UN General Assembly
Informal Thematic Debate on
Disaster Risk Reduction

12 April 2012

North Lawn Building Conference Room 2
46th Street at First Avenue
UN Headquarters, New York

Agenda - Speakers' Biographies - Concept Note

Organized in cooperation with UNISDR, DESA, OCHA, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, and Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations

TIME	PROGRAMME – CONFERENCE ROOM 2 (NLB)
10am – 10:45am	**OPENING SESSION**
	H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly Ms. Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations Secretary-General (*delivering remarks on behalf of H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary-General*) H.E. Mr. Willem Rampangilei, Deputy Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare of the Republic of Indonesia (*delivering remarks on behalf of H.E. Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, UNISDR Global Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction*) Senator The Hon. Bob Carr, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia (*delivering remarks on behalf of the Group of Friends of Disaster Risk Reduction*) H.E. Mr. Joe Nakano, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
10:45am – 1 pm	**INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION I:** **ADDRESSING URBAN RISK THROUGH PUBLIC INVESTMENT**
	Moderated by Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Introduction: Understanding urban risk today and projections for tomorrow High-level expert addressing each of the following sub-themes: ▪ Making cities resilient *Mr. Augusto Barrera (PhD), Mayor of Quito (Ecuador)* ▪ Strengthening innovative partnerships: increasing private sector engagement *Mr. Gary Lawrence, Corporate V.P. and Chief Sustainability Officer, AECOM (USA)* ▪ Urbanization and environmental emergencies *Mr. Fumihiko Imamura (PhD), Professor of Tsunami Engineering, Tohoko University (Japan)* ▪ Utilizing governance tools for effecting sustainable change *Mr. K. Gokhan Elgin, Director, ISMEP Project, Istanbul Governorship (Turkey)* ▪ Building political commitment to address disaster risk in the face of rapid urbanization, and the challenges associated with environmental degradation, urban poverty and inequity *Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat*
1:15pm – 2:30pm	**SIDE-EVENT:** **COMPREHENSIVE ACTION TO SUSTAINABLY REDUCE VULNERABILITIES**
	Moderated by Khaled Mansour, Director of Communications, UNICEF ▪ Advancing an integrated humanitarian and development approach in building resilience *Ms. Catherine Bragg, Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator* ▪ Lessons-learned and national and regional initiatives: providing timely and appropriate assistance *H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ould Teguedi, Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations*

	▪ Global overview and trends on Food Security and Nutrition *Dr. David Nabarro, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition [via video-conference from Rome]* ▪ Operational perspectives: working with communities *Mr. Mohamed Ashmawey (PhD), CEO, Islamic Relief* ▪ Spending where it counts: strategic investments to reduce vulnerabilities *Mr. Jan Kellett, Programme Leader, Global Humanitarian Assistance* ▪ Announcement on the launch of the book "More With Less: Disasters in an Era of Diminishing Resources" *Dr. Kevin M. Cahill, Senior Advisor on Humanitarian Issues and Public Health to the President of the General Assembly* French translation will be available. Lunch will be provided by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.
3pm – 5:30pm	**INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION II:** **INCREASING RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS THROUGH CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RISK REDUCTION**
	Moderated by Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Introduction: Addressing the risk reality in vulnerable countries High-level expert addressing each of the following sub-themes: ▪ The blue economy: economic opportunities through climate adaptation *Mr. Angus Friday (PhD), Senior International Climate Policy Specialist, World Bank* ▪ Evidence-based decision making: using scientific knowledge in risk reduction and climate adaptation planning *Ms. Barbara Carby (PhD), Director of the UWI Disaster Risk Reduction* ▪ Applying ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation *Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Division Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)* ▪ From legislation to action: implementing effective risk reduction policies *Hon. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of the Parliament (Bangladesh)* ▪ Building resilience through innovative risk management *Mr. John Schneider (PhD), Group Leader, International Geoscience (Australia)* ▪ Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought to better strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability of disaster-prone communities *Mr. Melchiade Bukuru, Chief, UNCCD Liaison Office*
5:30pm – 6pm	**CLOSING SESSION**
	Summary: Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction ***Closing Remarks:*** H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly

Concept Note

THEMATIC DEBATE
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
12 April 2012 – New York

BACKGROUND

Commitment to address the world's increasing vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk arises from a clear acknowledgment that the impact of climate change is resulting in more frequent, intense and geographically distributed hazards and that the world's increasing urbanization is concentrating economic and physical risk in densely populated cities. This in turn can have a devastating sequential and collateral impact with far reaching environmental, economic and social consequences, as seen in Japan following the Great Eastern Japan earthquake and tsunami, in Haiti following the devastating earthquake, and in Bangkok following the mega floods.

Disaster risk is increasing globally. Over the past decade, water and weather-related disasters, such as floods and storms affected most people, caused the greatest economic losses and represented more than 80 per cent of all disaster events. However, earthquakes are the deadliest disasters in most continents, with drought remaining the biggest killer in Africa. Development efforts are increasingly at risk. Underlying risk drivers, such as poor urban governance, lack of proper urban planning and land management, vulnerable rural livelihoods, declining ecosystems, and climate change underpin the expansion of disaster risk.

In this context, much of the risk is associated with public investment decisions, which are shaped through a number of development planning processes that include land-use planning and management, sector investment planning, ecosystem management, as well as public and private investment. Factoring and applying disaster risk into public investment decisions directly addresses critical risk drivers and downplays potential disaster-related losses and costs at a scale impossible to achieve through stand-alone disaster risk management. Through the application of disaster risk reduction, quality and sustainability of public spending is enhanced and further contributes to social and economic development and building resilience.

For Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the need to reduce disaster risk through adaptation to climate change and strengthening early warning systems forms a significant part of their national response, particularly given the often limited economic base (fisheries, tourism and single crops) and their high degree of overall exposure to disasters.

Disasters in Africa pose a major obstacle to the African continent's efforts to achieve sustainable development, especially in view of the region's insufficient capacities to predict, monitor, deal with and mitigate disasters. Reducing the vulnerability of the African people to hazards is a necessary element of poverty reduction strategies, including efforts to protect past development gains.

As stated in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building resilience of nations, cities, and communities to disasters, disaster risk reduction is intrinsically part of sustainable development as it is about addressing the underlying risks to development, reducing vulnerability and thereby increasing resilience of nations, cities, and communities. This requires community action. To achieve this, public education on sustainable development broadly, and disaster risk reduction specifically, needs to be supported as a key instrument of accountability.

It is also worth noting that gender relations clearly play a role in the political economy of disaster, organizational relief and response, community leadership and mobilization, household preparation and family recovery and survival strategies in disaster-resilient communities. Specific guidelines for integrating gender issues into the preparedness activities for disaster planning as well as for ensuring provision of gender-fair assistance are necessary.

Experiences from countries have shown that disaster risk reduction is most cost-effective when it is integrated from the beginning of the process, including in adaptation. In the context of development there are significant opportunities for all Member States to address risk through a new institutional framework for sustainable development.

OBJECTIVE

The preparatory process of Rio+20 has identified 'disaster risk reduction and resilience' as one of the emerging issues in the context of sustainable development. This coincides with the growing desire of Member States to increase dialogue on innovative solutions to address the challenge of disaster risk. Against this background, it is very timely to hold an informal thematic debate on addressing disaster risk through public investment decisions.

The overall objective is to support and advance the dialogue already underway on how best to integrate the disaster risk reduction approach into the Rio+20 outcomes.

Building on the Hyogo Framework for Action (and its Mid-Term Review 2011), the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, and in reference to the ongoing preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, the intended outcome of the dialogue are to strengthen understanding of how urban risk reduction through public investment contributes to urban resilience, and what opportunities are available through private sector engagement, and to explore opportunities to advance sustainable development through adaptation in the context of Africa, SIDS, LDCs, and other high-risk countries.

The outcome of the thematic debate, a President's Summary, will inform and contribute to the Rio+20 process.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Thematic debate will take place on Thursday, 12 April 2012 at Conference Room 2 (NLB), UN Headquarters, New York. The meeting will consist of opening and closing sessions and three interactive panel discussions (morning, afternoon and a side-event).

SESSION I (MORNING): ADDRESSING URBAN RISK THROUGH PUBLIC INVESTMENT

No country is immune from the risk of a disaster, regardless of the level of economic and social development. With over 50% of the world's population now living in cities, there is a critical need to look at how urban risk is managed and reduced, in spite of increasing pressures, through sustainable development mechanisms.

SIDE EVENT: COMPREHENSIVE ACTION TO SUSTAINABLY REDUCE VULNERABILITIES

Lunch-time panel will look at the links between disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response. The best recent practical example that combines resilience, early action, preparedness, humanitarian response, and sustainability issue is the response to the current crisis in Sahel, which will be used as a case study.

During the panel, an announcement will be made on the upcoming launch of a book that deals with disasters in an era of diminishing resources, with the foreword by the President of the General Assembly. The contributors include many prominent experts in the field.

SESSION II (AFTERNOON): INCREASING RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS THROUGH CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RISK REDUCTION

For Africa, SIDS, LDCs, and other high-risk countries an immediate development priority is to increase resilience to disasters through adaptation. Addressing these challenges within a sustainable development agenda secures necessary investment while reducing exposure to disaster risk.

Following presentations by the panellists, the floor will be open to delegates and other participants to pose questions and to share their experience and perspectives. Delegations are encouraged to engage in an open and interactive discussion. There will be no established list of speakers, and delegations are kindly asked to limit their interventions to a maximum of 3 minutes.

Speakers' Biographies

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
President of the United Nations General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser was elected President of the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly on 22 June 2011 and assumed the Presidency on 13 September 2011. A veteran diplomat, Mr. Al-Nasser has the rank of Minister, granted by His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar. Mr. Al-Nasser has contributed to advancing the multilateral agenda in the realms of peace and security, sustainable development and South-South Cooperation over four decades.

Mr. Al-Nasser served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations in New York (1998-2011), during which he represented his country on the UN Security Council for two-year term of Qatar as non-permanent member (2006-2007), Ambassador to Jordan (1993-1998), Minister Plenipotentiary at the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations in New York (1986-1993), Consul-General for Qatar in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (1975-1981), at the Embassy of Qatar in Islamabad, Pakistan (1975), and as Attaché at the Embassy of Qatar in Beirut, Lebanon (1972). Mr. Al-Nasser was educated in Doha and Beirut and is a recipient of numerous decorations and awards.

H.E. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ban Ki-moon is the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, serving his second term. His priorities have been to mobilize world leaders around a set of new global challenges, from climate change and economic upheaval to pandemics and increasing pressures involving food, energy and water. He has sought to be a bridge-builder, to give voice to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, and to strengthen the Organization itself.

The Secretary-General served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea. His 37 years of service with the Ministry included postings in New Delhi, Washington D.C. and Vienna, and responsibility for a variety of portfolios, including Foreign Policy Adviser to the President, Chief National Security Adviser to the President, Deputy Minister for Policy Planning and Director-General of American Affairs.

Susana Malcorra
Under-Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations Secretary-General

On 2 March 2012, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Ms. Susana Malcorra, a national of Argentina, as his new Chef de Cabinet, who at the time was serving as the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support. During her tenure as the first head

of the Department of Field Support, she directed logistical and administrative support for UN peace missions worldwide in support of about 30 field operations comprising 120,000 military, police and civilian personnel.

Prior to joining the Secretariat, Ms. Malcorra served as Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme overseeing daily emergency and humanitarian operations. Before joining the WFP in 2004, she accrued 25 years of experience in the private sector, including leadership roles at IBM and Telecom Argentina.

H.E. Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President of the Republic of Indonesia

Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is currently serving as the 6th President of Republic of Indonesia, following his re-election to a second term in the 2009 presidential elections. He graduated from the Military Academy in 1973 and served a very distinguished military career, including as a chief commander of the United Nations Military Observer in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was appointed as Minister of Mining and Energy and served as Coordinating Minister for Political, Social, and Security Affairs under President Abdurrahman Wahid (2000-2001). He was re-appointed as coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs under President Megawati Soekarnoputri (2001-2004).

He studied and received his M.A degree at Webster University in St. Louis, USA earned a Doctorate Degree in Agricultural Economics from Bogor Institute Of Agriculture, Indonesia. He has also received a number of Doctor Honoris Causa (HC) from Webster University, USA, the Thammasat University, Thailand and from Keio University, Japan.

President Yudhoyono was ranked as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2009 by Time Magazine. He is also a recipient of several international awards, including IAPC Democracy Award, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Award for Leadership and the United Nations Global Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction.

H.E. Mr. Willem Rampangilei
Deputy Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare of the Republic of Indonesia

Mr. Willem Rampangilei is the Deputy Coordinating Minister of People's Welfare in charge of environmental, disaster management, and social conflict/social vulnerability issues. He is a member of the Global Agenda Council at the World Economic Forum, Head of the Indonesian National Task Force assisting with the establishment of the AHA Center, the Indonesian National Coordinator for the establishment of the Disaster Resource Partnership (DRP), and National Coordinator of the Working Group on Civilian Capacity Building in Peacekeeping.

He was an Indonesian Navy officer who has served and commanded on various warship in the Indonesian Navy's Eastern Fleet. He had oversees military training course in Australia, USA, Netherland and Belgium. Prior to his current position, he was a Military Advisor to the Indonesian Permanent Representative to the UN; Dean of the Military and Police Advisor Community (MPAC); Chief of National Hydrogaphy; lecturer at the Indonesian National Resilience Institute (LEMHANNAS) on Defense and Security. He is now pursuing a doctoral degree in Public Policy.

Senator The Hon. Bob Carr
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia

Minister Carr was the longest continuously serving Premier in New South Wales history (elected in 1995, 1999 and 2003). As Premier he introduced the world's first carbon trading scheme and curbed cleaning of native vegetation as anti-greenhouse measures. He was a member of the International Task Force on Climate Change convened by Tony Blair, and was made a life member of the Wilderness Society in 2003. He has also received the World Conservation Union International Park Merit Award for creating 350 new national parks.

In March 2012 he was designated by Prime Minister Julia Gillard as Australia's Foreign Minister. He was elected to the Australian Senate to fill a casual Senate vacancy and sworn into the Senate and Cabinet on March 13, 2012.

H.E. Mr. Joe Nakano
Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

H.E. Mr. Nakano became the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs for the Noda Cabinet. Prior to that, Mr. Nakano was elected in the House of Representatives in 2003 and re-elected in 2009.

Mr. Nakano worked as a Representative of International Development/Relief office in Cambodia. He was also engaged in development assistance work in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Mr. Nakano holds MBA from LeBow College of Business, Drexel University (USA).

Ms. Margareta Wahlström
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Margareta Wahlström has over 30 years of extensive national and international experience in humanitarian relief operations in disaster and conflict areas, and in institution-building to strengthen national capacity for disaster preparedness, response and for risk reduction.

In November 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced her appointment as the first Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. Ms Wahlström is based in Geneva and heads UNISDR, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Dr. Augusto Barrera
Mayor of Quito (Ecuador)

Prior to leading the Metropolitan District of Quito, Dr. Barrera was an academic, specializing in social policy, planning and local-regional development. Dr. Barrera has authored a number of publications on social movements, public policy, decentralization, and local development.

In addition to his academic work, Dr. Barrera was previously the Secretary of Social Dialogue and Planning of the Republic of Ecuador and a member of the Council for the District of Quito.

Mr. Gary Lawrence
Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer, AECOM

Mr. Lawrence leads AECOM's sustainability efforts by managing AECOM's extensive resources and skills in sustainability for projects across the enterprise. AECOM is an $8 billion global provider of professional technical and management support services.

Previously, Mr. Lawrence served on the faculty of the University of Washington's College of Architecture and Urban Planning. He was also planning director for the City of Seattle, where he led development of one of the world's first comprehensive plan dedicated to sustainability. Mr. Lawrence served on US President Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development and has advised a number of governments across the world on matters of sustainable development, economics and environmental policy.

Dr. Fumihiko Imamura
Professor of Tsunami Engineering, Tohoku University, Japan

Dr. Imamura is the Vice Director of the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDes) and a Tsunami Engineering Professor at Tohoku University, Japan. He serves as a Council Member of the International Society for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Hazards and an Editorial Board member of the Journal of Waterway, Port, Coastal and Ocean Engineering and the Journal of Earthquake and Tsunami of the World Scientific.

Dr. Imamura has authored several and has published numerous articles in research publication. His primary research areas of interest include tsunami engineering, numerical

simulation for tsunamis, real time tsunami warning, disaster mitigation technology and human response for information and evacuation.

Mr. K. Gokhan Elgin
Director, ISMEP Project, Istanbul Governorship

Mr. Elgin is the Director of the Istanbul Seismic Risk Mitigation and Emergency Management Project (ISMEP). The €1 billion project is working to improve Istanbul's earthquake preparedness by enhancing institutional and technical capacities, raising public awareness, strengthening critical public facilities, especially schools and hospitals, and supporting measures for better enforcement of building codes and land use planning.

Mr. Elgin has considerable experience in the earthquake preparedness and recovery fields, having been involved in an array of programmes in various technical capacities. He previously worked as a civil engineer in the private sector.

Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira
Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat
Ms. Kirabo is the Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General for UN-HABITAT.

Prior to this appointment, Ms. Kirabo was the Governor of Eastern Province, the largest province in Rwanda. Previously, Ms. Kirabo was Mayor of Kigali City, one of the fastest urbanizing cities in the world. In recognition of the high level of cleanliness, greenness, safety and the sustainable, affordable housing initiatives combined with pro-poor urban employment opportunities, under Ms. Kirabo's leadership, Kigali won the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honour Award in 2008. Previously Ms. Kirabo was an elected Member of Parliament and member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee in charge of land use and management, settlement and environment.

Mr. Khaled Mansour
Director of Communications, UNICEF

Mr. Mansour's career in communications spans some 20 years. He has worked as a Director of Communications and Public Information for the United Nations Mission in Sudan, as a spokesman in Lebanon during the Israel-Hizbollah war, as a leader of World Food Programme communications team in Afghanistan and Iraq, as the WFP Public Affairs Officer for North America and Head of WFP regional communications unit, as well as a reporter with Reuters and the Middle East News Agency in Egypt, South Africa and United States.

Mr. Mansour has published many analytical articles and policy papers on natural disasters, on the politics of international aid and on philanthropy.

Ms. Catherine Bragg
Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

Ms. Bragg is the principal advisor to the Under-Secretary-General with an emphasis on key policy management issues.

Prior to this post, Ms. Bragg was the Director-General of the Humanitarian Assistance, Peace and Security Programme in the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), as well as the Chair of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Donor Support Group in 2007 and a member of the Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

Her distinguished 24-year career in the Federal Public Service in the Government of Canada includes executive assignments in the Privy Council Office, formulating policy advice to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet; in the Department of National Defence, working on human resource issues; and in the Department of Justice, on evaluation, strategic planning and aboriginal justice.

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ould Taguedi
Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations

Ambassador Taguedi has served in his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation with the rank of Ambassador, after having been Ambassador to Israel (1999-2009) and, previously, head of the office responsible for Mauritanian interests in Tel Aviv (1995-1999). He also served in Morocco, Yemen, Egypt, and Washington.

A career diplomat, Ambassdor Taguedi joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1981, the year he headed the Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Americas and European Economic Community/African-Caribbean-Pacific Divisions.

Dr. David Nabarro
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition

Dr. Nabarro has more than 30 years experience in public health, nutrition and development work at country, regional and global levels. Dr. Nabarro worked for six years in child health and nutrition programmes in Iraq, South Asia and East Africa, taught for six years at the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine, served as a Chief Health and Population Adviser to the British Government's Overseas Development Administration and as a Director for Human Development in the UK Department for International Development.

Dr. Nabarro was also Executive Director of WHO and led WHO's Department for Health Action in Crises, coordinating worldwide support for health aspects of crises preparedness, response and recovery. In 2005 Dr. Nabarro became a Senior Coordinator for Avian and Pandemic Influenza with the office of the Secretary-General, after which he was given additional responsibility of coordinating the UN system's High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis in 2009.

Dr. Mohamed Ashmawey
CEO, Islamic Relief

Mr. Ashmawey has extensive experience in marketing, financial and management controls, human resources, information technology, project planning, risk identification and mitigation. He is currently Chief Economic Officer for Islamic Relief, a non-governmental organization working in over 25 countries promoting sustainable economic and social development through working with local communities to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and disease. Islamic Relief also responds to disasters and emergencies, helping people in crisis.

Mr. Jan Kellett
Researcher, Global Humanitarian Assistance/Development Initiatives

Mr. Kellett joined Development Initiatives after spending more than 10 years working in some of the most complex humanitarian and recovery contexts, mostly for the United Nations, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Nepal, Nambia, Jordan, and the Balkans. He brings a range of experience in post-conflict and post-disaster settings, from the management of post-conflict recovery programmes at field level, through to senior level UN coordination and leadership duties.

In the four years leading up to joining Development Initiatives, Mr. Kellett was senior advisor to various UN resident and humanitarian coordinators.

Dr. Kevin M. Cahill
Senior Advisor on Humanitarian Issues and Public Health to the President of the General Assembly

Dr. Cahill has been a leader in global humanitarian efforts for over 45 years, beginning with his work in Calcutta with Mother Theresa following his graduation from medical school. He has done extensive aid work in Africa, Latin America, and the regions in both the Near and Far East.

In addition to his work as a physician, lecturer, and professor, he has also written and edited hundreds of books and articles on the topic of medicine and humanitarian aid work.

Dr. Angus Friday
Senior International Climate Policy Specialist, World Bank

The work of Dr. Friday focuses on Africa and small island developing States. Prior to joining the World Bank, Dr. Friday served as Grenada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

In addition to his considerable public service, Dr. Friday has held various leadership positions in the private sector where he attracted investment for economic development and for technology development in both the public and private sectors.

Dr. Barbara Carby
Director of the UWI Disaster Risk Reduction

Dr. Carby is the Director of the University of the West Indies' Disaster Risk Reduction Centre. Ms. Carby has extensive experience in disaster management across the Caribbean, having worked on disaster management programmes regionally.

Dr. Carby has served on the advisory board of the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund and was the lead-author of the mid-term review assessing the Caribbean's implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2011.

Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw
Division Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Mr. Thiaw has been the Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) in the United Nations Environment Programme since February 2007. He leads UNEP's work on ecosystem management and services, on conflicts and disasters and adaptation to climate change.

Prior to joining UNEP, Mr. Thiaw was IUCN Regional Director for West Africa. He has more than 22 years of experience in the areas of natural resource management and environmental policy both in his native Mauritania, at the Ministry of Rural Development, and across Africa.

Hon. Saber Hossain Chowdhury
Member of the Parliament (Bangladesh)

Mr. Chowdhury chairs Bangladesh's All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change and Environment. He is also a Vice President of the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union's Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and an active member of the Commonwealth Parliamentarian Association and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

Mr. Chowdhury parliamentary achievements are considerable. He was instrumental in pushing for action on climate change, and for drawing a connection between the changing climate and increased disaster risk.

Dr. John Schneider
Group Leader, International Geoscience (Australia)

Dr. Schneider is charged with developing and applying geoscience information internationally. Prior to his current position, Dr. Schneider established and led the Risk and Impact Analysis Group at Geoscience Australia where he developed tools, databases and methods for assessing the risks of a wide range of natural and man-made hazards in Australia and the Pacific. Dr. Schneider has extensive experience advising governments and the private sector on disaster preparedness, critical infrastructure protection, climate change adaptation, land-use planning, and building regulation.

During his early career Dr. Schneider undertook research on earthquake related issues in South America, before working for more than a decade in the nuclear power and reinsurance industries in the United States, developing expertise in catastrophe risk analysis.

Mr. Melchiade Bukuru
Chief of the Liaison Office, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Mr. Bukuru's work led to a recognition by World Leaders in Johannesburg at the World Summit on Sustainable Development that the UNCCD constitutes one of the tools to eradicate poverty and hunger and thus to reach the MDGs.

Prior to joining the United Nations in 1996, Mr. Bukuru worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Burundi as Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of Burundi to the United Nations. During this period he specialized in sustainable development issues and has been at the forefront of efforts to adopt a legally binding treaty to address desertification. Mr. Bukuru was also in charge of making Global Environment Facility a financial mechanism of the UNCCD.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

12 March 2012

Excellency,

As the international community approaches the Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012, there is a growing awareness and commitment to address the world's increasing vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk. In order to support and advance dialogue already underway on how best to integrate the disaster risk reduction approach into Rio+20 outcomes, I will convene a thematic debate on Disaster Risk Reduction. This meeting will be held on 12 April, 2012 at Conference Room 2 (NLB), UN Headquarters, New York.

I am pleased to share with you the latest concept paper and draft programme of the thematic debate for your reference. A detailed programme of the event will follow in due time, and will be available at a later stage on the website of the President of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

THEMATIC DEBATE
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
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BACKGROUND

Commitment to address the world's increasing vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk arises from a clear acknowledgment that the impact of climate change is resulting in more frequent, intense and geographically distributed hazards and that the world's increasing urbanization is concentrating economic and physical risk in densely populated cities. This in turn can have a devastating sequential and collateral impact with far reaching environmental, economic and social consequences, as seen in Japan following the Great Eastern Japan earthquake and tsunami, in Haiti following the devastating earthquake, and in Bangkok following the mega floods.

Disaster risk is increasing globally. Over the past decade, water and weather-related disasters, such as floods and storms affected most people, caused the greatest economic losses and represented more than 80 per cent of all disaster events. However, earthquakes are the deadliest disasters in most continents, with drought remaining the biggest killer in Africa. Development efforts are increasingly at risk. Underlying risk drivers, such as poor urban governance, lack of proper urban planning and land management, vulnerable rural livelihoods, declining ecosystems, and climate change underpin the expansion of disaster risk.

In this context, much of the risk is associated with public investment decisions, which are shaped through a number of development planning processes that include land-use planning and management, sector investment planning, ecosystem management, as well as public and private investment. Factoring and applying disaster risk into public investment decisions directly addresses critical risk drivers and downplays potential disaster-related losses and costs at a scale impossible to achieve through stand-alone disaster risk management. Through the application of disaster risk reduction, quality and sustainability of public spending is enhanced and further contributes to social and economic development and building resilience.

For Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the need to reduce disaster risk through adaptation to climate change and strengthening early warning systems forms a significant part of their national response, particularly given the often limited economic base (fisheries, tourism and single crops) and their high degree of overall exposure to disasters.

Disasters in Africa pose a major obstacle to the African continent's efforts to achieve sustainable development, especially in view of the region's insufficient capacities to predict, monitor, deal with and mitigate disasters. Reducing the vulnerability of the African people to hazards is a necessary element of poverty reduction strategies, including efforts to protect past development gains.

As stated in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building resilience of nations, cities, and communities to disasters, disaster risk reduction is intrinsically part of sustainable development as it is about addressing the underlying risks to development, reducing vulnerability and thereby increasing resilience of nations, cities, and communities. This requires community action. To achieve this, public education on sustainable development broadly, and disaster risk reduction specifically, needs to be supported as a key instrument of accountability.

It is also worth noting that gender relations clearly play a role in the political economy of disaster, organizational relief and response, community leadership and mobilization, household preparation and family recovery and survival strategies in disaster-resilient communities. Specific guidelines for integrating gender issues into the preparedness activities for disaster planning as well as for ensuring provision of gender-fair assistance are necessary.

Experiences from countries have shown that disaster risk reduction is most cost-effective when it is integrated from the beginning of the process, including in adaptation. In the context of development there are significant

opportunities for all Member States to address risk through a new institutional framework for sustainable development.

OBJECTIVE

The preparatory process of Rio+20 has identified 'disaster risk reduction and resilience' as one of the emerging issues in the context of sustainable development. This coincides with the growing desire of Member States to increase dialogue on innovative solutions to address the challenge of disaster risk. Against this background, it is very timely to hold an informal thematic debate on addressing disaster risk through public investment decisions.

The overall objective is to support and advance the dialogue already underway on how best to integrate the disaster risk reduction approach into the Rio+20 outcomes.

Building on the Hyogo Framework for Action (and its Mid-Term Review 2011), the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, and in reference to the ongoing preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, the intended outcome of the dialogue are to strengthen understanding of how urban risk reduction through public investment contributes to urban resilience, and what opportunities are available through private sector engagement, and to explore opportunities to advance sustainable development through adaptation in the context of Africa, SIDS, LDCs, and other high-risk countries.

The outcome of the thematic debate, a President's Summary, will inform and contribute to the Rio+20 process.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Thematic debate will take place on Thursday, 12 April 2012 at Conference Room 2 (NLB), UN Headquarters, New York. The meeting will consist of opening and closing sessions, two interactive panel discussions, and a lunch-time session.

SESSION I (MORNING): ADDRESSING URBAN RISK THROUGH PUBLIC INVESTMENT

No country is immune from the risk of a disaster, regardless of the level of economic and social development. With over 50% of the world's population now living in cities, there is a critical need to look at how urban risk is managed and reduced, in spite of increasing pressures, through sustainable development mechanisms.

