



2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

Revealing Risk, Redefining Development

Europe Launch

The 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR11) – Revealing Risk, Redefining Development – is a major initiative of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). It contributes to achieving the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) by monitoring risk patterns and progress in disaster risk reduction. Importantly, it provides guidance to governments and non-governmental actors, on how they can, together, reduce disaster risks.

This Report was developed in collaboration with many partners across the globe and important financial resources were contributed generously by, inter alia, the European Commission. Therefore, the Europe launch of the 2011 Global Assessment Report and the global launch of its French version will take place in Brussels on

14 June 2011

Brussels

Main Speaker: Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Ms Wahlström will present the main findings of the Report and there will be opportunity for questions and discussion on its messages, including:

The risk of being killed by a cyclone or flood is lower today than it was 20 years ago, unless you happen to live in a country with low GDP and weak governance. At the same time, economic loss risk continues to increase across all regions – and seriously threatens the economies of low-income countries. Disasters also impact significantly and negatively on child welfare and internal displacement.

Progress reports developed by more than 100 governments provide evidence of a growing concern for reducing disaster risk. Whereas good progress is being made in early warning, preparedness and response, countries still struggle to address the underlying risk drivers. Moreover, gender and public awareness are not being adequately addressed. Investment in DRM, particularly within sectors and to local governments, remains severely limited.

The scale of recurrent and probable maximum losses should be enough to shock governments into action. Governments are liable for a significant part of total expected losses – and rarely have the contingency financing to match this liability. Therefore, they need to decide how much risk they are willing to retain and how much they can afford to transfer. A balanced portfolio of prospective, corrective and compensatory risk management strategies is the most cost-effective way to reduce disaster risks and support development.

A new risk governance paradigm is explored that would reflect the political and economic imperative for disaster risk reduction and builds on creative partnerships between civil society and central and local governments. GAR11 suggests how reformed institutional and legislative arrangements in central government and a realistic approach to decentralisation can strengthen accountability, local participation and effective disaster risk management.



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction