

Summary of Local Governments and City's recommendation for the Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2)

The purpose of this paper is to inform and guide the Local Government consultations scheduled for the 20th May (1000-1300) and the informal plenary sessions on 21 and 22 of May.

A. Background:

At the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005, 168 countries adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. The UN General Assembly endorsed the HFA later that year in 2005. The HFA responds to the need for a comprehensive, integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to identify and implement disaster risk reduction measures.

In December 2012, the UN General Assembly decided to convene the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in early 2015 to review the implementation of the HFA over its 10-year term and develop a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (referred to as Hyogo Framework for Action 2 or HFA2). The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) was requested to serve as the secretariat of the Third World Conference, to facilitate the development of an HFA2, and to coordinate the preparatory activities in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

The 2009-2011 mid-term review of progress against the HFA reflected substantial reduction in mortality due to natural disasters. However, the Report also highlighted weak capacity in many local governments. Even where countries have developed policies and institutional systems for disaster risk reduction, they are challenged to address risk accumulation on the ground. This consequently challenges governments' ability to accurately account for disaster risk in investment and development decisions.

Hence, it is envisaged that the engagement and feedback of local governments is critical for the effective implementation of risk reduction now and even more in the years to come.

B. Consultations with Local Governments so far:

The first phase of the consultations from March 2012 to the Global Platform in May 2013 focused on broad substantive issues for the new framework of disaster risk reduction.

Concerning Local Governments there have been 8 consultations, a Global Survey (from 27 February to 05 March 2013 with 1300 responses) and an Online Dialogue on "Critical Issues and Priorities to Address Urban Risk and Local Governance Resilience" (ran from 22 March to 05 April 2013). At the same time, there have been 33 National and 26 Regional consultations with some level of participation of local governments.

C. Recommendations:

Since the earliest commitments to international cooperation in disaster reduction reach back at least to the 1980s, there has been a clear recognition that local action is fundamental to successfully reducing disaster risk. The consultations so far reaffirmed this through a repeated emphasis on the need for well-capacitated local governments and community engagement and ownership of resilience-building efforts.

The narration below compiles the views expressed by Local Governments and partners for HFA 2 in the first year of consultation. Many Local governments leaders, Mayors,

International agencies and community organizations have called for,

- a) the **HFA2 should be designed with local actors in mind as a primary implementer**. This would help them to understand the importance of disaster risk reduction, successful implementation strategies, and how to build their capacities and leverage their existing resources in the most cost effective way.
- b) efforts to **clearly demarcate the responsibilities at the central, provincial, district or municipal levels, and to strengthen the processes of decentralization of responsibilities** including resources to local government, through improved regulation and mechanisms for accessing resources.
- c) HFA2 to ensure that **disaster risk reduction is made a core function of the Local Governments**, with consistent budget allocation and staffing.
- d) **stronger linkages between national and local government – including the alignment of national policies with local needs**.
- e) **greater emphasis on monitoring and accountability instruments to guarantee law enforcement**.
- f) **more support for capacity-** building and awareness at the local level for the HFA2, including further training of local government and communities and ensuring access to available tools and knowledge.
- g) **ensuring community involvement in decision-making processes** and building partnerships with community-based or grassroots associations.
- h) stronger emphasis on **school safety, education, and ensuring children and youth's participation in risk analysis** and resilience-building initiatives.
- i) the urgent need to cultivate a culture of prevention in households, communities, institutions and businesses was re-iterated. This includes the view that **more attention needs to be given to understanding the factors that can influence** the way people interpret risk and the conditions that lead people to act on risk information.
- j) **application of indigenous and traditional knowledge**, cultural values and belief systems in public awareness efforts has also been recommended.
- k) **further collaboration** between communities, local and national governments, NGOs, and the private sector must be consciously nurtured.

D. Keys areas of discussion

The following questions would be the focus for the consultations session of Local Governments and partners on Monday 20 May (1000-1300). All presenters, speakers and participants are advised to address the below areas in their interventions.