SESSION II (AFTERNOON): INCREASING RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS THROUGH CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RISK REDUCTION

For Africa, SIDS, LDCs, and other high-risk countries an immediate development priority is to increase resilience to disasters through adaptation. Addressing these challenges within a sustainable development agenda secures necessary investment while reducing exposure to disaster risk.

LUNCH-TIME PANEL DISCUSSION: COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES TO EMERGENCIES

Lunch-time panel will look at the links between disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response. The best practical example that combines resilience, early action, preparedness, humanitarian response, and sustainability issue is the response to the current crisis in Sahel, which will be used as a case study.

During the panel, an announcement will be made on the upcoming launch of a book that deals with disasters in an era of diminishing resources, with the foreword by the President of the General Assembly. The contributors include many prominent experts in the field.

Following presentations by the panellists, the floor will be open to delegates and other participants to pose questions and to share their experience and perspectives. Delegations are encouraged to engage in an open and interactive discussion. There will be no established list of speakers, and delegations are kindly asked to limit their interventions to a maximum of 3 minutes.

TIME	PROGRAMME
10am – 11am	***Opening Remarks:*** H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General [tbc]
11am – 1 pm	***Interactive Panel Discussion I:*** ***Addressing urban risk through public investment*** Moderated by Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Introduction: Understanding urban risk today and projections for tomorrow High-level expert addressing each of the following sub-themes: ▪ Making cities resilient ▪ Strengthening innovative partnerships: increasing private sector engagement ▪ Urbanization and environmental emergencies ▪ Utilizing governance and urban planning tools for effecting sustainable change
1:15pm – 2:30pm	***Panel:*** ***Comprehensive Approaches to Emergencies*** Moderated by Ms. Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs [tbc]
3pm – 5:30pm	***Interactive Panel Discussion II:*** ***Increasing resilience to disasters through climate adaptation and risk reduction*** Moderator [tba] Introduction: Addressing the risk reality in vulnerable countries High-level expert addressing each of the following sub-themes: ▪ The blue economy: economic opportunities through climate adaptation ▪ Applying ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation ▪ From legislation to action: implementing effective risk reduction policies ▪ Building resilience through innovative risk management
5:30pm – 6pm	***Summary:*** Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction ***Closing Remarks***: H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly

THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

09 April 2012

Excellency,

In reference to my letter dated 12 March 2012 informing you of the informal thematic debate on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held on 12 April 2012 in Conference Room 2 (NLB), UN Headquarters, New York, I am pleased to share with you the attached concept paper and detailed programme. Updated information about the event will be available on the website of the President of the General Assembly.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

THEMATIC DEBATE
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
12 April 2012 – New York

BACKGROUND

Commitment to address the world's increasing vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk arises from a clear acknowledgment that the impact of climate change is resulting in more frequent, intense and geographically distributed hazards and that the world's increasing urbanization is concentrating economic and physical risk in densely populated cities. This in turn can have a devastating sequential and collateral impact with far reaching environmental, economic and social consequences, as seen in Japan following the Great Eastern Japan earthquake and tsunami, in Haiti following the devastating earthquake, and in Bangkok following the mega floods.

Disaster risk is increasing globally. Over the past decade, water and weather-related disasters, such as floods and storms affected most people, caused the greatest economic losses and represented more than 80 per cent of all disaster events. However, earthquakes are the deadliest disasters in most continents, with drought remaining the biggest killer in Africa. Development efforts are increasingly at risk. Underlying risk drivers, such as poor urban governance, lack of proper urban planning and land management, vulnerable rural livelihoods, declining ecosystems, and climate change underpin the expansion of disaster risk.

In this context, much of the risk is associated with public investment decisions, which are shaped through a number of development planning processes that include land-use planning and management, sector investment planning, ecosystem management, as well as public and private investment. Factoring and applying disaster risk into public investment decisions directly addresses critical risk drivers and downplays potential disaster-related losses and costs at a scale impossible to achieve through stand-alone disaster risk management. Through the application of disaster risk reduction, quality and sustainability of public spending is enhanced and further contributes to social and economic development and building resilience.

For Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the need to reduce disaster risk through adaptation to climate change and strengthening early warning systems forms a significant part of their national response, particularly given the often limited economic base (fisheries, tourism and single crops) and their high degree of overall exposure to disasters.

Disasters in Africa pose a major obstacle to the African continent's efforts to achieve sustainable development, especially in view of the region's insufficient capacities to predict, monitor, deal with and mitigate disasters. Reducing the vulnerability of the African people to hazards is a necessary element of poverty reduction strategies, including efforts to protect past development gains.

As stated in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building resilience of nations, cities, and communities to disasters, disaster risk reduction is intrinsically part of sustainable development as it is about addressing the underlying risks to development, reducing vulnerability and thereby increasing resilience of nations, cities, and communities. This requires community action. To achieve this, public education on sustainable development broadly, and disaster risk reduction specifically, needs to be supported as a key instrument of accountability.

It is also worth noting that gender relations clearly play a role in the political economy of disaster, organizational relief and response, community leadership and mobilization, household preparation and family recovery and survival strategies in disaster-resilient communities. Specific guidelines for integrating

gender issues into the preparedness activities for disaster planning as well as for ensuring provision of gender-fair assistance are necessary.

Experiences from countries have shown that disaster risk reduction is most cost-effective when it is integrated from the beginning of the process, including in adaptation. In the context of development there are significant opportunities for all Member States to address risk through a new institutional framework for sustainable development.

OBJECTIVE

The preparatory process of Rio+20 has identified 'disaster risk reduction and resilience' as one of the emerging issues in the context of sustainable development. This coincides with the growing desire of Member States to increase dialogue on innovative solutions to address the challenge of disaster risk. Against this background, it is very timely to hold an informal thematic debate on addressing disaster risk through public investment decisions.

The overall objective is to support and advance the dialogue already underway on how best to integrate the disaster risk reduction approach into the Rio+20 outcomes.

Building on the Hyogo Framework for Action (and its Mid-Term Review 2011), the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, and in reference to the ongoing preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, the intended outcome of the dialogue are to strengthen understanding of how urban risk reduction through public investment contributes to urban resilience, and what opportunities are available through private sector engagement, and to explore opportunities to advance sustainable development through adaptation in the context of Africa, SIDS, LDCs, and other high-risk countries.

The outcome of the thematic debate, a President's Summary, will inform and contribute to the Rio+20 process.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Thematic debate will take place on Thursday, 12 April 2012 at Conference Room 2 (NLB), UN Headquarters, New York. The meeting will consist of opening and closing sessions and three interactive panel discussions (morning, afternoon and a side-event).

MORNING SESSION: ADDRESSING URBAN RISK THROUGH PUBLIC INVESTMENT

No country is immune from the risk of a disaster, regardless of the level of economic and social development. With over 50% of the world's population now living in cities, there is a critical need to look at how urban risk is managed and reduced, in spite of increasing pressures, through sustainable development mechanisms.

SIDE-EVENT: COMPREHENSIVE ACTION TO SUSTAINABLY REDUCE VULNERABILITIES

This panel session will look at the links between disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response. The best recent practical example that combines resilience, early action, preparedness, humanitarian response, and sustainability issue is the response to the current crisis in Sahel, which will be used as a case study.

During the panel, an announcement will be made on the upcoming launch of a book that deals with disasters in an era of diminishing resources, with the foreword by the President of the General Assembly. The contributors include many prominent experts in the field.

* Lunch will be provided by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.

AFTERNOON SESSION: INCREASING RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS THROUGH CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RISK REDUCTION

For Africa, SIDS, LDCs, and other high-risk countries an immediate development priority is to increase resilience to disasters through adaptation. Addressing these challenges within a sustainable development agenda secures necessary investment while reducing exposure to disaster risk.

Following presentations by the panellists, the floor will be open to delegates and other participants to pose questions and to share their experience and perspectives. Delegations are encouraged to engage in an open and interactive discussion. There will be no established list of speakers, and delegations are kindly asked to limit their interventions to a maximum of 3 minutes.

TIME	THEMATIC DEBATE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – PROGRAMME
10am – 10:45am CR2 (NLB)	***Opening Session:*** H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly Ms. Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations Secretary-General (*delivering remarks on behalf of the Secretary-General*) H.E. Mr. Willem Rampangilei, Deputy Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare, Republic of Indonesia (*delivering remarks on behalf of H.E. Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhovono, President of Indonesia, United Nations Global Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction*) Senator The Hon. Bob Carr, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia (*delivering remarks on behalf of the Group of Friends of Disaster Risk Reduction*) H.E. Mr. Joe Nakano, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
10:45am – 1 pm CR2 (NLB)	***Interactive Panel Discussion I:*** ***Addressing urban risk through public investment*** Moderated by Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Introduction: Understanding urban risk today and projections for tomorrow High-level expert addressing each of the following sub-themes: ▪ Making cities resilient *Dr. Augusto Barrera, Mayor of Quito (Ecuador)* ▪ Strengthening innovative partnerships: increasing private sector engagement *Mr. Gary Lawrence, Corporate V.P. and Chief Sustainability Officer, AECOM (USA)* ▪ Urbanization and environmental emergencies *Dr. Fumihiko Imamura, Professor of Tsunami Engineering, Tohoko University (Japan)* ▪ Utilizing governance tools for effecting sustainable change *Mr. K. Gokhan Elgin, Director, ISMEP Project, Istanbul Governorship (Turkey)* ▪ Building political commitment to address disaster risk in the face of rapid urbanization, and the challenges associated with environmental degradation, urban poverty and inequity *Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat* ▪ Mapping of global Disaster Risk Reduction integration into education curricula *Mr. David Selby, Founding Director, Sustainability Frontiers*
1:15pm – 2:30pm CR2 (NLB)	***Side-Event:*** ***Comprehensive Action to Sustainably Reduce Vulnerabilities*** Moderated by Khaled Mansour, Director of Communications, UNICEF ▪ Advancing an integrated humanitarian and development approach in building the resilience of communities *Ms. Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs* ▪ Lessons-learned and national and regional initiatives: providing timely and appropriate assistance *H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ould Teguedi, Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations* ▪ Global overview and trends on Food Security and Nutrition *Mr. David Nabarro, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition [tbc]*

	▪ Operational perspectives: working with communities *Mr. Mohamad Ashmawey, CEO, Islamic Relief* ▪ Spending where it counts: strategic investments to reduce vulnerabilities *Mr. Jan Kellet, Researcher, Global Humanitarian Assistance/Development Initiatives* ▪ Announcement on the launch of the book "More With Less: Disasters in an Era of Diminishing Resources" *Dr. Kevin M. Cahill, Senior Advisor on Humanitarian Issues and Public Health to the President of the General Assembly* Lunch will be provided by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations
3pm – 5:30pm CR2 (NLB)	***Interactive Panel Discussion II:*** ***Increasing resilience to disasters through climate adaptation and risk reduction*** Moderated by Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Introduction: Addressing the risk reality in vulnerable countries High-level expert addressing each of the following sub-themes: ▪ The blue economy: economic opportunities through climate adaptation *Dr. Angus Friday, Senior International Climate Policy Specialist (World Bank)* ▪ Evidence-based decision making: using scientific knowledge in risk reduction and climate adaptation planning *Dr. Barbara Carby, Director of the UWI Disaster Risk Reduction* ▪ Applying ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation *Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Division Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)* ▪ From legislation to action: implementing effective risk reduction policies *Hon. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of the Parliament (Bangladesh)* ▪ Building resilience through innovative risk management *Dr. John Schneider, Group Leader, International Geoscience (Australia)* ▪ Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought to better strengthen reliance and reduce vulnerability of disaster-prone communities *Mr. Melchiade Bukuru, Chief, UNCCD Liaison Office [tbc]*
5:30pm – 6pm CR2 (NLB)	***Summary***: Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction ***Closing Remarks:*** H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly
6:00pm – 8pm Ambassadors River View (NLB)	***Cocktail Reception*** Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations and Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations

THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13 June 2012

Excellency,

In order to support and advance dialogue already underway on how best to integrate the disaster risk reduction approach into the Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome, I convened a thematic debate on Disaster Risk Reduction on 12 April 2012.

I am pleased to share with you the summary of the Thematic Debate for your reference. The summary will help support growing awareness and commitment to address the world's increasing vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

New York, 12 April 2012

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

The President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly convened an informal thematic debate on disaster risk reduction to support and advance the dialogue already underway on how best to integrate the disaster risk reduction approach within the Rio+20 outcome. There was general consensus from participants that disaster risk reduction must feature strongly in any future framework on sustainable development arising from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in order to build on the implementation to date of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

The debate arose from a growing desire among Member States to increase dialogue on innovative solutions to address the challenges of disaster risk and to capitalise on the emergence of 'disaster risk reduction and resilience', as a key issue in the context of the Rio+20 negotiations on an outcome text.

Given this context, the informal debate held two interactive panel discussions on (1) addressing urban risk through public investment, and (2) increasing resilience to disasters through climate adaptation and risk reduction, as well as a side event on comprehensive action to sustainably reduce vulnerabilities.

INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSIONS I: ADDRESSING URBAN RISK THROUGH PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Panellists and presenters agreed from the outset that no country was immune to disaster risk, regardless of their level of social-economic development, and that it was not possible to eliminate risk entirely. Panellists further noted that with growing urbanisation, now at over 50 per cent of the world's population, that the concentration of risk within cities posed a major and growing threat to development.

Panellists called for the setting of clear priorities, in the context of urban risk reduction, as an effective measure to mobilise awareness and cross-community support for concrete reduction measures. Taking proactive measures, including assessing the vulnerability of essential infrastructure, undertaking risk mapping, and systematic awareness raising, all contributed to understanding risk, a critical prerequisite to effectively addressing it.

There was broad agreement by panellists on the need for dedicated efforts to be made in translating risk knowledge into action. A number of examples were given in the context of Quito, Ecuador; Istanbul, Turkey; and the Tohoku region in Japan where authorities had instituted risk reduction measures following risk assessments and modelling. However, the limitations of structural interventions, and the need for cost-benefit analysis, were also noted.

A number of panellists and participants discussed the importance of empowering local governments and communities, including supporting decentralisation, as proven accelerators of local-level risk reduction. Taking a proactive approach to urban planning,

and seeing it as a process where genuine community participation can be harnessed, was underscored.

All panellists noted that there is a wealth of knowledge and best practice, however, more needs to be done to make this more widely available, both in terms of cross-border exchanges and between local communities.

In reference to the private sector, the question of who is not 'sitting at the table' is a critical question, given the challenges in integrating perspectives which are not represented and are therefore overlooked. The importance of taking a multi-stakeholder, multi-institutional approach to development was reinforced.

Panellists further stated that cities should not be seen as centres of risk but rather as key drivers of development, economic growth and socio-economic transformation when well-planned and well-run.

INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSIONS II: INCREASING RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS THROUGH CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RISK REDUCTION

A number of panellists urged Member States to see disasters as the result of a process, rather than isolated events. In addition there was a call for greater attention to be paid to the 'vicious' cycle of disasters, where a country's lack of development creates vulnerability to disasters which in turn results in development losses and increasing indebtedness. The example of Grenada, following Hurricane Ivan in 2004 where 200 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) was lost, was presented to highlight the unique vulnerability and challenges which small island developing States face in addressing disaster risk.

In respect of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the opportunities oceans present was explored, as many island States have large Exclusive Economic Zones which are not being fully harnessed economically, particularly in relation to fisheries. Further, 'blue economy' opportunities more broadly were under threat due to overfishing, pollution and ocean acidification.

Panellists spoke at length of the advantages SIDS, LDCs and African States could realise through applying ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Examples included establishing or enhancing existing natural barriers, community management of natural resources and strengthening marine resource management. Panellists underscored that investments in the natural environment derives multiple benefits, particularly in reducing risk and supporting livelihoods and green growth, but need to be applied in a coherent approach to maximise the full potential they offered. In addition, ecosystem services need to be valued properly, particularly given the rise of 'debt for nature' and 'debt for adaptation' swaps. The role of comprehensive planning with clear targets, particularly in relation to drought risk, was also highlighted.

The role of science in planning for risk reduction was extensively discussed. Panellists were in agreement that science-based tools provided decision-makers with the evidence and, in many cases, the legitimacy to take potentially difficult decisions to reduce risk. There was an acknowledgement that there is a trust gap between the science community, policy makers and the general public. To address this, more needs to be done to foster a culture of research and collaboration between groups, and regions.

While it was accepted that there are limits to what technology and adaptation can provide, much more needs to be done to integrate science into policy making at all levels of government. This requires investment in research. In addition, some panellists called for more to be done in understanding indigenous knowledge as a means of managing risk, as this could be adopted with considerable benefits.

The role of enabling frameworks was highlighted by panellists as an essential part of systematically reducing risk. While the important role legislation and regulations play was noted, panellists also underscored the importance of strong leadership, at all levels of government, particularly in the absence of formal instruments or legal frameworks. A key enabler of building resilience and reducing risk is through a 'whole-of-government' approach, given the multi-dimensional aspects.

A number of panellists and participants underlined the importance of integrating disaster risk and risk perspectives into the sustainable development framework, in Rio and beyond. While many noted that there was a plethora of frameworks, there needs to be a stronger commitment to taking concrete action to reduce risk across all development activity.

SIDE-EVENT: COMPREHENSIVE ACTION TO SUSTAINABLY REDUCE VULNERABILITIES

Panellists called for greater integration of humanitarian and development approaches to strengthen local resilience and mitigate the risk of disasters. An overview of food security trends and the effects and causes of the crisis in the Sahel were given, as was an account of national efforts and community level initiatives aimed at increasing resilience. Highlighted were many successful examples of working with local communities, on a long-term basis, to increase their capacity and resilience in the face of more unpredictable weather conditions.

Everyone agreed on the need for more funding of preparedness activities. Certain participants and panellists noted that there had been an increase in political commitment to disaster risk reduction and preparedness but that this had not translated into more funding. The increasing frequency and intensity of some hazards was exacerbating the vulnerability of the poorest causing immense human suffering and holding back development.

Panellists specified that funding disaster risk reduction and resilience projects was not about finding new sources but about reallocating funds. On the donor side this required an evolution in thinking away from a linear approach -where humanitarian assistance was followed by early recovery and then development- which was no longer relevant. However, concern was voiced regarding how to measure the progress and impact of disaster risk reduction efforts.

In keeping with the notion that reducing disaster risk should not be seen as an additional expenditure, but rather as an investment for a safer and more resilient world, the Special Advisor to the President of the General Assembly on Humanitarian and Public Health launched a new book that considers disasters in an era of diminishing resources.

Participants and panellists discussed what ‘joint intervention’ between humanitarian and development actors would mean in practice. Major changes on the ground would include providing better support to governments and communities to help them deal with shocks

themselves. It was agreed that strengthening national capacity should be a priority and that there was huge potential in South-South cooperation.

Several other challenges were also highlighted. This included that disaster risk reduction was not an issue that got media coverage, that there was an absence of equal partnerships between local community-based organizations and other aid organisations. Working with weak government structures was also a challenge.

It was stressed that more needed to be done to harmonize humanitarian work and development, for example through joint planning and simultaneous programming. Long-term perspectives were needed even during emergency response, i.e. by addressing how people's livelihoods could be supported by emergency response efforts. A proactive risk management approach based on forecasts and risk analyses could also improve early response and building the capacity of the national institutions should be a priority.

CONCLUSION

The informal Thematic Debate reinforced the current international momentum to reduce disaster risk as Rio+20 approaches. There was a clear call for Rio+20 to strategically place disaster risk reduction within an action-oriented sustainable development framework.

Panellists and participants noted that disaster does not discriminate between rich and poor, north and south. It was agreed that addressing disaster risk comprehensively requires engagement with all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society.

A strong theme throughout the sessions was the role of local level leaders and communities. Local communities have the greatest stake in reducing risk, therefore decentralisation and the empowerment of local governments and community groups was seen as central to reducing risk in an era of rapid urbanization.

In summary, panellists and participants underscored the need to accelerate action to reduce risk, primarily through empowering decision-makers, at all levels, through decentralisation, evidence-based tools, effective management of ecosystems and enabling frameworks in the context of Rio+20.

Opening Remarks by

His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly

On the occasion of the informal thematic debate on

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

New York, 12 April 2012

Senator the Honourable Bob Carr, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia,

Your Excellency Mr. Willem Rampangilei, Deputy Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare of Indonesia,

Your Excellency Mr. Joe Nakano, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,

Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to the informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on disaster risk reduction.

It is with ***deep*** ***regret*** that I note that the timing of this meeting could not be more pertinent.

Yesterday, Indonesia was struck by a ***devastating earthquake***, reaching 8.6 in magnitude.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I extend my ***deepest*** ***sympathies*** to the people and the Government of Indonesia.

Let me ***reaffirm*** that the international community stands beside you in this dark hour.

Your resilience to natural disasters has been tested before, and there is no doubt you will remain ***strong*** and ***vibrant*** in the face of such adversity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset of the 66th session, I stressed that ***improving disaster prevention*** and ***response*** is one of my ***four priority areas*** this session. So is ***sustainable development*** and ***global prosperity***.

Indeed, these two inter-related areas are the reason we are here today.

Disaster risk is ***increasing globally***.

More people and ***more*** assets are now located in areas of ***high risk***.

Since the 1970s, the proportion of people living in ***flood-prone river basins*** has increased by ***114 percent***.

The proportion of people living on ***cyclone-exposed coast-lines*** has increased by ***192 percent***.

More than ***half*** of the world's large cities are located in areas of ***high*** ***risk*** for ***earthquakes***.

With this ***increasing*** ***exposure***, the risk of economic losses is also ***rising***.

The risk of losing ***wealth*** in ***weather***-***related*** ***disasters*** is now ***exceeding*** the rate at which the ***wealth*** ***itself*** is being ***created***.

Over the last 30 years, we have seen the risk of ***economic*** ***loss*** due to ***floods*** increase by over ***160*** ***percent***. We have seen the risk of ***economic*** ***loss*** due to ***cyclones*** go up by ***265*** ***percent*** in OECD countries.

Let us think of last year alone.

The statistics are ***plain***, the message is ***clear***:

Hundreds of disasters

Tens of ***thousands*** of lost lives

Hundreds of ***millions*** of people affected

And ***billions*** of ***dollars*** of investments wiped out.

All that, in only a ***12*** ***month*** period.

Given this context, to say that disasters put ***hard***-***fought*** development gains ***at*** ***risk*** and ***limit*** MDG ***attainment*** is an ***under***-***statement***.

Disasters ***destroy*** and ***prevent*** ***development***.

They affect ***every*** ***part*** of our lives.

From ***educating*** our children, to ***ensuring*** food security, to building ***peace***.

Disasters play a destructive role.

For ***small*** economies, losses following a hurricane or tsunami can set development back by ***decades***.

For ***larger*** economies, a disaster can have a ***de-stabilizing effect*** and impact ***international trade*** and ***commerce***.

Addressing disaster risk reduction is therefore ***in-separable*** from the ***broader sustainable development agenda***.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have convened this thematic debate to ***support*** the ***growing momentum*** to finding solutions.

It is clear from the Rio+20 draft Outcome Document negotiations that Member States and the major groups see ***disaster risk reduction*** as an issue ***relevant*** to the sustainable development agenda.

The question is:

How can we ensure these views are transformed into an ***outcome*** – an outcome that supports a development agenda working to reduce risk?

This is necessary both in terms of ***vulnerability*** to hazards and addressing the ***creation*** of risk through ***poor development decisions***.

Today's thematic debate aims to contribute to the ***ongoing discussions*** on how disaster risk reduction can be ***best positioned*** in the Rio+20 outcome.

In the first session on '***addressing urban risk through public investment***', we will discuss the importance of making ***strategic investments*** in reducing urban vulnerability.

This is perhaps one of the ***greatest challenges*** for governments and city leaders in light of increasing ***urbanization*** and the concentration of ***people*** and ***economic assets*** in cities.

In the side-event session at 1:15pm on '***comprehensive action to sustainably reduce vulnerabilities'***, we will address the ***links*** between ***disaster risk reduction*** and ***humanitarian approach***.

In the afternoon session, on '***increasing resilience to disasters through climate adaptation and risk reduction***', we will focus on the ***benefits*** of ***adaptation*** and ***risk reduction*** for Small Island Developing States, Africa and other highly vulnerable countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Strengthening the ***resilience*** of vulnerable communities and building a ***sustainable future*** is one of the ***greatest challenges*** faced by the international community.

Rio+20 is an ***opportunity*** of a generation.

Let us not ***forget*** what is at stake.

I trust today's meeting will generate a ***thought-provoking*** and ***productive discussion***.

Once again, thank you for responding to my invitation to be here today.

I wish you successful deliberations.

Thank you.

Assistant Secretary-General Catherine Bragg

Remarks to the PGA Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction
Side-Event: Comprehensive Action to Reduce Vulnerabilities

12 April 2012

Mr. (Khaled) Mansour (Moderator);
Fellow panelists; Excellencies
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to be here today to take part in this thematic debate. Comprehensive action to reduce vulnerabilities, to me, signifies doing more to harmonize humanitarian work and development in order to support greater resilience and risk reduction.

It means combining our efforts to end the recurring cycle of disaster and recovery that we see in so many countries and regions, so that development gains are not reversed as soon as a natural disaster strikes or the financial situation deteriorates.

People in crisis don't want humanitarian aid that gets them through a few weeks or months but leaves them without any way to support themselves. They want us not only to save their lives, but to save their livelihoods too.

We are beginning to change the way we collaborate.

Instead of being bound by linear processes that shape preparedness, humanitarian assistance, transition, development we are looking at how we can do better joint planning, and in simultaneous programming.

This requires us to adapt our policies but also yours, the wider international community, because recognition and support for the resilience approach will result in a different way of financing programmes.

For our part, we are taking steps now, to start defining how we can do this.

First: We are looking beyond the short-term to take into account medium- and long-term goals.

What this means for us, is that in the midst of an emergency response we are not only providing life saving assistance but also looking at how people's livelihoods can be rebuilt.

Humanitarian appeals not only include life saving activities, food aid, shelter, basic health service, etc, but also actions to support early recovery. For example, while we are still providing life saving assistance in Somalia, a majority of the programming is about building resilience. We are betting on building up the coping capacities so that already this year and in future years dependence on humanitarian assistance is lessened.

In the Sahel, we should not only be handing out nutritional supplements, although there is a vital need for them. We must also simultaneously be building health systems and supporting community nutrition centres.

Second: Proactive risk management

The primary mode of operation for a "resilience-based approach" should be one of proactive risk management, in which response (including funding decisions) are made on the basis of forecasts and risk analyses, rather than waiting for certainty. Response at every phase of the crisis (not only early action) should be on a "no regrets" basis.

It is understandable that donors feel a certain weariness at the cycle of drought-induced food insecurity in, for example, the Horn and the Sahel.

Our fundraising should build on the idea that there is no inherent reason why drought should cause malnutrition every few years, or why a flood should wash away an entire village. We can't prevent natural disasters, but we can prevent the human tragedies they cause.

Recurrent crises are the result of chronic and long-term vulnerability and fragility, poor planning and failure to manage risk.

Better planning can help but so can more flexible and risk taking funding that recognizes the cyclical nature of disasters.

Third: We must support national institutions and listen more carefully to those we serve.

That means working with civil society and people affected by crises to find solutions for sustainable development, risk reduction, social protection, community security and conflict prevention. And it means doing so in a coordinated way, with clear priorities and within a national strategic plan to address structural issues.

The humanitarian appeals plans that are being developed in the Sahel, in Niger, in Chad, or Mauritania, or Burkina Faso, build on the government initiatives. The confluence of national priorities and international support presents an opportunity to support capacity building initiatives both through the UNDAF process, an essentially development tool, and the CAPs, which is humanitarian in nature.

Agencies including UNICEF and WFP and those in the Red Cross movement have already integrated programming that supports longer-term objectives, and there are efforts to link humanitarian response with national development programmes. But these are too often piecemeal and not to scale, nor well coordinated.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We collectively are beginning to apply the lessons learned.

In the Sahel we have done our best to raise awareness and kick-start the response, based on early warnings and forecasts, including through the joint visit to the region by Helen Clark and Valerie Amos in February.

We are supporting national plans and we have formulated a regional strategy by bringing together our best expertise to look at innovative ways to deal with protracted food crises.

We are also heartened by the commitment made by donor agencies to support resilience projects, including those presented in traditionally humanitarian vehicles, such as the CAP.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Better response means risk reduction and risk management.

Better response means building resilience.

If we do not change the way we work, and the way we work together, we will not deliver for those in need, and we will not make the most effective use of our resources.

It’s as simple, and as complicated, as that.

Thank you.

Melchiade Bukuru, Chief, UNCCD Liaison Office

Talking Notes for presentation on:
"Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought to better strengthen reliance and reduce vulnerability of disaster-prone communities"

Informal Thematic Debate of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disaster Risk Reduction
Thursday, 12 April 2012 · New York

Session 3: Increasing resilience to disasters through climate adaptation and risk reduction

Madam Moderator, Distinguished Delegates, fellow Panellists,

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to highlight the UNCCD's perspective in this important debate.

