

FIRST MEETING OF SAFE SCHOOLS LEADERS

Schedule	Date: 30-31 October 2014
Room and Venue	Istanbul, Turkey (<i>exact meeting venue and room details to be confirmed by Turkey</i>)
Organizers	Government of Turkey in cooperation with UNISDR
UNISDR Focal Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christel Rose, UNISDR Geneva • Biljana Markova, UNISDR Europe
Background and Rationale	<p>Children represent the future of human kind and a strong potential to influence future generations. Education is the means through which that potential is unlocked. Unfortunately, that potential is all too often abruptly cut short in disaster situations. Collapsing schools from natural calamities and disasters kill children and teachers. They account for a significant proportion of total disaster mortality. Thousands of schools are also damaged each year in smaller scale disasters, interrupting education and causing the loss of education staff and hard earned development gains.</p> <p>The 2009 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction proposed that by 2011 national assessments of the safety of existing education and health facilities should be undertaken, and that by 2015 concrete action plans for safer schools and hospitals should be developed and implemented in all disaster prone countries. A range of initiatives and tools for school safety have been developed since then by a number of governments and partners.</p> <p>The High-Level Dialogue Communiqué of the 2013 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction recommended to “start a global safe schools and safe health structures campaign in disaster-prone areas with voluntary funding and commitments to be announced at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015.”</p> <p>In support of the above calls, a Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools was developed, with several countries committed. Governments are invited to be part of Safe School Leaders as part of the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools and to announce commitments at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-18 March 2014, Sendai, Japan. Safe School Leaders are expected to make safe schools a priority as part of their national planning and implementation agenda.</p> <p>The Government of Turkey has developed strong experience and expertise in school safety. The Government of Turkey has been particularly successful in</p>

	<p>developing guidance on risks in the context of local schools and in retrofitting critical infrastructure in Istanbul. Turkey is also recognized as one of the school safety success stories compiled in the Global School Safety Baseline Report (UNISDR/Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education).</p> <p>Turkey is supporting UNISDR in promoting commitments for safe schools and has offered to host a first meeting of “Safe School Leaders” in October 2014.</p>
<p>Meeting Objectives</p>	<p>The meeting is expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring together a group of 10-15 Governments committed and active in school safety as part of a unique “Safe Schools Leaders” group who will steer the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools. 2. Secure and formalize Governments’ commitment on school safety from disasters. 3. Share national achievements on implementation, including existing national school safety strategy, national education plans, disaster risk reduction policies integrating school safety, school safety assessments and technical expertise. 4. Shape commitments to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools and devise the modalities for their announcement at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 5. Promote and expand the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools
<p>Discussion agenda and structure</p>	<p>First Day – Technical discussions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction and welcoming remarks, by Turkey 2. Presentation of a Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools, by Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction 3. Tour de Table inviting Governments to share their national achievements in safe schools implementation 4. Identification of opportunities to scale up safe schools implementation globally including through particular support or expertise around the three pillar approach to safe schools 5. Identification of key requirements to promote and expand the Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools. <p>Second Day - Ministerial level</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tour de Table among Governments to share their plan on school safety for the next 5-10 years at national level. 2. Confirm commitments to the Worldwide Initiative for Safe School and to be a Safe Schools Leader 3. Formulate announcements for the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and next steps. 4. Wrap-up and closing, announcement of next meeting of the School Safety Country Leaders. 5. Afternoon: Field visits to selected safe schools sites.

Expected outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitments to make safe schools a national priority • Volunteer to be a Safe School Leader. • Commitments clearly formulated for potential announcement at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai. • Modalities for commitments announcements in Sendai clearly defined and agreed upon.
Expected number of participants	<p>Approximately 40 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 countries (2 representatives per country: Ministerial and technical levels) • 4 UNISDR representatives (including the SRSG) • Selected technical partners with in-country support (World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International, World Vision) (tbc)
Technical Equipment Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round table with microphones • PPT projector, screen, video equipment, laptop
Background documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools • How to Become a Safe School Leader • Comprehensive School Safety Framework • Global baseline report on school safety • 30 case studies on integrating disaster risk reduction into school curriculum