- I. What are the HFA2 priorities from Local perspective? What has yet to be achieved in the implementation of the current HFA (2005-15) and why?
- II. What challenges and opportunities exist? What can an international agreement do to address these challenges?

- III. What key elements/drivers have to be in place for building resilience to disaster risks at local level? What is missing in the current HFA?
- IV. What factors in the external environment have changed since 2005? What are roles and responsibilities of each Local Government Leaders/Mayors and partners of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign to accelerate disaster risk reduction?

E. Way forward

The first phase of the consultations confirmed the high interest of Local Governments in a post- 2015 instrument for disaster risk reduction or a HFA2.

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform from 19 to 23 May 2013 in Geneva is a major milestone in the consultations on HFA2. It will be the largest gathering of stakeholders to consult on the HFA2 before the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015.

Following the Global Platform, the consultations will enter the second phase. Based on the outcomes at the Global Platform, the second phase will focus on the format, timeframe as well as its implementation and review process.

There will be a number of events and meetings between the Global Platform and the World Conference in 2015. Countries and Campaign partners will be hosting special events to assist in the global consultations on specific components and they will be further consulted in the run-up to 2015.

UNISDR will produce a “DRR at Local Level report” to inform the status, pate local level Links will be made to the international discussion on sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. This report will also inform UCLG summits and the Habitat Agenda III (2016).

Regional Platform meetings in 2014 will be a key part of the second phase of consultations as they review the content of HFA2. These Regional meetings will include dedicated consultations amongst Local Governments. Several national and local partners are already planning for in country consultations. National governments are being advised to include local government participation and issues in their consultations.

The HFA2 will be submitted for consideration and adoption at the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in early 2015.

The website: <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/> will inform and monitor events and forums, track results and provide an interactive central point for reports, guidance and planning.

The Making Cities Resilient Campaign website: <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/> will continue to be the primary interface for the campaign cities and partners.

F. Outcomes documents of Local consultations

- I. Post-HFA national and local consultations in Pakistan
Organizer: UNISDR; PDMA; NDMA | 05 Mar - 15 Apr 2013
<http://preventionweb.net/go/32589>
- II. Post-HFA consultation with communities in Pakistan
Organizer: RDP | 04 Feb - 12 Apr 2013
<http://preventionweb.net/go/32477>
- III. Post-HFA national consultations in India
Organizer: India - government; UNDP India | 30 Oct - 29 Nov 2012
<http://preventionweb.net/go/31499>
- IV. 5th Asian ministerial conference on disaster risk reduction
Organizer: UNISDR; BNPB | 22 - 25 Oct 2012 | Indonesia
http://www.preventionweb.net/files/23540_2933205mayor1.pdf
- V. Post-HFA consultation with Africa cities at Africities Summit
2012 05 - 06 Dec 2012 | Senegal
<http://preventionweb.net/go/30979>
- VI. Post-HFA local consultation with Arab States
Organizer: UNISDR ROAS; PPRD South | 16 - 19 Oct 2012 | Egypt
<http://preventionweb.net/go/31988>
- VII. Sweden National Platform meeting and post-2015 consultation
Organizer: MSB | 14 - 15 Nov 2012
<http://preventionweb.net/go/29250>
- VIII. Increasing disaster resilience in urban settings
Organizer: PPRD South | 15 - 19 Oct 2012 | Portugal
<http://preventionweb.net/go/28955>
- IX. Post HFA mayors' and local government consultation
Organizer: ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability; UNISDR | 14 May 2012
<http://preventionweb.net/go/27499>
- X. Online Survey - "Local Governments and Cities" Feedback on the HFA2
Organiser: UNISDR | 27 Feb – 05 March
<http://tinyurl.com/dytdslm>
- XI. Online Dialogue - Critical issues and priorities needed to address urban risks and local governance for disaster resilience
Organiser: UNISDR | 22 Mar - 5 Apr 2013
<http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/documents/Summary-and-Closing-Remarks-Local-Governance.pdf>