The title of my communication: "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought to better strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability of disaster-prone communities" derives from two approaches. First, the legal mandate of the UNCCD to address desertification, land degradation and to mitigate effects of drought; article 1 (d) is about mitigation of drought. In virtue of this provision, Parties to UNCCD committed to carry out activities related to the prediction of drought with the intention of reducing the vulnerability of society and natural systems to drought.
Second, the UNCCD is about to build resilience of vulnerable countries from the land perspective. It has to be recalled that the two first objectives of UNCCD Ten-Year Strategy are: to improve the living conditions of populations affected by DLDD as well as to improve the conditions of affected ecosystems.
In strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability, the status of ecosystems matters. My colleague from UNEP just addressed that point. Where ecosystems are damaged, vulnerability increases. Take the case of Haiti. In 2004, the Island of Hispaniola was ravaged by Hurricane Jeanne. It killed thousands of peoples, most of them buried in mudslides. This happened in the rugged hillsides where over 98% of their forest cover has been lost due to deforestation and land degradation. In the neighbouring country of Dominican Republic, where the ecosystem is somehow preserved, we deplored around 20 fatalities. Of course every death under those circumstances is deplorable. In the same Haiti, the massive earthquake

which struck the country over 2 years ago would not have killed 200.000 people if Port au Prince was not overpopulated by rural migrants who had left the degraded lands of rural Haiti and settled in makeshift settlements in the capital hoping for a better life.
Moving to the horn of Africa, you may recall that, last year, the drought in the Horn of Africa, the worst in 60 years, and the accompanying famine, put more than 10 million people at risk. Yet the nexus between drought and famine is not inevitable. Drought often aggravates or triggers desertification, while climate change further exacerbates land degradation, desertification and drought. Today, the Sahel region is again affected by severe drought affecting more than an estimated 15 million -- about 1.5 million of whom are children. The region is experiencing its third famine in the last decade as a result of drought.

Key Points to be made

- If we reflect on disasters, there is no escaping one conclusion. The vast majority of disasters are generated from the land (earthquakes, droughts, famine, conflict) and all disasters impact the land adversely and the people who inhabit those lands. If we are to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience to such disasters, we must therefore start with the land.

- Drylands, which cover 41% of the planet's surface, are especially vulnerable to disasters since land degradation there takes a quick toll, leading to desert like conditions (desertification). But land degradation is by no means confined to drylands alone. It is a global phenomenon that now affects all ecosystems. Most of the world's poor, hungry and malnourished reside in the drylands of many developing countries and are especially vulnerable to effects of desertification and the attendant consequences: food insecurity, forced migration, conflict, loss of livelihoods. Droughts have a disproportionate impact on the poor.
- Droughts have a disproportionate impact on the poor and among them: women and children.
  Several studies have found that during a drought, the poorest rural households experience crop-income losses that are proportionally higher than the wealthiest households. Drought losses are typically offset by selling remaining assets, but prices are often depressed after a natural disaster because many people sell possessions at the same time, undermining the efficacy of the coping strategy. This situation applies particularly to livestock or other possessions in remote rural areas with limited access to markets.

- Reductions in income or consumption caused by drought frequently have negative knock-on effects on other aspects of human welfare and development. In countries where the socio-economic status of women

is low, drought disasters can intensify existing patterns of discrimination that make women more vulnerable. Children in drought-affected villages can experience long-lasting effects on health, such as stunted growth and impaired mental development.

- A global study by Vos et al. (2010) estimated that the average annual economic cost of meteorological disasters—including drought, extreme temperatures, and wildfires—between 2000 and 2008 was $9.39 billion (Figure 3.8). This shows the large cost of drought and the need for designing mechanisms to increase the resilience against drought at local and international level.

- So far the approach of the international community to disasters arising from land degradation, desertification and drought has been largely reactive, with post-impact interventions and relief measures in the form of emergency assistance programs aimed at providing money or other specific types of assistance such as food, livestock feed, water, etc. to the victims (or those experiencing the most severe impacts) of the land degradation, desertification and drought.

- But such a reactive approach has not proved successful. What is necessary is to build effective resilience in the long run not just of the affected populations but also of the affected ecosystems.

- The creation of a culture of prevention can go a long way towards protecting first drylands, and then land in other ecosystems from land degradation and the onset of desertification. Integrated land and water management would also be key.
- Protection of vegetative cover can also be another major instrument in combating desertification. Maintaining vegetative cover to protect the soil from wind and water erosion is a key preventive measure. Properly maintained vegetative cover also prevents loss of ecosystems during drought episodes and also contributes to enhanced water retention by the soil.

- I am happy that the concept of moving towards to a land degradation neutral world is making headway. Should the world leaders commit to this ambitious but attainable goal, it will contribute to strengthen the resilience of affected communities. Speaking of goals, we also need to set some targets. One of them would be to elaborate and implement drought policies and drought preparedness. Those policies should be mainstreamed in the overall development agenda of drought prone countries.

- Drought-prone zones are not a static notion.

(*Project the map of the evolution of drought in the coming decades).*

- To build resilience to drought and create drought resilient societies, we are partnering with the ISDR and WMO among others. With WMO we will be organising a High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy to be held in 2013, aimed at enabling policymakers along with drought prone countries and other relevant stakeholders to set up systems at the national level. We have also signed an MOU with ISDR, setting out a framework for collaborating on reducing the vulnerability of communities to drought related risk and to expand networks that will advance the prevention of drought associated disasters. The objective is to deliver an early warning system for drought and develop action plans to enhance resilience to climate change.

Take home note

1. Combating desertification and land degradation strengthen the resilience of affected communities. Through early warning system and also sustainable land and water management techniques, we can mitigate drought effects and build resilience.
2. Drought is a very costly natural phenomenon. There is a need for designing mechanisms to increase the resilience against drought at local and international level. As member states are discussing the concepts of sustainable development goals including targets, it may be advisable to include drought policies and drought preparedness established and implemented -in all droughts prone regions/countries. This target can be very much reached in a decade. It could also contribute to a larger goal, that of going land degradation neutral.
3. Since so far the approach of the international community to drought has been largely reactive, with post-impact interventions and relief measures in the form of emergency assistance programs aimed at providing money or other specific types of assistance such as food, livestock feed, water, etc. to the victims (or those experiencing the most severe impacts), there is a need to put in place mitigation measures, particularly early warning mechanisms, education, awareness raising, or appropriate water harvesting.

AUSTRALIA

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12 April 2012

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTERACTIVE THEMATIC DEBATE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Australia, Denmark, Ecuador, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Norway, Peru, Philippines, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Timor Leste

Delivered by Senator The Honourable Bob Carr
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia

(Check against delivery)

Mr President,

I am pleased to deliver the following joint-statement on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Friends of Disaster Risk Reduction group - Australia, Indonesia, Norway and Peru, and the following countries – Denmark, Ecuador, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Philippines, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Timor Leste.

Mr President

Dramatic disaster events over the past decade have claimed over a million lives, affected more than 2.5 billion people and caused economic loss totalling over $1 trillion.

We commend the UN Secretary-General's commitment to disaster risk reduction in his Five Year Action Agenda for the global community.

Mr President, we also welcome your initiative to hold this debate, and the priority you have placed on disaster prevention and response for the 66th session of the General Assembly.

This debate comes at a time of unprecedented international momentum to reduce disaster risk. Governments, international agencies, non-governmental agencies and communities across the globe share the conviction that urgent and sustained actions are needed to reduce the social, economic and environmental impacts of disasters.

Disaster risk is a stark reality for most, if not all, countries, developing and developed.

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of weather-related hazards.

Rapid urbanisation and environmental degradation are exposing people and assets to higher disaster risk.

The risk of economic loss from a disaster is increasing at a faster rate than economic growth.

As the tragic events of 2010 and 2011 reminded us, disasters do not differentiate between regions or income-levels.

Together, we must resolve to address disaster risk in each of our countries but recognise that the need for action is, of course, most acute in the most vulnerable small island developing states, least developed countries and many countries in Africa.

The 2010 earthquake in Haiti set back development by many years. The nearly 10 billion USD initially pledged to support post-earthquake reconstruction was more than three times the total amount spent on Haiti's development over the preceding decade.

The drought and famine in the Horn of Africa, and the emerging crisis in the Sahel, demonstrate the extent of human suffering involved when a complex interplay of factors leads to extreme vulnerabilities.

Mr President

Following the devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami, 168 states adopted the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*.

Good progress has been made under the *Hyogo Framework*, and strong regional and international partnerships have contributed greatly to this success. However, much more remains to be done.

We must improve our efforts to systematically account for disaster risks and vulnerabilities. We must set out the wider economic and financial evidence to mobilise political attention and resources to build community resilience.

While we recognise the need to build the evidence base, and strengthen national capacity to do so, we also firmly believe in the imperative to act. We must invest in 'no regrets' activities.

We know what works: early warning systems, public awareness campaigns, strengthening and enforcing building codes, and protecting critical infrastructure.

Key sectors of development – such as health, education, water and sanitation, and food security – must ensure that their activities and infrastructure are disaster-resilient. Sustainability demands resilience.

We must increase resilience through integrated efforts in critical areas such as livelihoods, livestock management, water management, and social protection.

We must factor disaster and climate risk management into development policies and planning, and those most at risk - local communities - must be key partners in building resilience. We must deliver humanitarian assistance in a way that supports recovery and ensures we rebuild safer and more resilient communities.

If we don't, natural hazards will continue to be disasters and an obstacle to the achievement of sustainable development, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Much could also be gained through better communication, links and synergies among various development frameworks and agendas.

With this in mind, we call for the incorporation of disaster risk reduction in any future framework for sustainable development. We call for strong and strategic language on disaster risk reduction in the Outcome Document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development - language that recognises disaster risk reduction as fundamental to achieving sustainable development and places it at the heart of the future development agenda.

We call for greater coordination between international agencies, civil societies, private sector, non-government organisations and research institutions with national governments.

We ask national governments, and their development partners, to increase investments in disaster risk reduction and to build the resilience of the most vulnerable communities. The knowledge and experience of both women and men in these communities must be taken into account.

At the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2009, the UN Secretary-General called for a target to halve the losses of lives from disasters by 2015, when the term of the Hyogo Framework for Action ends. For this to happen, we ask for all major cities in disaster-prone areas to include and enforce disaster risk reduction measures in their building and land use codes by 2015. We ask that by 2015, action plans for safer schools and hospitals be developed and implemented in all disaster prone countries.

We highlight the recognition that Disaster Risk Reduction has been given in processes such as the Fourth High-Level Forum on Development Effectiveness, the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries and the 16th Conference of the Parties.

Mr President

We hope that Rio+20 will send a strong message that ensures addressing risk and building resilience underpins the framework for achieving sustainable development.

MAURITANIA موريتانيا

Déclaration
de
M. Sidati Ould Cheikh
Premier Conseiller à la Mission de Mauritanie
auprès des Nations Unies

Devant
L'Assemblé Générale des Nations Unies
au Débat thématique sur le thème :
« *Réduction des risques des catastrophes*»
Panel sur le Sahel et les Défis à relever par la Mauritanie

New York, le 12 Avril 2012

Prière de vérifier au prononcé

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Débat thématique sur le thème:
« Réduction des risques des catastrophes»
New York, le 12 Avril 2012

Contribution de la Mauritanie au Panel sur le Sahel et les défis à relever par la Mauritanie (durée 6 minutes).

Présenté par Monsieur Sidati Ould Cheikh, Premier Conseiller à la Mission de Mauritanie auprès des Nations Unies à New York.

Introduction:

Le Sahel désigne une bande de territoire marquant la transition à la fois floristique et climatique bordant le Sahara. D'Est à l'Ouest il s'étend de l'Atlantique à la mer rouge. 17 pays allant du Cap Vert jusqu'à Djibouti en passant par la Guinée Bissau, le Sénégal, la Gambie, la Mauritanie, le Mali, le Niger, l'Algérie , le Burkina Faso, le Nigéria, le Tchad, le Soudan, l'Éthiopie, l'Erythrée, la Somalie et le Kenya en sont concernés. Ce sont les terres directement au Sud du Sahara et incluant l'île du Cap Vert, comprises entre les Isohyètes de 200 et 600 mm et n'incluant pas les autres régions d'Afrique avec les mêmes statistiques de précipitation.

J'essayerai de discuter avec vous les risques de catastrophes dans le Sahel Occidental et les défis à relever par la Mauritanie. Par Sahel Occidental, je veux dire le Sahel du Comité Permanent inter-état de lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel(CILSS). 9 pays (le Cap Vert, la Guinée Bissau, la Gambie, le Sénégal, la Mauritanie, le Mali, le Burkina Faso, le Niger et le Tchad), sont membres de cette Organisation Internationale créée le 12 Septembre 1973 suite à la grande Sécheresse qui a frappé dans les années 70 une grande partie de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. 60 millions de Saheliens vivent dans cette zone de plus de 5 343 300 km^2 ,(18% de la superficie globale de l'Afrique).

1- Les risques de catastrophe :

Certains de ces pays avec la sécheresse qui sévit depuis l'année dernière et la guerre au nord du Mali, vivent déjà la catastrophe. Je pense d'abord à la Mauritanie qui fait face cette année à l'instar des autres pays frères de la sous région surtout le Mali, le Niger, le Burkina Faso et le Tchad à une sécheresse très dure et à la crise que vit le Mali.

Le phénomène de la sécheresse est accentué par les changements climatiques qui prévalent partout dans le monde. Dans cette région du Sahel, 10 millions de personnes sont menacés par la famine.

Mon pays la Mauritanie, qui a déjà accueilli sur son territoire plus de 46 000 de frères maliens n'échappe pas à cette conjoncture de sécheresse. Dès ses premières manifestations, les autorités mauritaniennes ont mis en place « le programme EMEL 2012» qui est financé sur le budget propre de l'état, avec un montant de 150 millions de dollars US environ. Que les partenaires au développement de la Mauritanie (les pays amis, les organisations internationales, la Société civile), qui ont bien voulu apporter assistance et appui à la Mauritanie, trouvent ici notre gratitude et nos remerciements.

2- **Les défis à relever**:

En plus du phénomène de la sécheresse, le Sahel vit depuis quelques temps le phénomène de l'insécurité. Il ne vous échappe pas, chers amis, que cette partie du monde est le théâtre de rapts, d'enlèvements et de trafics en tous genre. Les événements survenus en Lybie et la crise au Mali rendent la situation déjà compliquée de la lutte antiterroriste, dans la région du Sahel encore plus difficile. La disparition des milliers d'armes lourdes et légères de la Libye et au payement des rançons auxquelles mon pays s'opposent catégoriquement, encouragent ce phénomène.

Le dimanche passé, les Ministres des Affaires Etrangères de l'Algérie, de la Mauritanie et du Niger réunis à Nouakchott (Mauritanie), ont rappelé la détermination de leurs pays à poursuivre le combat contre le terrorisme et le crime transnational organisé, qui restent une menace permanente pour la stabilité régionale.

Bien que les frontières mauritaniennes avec leurs voisins, ne sont pas des lignes de séparation mais plutôt des espaces de partage et d'échange, les autorités mauritaniennes ont adopté des mesures de sécurité préventive consistant à quadriller le pays par des Check-points, tout au long de ses longues frontières et des patrouilles aériennes quasi quotidiennes. C'est un travail très difficile et très coûteux mais c'est le prix de la paix et de la quiétude des citoyens mauritaniens et de la sécurité, principal gage de tout développement.

Conclusion:

Je me réjouis de l'investiture ce matin à Bamako du Président Dioncounda Traoré, Président intérimaire du Mali et félicite au nom de ma délégation tous les frères Maliens qui sont arrivés, par leur sagesse et leur clairvoyance, à surmonter l'une des crises les plus difficiles qu'a connu notre sous-région. Mes félicitations sont également adressées au Président Ivoirien et Président en exercice de la CDEAO, S.E.M. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, ainsi qu'au médiateur le Président Burkinabé, S.E.M. Blaise Compaoré pour avoir largement contribué au retour à l'ordre constitutionnel au Mali et à l'apaisement dans la sous-région.

Les risques de la catastrophe de la sécheresse et de la guerre au nord du Mali demeurent constants et constituent une menace sérieuse à la stabilité et la sécurité des autres pays du Sahel. La Communauté Internationale est plus que jamais sollicitée pour contribuer à alléger les souffrances des populations de cette région du monde stratégiquement importante pour la stabilité et la sécurité de tout le continent Africain.

MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE COSTA RICA

ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Intervención de Costa Rica en el Debate Temático sobre Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres

Sra. Linyi BAidal Sequeira, Ministro Consejero
Nueva York, 12 de abril de 2012

(Cotejar con la alocución)

Señora Moderadora,

Al igual que otros oradores que me han precedido, mi Delegación expresa su más sincero pesar y solidaridad al Gobierno y pueblo de Indonesia por las pérdidas sufridas a consecuencia del terremoto de ayer.

Señora Moderadora,

Mi Delegación se adhiere a la intervención realizada por Argelia a nombre del G77 y China y a la vez reconoce la meritoria iniciativa del Presidente de la Asamblea General al convocar a este debate interactivo. Agradecemos también las valiosas exposiciones de los panelistas.

Hablar sobre la reducción del riesgo de desastres a pocos meses de la Cumbre de Río+20 donde la comunidad internacional se reunirá para establecer el camino a seguir para alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible no es solo indispensable sino obligatorio, porque no podemos pretender un desarrollo sostenible sin considerar adecuadamente la reducción del riesgo de desastres.

Todas las regiones del mundo han experimentado en los últimos lustros un incremento en la ocurrencia de desastres que han cobrado muchas vidas y han requerido de enormes sumas de dinero para su reconstrucción y rehabilitación.

En general, los países en desarrollo somos los más afectados en lo social, lo ambiental y lo económico, y los que debemos hacer los mayores sacrificios para salir adelante. El caso de Centroamérica, lamentablemente, confirma esta realidad. Nuestra región ha sido catalogada como la zona más vulnerable del continente americano por la CEPAL. Entre 1930 y el 2008, la región ha enfrentado 248 eventos climáticos extremos que le han significado enormes pérdidas y que siguen presionando las finanzas públicas de nuestros pequeños países, estamos en el círculo vicioso que mencionaba el señor Friday.

Centroamérica cuenta con el 7% de la biodiversidad del planeta, con un sector turístico pujante y un sector agrícola fundamental para su desarrollo. Todos estos sectores se ven gravemente afectados con cada desastre natural que golpea a nuestros países, y se convierte en una nueva barrera en nuestros esfuerzos por alcanzar el desarrollo. Pero igualmente grave es que son los sectores sociales pobres y partes de las clases medias, quienes son más vulnerables y sufren más ante estos golpes de la naturaleza.

A este respecto, en diciembre pasado la Asamblea General adoptó por consenso la resolución A/RES/66/9 que reconoce esta situación especialmente grave de Centroamérica, que hace un llamado a mantener la cooperación con la región centroamericana, especialmente en la construcción de capacidades nacionales y regionales, algo que ya han mencionado varios panelistas.

Por todo lo anterior, Costa Rica considera fundamental reiterar nuestro respaldo incondicional al Marco de Acción de Hyogo, a la Estrategia Internacional para la Reducción de Desastres, y a la enorme labor que lleva a cabo el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en procura de mejorar la prevención y la reducción del riesgo de desastres. No debemos

desfallecer en este esfuerzo que es de todos. Por ello Costa Rica continúa avanzando en el diseño y ejecución de políticas públicas de prevención y atención de desastres, de adaptación y mitigación al cambio climático, con el firme propósito de que cada esfuerzo, por insignificante que parezca, contribuya a construir un mundo mejor preparado y seguro para todos. En esto, contamos con la solidaridad de nuestro pueblo y de otros pueblos en la geografía universal, lo cual agradecemos profundamente. También, y dentro de nuestras limitaciones, ofrecemos nuestra responsabilidad a los países y personas, donde quiera que estén, cuando son víctimas de estos eventos incontrolables.

Señora. Moderadora, quisiéramos aprovechar para hacer un par de pregunta a los panelistas y contribuir así al debate interactivo: ¿Consideran UDS. que el Sistema de la ONU está planificando técnica y políticamente a sus estructuras y a los Países Miembros ante la eventual ocurrencia de desastres naturales? Y cómo se podría mejorar la sinergia a lo interno del Sistema?

Muchas gracias,

PRESIDEN
REPUBLIK INDONESIA

MESSAGE

H.E. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

NEW YORK, 12 APRIL 2012

I wish to begin by extending appreciation to His Excellency Nassir Abdulaziz Al Nasser, President of the 66th General Assembly, for organizing the *Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction*. This is an important initiative allowing member states to discuss ways in mobilizing resources and promoting international cooperation on disaster risk reduction (DRR).

For disaster-prone countries like Indonesia, DRR is of utmost importance. We have experienced various types of disasters that not only take lives but also paralyze the social and economic foundations of the survivors. Needless to say, DRR can actually save what we have

built and developed for years. Therefore, we continue to put DRR as a high priority in our national agenda. Our objective is to make Indonesia become more resilient against disasters.

Achieving national DRR capacity is a process. In our case, we started by shifting the paradigm of disaster management—from emergency response and recovery to a more comprehensive approach. We invest resources in disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. We have integrated DRR into our legislation and national development plan in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action. We now have *National Disaster Management Plan 2010-2014*, and *National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction*.

Indonesia attaches great significance to regional and international cooperation in enhancing DRR capacity. Through ASEAN, we have collaborated to achieve a resilient ASEAN Community by promoting a culture of prevention across the region.

To promote DRR cooperation in a broader region, Indonesia will host the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on 22-25 October this year. We hope that through this Conference, we will attain a new milestone in advancing the DRR agenda in Asia and the Pacific.

At the global level, Indonesia attaches particular importance to *The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience*

for Nations and Communities to Disasters. The role of the UN in the implementation by individual countries of the Hyogo Framework for Action is essential. I welcome the UN's contribution in assisting disaster-prone developing countries with DRR initiatives, and in supporting their efforts with technical assistance and capacity development.

To conclude, let us use this forum to step up joint efforts and international cooperation in response to the global DRR challenges. We must ensure that all nations become more resilient against disasters. And, as we come near to the Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June this year, I do hope that this debate would contribute to the strengthening of DRR capacity in the framework of sustainable development.

I thank you.

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

DR. H. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Informal Thematic Debate
of the 66th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly
on Disaster Risk Reduction

Session 1

Addressing urban risk through public investment

Building political commitment to address disaster risk in the face of rapid urbanization, and the challenges associated with environmental degradation, urban poverty and inequity

Statement by
Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira
Assistant Secretary-General, and
Deputy Executive Director
UN-Habitat

12 April 2012
Conference Room 2 (NLB)
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Your Excellency, Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser President of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman,

I would like to thank the President of 66th Session of the UN General Assembly for his kind invitation to share with you some of our views on risk reduction from an urban perspective. Given the other speakers topics, I'd like to focus on three key elements related to ensuring stronger public investment in building resilient human settlements. They are; understanding how urbanism itself is a risk driver; turning around the global discourse from risk management systems, to programming for resilience; and sharing with you a strategy we are developing in my own country to foster resilience in Rwandan towns and cities.

Few would have imagined a modern bustling city such as Bangkok would be hit by massive floods in 2011, exceeding its capacity to cope and bringing the city's thriving central business district to a standstill. But it is happening, and other cities in Japan, Mozambique, the Philippines, China, Pakistan and elsewhere are experiencing catastrophic urban disasters much more frequently with equally devastating impacts.

The nature, scale and speed of urbanisation is posing new challenges for cities ability to absorb and recover from catastrophic events such as natural disasters. Climate change is adding a new risk dimension, impacting heavily on cities, ecosystems and livelihoods. Rapid urbanisation along coastal areas and the expansion of slums on flood- and landslide prone land for instance, highly enhance the scale of potential human, physical and financial losses. Over half of 37 cities in Africa with more than 1 million residents are in the low-elevation coastal zone. A sea level rise of just 20 inches would lead to over 2 million people in Alexandria, Egypt, needing to abandon their homes.

Displacement within and towards urban areas is equally increasing, altering demographic structures and causing upward pressure on the cost of housing, land, urban planning, services, governance etc. Many factors incentivize displaced populations to move to urban areas than refugee camps demanding us to reconsider aid and service delivery in urban contexts. The urban poor however, already have limited resilience. They often live in areas where government, as a provider of services and protection is absent, and where in some cases self-appointed groups 'govern'. In addition, urban areas are becoming increasingly the scene of growing insecurity and conflict as being witnessed in the ongoing conflict in Arab states, aggravating the situation of the poor and complicating assistance. Following destructive events; the loss or absence of housing, land and property rights creates severe bottlenecks for recovery and further weakens survivors' ability to recover.

It is not surprising therefore, that any inherent weaknesses in government are exacerbated, and the risk profiles of these cities increases as demand far exceeds their human and financial capacities. This is the profile of urbanization as a risk factor that can increase latent vulnerabilities, and introduce new ones.

In UN-HABITAT's work we see daily how local authorities struggle with increasing informality in land and settlements, how population growth and urban in-migration increase demand for urban services, and how fragile urban systems can become as a consequence.

In today's world of rapid growth in cities and towns throughout the world, and shrinking fiscal budgets for local governments, we must recognize the potential for compromised or even failed urban governance as city populations increase beyond the capacity of their authorities to cope.

In these and a growing number of urban settings, the prospect of investment to protect critical infrastructure for example - primary needs of water, sanitation, safe-haven and medical systems – as well as secondary systems of access and egress transport corridors, communications, education and service systems including electrical, storm-water and waste management is daunting when compromised capacities of urban managers limit even conceiving robust risk analyses let alone the remedial application of risk reduction measures. The spectrum of investment therefore must be broadened beyond the financial means of the corporate and philanthropic community – to include all sectors, and all stakeholders on the balance sheet of the global urban risk reduction agenda.

Global Agenda

There are resources available to assist cities to better protect their citizens. The operational agenda to assist cities build resilience and become hubs of urban recovery needs stronger partnerships among national Government and cities, agencies, NGOs, planners, private sector and community members themselves. More – much more - needs to be done in support of cities affected by crises, but some guidance is already available both in advocacy terms as well as in technical terms for reducing risk in advance of crisis.

The global agenda, agreed by member states in January 2005, is set out in the Hyogo Declaration, and accompanying Hyogo Framework for Action. This commitment by national governments to reduce risk – now in its 7th year of implementation has produced policy and institutional support through the development of national platforms for disaster risk reduction.

More importantly for those of us concerned at a city level, is the global campaign "Making Cities Resilient – Is your city ready?" recently launched by the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Recognizing urban resilience as a key factor in sustainable urban development, UN-HABITAT is closely aligned with the ISDR at a global level through our own World Urban Campaign and on-going support to the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The outcomes of this global movement for reducing risk, include the production of a wide range of tools, best practices, city-to-city exchanges, and city network support programmes, all of which are being implemented around the world.

It is further encouraging to engage in the debate on integrating resilience as a key requirement for sustainable development. No where is this more important than in cities; which in the next 20 years will host more than half the world's population.

UN-HABITAT is a part of this, both in the risk reduction initiatives of those mentioned above, as well as in the improvement of urban response systems through the One-UN system and with partners within the UN and non-governmental humanitarian systems.

Urban Resilience

In many countries where resources for pro-active risk reduction investment or where institutional capacities are limited, the perception may be that it is only through the recovery and reconstruction process that these risks can be minimized. Sadly however, and all too often it is not until after a crisis that the vulnerabilities of cities are revealed, and we once more look to remedial measures to 'repair' damage and 'replace' loss. One outcome of this is that the majority of the disaster-crisis management system continues to base programming on 'risk' as opposed to 'resilience'.

The term "urban resilience" refers to the capacity of urban systems to withstand and recover from future catastrophic events. To date, there is no means of calibrating this capacity. UN-Habitat is advancing a multi-stakeholder programme that will define a measurable set of indices, derived from an integrated urban systems and multi-hazard model that will provide a forward looking set of targets for citizens, planners, builders, local and national governments, and the international community to ensure the development of resilient human settlements as a key pillar in the sustainable development agenda we all will take to - and from - Rio de Janiero later this year.

Our approach will create a 'balance sheet' adaptable to all cities that places the full range of 'assets' against the full range of risks – or 'liabilities' faced by cities and towns throughout the world.

City Initiatives - Rwanda

In my own country; Rwanda – we are not strangers to the impacts of social, political or natural hazard risk. We are approaching two decades since the worst human disaster we faced, and much of the social and political capital we lost has been recovered. Our economy has recovered and stability and prosperity are reachable goals for all of my countrymen and women.

However, we are not naïve – and recognize the fragility of the development gains we've achieved, and the need to protect these against future known hazards.

Together with UN-ISDR, UN-Habitat has embarked on a programme to support the implementation of risk reduction measures in towns and settlements throughout Rwanda. It is unique programme as it brings risk reduction, resilience and preparedness for cities together in an integrated framework, rather than isolated components serving different interests.

