

Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan

MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE “International Cooperation in Support of a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction” – SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE PLENARY MEETING ON 15 MARCH

Session: Ministerial Round Table “International Cooperation in Support of a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction”
Chair: H.E. Rajnath Singh, Minister of Home Affairs, India
Time and Date: 15 March 2015, 15:00-18:00

President of the Conference,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Reflecting on the development challenges associated with disaster risk, participants underscored the significance the year 2015 presents; the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, financing for development agreement, the sustainable development goals, and a global agreement on climate. These processes offer an opportunity to build a coherent and strengthened development agenda.

Participants highlighted the importance of international cooperation and emphasized the necessity to enhance and strengthen the resilience of countries with limited capacity and high vulnerability, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, and African countries.

The opportunities international cooperation offers, such as the exchange of knowledge and information; technology transfer; capacity building and training; cooperation among National Platforms; the application of risk assessments; and cooperation to tackle trans-boundary disaster risk issues, among other issues, were highlighted.

Recognising the increasing emphasis bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes, and private foundation initiatives, now give to disaster risk reduction, participants called for greater coordination among these interventions.

The importance of integrating disaster risk considerations into multilateral and bilateral development assistance, including investments from the International Financial Institutions, the work of the United Nations system and other international organizations was underscored.

The emerging architecture of international cooperation through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in addition to bilateral cooperation, was raised by many participants. Expanding new and innovative tools to support cooperation was also mentioned. The role of the private sector was emphasised.

Participants called for enhanced investment and financing mechanisms to support resilient development, particularly in light of the challenges associated with increasing disaster risk and the impacts of climate changes.

Countries underscored the need for the United Nations system to ensure greater coordination among the funds, programmes, offices and specialized agencies in order to achieve greater coherence, effective implementation and to reduce transactions costs as it relates to development programming.

While there are undoubtedly new opportunities, the importance of working within existing mechanisms to mainstream disaster risk reduction, such as through ministries of finance and planning, were noted. Participants agreed that disaster risk reduction is an asset to development and must be part of the broader international cooperation discourse.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

As a follow-up to the agreement we have reached here, in order to provide impetus to its implementation in Asia, India will host the next Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2016.

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