



**Global Platform
for Disaster Risk Reduction**
Third Session, Geneva, Switzerland
8 - 13 May 2011



**DRAFT for CLOSING SESSION
13 May 2011
Chair's Summary**

**Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and
World Reconstruction Conference
Geneva, 8-13 May 2011**

1. The Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Reconstruction Conference met in Geneva, 8-13 May 2011. Opened by Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon and chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, this Platform brought together the broadest ever cross-section of people committed to building resilience. Several Heads of State, Ministers, the Managing Director of the World Bank, more than 2,600 delegates representing 168 Governments, 25 inter-governmental organizations, 65 non-governmental organizations, Parliamentarians, private sector, local government, academic institutions and civil society and international organizations came together from all over the world around the theme – “Invest today for a Safer Tomorrow – Increase Investment in Local Action.”
2. Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action since 2005 indicates that significant progress is taking place and its principles have been firmly established and endorsed. The discussions at the Third Session demonstrated clearly that we now possess the knowledge, the means and the commitment to bring this progress further and make disaster risk reduction a national priority. The targets proposed in 2009 at the Second Global Platform are within reach if we take the necessary action. In 2011, there is now a clear political and economic imperative to invest in disaster risk reduction and a sense of urgency to do so.
3. The Secretary-General has called for a coalition of action and a high-level meeting during the next General Assembly to address the link between natural hazards and nuclear safety. Japan has offered to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015. Mayors have renewed their commitment to the Ten Essentials of the “My City is Getting Ready” Campaign. Private sector participants agreed on Five Essential for Business and issued a Statement of Commitment for Disaster Prevention, Resilience and Risk Reduction. And for the first time ever, young people came together and put forward a Five Point Charter on Children and Disaster Reduction. Regional organizations reaffirmed their commitment to implementing regional strategies agreed to in ministerial meetings worldwide.
4. The choice before us as Governments, communities and individuals is to put disaster risk reduction at the forefront of our efforts to protect communities and preserve our way of life for generations to come. The Third Global Platform identified the following critical steps:

4.1 Account for disaster losses in a consistent and standardized manner. Economic losses and impacts from disasters are now outpacing wealth creation in many regions. Yet, too few countries conduct multi-hazard risk assessments as basis for informed development decisions. Disaster risk reduction can only improve when countries have complete data on how risk impacts economic and social losses of disasters and on the risks they face in the future.

4.2 Track investments in disaster risk reduction, including in risk reducing development, to provide clear evidence of the costs and benefits of investments in risk reduction through verifiable and accountable data to Governments and the public.

4.3 Encourage and increase dedicated budget allocations for disaster risk reduction, use planning and project evaluation mechanisms to reduce risks in all development investments and create incentives for investing in prevention. Protect public finances with contingency mechanisms, including insurance, informed by risk assessment.

4.4 Provide clear guidance and criteria to improve the effectiveness of National Platforms in informing and supporting the executive level of decision making. Ensure that policy responsibility for disaster risk reduction is backed up by the necessary political authority to increase implementation across sectors.

4.5 Develop standards and indicators for measuring the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction at both the national and regional levels to improve quality and consistency in implementation.

4.6 Increase investment in disaster risk reduction at the local level. Complement the responsibility and accountability of local authorities with commensurate budget allotments, human resource and technical support for disaster risk reduction and encourage partnerships with communities and voluntary actions.

4.7 Greater public awareness of disaster risks should be strengthened through ensuring universal access to risk information, building social demand for disaster risk reduction and promoting individual safety and responsibility. Leverage the rapid development of information and communication technologies to make risk understandable to disaster prone citizens and communities.

4.8 Encourage the adaptation of innovative social protection mechanisms to reduce disaster impacts on the most vulnerable households, communities and social groups.

4.9 Anticipate difficult to identify and emerging risks, including those associated with technological hazards and new vulnerabilities, through scenario development and

contingency planning, encouraging cooperation across sectors and making the best use of available information and technology.

4.10 Promote mechanisms and partnerships that integrate climate change adaptation and risk reduction into development planning, avoiding the inefficient use of existing resources. Ensure the availability of climate-related information and promote wider accessibility of technologies for risk reduction as a means for adaptation.

4.11 Use regional summits and ministerial meetings, such as COP-18 and Rio+20, as vehicles to capitalize on the momentum achieved at the Third Session of the Global Platform. Support implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by promoting risk reduction strategies that protect development investments.

4.12 Re-establish the Advisory Group to guide the follow up to the Mid-Term Review of the HFA. Set up a consultative process through UNISDR will set up a consultative process on the guiding principles, norms, standards and values to be reflected in a post-2015 instrument. A first outline will be reviewed in 2013 and finalized the following year.

4.13 Recommend to the Secretary-General that he constitute a group of eminent, disaster risk reduction experts to report at the Fourth Session of the Global Platform, which together with the 2013 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, would identify the major trends and challenges to be addressed in the post-2015 HFA framework.

4.14 Request that UNISDR be strengthened and resourced in order to effectively support the implementation of all relevant recommendations emerging from this Platform acknowledging its leadership role within the United Nations on disaster risk reduction.

World Reconstruction Conference

5. The support offered to countries overwhelmed by the scale or cost of reconstruction after disasters is often poorly coordinated. Uneven and unpredictable financing doesn't always reach those who need to rebuild and begin to recover. Moreover few countries incorporate disaster prevention systematically into their reconstruction planning, threatening the development prospects of millions. This is why rethinking reconstruction is so important.

6. Previous experience provides important lessons. When recovery is done right it provides faster, higher quality results at lower costs, and capitalizes on a window of opportunity to rebuild in a sustainable and disaster-resilient way. To achieve this after every disaster demands greater leadership, partnership and coordinated support from the international community, particularly in the most vulnerable contexts. This challenge formed the backdrop to the World Reconstruction Conference.

7. Participants in the World Reconstruction Conference committed to the developing an effective recovery and reconstruction framework. This recovery framework would aim to:

- Better define roles and responsibilities within clear institutional arrangements
- Effectively capitalize on the strengths of each stakeholder
- Clearly place countries in the driver's seat on decision-making and resource allocation;
- Provide in-time relevant knowledge and lessons learned; and
- Assist in establishing robust and transparent quality and result monitoring systems.

8. Participants committed to developing improved systems and instruments for recovery and reconstruction finance, welcoming World Bank leadership in this effort. These mechanisms would provide access to reliable reconstruction financing; build capacity to manage the surge of resources; effectively integrate the resources of non-traditional donors; and tap into the financial capacity of the global capital market.

9. Participants endeavored to establish a global reconstruction and recovery knowledge practice, linking practitioners and networks working on reconstruction and recovery and providing open access to data and information.

10. The Third Session of the Global Platform closed with a call for strengthened global leadership for tackling the challenges that the rapidly increasing risk poses to the stability and sustainability of our approach to development.