Understanding the risks associated with climate related hazards; recognizing our vulnerabilities associated with geological events, and heeding lessons from other countries where natural and technological disasters have impacted many people, we have initiated dialogue with the National Disaster Management Ministry – MIDIMAR and other sectoral ministries– together with representatives from municipalities initially focusing on UN-ISDR's 10-point agenda for urban risk reduction.

This programme; the first of its kind – links local governments together with the national authority in developing comprehensive multi-hazard risk reduction in an integrated Rwandan resilience agenda. Our plan will first analyze the hazard-vulnerability exposure in all cities; engage planning, engineering, public works departments and the Association of Local Governments department in programming risk mitigation measures for critical infrastructure, public and private assets; developing pre-crisis coordination and stakeholder platforms that integrate private sector, community and civil society representatives with local government-led

planning and implementation; with a first goal of creating a comprehensive 'balance sheet'. This 'balance sheet' approach is the key to achieving the goal of resilient cities and towns throughout Rwanda.

In essence, it takes into account all reasonable financial and human resource inputs to risk reduction, preparedness, and service continuity; that can be invested by all stakeholders; from the household, to the local shops – from the industrial complexes to the schools – and from the local council to the Ministry for Disaster Management. This approach, developed by UN-Habitat as a foundation building element of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, provides the basis for the people of Rwanda to take ownership of their role in building a resilient community, town and country regardless of their position in public or private sectors. Furthermore, the balance sheet system recognizes all stakeholders investments whether financial or not, in the asset side of the equation, and takes the concept of public investment…to the public.

Conclusion

In closing – we are all aware of the increasing risks I've just spoken of, and those of the previous speakers – and if I can leave you with a request to consider the topics I've mentioned within your further deliberations here, and on the road to Rio – that is: let's remain aware of the inherent risk in rapid, un-planned, and un-regulated urban growth as a primary risk factor capable of debilitating city governments; at the same time, join us in re-structuring the global discourse to focus on forward, measurable targets for cities to achieve greater resilience; and finally to make conscious and genuine efforts to understand that public investment in reducing vulnerabilities in cities includes everyone in your towns, cities and countries.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Disaster Risk Reduction Thematic Debate General Assembly Meeting
Gary J. Lawrence, AECOM vice president and chief sustainability officer
April 12, 2012

Thank you, it is an honor to be a part of this panel today. First, a little about AECOM. We are a professional technical and management support services for public and private clients in more than 130 countries and had annual revenue of $8.1 billion. We work to advance every aspect of the physical, economic and social development of urban places.

I've had the honor of working in government, NGOs and the private sector. I have a sense of how well-intended people with a lack of understanding about conditions and motives can find innumerable ways to not work together to address current problems and future probabilities.

I don't know about the entire private sector, but I can speak to AECOM's position in disaster risk recovery. As a global company with 45,000 employees around the world, AECOM is a major stakeholder in disaster risk mitigation around the world — not only becausemany of our employees live in the regions prone to natural disasters, but because we also want to provide meaningful professional opportunities to our employees.With the war for talent, this is extremely important.

AECOM's success depends upon retaining and obtaining the best talent possible. Our employees want to bea part of making the world a better place. To compete for the world's best talent, we must provide them with the right pay, the right working conditions, better growth opportunities and the opportunity for them to use their talents to make their communities and the world a better, safer place to live.

As part of our work, we are engaged in a number of areas of disaster risk assessment, adaptation and resilience as well as response. We've worked with governments on numerous emergencies ranging from floods to hurricanes to ice storms as well as hazardous waste clean ups. In fact, AECOM has a long history in disaster recovery and to date has successfully completed more than 730 task orders for the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency. I believe that Mother Nature always wins. That's why our building engineers are currently investigating and researching how we can build buildings to fail more gently.

We also work closely with civil society by donatingto charitable organizations for disaster relief causes and we provide pro bono technical expertise in local communities through organizations such as the World Business Council on Sustainable Devleopment UII, Engineers Without Boarders and GAIN.

Natural disasters affect wealthy and poor regions. I have seen evidence that shows an inability to deal with disaster risk correlate to social unrest and peace in regions. Better urban planning and engineering is key to the long-term benefits for both the rich and poor.

Thank you.

Madame la Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire général,

Permettez-moi de vous féliciter ainsi que les panélistes pour la façon dont vous animez nos discussions dans le cadre du débat thématique sur le thème « réduction des risques de catastrophe » qui nous réunit aujourd'hui à l'initiative du Président de l'Assemblée générale. Je voudrais profiter de l'occasion pour présenter la contribution de mon pays, le Luxembourg, à notre effort collectif dans ce domaine.

Depuis 2006 déjà, le Luxembourg s'est engagé à consacrer au moins 5% du budget de son action humanitaire à des programmes de prévention, de préparation aux catastrophes et d'atténuation des risques. Nous avons tenu cet engagement.

Le Luxembourg contribue chaque année au financement du Secrétariat des Nations Unies de la Stratégie internationale de prévention des catastrophes (SIPC), afin d'appuyer le travail crucial que le Secrétariat effectue en tant que point focal au sein du système des Nations Unies pour la coordination de la prévention de catastrophes. Nous avons ainsi soutenu l'année dernière à hauteur de 250.000 euros la 3e Plateforme Globale pour la Réduction des Risques de Catastrophe qui s'est tenue du 8 au 13 mai 2011 à Genève. Cette année, nous avons pris la décision de conclure un accord de partenariat pluriannuel portant sur la période 2012-2015 pour un montant total d'un million d'euros, afin de rendre notre appui au Secrétariat de la SIPC plus prévisible et de l'aligner sur les priorités identifiées par le Secrétariat dans son programme de travail pour 2012-2015. Nous espérons que cet accord pluriannuel pourra être signé d'ici la fin du mois de mai à Genève.

La nécessité d'intégrer l'adaptation aux changements climatiques dans les politiques de développement et en particulier dans les politiques de prévention des catastrophes n'est plus à démontrer. En effet, l'impact du changement climatique tend à renforcer les effets des catastrophes naturelles. C'est pour cette raison que le Luxembourg a décidé, en addition à son aide publique au développement, d'allouer un million d'euros en provenance de son « Fonds climat et énergie » afin de promouvoir les efforts visant à mieux intégrer l'adaptation au changement climatique dans les programmes nationaux de réduction des risques de catastrophes. Cette contribution a été faite dans le cadre du financement accéléré en vue de faire face au changement climatique. Elle est allée à la Facilité mondiale pour la prévention des risques de catastrophes et le relèvement (GFDRR) administrée par la Banque mondiale.

Au-delà des efforts déployés dans le cadre multilatéral, je tiens enfin à signaler que le Luxembourg a lancé une initiative nationale visant à renforcer la capacité de préparation aux catastrophes. Il s'agit de la plateforme de télécommunication par satellite mobile emergency.lu, une plateforme créée sur base d'un partenariat public-privé luxembourgeois qui a été lancée officiellement le 7 décembre 2011 aux Nations Unies ici à New York. La plateforme emergency.lu est mise à la disposition de la communauté humanitaire, en

collaboration avec le PAM en tant que chef de file du groupe des télécommunications d'urgence, afin d'assurer l'accès aux communications par satellite dans la zone touchée, à la suite immédiate d'une catastrophe ou d'un conflit. La plateforme a été déployée pour la première fois en janvier 2012 au Soudan du Sud. En février, trois terminaux de communication par satellite mobiles ont été pré-positionnés à Dubaï, où ils sont entreposés dans le dépôt humanitaire géré par le PAM pour garantir leur déploiement rapide en cas de catastrophe humanitaire d'envergure. Un pré-positionnement est également prévu à Panama. En cas de besoin, le Luxembourg est également prêt à déployer un terminal au Mali ou dans un des pays voisins du Sahel, en soutien aux activités de la communauté humanitaire internationale face à la crise alimentaire et nutritionnelle qui ne cesse de s'aggraver. Enfin, nous sommes en train de conclure un accord avec l'Agence des Caraïbes pour la gestion des situations d'urgence (CDEMA) basée à la Barbade pour mettre à sa disposition deux terminaux emergency.lu afin de répondre aux besoins des pays de la Communauté des Caraïbes (CARICOM).

Par l'ensemble des actions que je viens de mentionner, le Luxembourg entend faire une contribution tangible aux efforts déployés par la communauté internationale sous votre coordination, Madame la Représentante spéciale, afin de réduire de façon sensible l'impact des catastrophes sur les sociétés et les économies, notamment dans les pays en développement les plus vulnérables de par leur situation géographique.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

Unofficial translation

Madam Special Representative of the Secretary-General,

Allow me to congratulate you as well as the panelists for the manner in which you are moderating our discussions in the framework of the thematic debate on disaster risk reduction which brings us together today, at the initiative of the President of the General Assembly. I would like to take this opportunity to present the contribution my country, Luxembourg, is making to our collective effort in this field.

Since 2006 already, Luxembourg has committed itself to allocate at least 5% of its budget for humanitarian affairs to prevention, disaster preparedness and risk mitigation programmes. We have kept this commitment.

Luxembourg contributes each year to the financing of the United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), in order to support the crucial work undertaken by the Secretariat as the focal point in the UN system for the coordination of disaster reduction. Last year we thus contributed 250,000 euro to support the 3rd Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held from 8 to 13 May 2011 in Geneva. This year, we have decided to conclude a multi-year partnership agreement for the period 2012-2015 providing a total amount of one million euro, in order to make our support to the ISDR Secretariat more predictable and to align it with the priorities identified by the Secretariat in its work programme 2012-2015. We hope that this multi-year agreement will be signed by the end of May in Geneva.

The case for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into development policies and in particular into disaster reduction policies has already amply been made. Indeed, the impact of climate change tends to accentuate the effects of natural disasters. It is for this reason that Luxembourg has decided, in addition to its official development assistance, to allocate one million euro from its « Climate and Energy Fund » to promote efforts aiming at better integrating climate change adaptation into national disaster reduction programmes. This contribution has been made in the framework of the fast start finance to combat climate change and has been directed towards the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) administered by the World Bank.

Beyond our multilateral efforts, I would like to highlight a national initiative taken by Luxembourg with the aim to strengthen disaster preparedness capacities, namely the mobile satellite telecommunication platform emergency.lu. The platform has been established on the basis of a Luxembourg public-private partnership and has been officially launched at the United Nations, here in New York, on 7 December 2011. The emergency.lu platform is put at the disposal of the humanitarian community, in cooperation with the WFP as emergency

telecommunications cluster lead, to ensure access to communications via satellite in the affected area, in the immediate aftermath of a catastrophe or a conflict. The emergency.lu platform has been deployed for the first time in January 2012 to South Sudan. In February, three mobile satellite telecommunication terminals have been pre-positioned in Dubai, where they are stored in WFP's Humanitarian Response Depot to guarantee rapid deployment in case of a major humanitarian disaster. A similar pre-positioning is foreseen in Panama. If required, Luxembourg is also ready to deploy a terminal to Mali or to a neighbouring country in the Sahel, in order to support the activities of the international humanitarian community in the face of a worsening food and nutrition crisis. Finally, we are in the process of concluding an agreement with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) based in Barbados to put two emergency.lu terminals at its disposal in order to address the needs of the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Through all the actions I have just mentioned, Luxembourg intends to make a tangible contribution to the efforts undertaken by the international community under your coordination, Madam Special Representative, to reduce significantly the impact of disasters on societies and economies, notably in developing countries which are the most vulnerable because of their geographic location.

I thank you for your attention.

PGA thematic debate on Disaster Risk Reduction

12 April 2012

Intervention by David Nabarro

1 I am very pleased that in this panel the focus is on comprehensive actions that can reduce vulnerability in a sustainable way. My focus is on people who are vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity: I start by looking at the global situation and then focus on challenges faced by people living in Africa's Sahel region.

2 At the moment one seventh of the world's population is food insecure. That means that their food does not provide them with the energy and nutrients they need for a healthy and productive life. Demands for energy and nutrients are particularly pronounced during the 1000 day period between the start of pregnancy and a child's second birthday when shortages can have long-term and irreversible consequences. This is the window of opportunity for ensuring nutrition security.

3 There are several reasons why people may be food and nutrition insecure[1]. The first reason is that nutritious foods are just not available in their community – as is commonly seen during the lean months in a rural area. The second is that although food is available, certain households are unable to access the nutrients they need (usually because they lack the money needed to purchase this food). The third is that even though the household is able to access food as needed, individuals within the household (especially women and small children) are not able to derive – from that food – the energy and nutrients that they need for growth, intellectual development and good health. A fourth reason is that food supplies and prices may be unstable and this can easily result in poor people's intake suddenly being reduced. Prevention of food insecurity requires a Comprehensive Approach that enables fulfilment of people's immediate nutrient needs and includes investment in longer term sustainable agriculture, markets and trade as well as social protection and health systems.

4 Communities in the Sahel are home to large numbers of poor people and experience protracted food insecurity as a result of recurrent climatic crises (three in the last ten years). The resilience of their livelihoods has been undermined, they have sold many of their savings and assets (especially animals) their men migrate in search of work and the lean seasons are very long for those who stay at home. Perhaps one third of households are food insecure and one half of children are chronically malnourished reflecting the cumulative impact of recurring crises.

5 In Niger two weeks ago I worked with the Government, farmer organizations, civil society and international organizations to understand how they were responding to food and nutrition insecurity. I learnt how the situation is pronounced as a result of cut backs in remittances from people who had been working in neighbouring countries and following increased insecurity in some border areas.

6 Colleagues in Government told me that for the people of Niger recurrent crises and prolonged food insecurity are not exceptional events: instead they are the new norm. No longer should the response be a burst of humanitarian aid against a background of development assistance. The evolving

[1]For further information please see the Updated Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) produced by the UN System High Level Task Force on Food Insecurity (HLTF) available on www.un-foodsecurity.org

narrative in Niger sees crisis as inevitable, and the role of the government, and other actors, is to help strengthen people's resilience so that they are better able to withstand crisis and sustain their livelihood, food and nutrition security. Support for national institutions and communities as they reinforce resilience calls for new ways of working. No longer a separation of humanitarian and development assistance, but instead the strengthening of capacities in society for emergency responses, redistribution of basic needs, recovery after shocks and longer term social protection and safety net schemes. That is what the President of Niger, with the Prime Minister and Government, are working on through the 3N programme ("les NigériensNourrissent les Nigériens").

7 3N is at the centre of a strategy for building resilience of the Nigerien people in the face of crisis. Government is asking the international community to go beyond a response that takes the form of bursts of humanitarian aid on top of very small amounts of development assistance. Instead Government and partners are saying "Please help us to establish capacity in our country that enables communities to save the lives of those in danger, protect livelihoods of those who are losing their assets, recover rapidlyafter shocksand then to invest in ways of living that are better adjusted to the reality of increasingly frequent climate-related challenges?"

8 This resilience approach integratesdisasterreduction actions and development assistance. Risks are anticipated, lifestyles are adjusted, and action is taken promptly to enable people to withstand stress. The sequence from humanitarian to development aid no longer makes sense. The two come together.

9 Most importantly, Government is in the centre, local organizations are key contributors, civil society is a vital partner and the international system aligns what it does to the in-country actors (whetherthey are development or humanitarian agencies). They work together to support resilience of communities.

10 For governments and donors this means new ways of working and financing are essential and new measures of success are needed. These are being developed in Niger, and are being led from inside the country by the Governmentand national stakeholders with international support, and not driven from outside.

11 In conclusion, there IS a new norm for work in situations where protracted food insecurity results from recurrent crises. Agencies of the UN System (including the Rome Based Agencies) are committed to this new way of working – aligning their actions in support of local communities and national authorities. I stand ready to respond to any questions about this way of working: my email address is nabarro@un.org.

(Check against delivery)

Statement by Mr. Joe NAKANO
Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
At the Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction
April 12, 2012 – New York

Excellency, Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to have this opportunity to make a statement on behalf of the Government of Japan at the thematic debate on disaster risk reduction. The Government of Japan strongly desired that this debate be held, and I would like to express my deep appreciation to H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly, for his initiative and leadership on this issue. I would also like to thank every person who has rendered their valuable support to make this debate possible.

[The Great East Japan Earthquake ~ Japan's Experience and Lessons Learned]

Japan is a country with a long history of earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters. Because of this experience, our country does its utmost to reduce disaster risk, and we believed Japan has become a world-leader in this area. Despite our efforts and experiences, the nature's fury sometimes far surpasses our imagination.

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, which struck our country on March 11th last year, was an unprecedented disaster in the history of Japan.

- The dead and missing number almost 20,000 people;
- at their peak, evacuees from the disaster reached more than 400,000;
- buildings either completely destroyed or severely damaged numbered more than 380,000;
- more than 22 million tons of debris were created; and
- overall financial losses are estimated at between 200 and 300 billion dollars.

Mr. President,

Although the Great East Japan Earthquake has brought us enormous difficulties, it was also an opportunity for us to reaffirm the bonds, *'kizuna'* in Japanese, that we share with our families, our communities, with all the people in Japan and with people all over the world.

In the two months that followed the earthquake, disaster relief and medical assistance teams from 24 countries and regions around the world, as well as expert teams from UNOCHA, FAO, IAEA and WFP extended their hands in relief to the disaster-stricken areas. Over the last year, 126 countries, regions and international organizations have provided financial and in-kind assistance to Japan. There are countless examples of warm and valuable support provided by the many private groups and volunteers that came to help us in our time of need.

With these bonds, encouragement and heartening assistance, Japan is steadily recovering from the disaster and accelerating our steps towards the renewal of Japan.

On behalf of Japanese people and the Government of Japan, I, once again, would like to express our deepest appreciation to international community.

Mr. President,

We firmly believe that it is our duty to share our experiences and lessons learned from this disaster with the international community in return for the support we have received from all over the world. And it was this sense of duty that drove Japan to support the PGA's initiative to hold today's thematic debate as well as motivated us to sponsor a resolution titled "Gender-Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Natural Disasters", at the Commission on the Status of Women last month.

One of the lessons we learned was that if society as a whole can focus its effort to implement preventive measures, we can minimize damage and casualties. For example, although the March 11th earthquake was the largest in our recorded history, measuring magnitude 9, damages to buildings and structures by the earthquake were rather small thanks to our implementation of the some of the world's most advanced seismic technology and Building Codes.

In addition, when the earthquake hit, as many as 27 *Shinkansen* bullet trains, were running in the Tohoku region, however no severe accidents were caused thanks to the design of our rail network's Urgent Earthquake Detection and Alarm System, which automatically and at once directed all trains to be safely and immediately stopped. What is more, all lines were able to resume their operations within two months of the earthquake.

Japan's efforts and experiences at disaster risk reduction should be a message to countries and regions all around the world, telling of the value of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and of the necessity of building societies resilient to disasters.

Mr. President,

[Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in International Cooperation]

I would like to reiterate how critical it is to fully consider disaster risk reduction as an integral part of international cooperation. Not only natural disasters can cause serious damages to vulnerable communities and individuals, but they can even wash away achievements in long-term development in a flash.

Today, the world is witnessing rapid urbanization, most notably in emerging countries. Urbanization can bring both enormous economic benefits and vulnerabilities to disasters as cities attract people and social capital. I believe mainstreaming disaster risk reduction is indispensible to achieve sustainable development.

[Human Security]

People may ask what the key to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and building a society resilient to disaster is. I believe the answer is "Human Security". We should respect every individual and consider the needs of the most vulnerable. On that basis, we should strive to allow the full potentials of individuals and communities to bloom.

I also believe Human Security should be laid at the core of future development agenda. This is my strong conviction after experiencing the Great East Japan Earthquake.

[Post-MDGs]

As the deadline for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) nears, discussions on how the post-2015 international development agenda should be set out have begun. I strongly desire that disaster risk reduction occupy its rightful place in such agenda. Japan will make active contributions to discussions to establish the post-2015 framework to this end.

Mr. President,

[Climate Change in International Cooperation]

To ensure Human Security, we cannot discuss mainstreaming disaster risk reduction without raising awareness of climate change, which aggravates water-related disasters and droughts. As Japan has been actively committed to implementing countermeasures against world climate change, including our Hatoyama initiative, I look forward to having further discussions around disaster risk reduction which focus on such emerging issues as climate change at today's thematic debate and expect today's discussions will be appropriately reflected in the outcome document of Rio+20.

Mr. President,

[High-Level International Conference on Large-Scale Natural Disasters]

I would like to add that Japan will host a "High-Level International Conference on Large-Scale Natural Disasters" in July in the disaster-stricken Miyagi, Iwate and Fukushima prefectures, which will include in-depth discussions based on views of today's thematic debate. We aim at raising awareness of disaster risk reduction and increasing the capabilities of all stakeholders in a comprehensive manner and will bring the outcome of this conference to the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. I affirm that Japan is fully committed to contributing to the discussions to establish a post-Hyogo Framework for Action.

Mr. President,

[Conclusion]

Last but not least, I would like to promise to you all that Japan is determined to continue to contribute to international society, with gratefulness in our hearts for the warm assistance shown to us in our darkest hour.

Thank you for your attention, thank you.

Building Resilience through Innovative Risk Management
Panel Discussion – PGA's Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction
Dr John Schneider, Geoscience Australia

New York, 12 April 2012

Introduction

- We know that the magnitude and frequency of disasters is increasing because of the increasing concentration of people and assets in high risk environments such as mega cities located in flood plains and earthquake zones. Governments are working hard to put policies in place, and people are seemingly more aware of risks. But how do we close the gap between policy at a national level and practice on the ground where it really counts? How do we build resilience in communities? Ultimately, how can we better manage risk?
  - It starts with fundamental knowledge – from physical science and engineering to social science and economics.
  - But this is not enough. The scientist's knowledge has to become the community's knowledge. Scientists must communicate with governments, with communities and with the public at large.
  - Moreover, mechanisms need to be in place to facilitate/enable that communication, or knowledge transfer and to facilitate or motivate actions to prepare for and mitigate disasters.
- All too often policy makers and scientists make the mistake of thinking that all we need to do is conduct a risk assessment and we will know what the problem is. But this is a long way from knowing what to do about it, or from getting people/communities to own the problem (i.e., the risk). Moreover, we often think we know the solutions – build a higher bridge to avoid the flood, or build safer houses that won't fall down in earthquakes. The solutions require not only better information about the risks, but also better engagement with stakeholders and better tools for making decisions to reduce the risks. The scientist's job is not done when the risk is known anymore than the policy maker's job is done when the law is in place.

- But who do we need to work with and how do we actually make it happen?
  - We work with institutions in developing countries to increase knowledge and build capacity.
  - We work with local communities in the practical application of knowledge and tools to build resilience.
  - We bring public and private institutions together to develop shared knowledge and ownership of hazards and risks.
  - We make it happen by developing the knowledge base, information systems and tools in partnership with all these actors to inform decision making that helps build more resilient communities.

Illustrative examples

- I would like to illustrate these ideas with examples of work that Australia (through AusAID) has been doing in partnership with Indonesia, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea. All three countries are at high risk by virtue of the high incidence of natural hazards and either high population densities or a need for more planning and preparedness to deal with major hazards when they occur.
- First, an example of building capacity in partner countries:
  - Typhoon Ketsana struck the Philippines on 28 September 2009 resulting in significant damage to buildings and infrastructure and causing 464 fatalities. This tragic event illustrated the vulnerability of this megacity to flood; more than a million people were displaced, with up to 6 metres of flood waters in some densely populated parts of Manila.
  - In the aftermath of this flood, Australia developed a collaborative program with the Government of the Philippines to help mitigate the risks to natural hazards. Part of this program is devoted to conducting a multi-hazard risk assessment of flood, earthquake and typhoon wind risk to the Greater Metro Manila Area, a conurbation of about 20 million people, and arguably one of the world's megacities most at risk from these hazards.
  - This project was designed in part to address information gaps in fundamental data. One element of this has been the development of a highly detailed, three-dimensional map of the buildings, infrastructure and topography that make up the urban landscape. In support of this, the Philippine Presidential Advisor on Environmental Protection, Mr

Nereus Acosta, asked rhetorically "How can you manage that which you cannot measure? How can you effectively monitor that which you cannot map?" Australia and the Philippines are now working together to MEASURE and MAP the extent and likelihood of flooding, and its impacts on the urban environment and infrastructure. By doing so, the Government of the Philippines will be able to MANAGE and MONITOR the risks.

- For the second point, working with local communities, I will illustrate how we can empower local governments to mediate between their communities and national government using lessons learned from work being done in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea.
  - Rabaul, Papua New Guinea was largely destroyed in 1994 during a catastrophic volcanic eruption. The Rabaul Volcanological Observatory (RVO) and the East/West New Britain provincial government have been working very closely together to inform local communities about the risks from volcanic eruptions, mainly through public awareness campaigns in villages throughout the region.
  - In July 2006, a series of highly unusual earthquakes were felt by locals in the Sulu Range area of New Britain Island – small earthquakes every few minutes for 2 weeks. As a result of the community education campaign, the locals understood that 'earthquake swarms' often precede volcanic eruptions and can also cause tsunami, so villagers in the area self-evacuated until the earthquake swarms subsided and it was safe to return home.
- Turning to the third of my key points, it is vitally important that we collaborate across sectors and interest groups through public-private partnerships.
  - The Global Earthquake Model Initiative is a public-private partnership that aims to set international standards for earthquake information. It is developing open and freely available tools to improve our collective knowledge of earthquakes and is facilitating communication and consensus building of earthquake risks amongst scientists and engineers and a broad range of stakeholders. The Global Earthquake Model (GEM) is a global public partnership which has risk management and insurance companies working together with country/public sponsors, as well as affiliate sponsors like the World Bank and the UN Secretariat for Disaster Reduction. Through this collaboration, the collective knowledge of earthquake risk worldwide will be significantly advanced, and the bar will be raised for the assessment of risks to all natural hazards.
- Finally, the fourth key point, none of the above engagements and accomplishments would be possible without the development of tools and databases which enable a scientist's

knowledge to become information for a community, and, in turn, enable a community to manage risks and save lives. While the Global Earthquake Model is building tools primarily for use by scientists and engineers, in Indonesia, the Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction is using the information from programs like GEM as the input to developing tools for emergency managers.

- InaSAFE, which stands for Indonesia Scenario Assessment for Emergencies, is a free computer program which converts scientists' and engineers' models into realistic natural hazard impact scenarios for better planning, preparedness and response activities. For example, to prepare contingency plans for a severe flood in Jakarta, emergency managers need to answer questions like:
  - What are the areas likely to be affected?
  - How many people will need to be evacuated and sheltered?
  - Which schools will be closed?
  - Which hospitals can still take patients? And
  - What roads will be closed?
- InaSAFE was conceived and initially developed by the Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Geoscience Australia and the World Bank. InaSAFE provides a simple but rigorous way to combine data from scientists, local governments and communities to provide insights into the likely impacts of future disaster events. The user can examine, in detail, the impact that a single hazard event would have on specific sectors or locations such as for primary schools and the number of students affected by a possible tsunami. InaSAFE is designed so that anyone with basic computer skills can quickly learn to use it to explore the potential impacts of a disaster event and to produce maps and reports of these impacts. The computer software is free and open so that more advanced users can also add new questions and data from new sectors.
- I emphasise that while we believe that InaSAFE is an important product, it is only through the process of engagement between scientists and communities at risk that it facilitates decisions to be made to mitigate or manage risks.

Conclusions

- In conclusion:
  - We can close the gap between policy at a national level and practice on the ground and help to build more resilient communities by managing the risks in several ways:
    - Collaborative partnerships to develop institutional capacity such as through the earthquake hazard mapping project in Indonesia and the multi-hazard risk assessment of Greater Metro Manila.
    - Community engagement where scientists and the public share their respective knowledge to help communities be better prepared, to, for instance, a flood in Jakarta, Indonesia or a volcanic eruption in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea.
    - Public-private partnerships such as the Global Earthquake Model that increase our collective understanding and develop standards and models to communicate and develop a common basis for mitigating earthquake risk.
    - And finally, the open and collaborative development of tools such as InaSAFE which can be used to engage with communities and provincial and local governments to bring this science downstream in a form that translates knowledge and information into concrete action.

END

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE TO INTERACTIVE THEMATIC DEBATE
ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
New York, 12 April 2012

Delivered by Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In January, we outlined an action agenda – five generational imperatives for the coming five years.

One of them is to expand the way we think and act on prevention.

Disaster risk reduction is fundamental to this effort.

In the midst of a crisis, there may be little space for reflection. Lives hang in the balance. Every second counts.

But there is much we can learn after the fact and there is much we can do to minimize the impact for the future.

We cannot eliminate disasters, but we can reduce the risk. We can lessen the damage. We can save more lives.

We know that disasters caused by natural hazards are taking a heavy toll on communities everywhere – in countries rich and poor. Economic loss risk continues to increase across all regions and seriously threatens the economies of low-income countries.

But we also know that common sense investments in early warning and preparedness are making a difference and saving lives.

We know what works. Good building design. Proper land-use planning. Public education. Community preparedness. Effective early warning systems. Increased capacity to respond to complex disasters. Focusing on the needs and potential of women – the largest untapped resource for change.

