr. Kotaro Suzuki (Japan)
- Mr. Shinobu Yamaguchi (Japan)
- Ms. Misako Kaji, Professor, Department of Advanced Social and International Studies, Graduate Programme on Human Security, Graduate School of Arts and Science, University of Tokyo (Japan)
- Mr. Dmitry Stegnyy (Russian Federation)
- Mr. Martin Samuel David (South Sudan)
- Mr. Philipp Beutler (Switzerland)
- Mr. Natapanu Nopakun (Thailand)
- Ms. Urawadee Sriphiromya, Director of Development Affairs Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Thailand)
- Mr. Pakawat Srisukwattana (Thailand)
- Mr. Montri Nathananan, First Secretary, Development Affairs Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (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. Elina Palm, New York Liaison Officer (UNISDR)
- Ms. Sonia Elliot, Senior Political Affairs Officer, General Assembly Affairs Branch (DGACM)
- Mr. Stadler Trengove, Senior Legal Officer, Office of the Legal Counsel (OLA)
- Ms. Dizery Salim, Programme Officer (UNISDR)

## **AGREED ACTIONS**

1. The secretariat was requested to raise with colleagues at UNOG conference management the issue of inaccurate interpretation from Arabic to English.
2. The secretariat was requested to prepare an information note on the draft rules of procedure.

## **DISCUSSIONS**

### **Agenda item 1: Reflections on the first session of the Preparatory Committee (Day 1).**

1. The meeting was opened by co-Chair H.E. Ms. Päivi Kairamo.
2. On Day 1 (14 July 2014) of the first session of the Preparatory Committee, the co-Chairs heard 54 statements at the plenary. As of Monday evening, 35 statements were expected on Day 2. The Bureau noted that interpretation from Arabic to English did not capture all that was said or misrepresented what was said. The Bureau requested the secretariat to raise the issue with conference services.
3. Points of clarification were raised on the draft provisional rules of procedure for the World Conference, which the Preparatory Committee had decided to recommend for adoption by the World Conference: on the meaning of the term “general agreement” in rule 33; and on whether rule 35 provided for decisions to be made on the basis of a two-thirds majority or a simple majority. The Bureau requested a clarification from a representative of the secretariat from the Office of Legal Affairs on those points, which were provided to the Bureau. The co-Chairs requested the secretariat to produce a written note containing that explanation, to be shared with the Preparatory Committee on 15 July 2014.

### *Workplan after the first session of the Preparatory Committee*

6. Regarding the work process after the first session of the Preparatory Committee, the co-Chairs explained that it was their intention to provide the Committee, on Day 2 (15 July 2014) a scenario on how to proceed. The Bureau discussed the desire of some delegations for the future work process to involve negotiations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Co-Chair H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi (Thailand) proposed that the co-Chairs put forward a written note on the process and timing of anticipated actions and deliverables for the Preparatory Committee.

7. Regarding a political declaration, H.E. Mr. Takashi Okada (Japan) explained that the Host Country intended to produce elements for such a declaration, in English, some weeks before the second session of the Preparatory Committee, with enough time for reflection by Member States. Ms. Martinez (Ecuador) raised the question of circulating the elements of the political declaration in languages other than English. Given the likelihood that the elements would be very brief, H.E. Mr. Okada said that he would look into the possibility of translation.

*Reflections on substantive matters arising on Day 1 (14 July 2014)*

8. H.E. Ms. María del Pilar Cornejo, Minister for the National Secretariat of Risk Management (Ecuador) briefed on the outcomes of the technical workshop on indicators, monitoring and review process for the post-2015 framework, which she moderated. She said participants were in broad agreement on the importance of having generally-agreed indicators of progress for disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development. More work will be needed on indicators, particularly on which variables would be used (e.g. baselines); where the data would come from; and the applicability of indicators to the local level.

**Agenda item 2: Organizational matters.**

9. The chair reminded Bureau members of the timing for the Chairs' dialogues with major groups and technical workshops to be chaired by fellow Bureau members on Day 2 (15 July 2014). In the afternoon, all moderators would be invited to report back to the plenary, while the co-Chairs would report back on the Chairs' dialogues. Before concluding the meeting, the Rapporteur will present the draft report of the Preparatory Committee for adoption.
10. The chair noted that the next planned Bureau meeting would be held on Wednesday, 16 July 2014 at the Centre de Conference de Varembe, Rue de Varembe, Room B, from 10:00 to 13:00hrs. In the meantime, the Bureau should be alert to requests for Bureau meetings by the co-Chairs on the margin of the Preparatory Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

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