



### UNDP

## At the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan 2005

UNDP has actively supported the preparatory process of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), and is making substantial contributions to its thematic segment.

UNDP expects the WCDR to be instrumental for increasing the awareness and recognition of disaster reduction, for reaching the political endorsement for implementing disaster reduction measures, and for mobilizing local, national and international resources. The conference aims at:

Assessing achievements and identifying good practices in disaster risk reduction.

Defining the remaining challenges, critical needs and opportunities in disaster reduction worldwide and examining emerging issues.

Developing a set of objectives and areas of action for disaster risk reduction to implement the objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for Sustainable Development, as essential conditions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The contributions of UNDP to the WCDR have been in the following areas:

### The Preparatory Process

UNDP supported the Review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action in selected countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe/CIS through advisory and/or financial support. Financial support was also provided to the ISDR Secretariat to undertake the synthesis of information received from national authorities.

The purpose of this Review is to establish progress made since the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in 1994 through the collation of information on the status, main gaps, and future challenges for disaster risk reduction at the country level.

UNDP co-sponsored the Online Conference "Building Disaster Resilient Communities and Nations - Helping to Set a New International Agenda, 2005-2015", which was held from 15 June to 15 July 2004. The on-line dialogue provided a wide forum for inputs to the review of progress in the current implementation of disaster risk reduction and to identify future priority areas, including support mechanisms. The results of this dialogue are contributing to the discussions and outcomes of the WCDR.

### Partnerships

The WCDR is expected to launch partnerships to support the implementation of a new international agenda and programme for disaster reduction and to foster the commitment by Governments and relevant organizations. These partnerships will be voluntary and aim at providing additional resources and means for implementation.

UNDP is currently forging new or strengthening existing strategic partnerships with governments and leading international actors in a number of areas, such as:

- Disaster risk reduction in the context of governance
- Post-disaster recovery
- Disaster risk indexing, information and databases
- Urban disaster risk
- Local level risk management
- Training for disaster risk management

### The Thematic Segment

During the conference, five panel events followed by several thematic sessions will take place, focusing on specific disaster reduction themes. They will offer platforms for sharing of good practices and lessons learned. Please refer to the conference web-site for

detailed information. UNDP is involved in the following panels and sessions:

**- Cluster 1: Governance -**

***Governance: Institutional and Policy Frameworks for Risk Reduction***

In collaboration with the ISDR Secretariat, the ProVention Consortium, UNV, and UN-Habitat, UNDP has been leading the preparatory work for this panel discussion. Appropriate institutional and policy frameworks for risk reduction are essential to minimize losses and deaths from disasters and to reduce disaster vulnerability, thus limiting the disruption of the socio-economic system.

***National Systems for Disaster Risk Management in the Context of Governance***

This session, organized by UNDP, will foster the exchange of practices and lessons learned in strengthening National Systems for Disaster Risk Management. The session aims at identifying improved assistance strategies and will discuss the characteristics and factors which influence the functioning of these systems.

***Local Governance: Preconditions for Effective Disaster Risk Reduction***

UNDP will share in this session, organized by GTZ, its experiences with local level risk management in Latin America and Asia. The main focus will be on how local level disaster risk management priorities can be factored into mainstream policy and decision-making processes at sub-national and national levels.

**- Cluster 2: Risk Identification -**

***Hidden Weaknesses: Indicators and Assessment of Vulnerability***

This session, organized by the United Nations University in collaboration with UNDP aims to facilitate a comparative review of the different global and national risk and vulnerability indexes and indicator initiatives that have been developed (e.g. DRI, Hotspots and IDEA/IADB projects).

***Data for Evidence-Based Policy Making***

UNDP organizes this session jointly with ADRC, featuring the results of a working group of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, which outlined the rationale for a multi-tiered system of disaster reporting that would consist of the aggregation of local and national disaster data into global datasets linked to a common unique identifying number.

**- Cluster 3: Knowledge -**

***Capacity Building and Disaster Reduction***

This session is jointly organized by WHO and UNDP, which will share a brief historical overview of the Disaster Management Training Programme, and present ideas on a forward looking program concept for DMTP in support of the WCDR follow-up priorities.

**- Cluster 4: Reducing Risk Factors -**

***Post-Disaster Recovery: Lessons Learned, Challenges and Future Options***

The Government of Japan, the ISDR Secretariat and UNDP jointly organize this session to exchange lessons learned in recovery operations, assessments, programming and strategy development as well as national capacity building.

**Web link**

<http://www.undp.org/bcpr/disred/wcdr/index>

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