As we prepare for the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio-Plus 20 – let us also affirm that disaster risk reduction is critical to sustainable development.

Disasters exacerbate poverty and undermine development planning, particularly poverty reduction strategies.

When we reduce disaster risk, we increase our chances of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and building a truly sustainable world for all.

It is therefore encouraging that Member States have been so clear.

You have voiced your conviction that disaster risk reduction should not be a standalone issue.

And you have identified how disaster risk reduction must be integrated into the development agenda.

The challenge is to translate this understanding into action.

Progress requires engagement from actors throughout government, civil society and the private sector.

Integrating disaster risk reduction from the beginning, during the planning stage, and taking a consistent approach will ensure the best results.

The evidence for investing in disaster risk reduction is clear. The political momentum is growing.

Let us continue to be ambitious. Let us work for action in Rio and beyond.

Thank you. I wish you successful deliberations.

UNEP

PEDRR
Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction

"Applying Ecosystem-based Approaches for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation"
Summary of Statement delivered by Mr Ibrahim Thiaw, Director, UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation

General Assembly Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction, 12 April 2012 – New York

- The linkages between environment and disasters are widely-documented but insufficiently integrated into disaster risk reduction and development plans. On the one hand, degraded environments can cause or exacerbate disasters: deforested slopes can cause more landslides, while reclaimed wetlands can worsen flooding in urban areas. On the other hand, disasters can cause or aggravate environmental degradation: hurricanes can damage coral reefs and impact on local fisheries. Climate change poses an additional "stress factor" that is contributing to the negative impacts of water- and climate-related hazards, such as storms, heat waves, wildfires and droughts.
- **But the close linkages between environment and disasters also present an opportunity.** Appropriate management of ecosystems can be harnessed for reducing disaster risks and adapting to climate-related risks.
- **Healthy and well-managed ecosystems, such as wetlands, forests, coral reefs and seagrasses, can act as natural infrastructure to buffer against common hazards.** In Bolivia, community-based forest rehabilitation improved both slope stability and the condition of watersheds, increasing community resilience to landslides and extended dry periods.[1] In western Jamaica, coral reefs and seagrasses protect beaches against storm surges and erosion.[2]
- **Healthy and well-managed coastal and terrestrial ecosystems support local resilience, by sustaining livelihoods and providing for basic needs, such as food, shelter and water- *before, during and after hazard events.*** In Burkina Faso and Niger, local farmers restored degraded drylands by applying traditional agricultural and agroforestry techniques, significantly increasing local resilience against droughts. In Burkina Faso, more than 200,000 hectares of drylands have been rehabilitated, now producing an additional 80,000 tons of food per year. In Niger, more than 200 million on-farm trees have been regenerated, providing 500,000 additional tons of food per year.[3] Also, since the 1980s, the Ethiopian Government and local communities have been implementing a sustainable land management and rain catchment programme, which vastly increased food production and mitigated the impacts of drought and floods. The programme known as MERET has increased food security of MERET households by 50%, reduced the average annual food gap from 6 to 3 months, rehabilitated 1 million hectares of land, and reforested 600,000 hectares.[4]

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[1] Robledo, C., Fischler, M. and Patiño, A. (2004). "Increasing the resilience of hillside communities in Bolivia - Has vulnerability to climate change been reduced as a result of previous sustainable development cooperation?" in *Mountain Research and Development* 24(1): 14-18.

[2] UNEP. (2010). *Linking ecosystems to risk and vulnerability reduction. The case of Jamaica.* UNEP: Geneva. See also: http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/RiVAMP.pdf

[3] Reij, C., G. Tappan, and M. Smale. 2010. "Resilience to drought through agro-ecological restoration of drylands, Burkina Faso and Niger" cited in the *2011Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction.* ISDR: Geneva. p. 129.

[4] World Food Programme, Office for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. (2010). Climate Change: Enabling people to adapt for the future. Downloaded at: http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp215412.pdf

- **Applying ecosystem management for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is a no-regret investment.** Sustainable ecosystems management impacts on all three fundamental elements of the disaster risk equation –regulating hazards, controlling exposure and reducing vulnerability. Moreover, ecosystems provide multiple social, economic and environmental benefits – *regardless of whether a disaster materializes*. Aside from hazard mitigation, ecosystems sustain livelihoods, contribute to GDP, support poverty reduction, ensure biodiversity and facilitate carbon sequestration.
- **Ecosystem-based measures for risk reduction are viewed to be cost-effective.** Netherlands invested €2.3 billion to make "Room for the River" and re-established floodplains, resulting in reduced flood risk for 4 million people along its main rivers.[5] Switzerland invests up to 150 million Swiss francs per year in forest management which provides protection against mountain hazards, such as rockfalls, snow avalanches and landslides and is 5 to 10 times less costly than engineered measures.[6]
- The "green" and "blue" natural infrastructures provided by ecosystems are often more locally-accessible and less expensive to maintain than human-built, "gray" infrastructure. Sometimes, human-made "built" and the natural "green" responses are combined as complementary solutions. These are not necessarily mutually exclusive.
- While ecosystem-based approaches are not new, challenges remain in applying them in the context of disaster risk reduction and adaptation.
- There is a need to **maximize shared priorities between the disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development agendas**, recognizing the important role of ecosystems in reducing risk and providing for human well-being. This integrated approach should be reinforced in the Rio+20 Conference, in the MDGs and the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, in the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework, as well as in UNFCCC negotiations.
- **Factoring environmental sustainability and risk reduction into public investments and development planning will achieve the necessary scale to effectively tackle key drivers of risk, protect against disaster losses, and support social and economic development.** A number of environmental management instruments are available - integrated watershed management, coastal zone management, protected area management, drylands management, forest fire management, as well as environmental impact assessments (EIAs) – which could be applied to make public investments and sectoral development plans more sustainable *and* resilient.
- **Finally, strengthening national and local capacities remains a critical gap.** Adoption of national policies and legislation provide the institutional and political mandate for implementing such integrated approaches. In some countries, appropriate policies and legislation are already in place, but the main problem lies in their enforcement and implementation. Technical capacity development and cross-sectoral institutional mechanisms are needed to implement integrated solutions across key development sectors, such as water, forestry and urban development. This means involving people with different technical expertise, for instance city engineers and land developers working together with ecologists and disaster management experts.

Contact: Marisol Estrella, UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, Geneva
marisol.estrella@unep.org

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[5] Van Eijk, P., C. Baker, R. Gaspirc, and R. Kumar. (2012 forthcoming). "Good flood, bad flood: maintaining dynamic river basins for community resilience" in Renaud, F., K. Sudmeier-Rieux, M. Estrella (eds), *The role of ecosystems in disaster risk reduction*. UNU Press: Bonn.

[6] Wehrli, A and L. Dorren. (2012 forthcoming). "Good flood, bad flood: maintaining dynamic river basins for community resilience" in Renaud, F., K. Sudmeier-Rieux, M. Estrella (eds), *The role of ecosystems in disaster risk reduction*. UNU Press: Bonn.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

New York, 12 April 2012

CLOSING REMARKS OF MS. MARGARETA WAHLSTROM, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- At the outset, let me express my thanks to the President of the General Assembly for convening this important debate. My thanks also goes to the panellists and to the active participation of Member States.

- Given the range of issues discussed over the two sessions, it is not a simple task to summarise the rich and varied contributions. However, there will be a President's Summary from today's debate, and given the important contributions made, we will also look at producing a more detailed report to capture proceedings in full.

- Let me leave you with some key highlights:

- From the morning session the benefits of setting clear priorities, in the context of urban risk reduction, was a strong message from the mayors, as was recognising the vulnerabilities and values of cities. Some clear examples of how to increase a city's resilience were outlined, including measuring and mapping. Making progress on risk management requires a clear understanding of the risk and of measuring that risk.

- Empowering local governments and communities, including supporting decentralisation, and giving those who are responsible the tools to make the right decisions are critically important.

- In addition, taking a proactive approach to urban planning and seeing it as a process that involves communities. There is also a need to understand that there are limits, but not to under utilise existing resources.

- It was heartening to hear powerful examples, from Quito which has undertaken a very planned approach to reducing its vulnerability, and from Istanbul, which has been working for over a decade to reduce its vulnerability to earthquakes, in part, by setting priorities to be addressed systematically, given that size and magnitude of the challenges faced.

- It is very clear that the knowledge and best practices exist. There is a wealth of experiences, lessons and knowledge, but that more needs to be done to take advantage of this valuable wealth of knowledge. So the challenge is how to bring the local to the national level, and the national to the global level so that others can benefit and make full use of these experiences.

- We heard from a number of our panellists, including from Mr. Chowdhury and the powerful example of Japan, that we cannot eliminate risk entirely. There is a need to anticipate, to observe, to understand and to give space to nature.

- The importance of social infrastructure was also outlined. Schools and health facilities are critical priorities for safety, both for the obvious social reasons but equally for the role they play following a disaster, such as providing shelter.

- It was stimulating to hear from the representative from AECOM, and to ask ourselves to look at who is sitting at the table. This is a critical question, as it's very hard to integrate the perspective of issues which are not represented. Hence the importance of taking a multi-stakeholder, multi-institutional approach.

- In the afternoon, we focused on small island States, LDCs and Africa where the discussions re-enforced the need to look at addressing the vicious cycle of disasters, development losses and the increasing indebtedness of small island States.

- Equally, we also heard of practical action in addressing disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation by Bangladesh and Jamaica, in addition to some very concrete examples from Mr. John Schneider on his work.

- The message from these examples was that there's no need to be discouraged, we actually know what to do. But that there is every reason to accelerate action as we are out of sync with the accumulation of risk.

- On mechanisms, we heard about the importance of frameworks for cooperation, legislation but also the need for strong leadership, at all levels of government, particularly in the absence of other formal instruments.

- We heard about the economic opportunities, and challenges, well managed eco-systems provide and some examples of how to apply eco-system management to build resilience. Incorporating this in practice, into a coherent approach, however, remains a challenge.

- There was recognition that technology can not solve everything. There is a lot more to be done in understanding more traditional ways of managing risk, and to adapt these so that more complex societal structures can benefit for this.

- A lot of discussion was centred around the role of science. There was an acknowledgement that there is a trust gap and that more needs to be done to foster a culture of research. Equally, it is clear that decision-makers need to recognise the importance of science in the decision-making process.

- There was a call for more investment in science, and given limited resources, the advantages of regional collaboration were highlighted.

- And finally, many speakers underlined the importance of integrating disaster risk and risk perspectives into the sustainable development framework, in Rio and beyond.

- Thank you very much Mr. President.

Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction

12 Apr 2012 - 12 Apr 2012

Interactivepaneldiscussionii:increasing resilience to disasters through climate adaptation & risk reduction

Intervention by Batjargal Zamba, WMO Representative to the UN

Madam Moderator,

First of all, I would like to join the previous speakers in expressing my sympathy to the people of Indonesia.

The timing of this high-level debate organized by the initiative of the President of the UNGA is very important and relevant in line with Rio+20 process and in respect of the forthcoming Rio Summit.

My thanks go to successful leadership of the process and for moderation of today's event in efficient manner as well as to you, Madam Moderator. Thanks to all panelists for their informative and thoughtful presentations.

I have a brief remark referring to the presentation just made by Dr. Carby, who highlighted the value of science and emphasized on the importance of knowledge in risk reduction and climate adaptation.

Most of the delegates in this room are probably aware that the WMO has initiated implementation of the new international programme aimed at establishing the Global Framework for Climate Services, about which Dr. Angus Friday , one of the panelist from the World Bank, mentioned in his presentation today. One of the principal goals of this Programme is to bridge a gap between producers and users of climate information. As you know, the gap is existing not only within one country between its different economic sectors and different spheres of its social life. A gap is existing between countries. In fact, only a few advanced countries have a capacity to collect world-wide climate data and analyze it to use in their decision making practices. Rest of the countries, particularly most of the developing countries, are lacking such capabilities. Around 70 developing countries do not have any climate data that can be used meaningfully.

Madam Moderator,

Mr. Bukuru just made a reference to cooperation between the UNCCD Secretariat and the WMO to address certain issues in area of desertification and droughts.

As you know, international community is enjoying another well arranged cooperation mechanism, namely the IPCC, well known to everybody, which was created jointly by the WMO and UNEP.

I would appreciate it very much if panelists could elaborate more on the possible ways of cooperation among Member States with engagement of UN agencies and entities as facilitators in terms of data exchange, information sharing and transfer of knowledge in order to increase countries resilience to climate variability, fluctuations and related natural hazards and disasters.

Thank you.

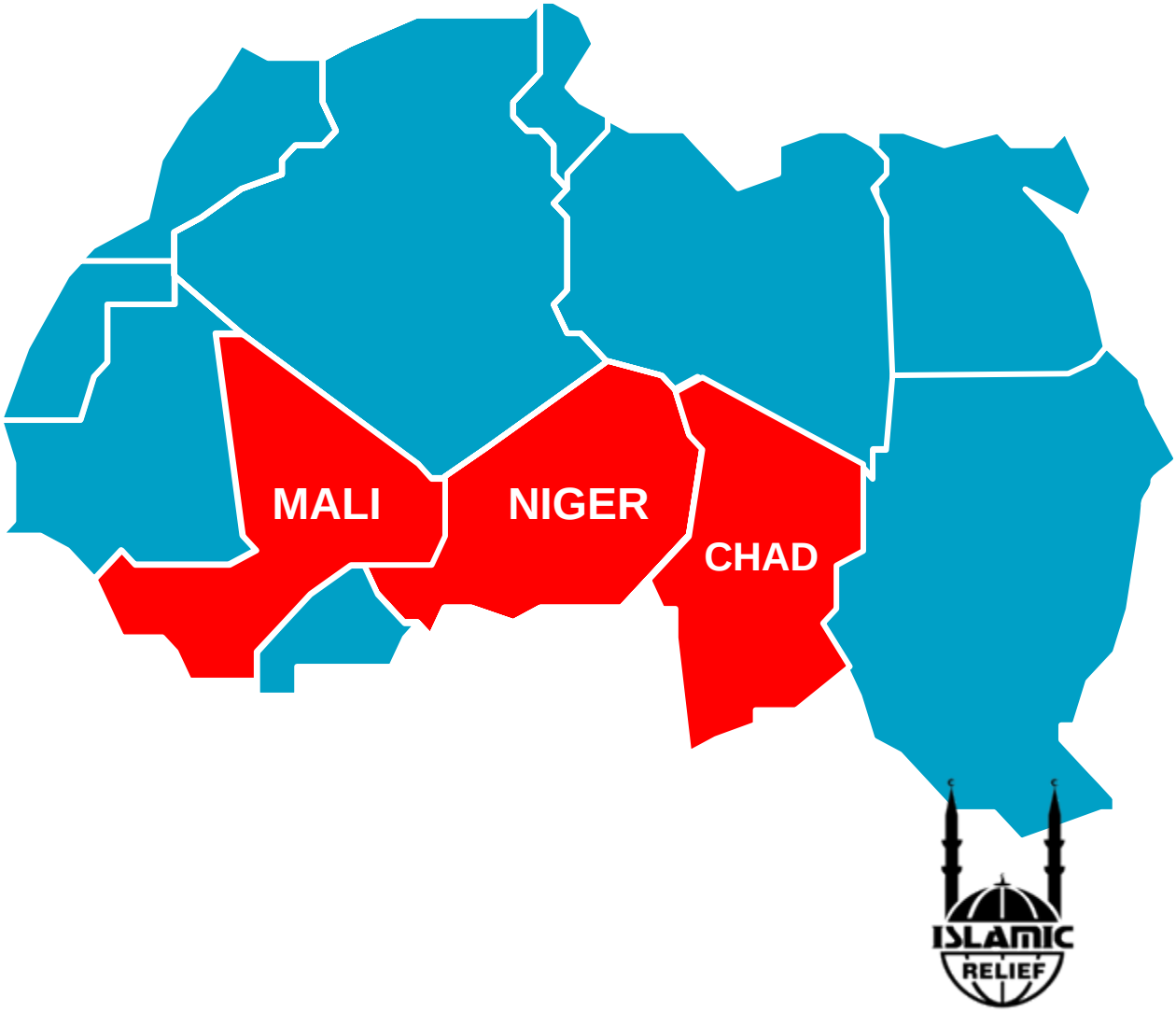
Islamic Relief Worldwide

Dedicated to alleviating the suffering of the world's poorest people

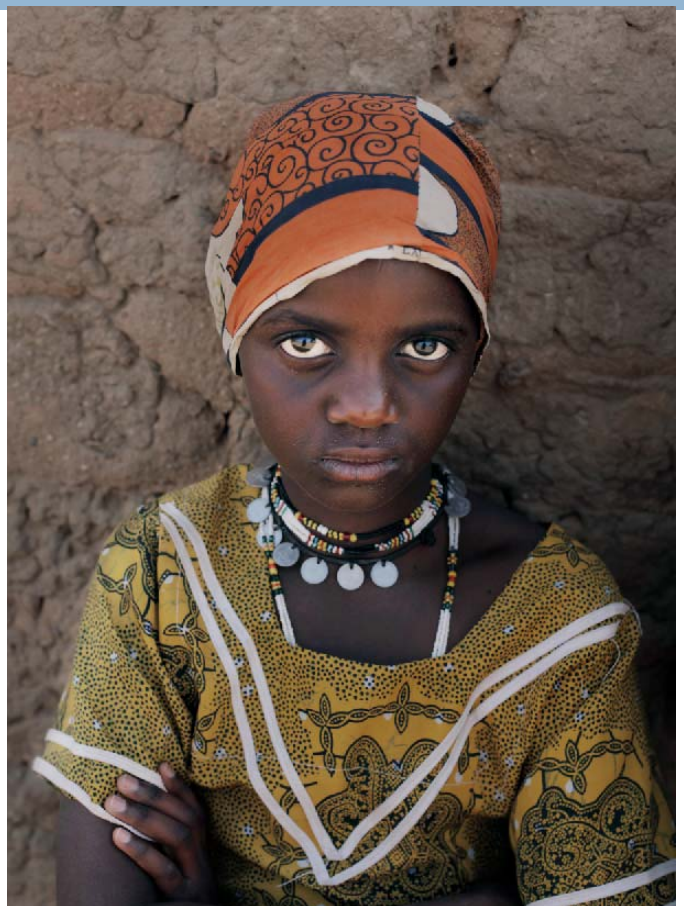
Disaster Risk Reduction Challenges: Sahel UNGA,
12 April 2012
NYC

West Africa Food Crisis

- West Africa is suffering from a severe food shortage, just two years after a similar crisis swept the region
- 1 in 3 Nigeriens already go to bed hungry
- 3 million people in Mali and 2.5 million in Chad are also affected



Islamic Relief Aid Efforts



IRW Projects in Sahel, 2012

Countries	Chad	Mali	Niger
Budget 2012, Euro	2.3 M	1.4 M	480,000
Forecast till 2015, Euro	7.0 M	5.0 M	2.0 M
Beneficieries	60,000	42,000	25,000
Staff	69	46	21
Donors	IRW, EC, ECHO, DFID, UNICEF, SIDA	IRW, EC	IRW

Islamic Relief Aid Efforts

- Recovery – IRW is working with the most vulnerable communities in the Sahel
  - Remote / Drought / Wars / Influx of Refugees / Political Incapacity
- In Mali, working in Gourma-Rharous
- In Niger, working in Tillaberi Region
- In Chad, working in Haouich – Eastern Chad

Islamic Relief Aid Efforts

- Mitigation
  - Focus on long-term solutions that we hope will enable communities to be more resilient in the face of harsher and more unpredictable weather conditions linked to climate change.
  - Improved food production and diversification
  - Irrigation schemes using the river Niger
  - Scaling up rain water harvesting
  - Greening the Desert and Food Sovereignty

Islamic Relief Preparedness Efforts

Historical Perspective

- 2000-3000 BC: History is the best teacher
- 1984: Severe Famine in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, the creation of Islamic Relief
- 2000: Famine again, in the same countries
  - Some Lessons from 1984 saved lives (Food Reserves)
- 2011: East Africa Drought
- 2012: Sahel Region Drought

IR Preparedness Efforts

- Improved animal husbandry through pasture development and access to water
- Improved mitigation and adaptation measures to the changing climate (from lessons learnt, sustainability could be achieved by:
  - Rainwater harvesting (dams, large diameter wells, lagoons, artificial lakes etc)
  - Protection of investments by introducing and scaling up growing of sisal plant (new)

Success Story in Preparedness

- IR tries to raise the bar of humanitarian aid by adapting an "Integrated Approach" in providing post-disaster community reconstruction and rehabilitation
- Lunda, a village of around 200 house-holds in the KPK province in Pakistan
- This success story was replicated in 60 more villages in Pakistan

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLi09zdRKSM

DRR Challenges

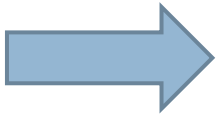
- Slow coverage by Media
  - Droughts are slow-onset emergencies
  - Droughts are recurring emergencies

→ Donor Community Awareness is slow

→ Fund Raising is slow

DRR Challenges

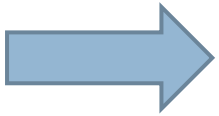
- The seasons have changed, or are becoming less predictable due to climate change
  - Annual Rain Months change
  - Intensity of the rain is unknown



Planning become more difficult for vulnerable communities

DRR Challenges

- Absence of equal partnerships with
  - National and Local NGOs
  - Community-based organizations
  - Faith Groups



Lack of ownership

People feel totally excluded

DRR Challenges

- Weak Government Structures

→ Not able to drive DRR mechanisms

- Short term projects

→ We can not plan for the future

Or develop more sustainable projects

Ideas for Sustainable Resilience

IR works to combat the root causes of vulnerability:

- Local authorities (traditional & admin) are key stakeholders
- Comprehensive involvement of community members (through local partners e.g. 40 local community groups in Mali)
- Marginalized or isolated people - local knowledge to resilience is very valuable . For example: the decision to introduce water harvesting and early crops

Ideas for Sustainable Resilience

- We suggest the adaptation of investing 10-20% of relief budget to increase capacity and decrease vulnerability
- Studies suggest that every $1 spent on Disaster Preparedness saves $8-12 on Disaster Response

$$(H * V) – C = R$$

(Hazard * Vulnerability) – Capacity = Risk



Ideas for Sustainable Resilience

- According to Mr. Mark Bowden, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, $1.3 Billion were spent in Somalia last year
  - $130 Million (10%) could have been invested to develop local NGO capacity and more disaster preparedness activities

Ideas for Sustainable Resilience

- Support the Nomad system rather than changing it
- Most nomads live in marginal areas like deserts, where mobility becomes a logical and efficient strategy for harvesting scarce resources spread unevenly across wide territories.
  - Develop better climate-resistant tents
  - Develop portable water purification systems
  - Supply them with portable clinics and schools
  - Satellite images for resources

ISLAMIC RELIEF

THANK YOU

MOHAMED ASHMAWEY
CEO
ISLAMIC RELIEF WORLDWIDE

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Islamic Relief Aid Efforts

- Recovery Examples
  - A cereal bank in Banikane village, Mali, to offer long-term stocks of grain
  - Feeding programs for under-fives in Ouaddai and Guera, Chad
  - Cereal for 1,000 families for three months in Niger
  - Nutrition program for 9,000 children in Tillaberi, Niger
  - Regular food and water provision to 3,000 residents of Mangaize refugee camp in Niger

Desarrollo de Ciudades Resilientes a través de la inversión pública y la seguridad

DISTRITO METROPOLITANO DE QUITO

Quito es la capital del Ecuador y de la provincia de Pichincha.
Ubicada en la Línea Equinoccial, al pie del volcán Pichincha y a 2.805 metros sobre el nivel del mar (9.200 pies).
Tiene un área de 422.802 hectáreas (en todo el Distrito Metropolitano)
Una población de 2,3 millones de habitantes aproximadamente.
Quito es la ciudad de la 'eterna primavera' , su temperatura oscila entre 9 y 20 grados centígrados.

Quito fue la primera ciudad declarada como Patrimonio Cultural de la Humanidad en 1978.
En el 2011 fue declarada como Capital Americana de la Cultura.

Resumen de las Amenazas principales a las que está expuesta Quito.

Inundaciones y Deslizamientos anualmente en la temporada lluviosa (Octubre-Diciembre y Febrero-Abril)
Incendios Forestales en la temporada de verano (Junio – Septiembre)

Además: Erupciones Volcanicas, Quito está rodeado por 12 volcanes activos.

Terremotos: Ecuador esta dentro de peligro sísmico más alto.

Y Amenazas antrópicas (incendios, derrames de hidrocarburos y substacionas peligorsas)

Las avances de Quito en RRD

Quito busca convertirse en una ciudad segura y resiliente.

La reducción de riesgos de desastres es una prioridad para el Municipio del DMQ

El trabajo realizado y los logros alcanzados se presentan en base a los puntos esenciales de la Campaña Mundial sobre Ciudades Resilientes.

1.- Organización y coordinación

- La Gestión de Riesgo de Desastres está dentro de la temática de Seguridad Integral. En el Nivel de Decisión Estratégica (1er Nivel) e incidiendo sobre todos los otros niveles.
- Se está actualizando las ordenanzas municipales que establecen y regulan el Sistema Metropolitano de Gestión de Riesgos de Desastres.

a) La Seguridad Integral dentro del DMQ está establecida por: Seguridad Ciudadana, Seguridad ante Desastres de origen natural y antrópico, y la Seguridad Vial. Niveles: Nivel Político (Alcalde y Consejales) – Nivel Asesor (Administración y Legal) – Nivel de Decisión Estratégica (Planificación; Seguridad (Riesgos) y Gobernabilidad; y Coordinación Territorial) – Nivel de Decisón Sectorial – Nivel de Gestión – Nivel Operativo

b) Sistema Metropolitano de GRD integrado por: Secretaria de Seguridad y Gobernabilidad (Dirección Metropolitana de Gestión de Reisgos); Entidades de Respuesta (Bomberos y Policia Metropolitana); Entidades de Apoyo (Empresas Municipales); Entidades para la Prevención (Planificación y Secretarias Sectoriales); Entidades Operativas (Administraciones Zonales)

2.- Asignación de presupuesto para RRD

- El MDMQ ha asignado un presupuesto el **Fondo de Emergencia** (M-DMQ, EMSEGURIDAD y SMGdR). ($ 1,7 millones anuales)
- Presupuesto para obras de mitigación y emergencia. ($ 30 millones anuales) Especialmente estabilización de taludes
- Programa de Relocalización de familias en zonas de Riesgo ($ 1,2 millones anuales)
- Presupuesto Anual de la Dirección de Gestión de Riesgos ($ 2 millones anuales)

a) En el caso de no utilizar ese Fondo en emergencias el 60 % es destinado a obras de prevención.

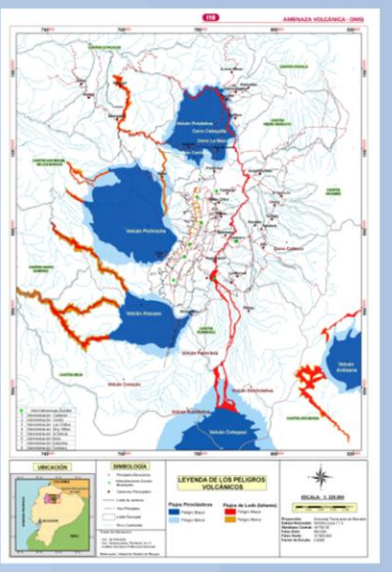
b) Se incluye el presupuesto de las EMAPS y EMMOP.

c) Programa de Relocalización (2010 – 2012) : Al momento 1.104 Familias dentro del programa. Monto total 2,45 millones

d) Principalmente proyectos de Prevención y Preparación ante desastres.

3.- Elaborar evaluaciones del riesgo

- En 2004 se presenta el estudio de Vulnerabilidad de los elementos esenciales de Quito
- En 2010 se presenta el Atlas de Amenazas Naturales.
- Los últimos estudios desarrollados son estudios geológico y geotécnicos incluyendo la Microzonificación Sísmica



Antecedentes:

Desde 1993 el Municipio del DMQ viene trabajado en actualizar la información de amenazas, vulnerabilidades, capacidad de respuesta y riesgo.

Ejemplo: Mapa de los Peligros Volcánicos – Atlas de Amenazas Naturales.

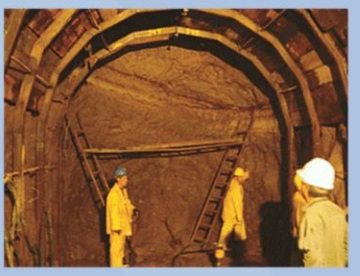
a) El apoyo de la Cooperación Francesa (IRD) en diversos estudios realizados en la ciudad da como resultado final el estudio de Vulnerabilidad de los elementos esenciales de Quito. El mismo que puede ser descargado de la pagina Web del Municipio del DMQ. www.quito.gob.ec (Secretaria Territorio, Habitad y Vivienda)

b) Atlas editado y publicado en 2010 con la información recopilada hasta 2009. A finales de 2012 saldra la segunda edición.

c) En estos dos últimos años el tema geotécnico (estudios de suelo) ha sido estudiado profundamente y en detalle. Estudios de suelo para el Metro de Quito, Microzonificación Sísmica, en los sitios donde han ocurrido deslizamientos grandes como la Forestal, Estudios en zonas sensibles como Turubamba, y en los nuevos proyectos de la EMAPS.

4.- Infraestructura para recudir el riesgo

- La Empresa Municipal de Agua Potable y alcantarillado está trabajado en infraestructura para reducir el riesgo de inundaciones. ($ 98 millones 2011-14)
- Construcción de obras para estabilización de taludes a través de la Empresa Municipal de Movilidad y Obras Públicas.
- Soterramiento de cableado (meta: 120 Km)



a) Plan de manejo y control de inundaciones y optimización del drenaje urbano: Con una inversión total de 98 millones de dólares en el periodo 2011 – 2014.

b) Inversión de la Empresa Municipal de Movilidad y Obras Públicas en estabilización de taludes: 50 millones de dolares en el periodo 2010 – 2012

c) Soterramiento de todo el cableado en 120 Km en el DMQ. En el primer año 60 km.

5.- Seguridad de todas las escuelas y centros de salud

- Dentro del Plan de Reducción del Riesgo Sísmico se ha contemplado la evaluación estructural de los centros educativos y de salud.
- Al momento se han evaluado la sismoresistencia del 100% de los centros educativos municipales.
- Además se ha evaluado la sismoresistencia de un centro de salud municipal y de 2 hospitales públicos.

a) Plan de Reducción de Riesgo Sísmico presentado en el 2010.

b) 35 centros educativos evaluados. Costo por metro cuadrado de analisis y diseño de reforzamiento: 8 dólares. Inversión realizada en los centros educativos municipales 700 mil dólres

c) El costo de los estudios estructurales en los centros de salud son más altos: 12 dólares por metro cuadrado

PROXIMOS PASOS: Buscar financiamiento para realizar el reforzamiento estructural en los que sea rentable, en otros casos busca la construcción de nuevos centros educativos.

6.- Reglamentos de construcción y planificación del uso del suelo.

- Nuevos Planes de Desarrollo y Ordenamiento Territorial que incluye la variable riesgo. Evitar modelo expansivo y ocupación de areas de riesgo
- La regularización de los barrios
- Nueva normativa en cuanto a las autorizaciones de construcción.
- Se ha establecido la Agencia Metropolitana de Control
- El MDMQ ha acompañado y ha presionado para que la Norma Ecuatoriana de la Construcción sea actualizada (Pendiente de promulgación)

a) Nuevos Planes de Desarrollo y Ordenamiento Territorial que incluye la variable riesgo. La variable riesgo esta implícita y es transversal a todos los sectores del desarrollo. Asi mismo es explicita dentro de un capítulo específico sobre esta temática.

b) La regularización de los barrios ahora se los hace tomando en cuenta la exposición a las amenazas de los mismos.

c) Se ha actualizado la normativa en cuanto a las autorizaciones de construcción.

d) Se ha establecido la Agencia Metropolitana de Control. Trabajar en el control de la ciudad de una manera más tecnica.

e) El MDMQ ha acompañado y ha presionado para que la Norma Ecuatoriana de la Construcción sea actualizada (Pendiente)

7.- Programas educativos y de capacitación

- Establecimiento y desarrollo del Programa "Mi Escuela se Prepara" (800 escuelas – 45% de las escuelas del DMQ)
- Sensibilización a lideres barriales y la población en general
- Establecimiento de Equipos de Gestión de Riesgo dentro de los Comités de Seguridad.

a) Establecimiento y desarrollo del Programa "Mi Escuela se Prepara" (800 escuelas – 45% de las escuelas del DMQ): Este programa incluye actividades en Sensibilización, formación de Comités de Seguridad, entrega de Kits de emergencias, Capacitaciónes y Simulacros.

b) Sensibilización a lideres barriales y la población en general.

c) Establecimiento de Equipos de Gestión de Riesgo dentro de los Comités de Seguridad. Hasta en momento se trabaja en 100 barrios.

8.- Proteger los ecosistemas y las zonas naturales de amortiguamiento

- Es Política Pública la determinación de áreas protegidas y el mantenimiento de zonas amortiguamiento ecológico en el DMQ.
- En Municipio del DMQ gestiona el subsistema de áreas protegidas.
- Se estableció la Estrategia Quiteña al Cambio Climático con su respectivo marco de acción (Incluye 28 proyectos).

a) Es Política Pública la determinación de áreas protegidas y el mantenimiento de zonas amortiguamiento ecológico en el DMQ.

b) En Municipio del DMQ gestiona el subsistema de áreas protegidas.

c) Se estableció la Estrategia Quiteña al Cambio Climático con su respectivo marco de acción (Incluye 28 proyectos). Quito está entre las primeras ciudades latinoamericanas en establecer una estrategia para enfrentar el cambio climático, ademas lidera la iniciativa del Pacto Climático entre los gobiernos locales del Ecuador.

9.- Sistemas de alerta temprana y gestión de emergencias

- Protocolos claros para la administración de desastres en el DMQ
- Es política municipal la realización regular de simulaciones y simulacros (Anualmente se realizan 8 simulacros zonales, 500 escolares y 100 barriales)
- Construcción del ECU 911 (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia) con tecnología de punta.
- Se están dando los primeros paso para instalar un SAT para amenazas meteorológicas

a) Protocolos claros para la administración de desastres en el DMQ. En cada una de las entidades de atención y respuesta.

b) Es política municipal la realización regular de simulaciones y simulacros (Anualmente se realizan 8 simulacros zonales, 500 escolares y 100 barriales)

c) Construcción del ECU 911 (Centro de Operaciones de Emergencia) con tecnología de punta.

d) Se están dando los primeros paso para instalar un SAT para amenazas meteorológicas.

10.- Estrategias adicionales para la resiliencia

- Programas de Seguridad Integral
  - A nivel Barrial
  - A nivel Escolar
  - A nivel del Espacio Público
- Incorporar la variable riesgo en los nuevos proyectos
  - Proyecto METRO-Q
  - El Sistema de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado
  - Los nuevos proyectos viales
  - Los Sectores Educación y Salud

POLITICAS DE SEGURIDAD INTEGRAL

a) A nivel barrial: Comités de Seguridad, Alarmas Comunitarias, Capacitación, Simulacros y Monitoreo de Riesgos

Programa 2011-2012 : 100 Barrios

A Nivel Escolar: Sensibilización, Comités de Seguridad, Kits de emergencias, Capacitación, Simulacros.

Programa 2011-2012: 800 escuelas

A Nivel del Espacio Público: Diagnósticos participativos, Metodología CPTED, Diseño e Intervención Física, Programas de Apropiación, Seguimiento y Evaluación.

Programa 2011-2012: 16 espacios recuperado

b) Para el Municipio del DMQ es prioridad y política pública que en toda nueva obra se incluya la variable "riesgo de desastre" desde el diseño hasta su implementación y funcionamiento.

La inversión pública debe ser garantizada tomando en cuenta la variable riesgo.

Como lograr la resiliencia en Quito?

- La construcción de Quito, como un Distrito moderno, seguro y resiliente requiere de la convergencia entre el trabajo técnico-científico, la voluntad política y la aceptación de la ciudadanía.
- El compromiso de trabajo entre el Municipio y la ciudadanía es clave para el desarrollo de una cultura preventiva, donde logremos tomar conciencia de que nuestras acciones son las causantes y las que construyen el riesgo y los desastres.

DISTRITO METROPOLITANO

Augusto Barrera Guarderas
Alcalde del DM Quito

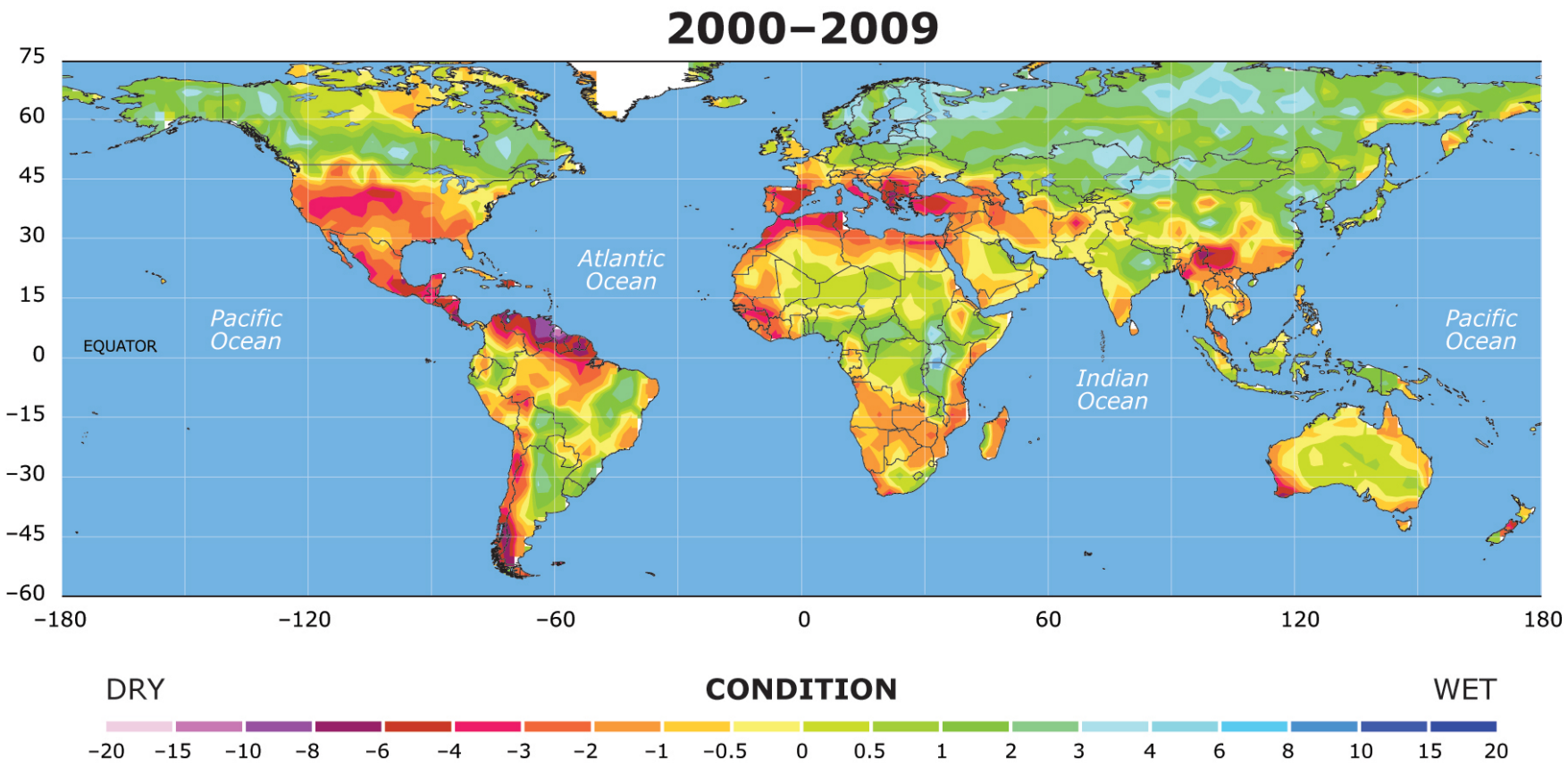
UNCCD

A scary scenario: projected drought evolution for next decades

Presented by Melchiade Bukuru
New York, 12 April 2012

World faces growing threat of severe drought

Source: University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) & National Science Foundation



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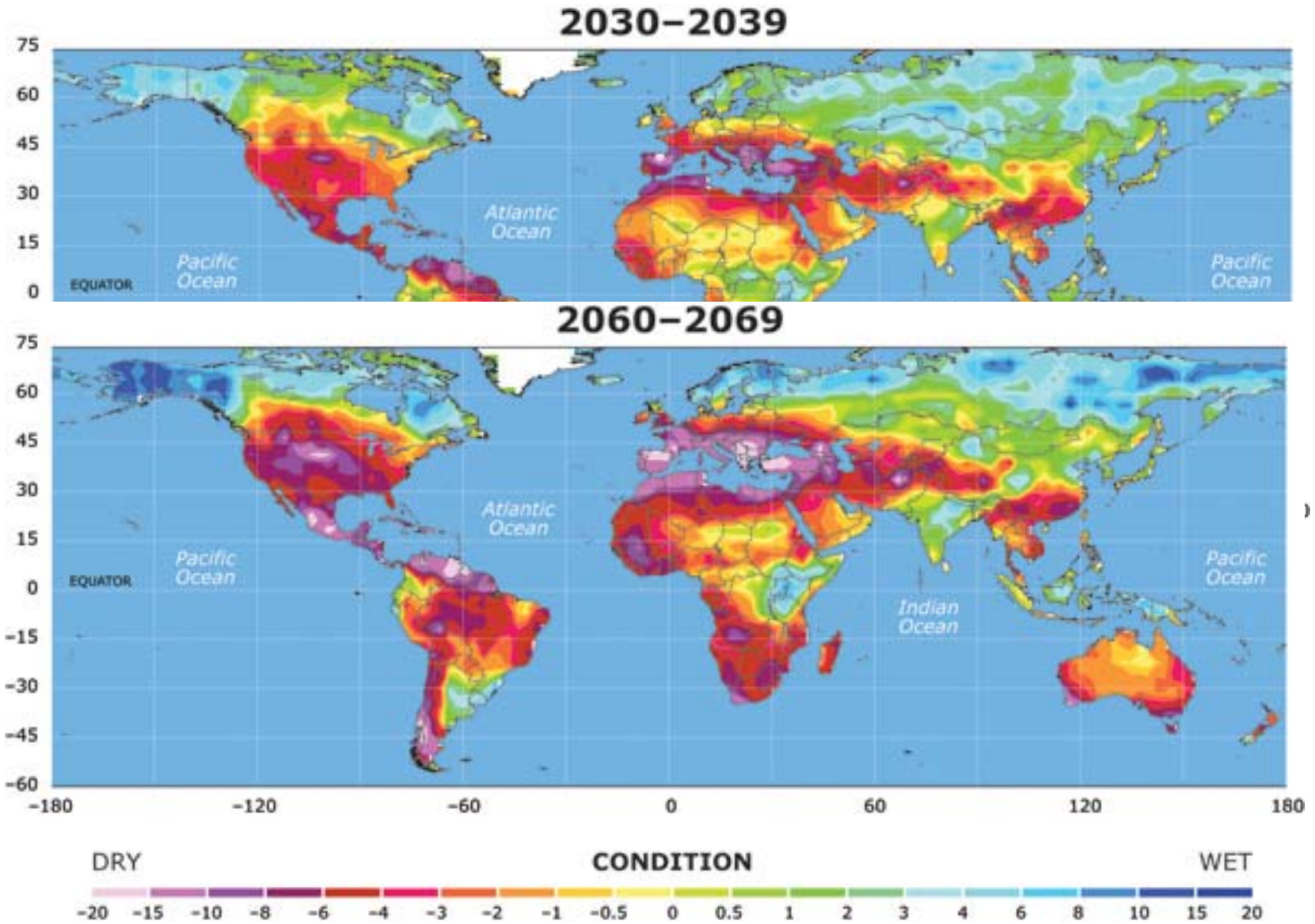
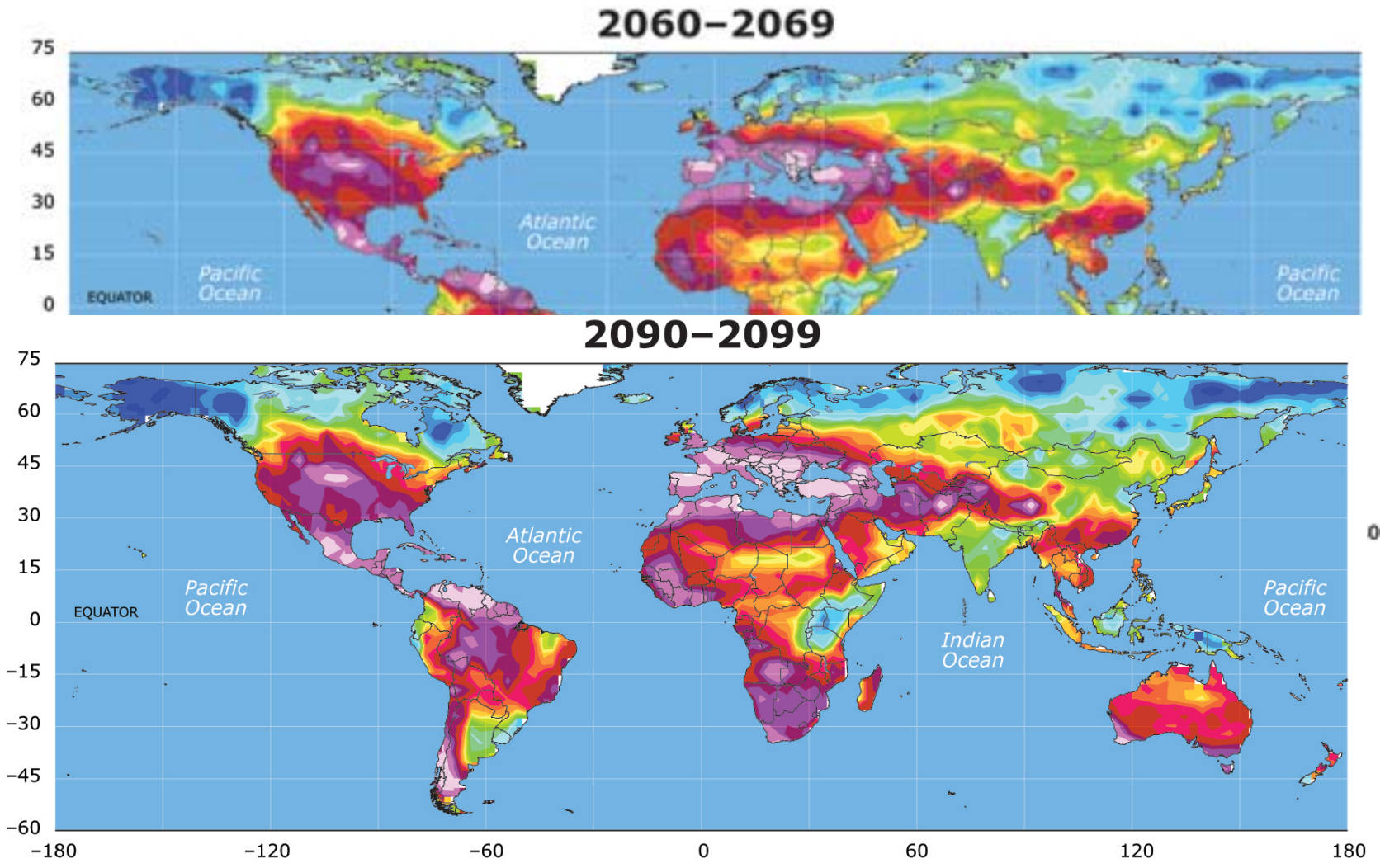



2060–2069
75
60
45
30
15
0
EQUATOR
Pacific Ocean
Atlantic Ocean
Pacific Ocean
2090–2099
75
60
45
30
15
0
−15
−30
−45
−60
EQUATOR
Pacific Ocean
Atlantic Ocean
Indian Ocean
Pacific Ocean
−180
−120
−60
0
60
120
180
DRY
CONDITION
WET
−20 −15 −10 −8 −6 −4 −3 −2 −1 −0.5 0 0.5 1 2 3 4 6 8 10 15 20

EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING: USING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE IN DRR AND CCA PLANNING

Barbara Carby

UN Thematic Debate 66th Session General Assembly on DRR April 12 2012

ASSUMPTION: Value of science to policy and planning is accepted.

Will use my seven minutes to discuss some examples from Jamaica – First some milestones which were important in gaining acceptance of evidence-based policy making and planning for DRR

And then a practical example of use of scientific knowledge

KEY MILESTONES

1. HAZARD MAPPING

Dates back over 2 decades

Maps exist for earthquakes, floods, landslides, storm surge and SLR

Used mostly by technical agencies to guide development planning

Key MILESTONES

Many maps in need of updating BUT

Are still useful –

Provide a basis for recommending site specific investigations and/or mitigation measures necessary to reduce vulnerability

Key MILESTONES

SYSTEMATIC QUANTIFICATION OF DAMAGE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT FROM HAZARDS –

Including small and medium events. This showed that cumulative losses over time were high and needed to be addressed.

Key MILESTONES

CATASTROPHIC RISK ANALYSIS FOR SEISMIC AND HURRICANE HAZARDS based on probabilistic methods

Showed that almost 20b US in public assets are exposed

These figures were important in getting Risk Reduction included national development planning

Key MILESTONES

So to summarise –

Development of hazard maps

Systematic quantification of ECONOMIC IMPACT

Probabalistic Risk analysis

Were all important in demonstrating the need for DRR and CCA to be included in national sustainable development planning

PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

I will now present a practical example of use of science in DRR and CCA Planning.

NEGRIL – prime tourism destination as well as fishing village but the economy of area as well as coastal infrastructure under threat from erosion of white sand beaches on which the tourism product is built.

EXAMPLE

Scientific studies were used to establish:

RATE of erosion

CAUSES of erosion – increased wave action from storms and hurricanes, loss of sea grass

AREAS at highest risk

Computer modelling of wave regimes under influence of climate change was also done

Based on these investigations, an intervention has been designed with the approval of community members, to :

Erect barriers which will reduce wave energy and protect the coastal environment as well as coastal infrastructure from increased wave action and storm surge taking into account effects of climate change

- This will also lead to reduced erosion and regrowth of sea-grass beds

- The scientific knowledge will also inform development of DRM and climate change adaptation plans specific to Negril.

This plan provides multiple benefits:

Protection of coastal infrastructure will save Government expenditure

Fisher folk will benefit as the sea-grass beds provide habitat for marine species

Benefits

Tourism workers, Small businesses and Hotels

Will derive benefits from the tourism industry

The marine ecosystem will be more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

This is an excellent example of how science can inform both DRR and CCA planning.

It is important to note that increasing the resilience of natural environmental assets to climate change also has benefits for the built environment as well as livelihoods security and economic activity

NECESSARY INPUTS

To wrap up I would like to say that there some inputs which are necessary to sustain evidence-based decision-making

Fostering a culture of scientific investigation –

Governments, donors must invest in research –

Too often research is the forgotten element of programmes and projects

NECESSARY INPUTS

GOOD DATA IS ESSENTIAL TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

COUNTRIES NEED A GOOD DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN –

Adequate Instrumentation

Data collection and safe storage

Data analysis

Data sharing

NECESSARY INPUTS

REGIONAL COLLABORATION – especially for small countries

Regional approaches CAN be very useful in the Caribbean –

PROVIDES A CRITICAL MASS OF EXPERTISE AND POOLING OF RESOURCES ALLOWS GREATER ACCESS FOR ALL

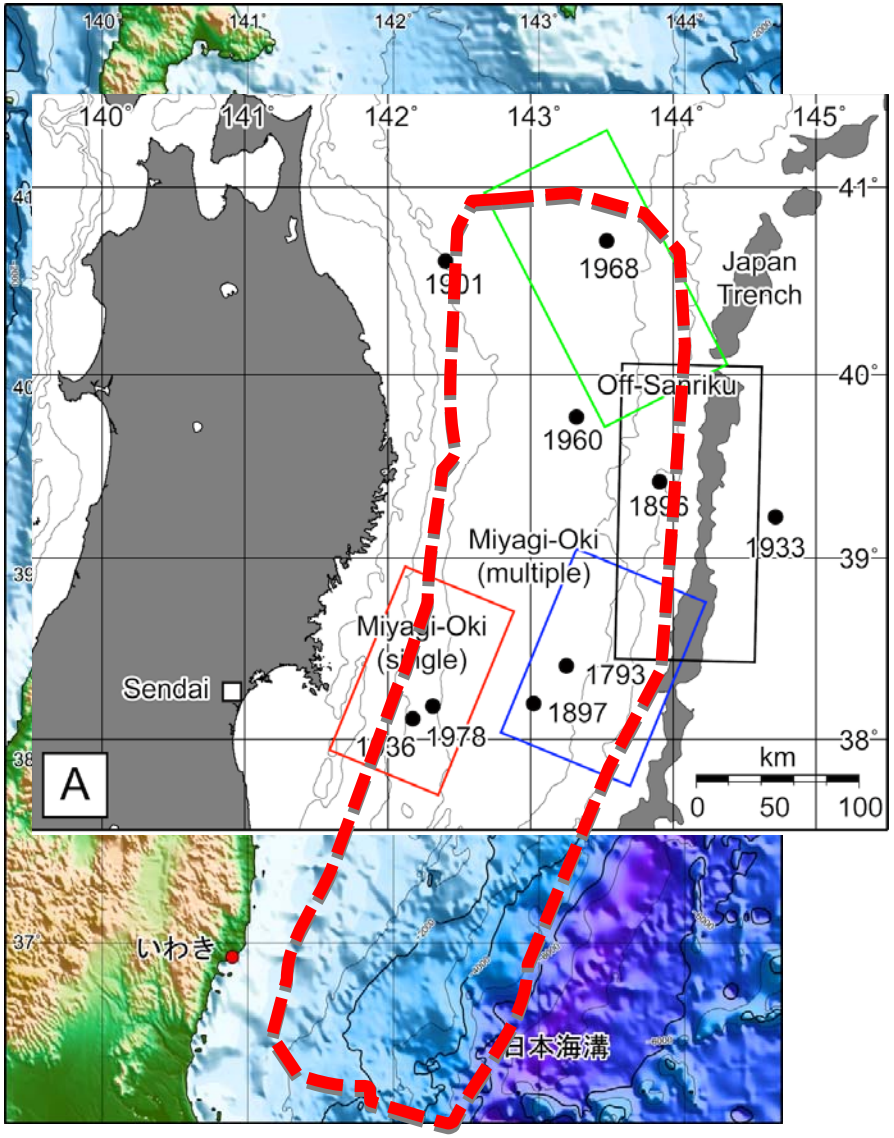
NECESSARY INPUTS

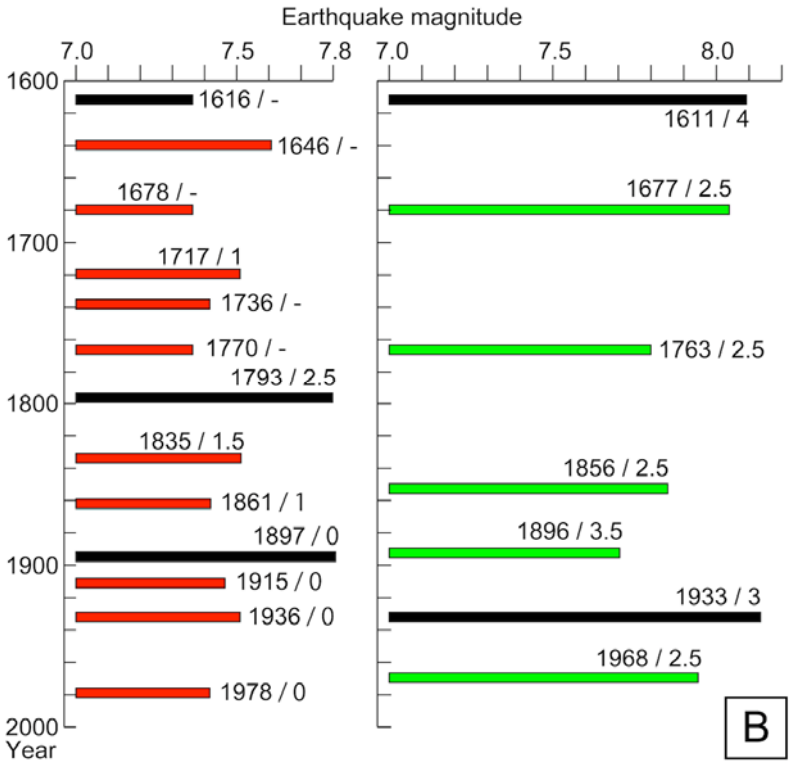
- BUILD PUBLIC TRUST IN SCIENCE

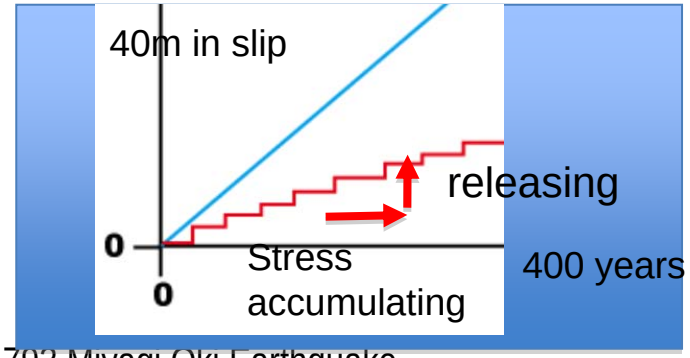
Points of convergence should between science outputs and local knowledge should be emphasised

E.g. In Jamaica climate model outputs agree with farmers' observations.

Historical tsunamis in Tohoku for 400 years and the 2011 Tohoku Eq.



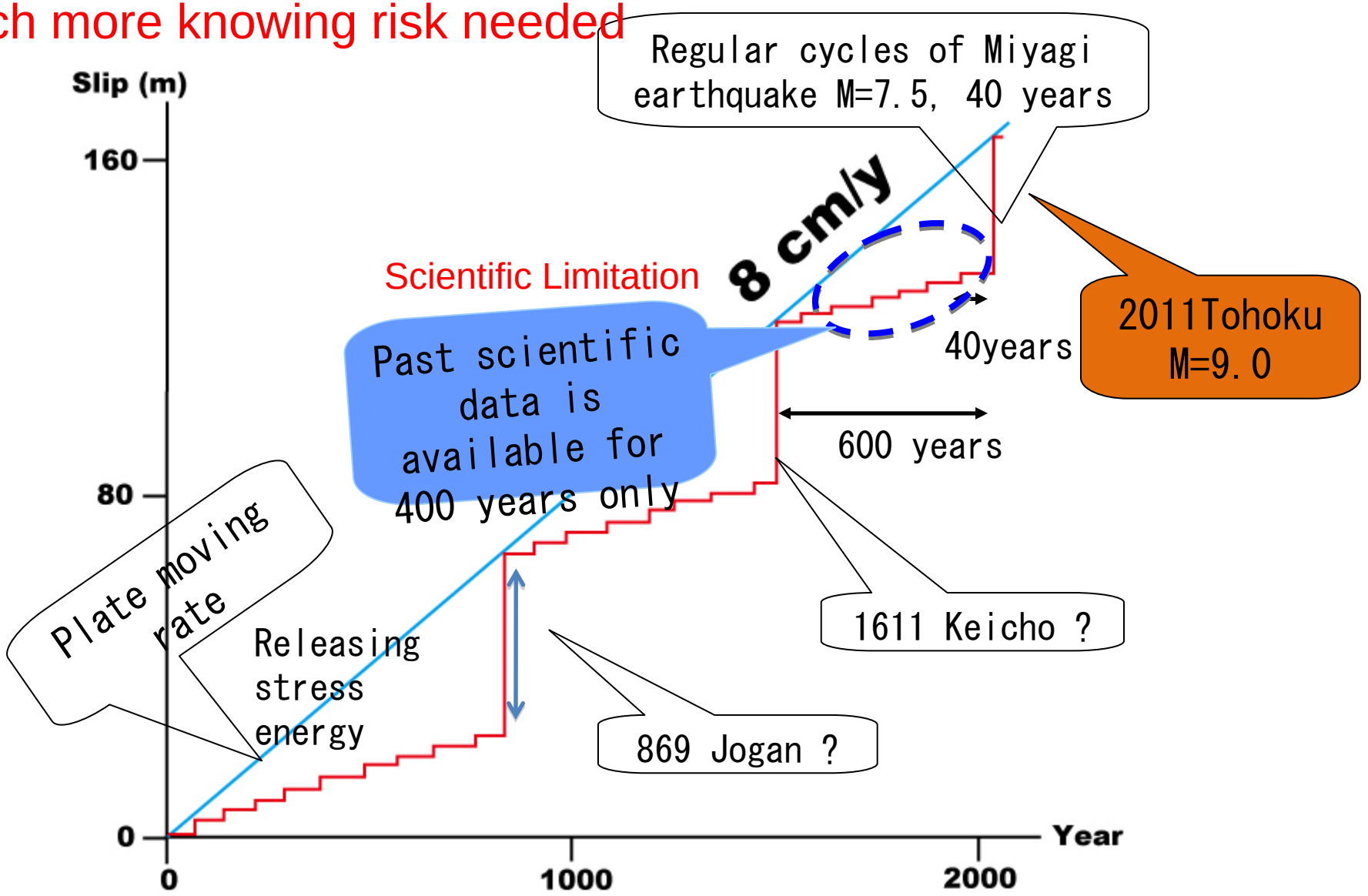




- T.Hatori, Distributions of Seismic Intensity and Tsunami of the 1793 Miyagi Oki Earthquake, Northeastern Japan, *Bulletin of Earthquake Research Institute, University of Tokyo*, 62, 297-309 (1987).

Seismic Super-cycle of 600 years

Much more knowing risk needed



Tsunami Countermeasures

- Structures; sea wall, break water, dike, controlling forest, started in 1930's and 1960 after Chilean tsunami
- Non-structures; Tsunami warning, Evacuation building, Education and awareness, monuments

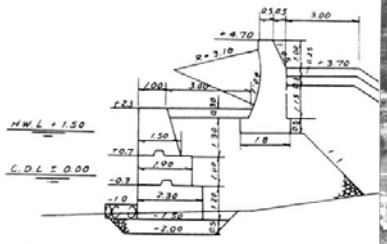
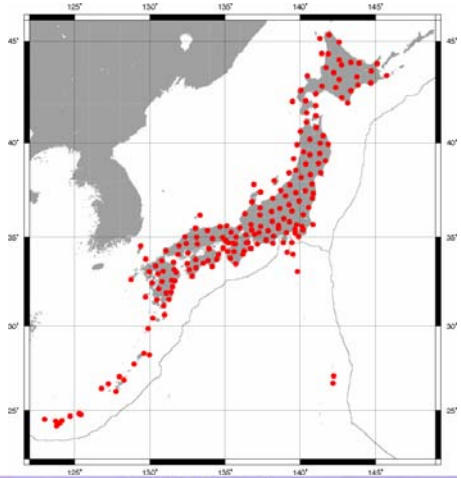


Fig. 2. Dual purpose structure (composite type

Photo 2. Typical fishing village, (Ryoishi), on the Sanriku coast.

Sea wall protecting the fishery harbor

Education increasing awareness for Disaster mitigation



JMA Earthq.&Tsunami monitoring &Tsunami Forecasting system to provide information

Tsunamis over the safety level (structural measure)

[Basic concept of sea wall design height]
・Height is decided by the higher of either storm surge or tsunami in the past.

Levee design height is decided by tsunami

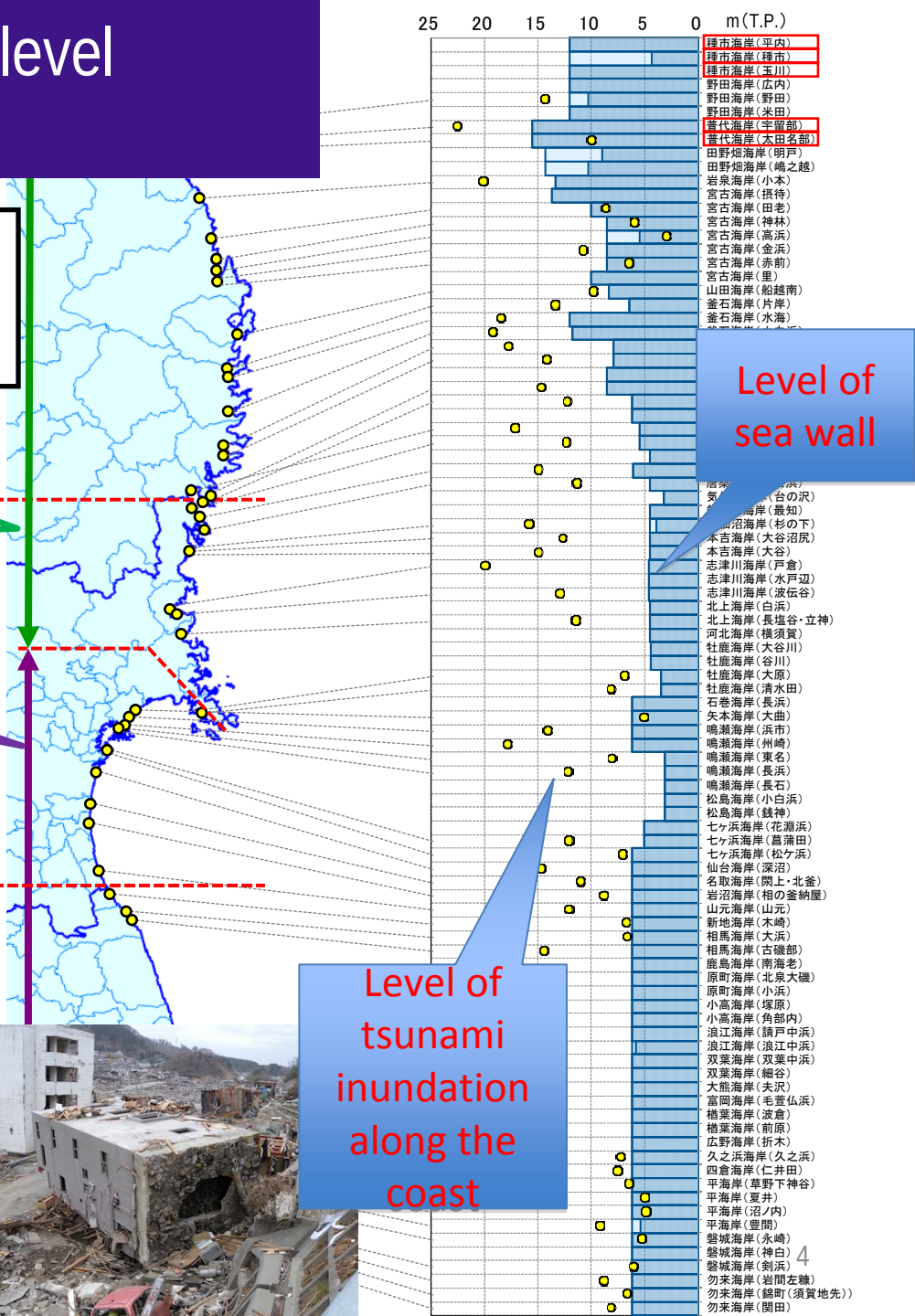
Levee design height is decided by storm surge

Current sea wall height

Sea wall design height

Tsunami trace height
(Plotted tsunami trace heights were selected close to the coast excluding the runup)

※東北地方太平洋沖地震津波
(As of May 3) (http://www.coasta

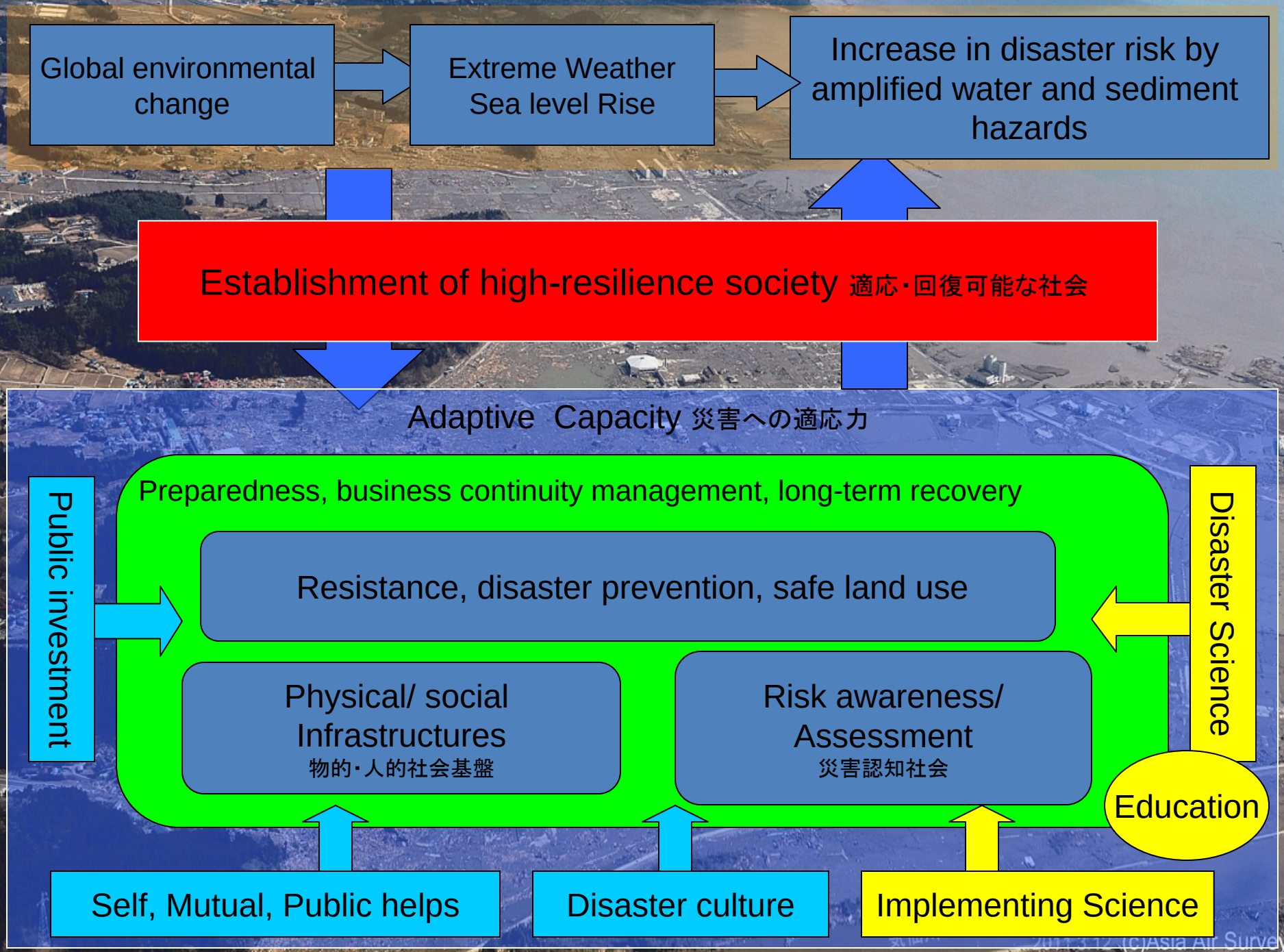


Level of sea wall

Level of tsunami inundation along the coast

Elements of building resilience are:

- Systematic assessment and monitoring of disaster risks, continued research to improve understanding of the underlying causes, and awareness of those risks by the public and all levels of governments.
- Establishment of a culture and incentives that lead to the acceptance of responsibility by communities, including private sector and civil organizations, for planning and cooperation in preparation, response, and recovery.
- Long-term planning, investment, and enforcement of mitigating or preventive measures, such as land-use and other zoning and building codes.
- International cooperation in advanced planning and rapid response, as well as research on the evaluation, mitigation and communication of risk factors.
- Science Council of Japan (2012) proposed



Establishment of International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) in Tohoku University

Our institute's missions are

1) Restructuring of disaster prevention and reduction technologies based on reality of the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku earthquake and tsunami disaster,

2) construction of “Disaster area supportology” in the event of a disaster,

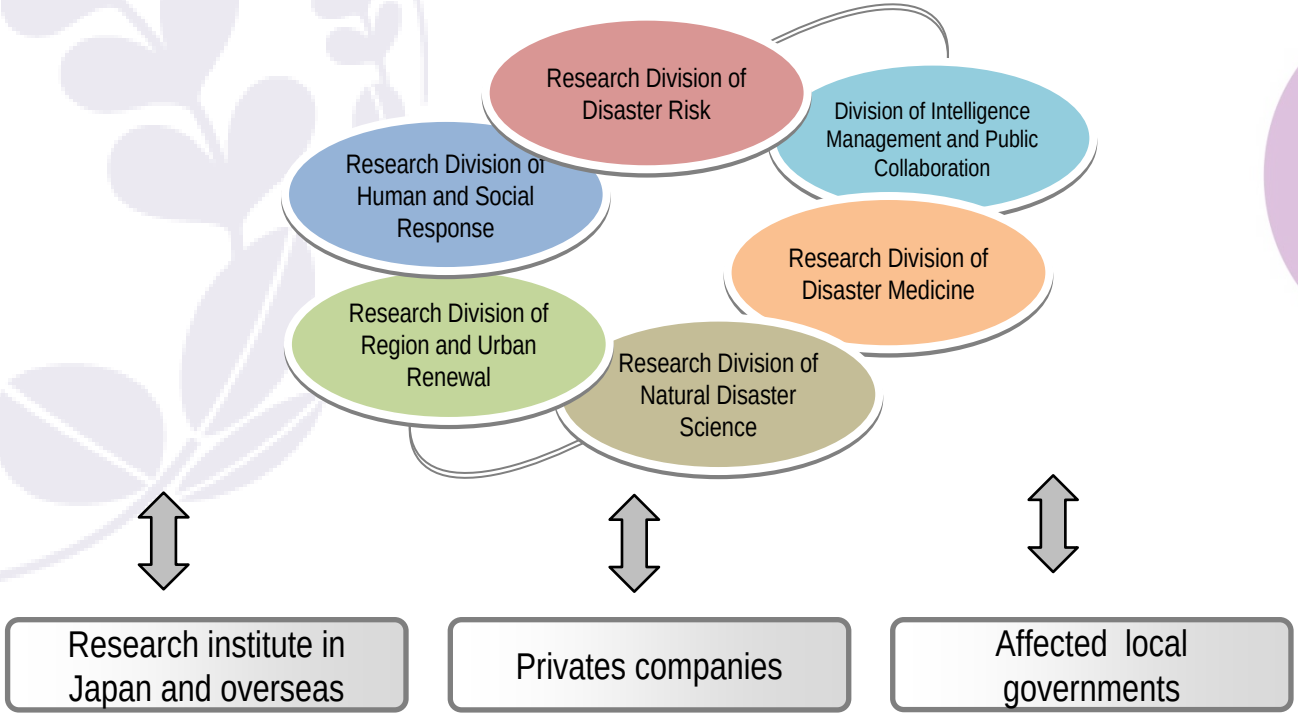
3) advancement of anti-hazard performance and upgrading for multiple-fail-safe in urban areas as disaster recovery projects,

4) mechanism research on mega earthquake and tsunami phenomena and development of next-generation early detection technology of earthquake tsunami occurrence,

5) establishment of disaster medicine and medical service system of responding appropriately to wide area massive disaster, and

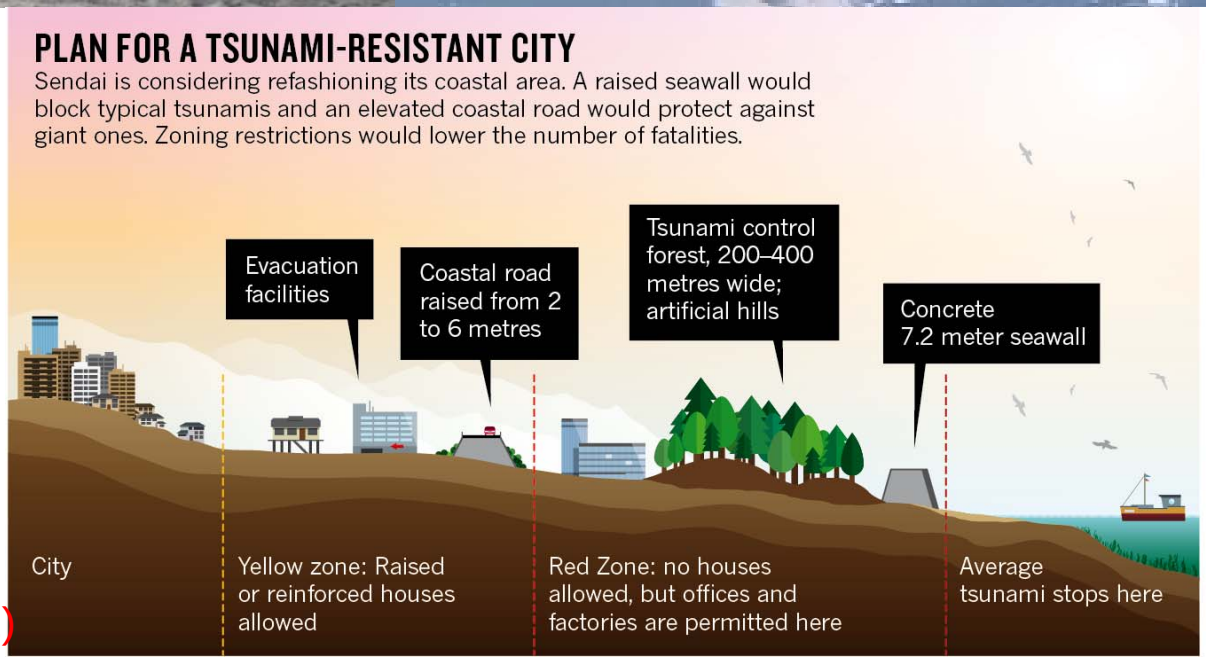
6) regenerating region and urban and creation of disaster digital archive pass down to the next generation.

IRIDeS will take the leading role for causing paradigm shift on catastrophic disaster measures and responses by accomplishing 6 missions.



Past Protections in Multi-layers, Damage by the 2011 and Plan for Tsunami Resilient city in Sendai

Only two temples were damaged among 100 with 1,000 years history in the affected area



Cyranoski (Nature, Vol.483, 2011)

- The Big Picture
- Humanitarian trends
- Preparedness
- Financing for DRR
- A final word

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Spending where it should count

Global Humanitarian Assistance
A DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

GA Thematic DRR Presentation, New York, 12th April 2012,

Jan Kellett

Introductions...

1. Financing for Emergency Preparedness: IASC principles looking beyond humanitarian.
2. Disaster Risk Reduction – Spending where it should count. Interrogating the data.
3. Global studies...

Global Humanitarian Assistance

A DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The Big Picture

Humanitarian trends

Preparedness Trends

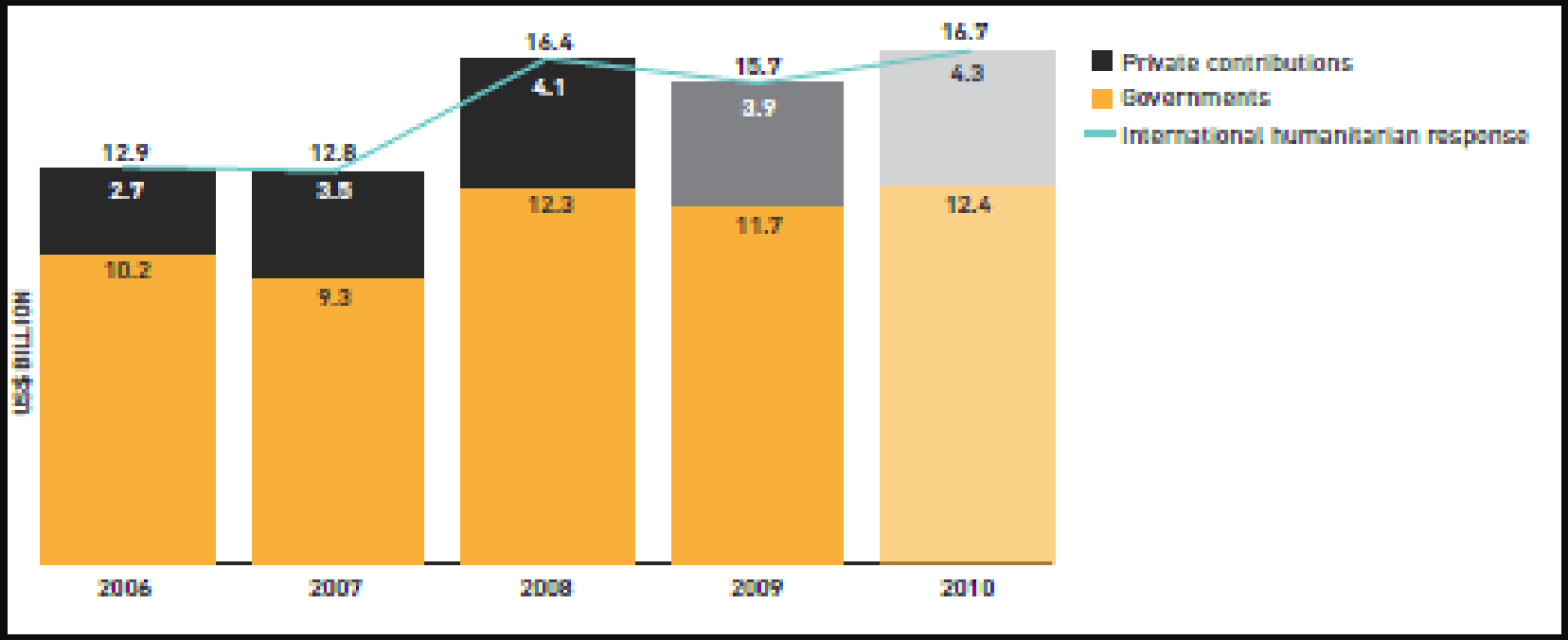
Financing for DRR

Recommendations

Global Humanitarian Assistance

A DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Overall, humanitarian aid is rising ...



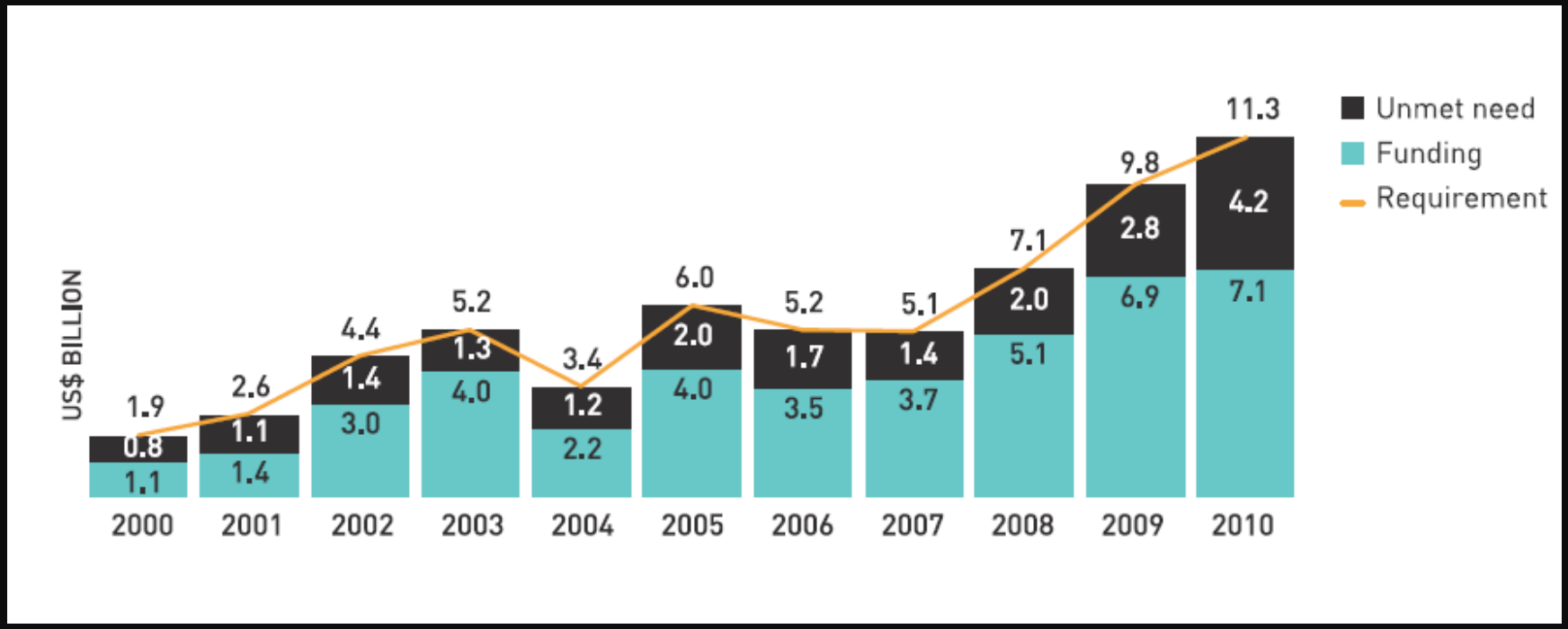
International humanitarian response, 2006-2010e

Global Humanitarian Assistance

A DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

OECD DAC and OCHA FTS

But at the same time, demand is also rising ...



Funding requirements for UN consolidated appeals process (CAP) appeals, 2000-2010

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… and so are costs

Supply
(Humanitarian expenditure)
Escalating costs
Budgetary constraints

2007-2011
Food: 40%
Oil: 36%

Demand
(Humanitarian need)
Escalating vulnerability
Increased demand

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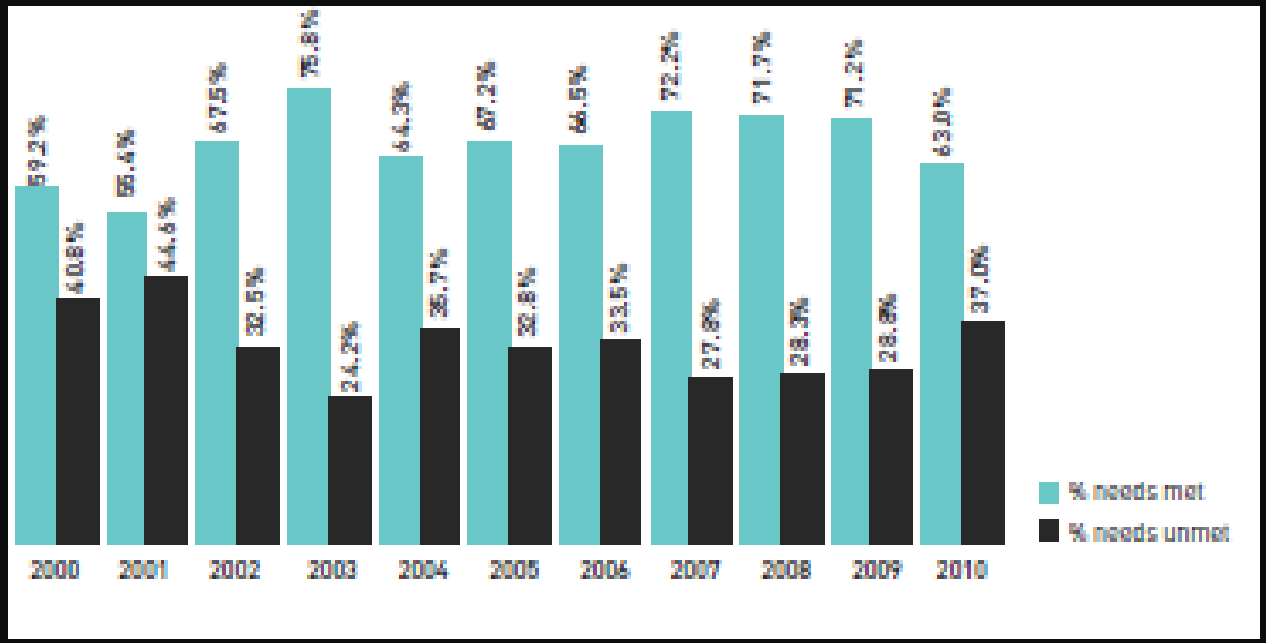
Food and energy price index

Unmet needs in UN CAP appeals are creeping up again



Shares of needs met and unmet in UN CAP appeals, 2000-2010

30.2%

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OCHA FTS

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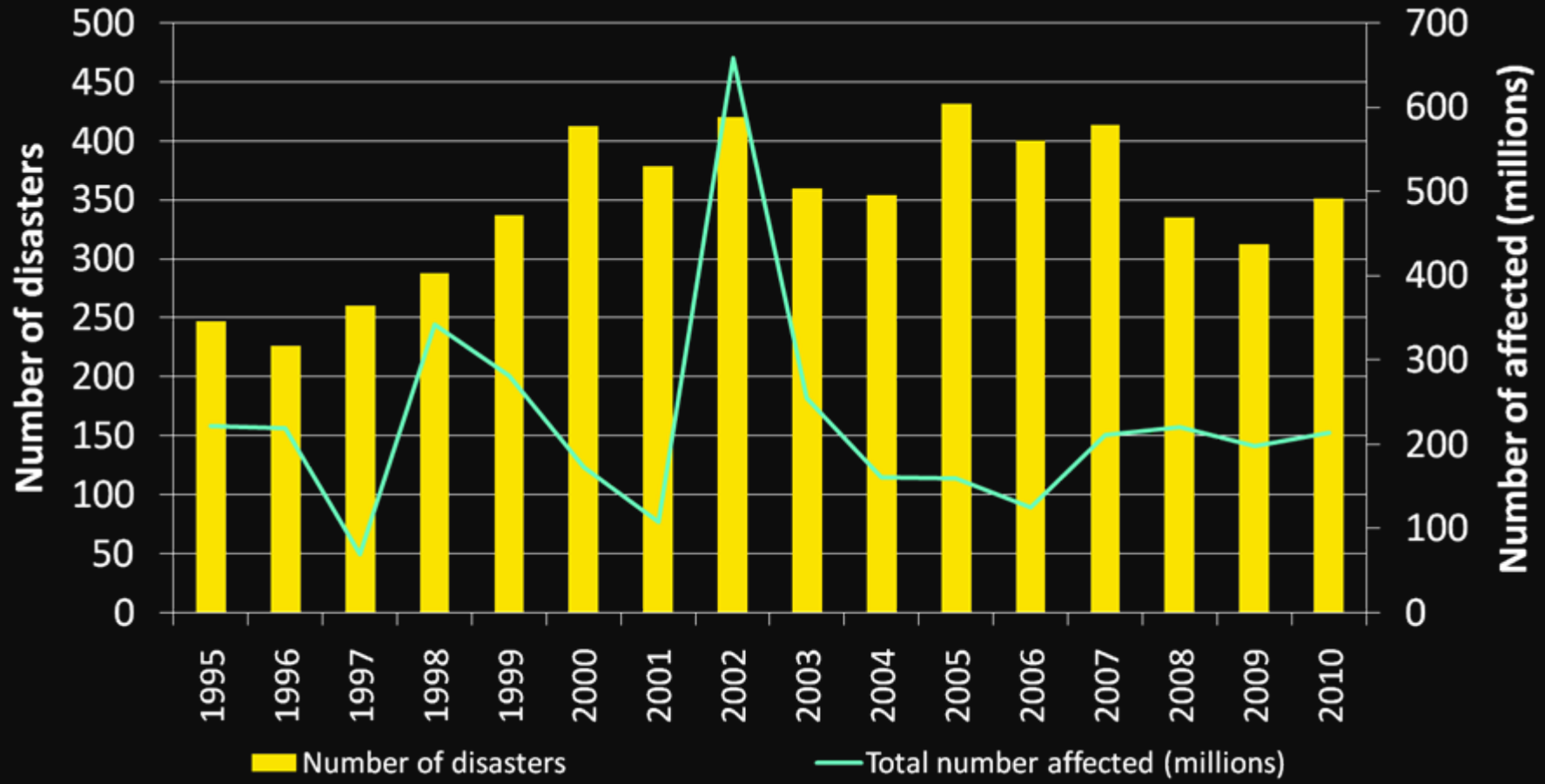
What are the needs?



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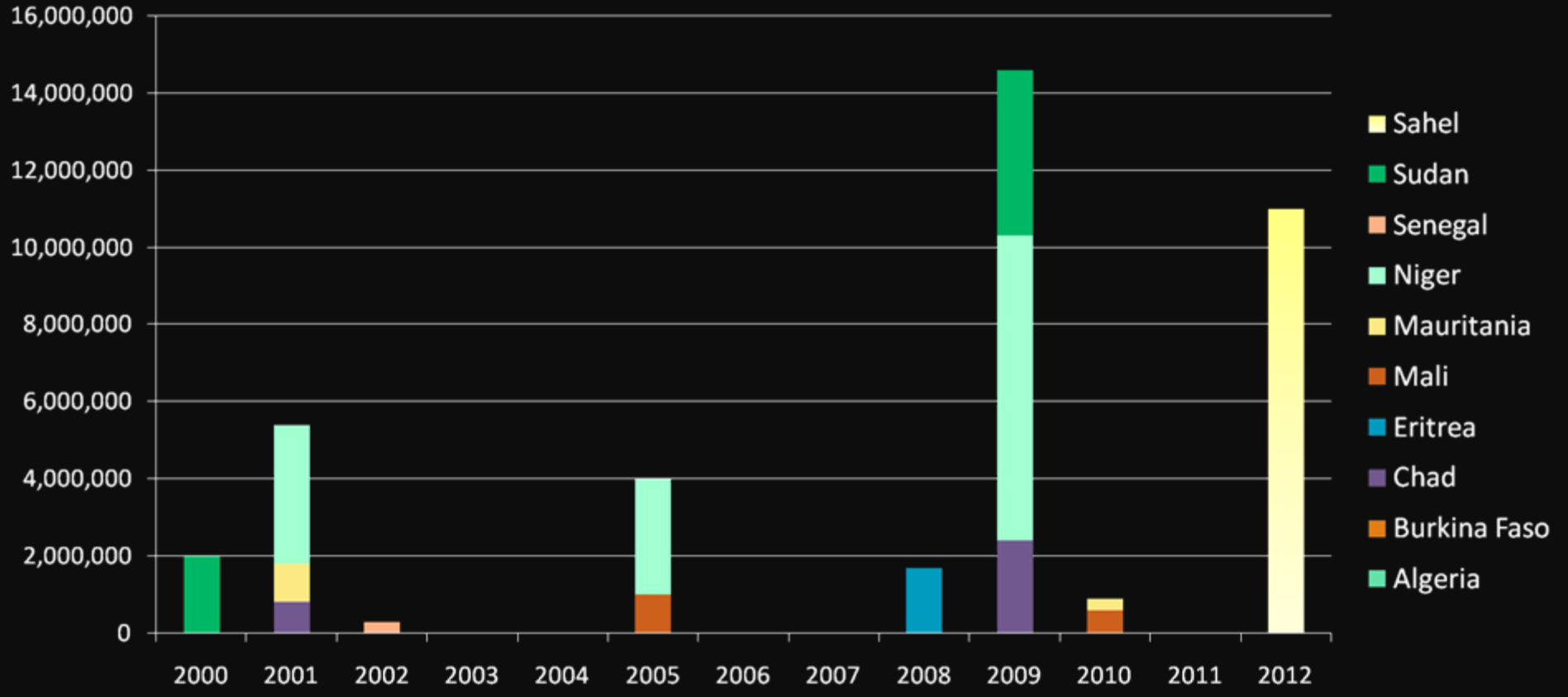
The Sahel and drought affected?



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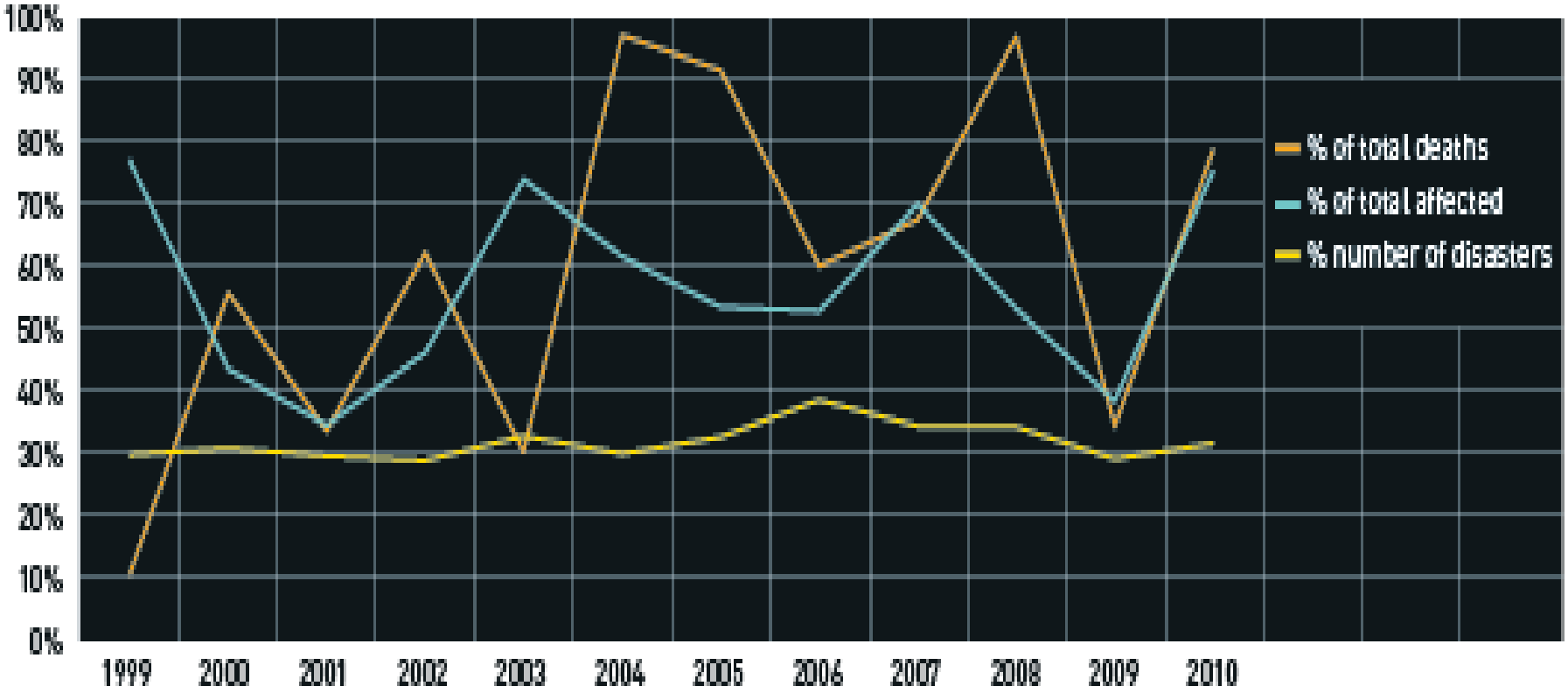
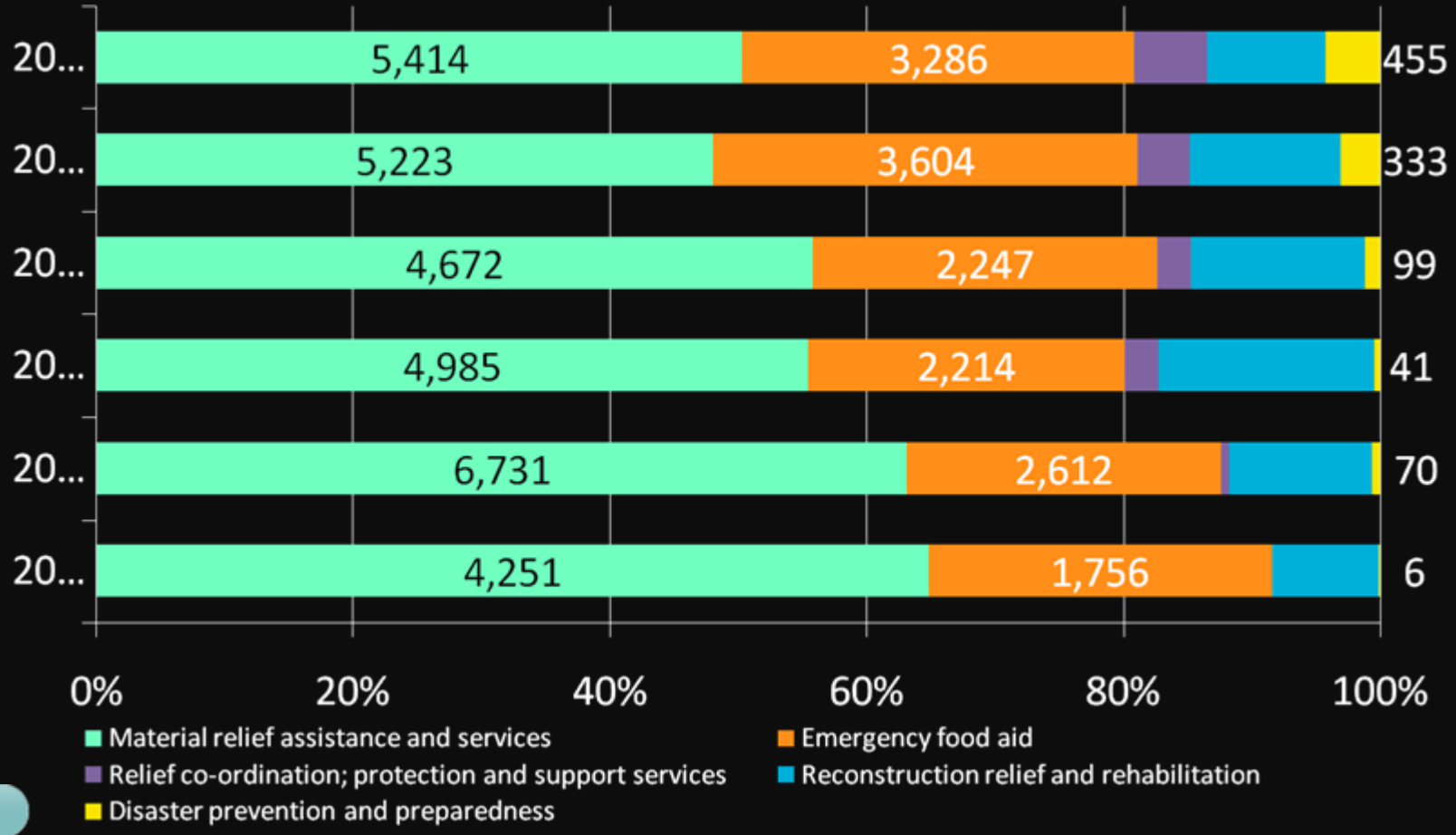
Countries with crises are disproportionately affected



Donor priority for preparedness growing slowly...



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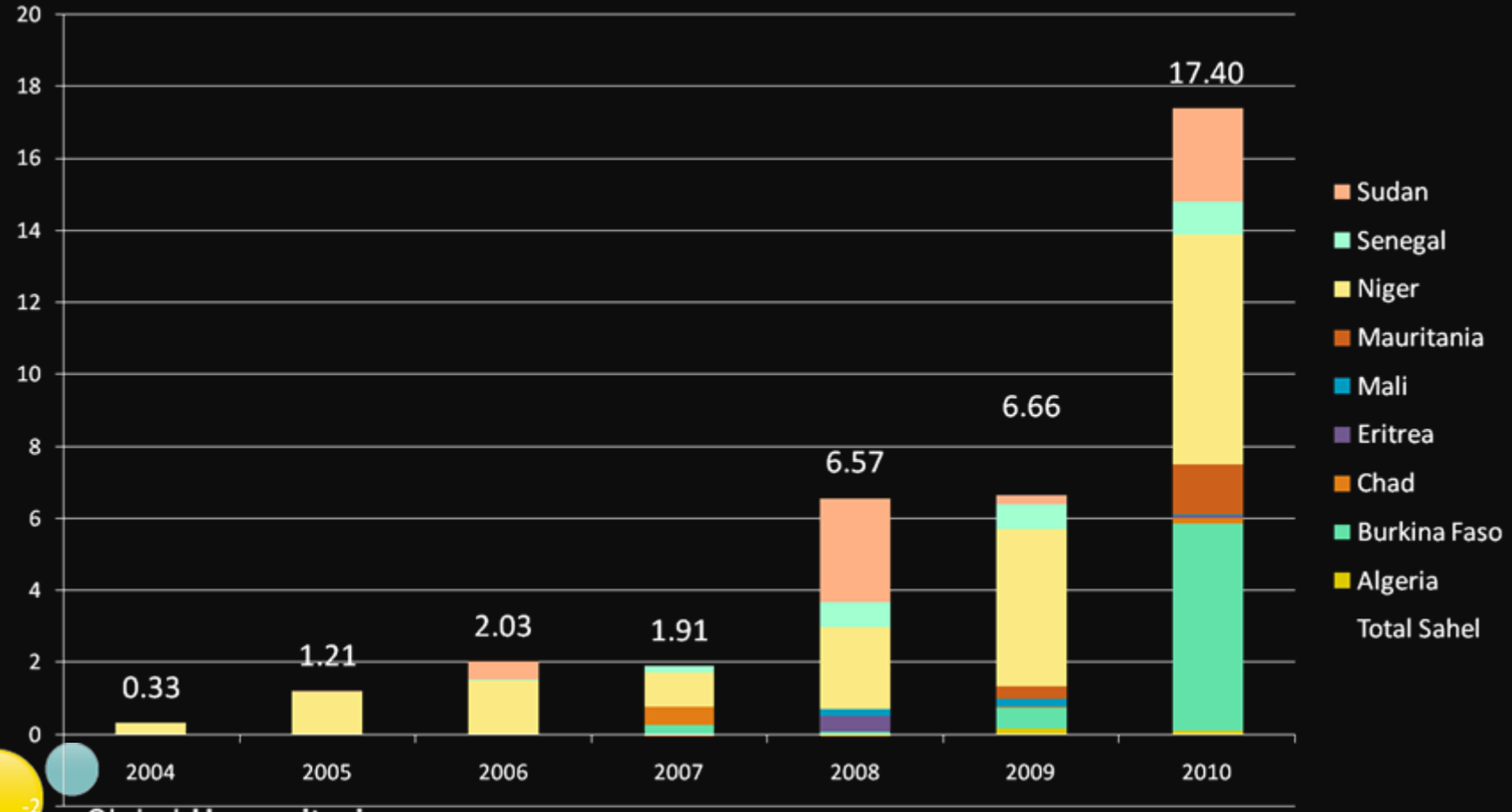
Sahel preparedness?



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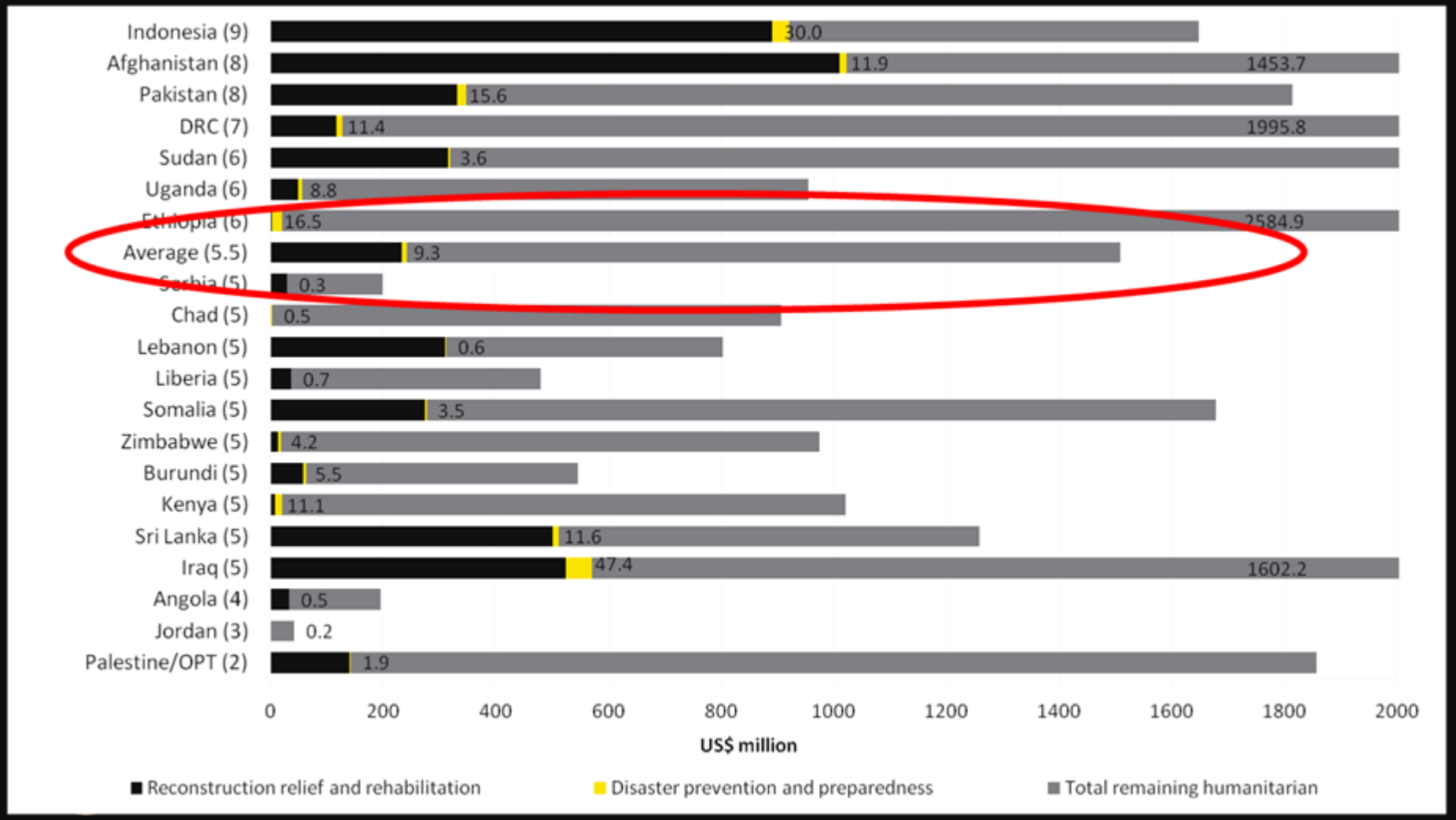
Preparedness expenditures where it matters... are minimal



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Average, 1.5 billion only US$9.3 million on preparedness

OECD DAC 2005-2009

Key Findings

- Reduction of risk before preparation key - cannot be done from within the humanitarian arena.
- Everyone agrees preparedness should be a priority.
- Preparedness is not a priority.
- Little prioritisation or analysis of risks.
- Evidence that preparedness is seen as the humanitarian part of DRR.
- National leadership essential.
- The structure of the aid system hinders, doesn't help.
  - We fund poorly, we don't prepare, because we look at the same context in too many ways.

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INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

US$9 out of every US$10 of humanitarian assistance (2009)

US$363 billion of UD$1,229 billion of development aid; (2000-2009)

US$3 out of every US$10

DRR and EQUITY

Five countries received more than US$5 per person in DRR over the decade.

23 countries received less than US$1 per person in DRR over the decade.

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INTERNATIONAL DRR FUNDING

US$3.7 billion for DRR out of US$363 billion development aid, to the top 40 humanitarian recipients.

Therefore 1% of all development aid is DRR; US$1 out of every US$100 spent on aid for reducing disaster risk.

4 countries alone account for 75% of all DRR – US$2.8 billion of the US$3.7 billion.

In 2009, 68% of DRR financing came from humanitarian funds.

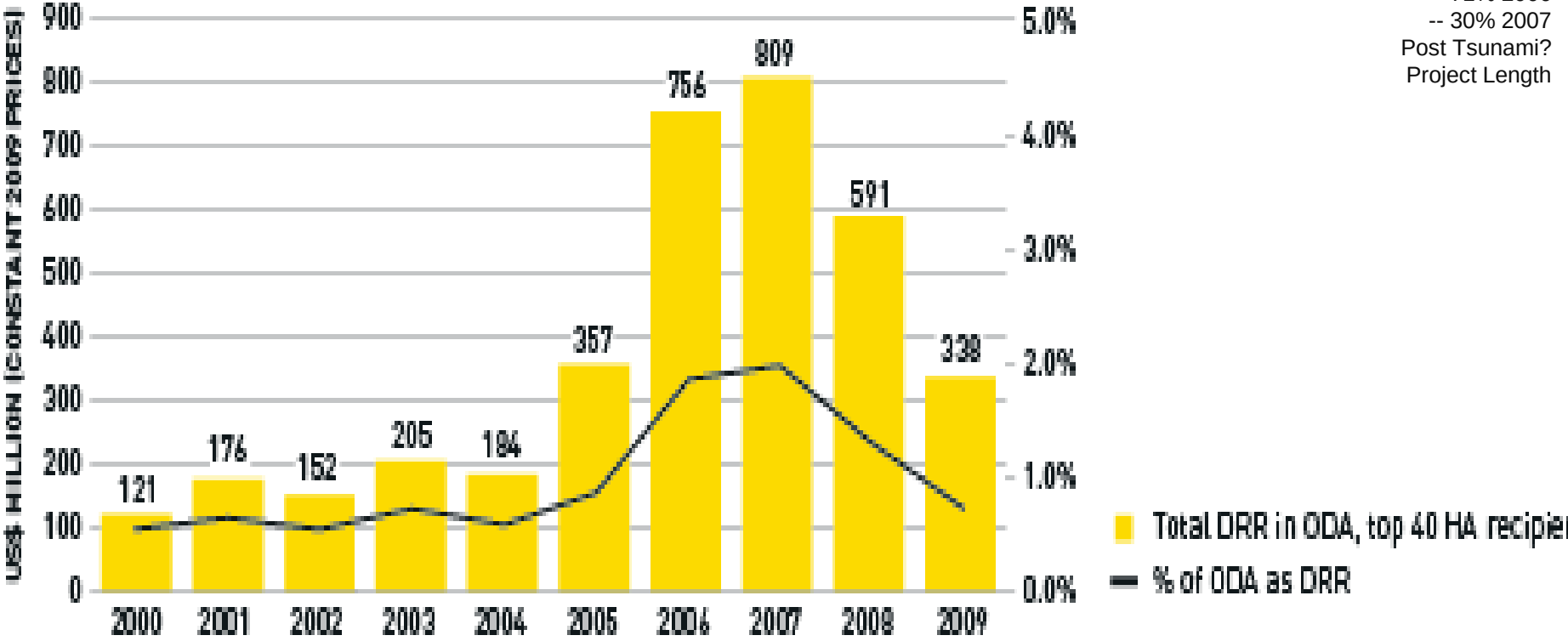
DRR and CONTEXT

14 countries ranked as high mortality risk received US$351.1 million of DRR combined.

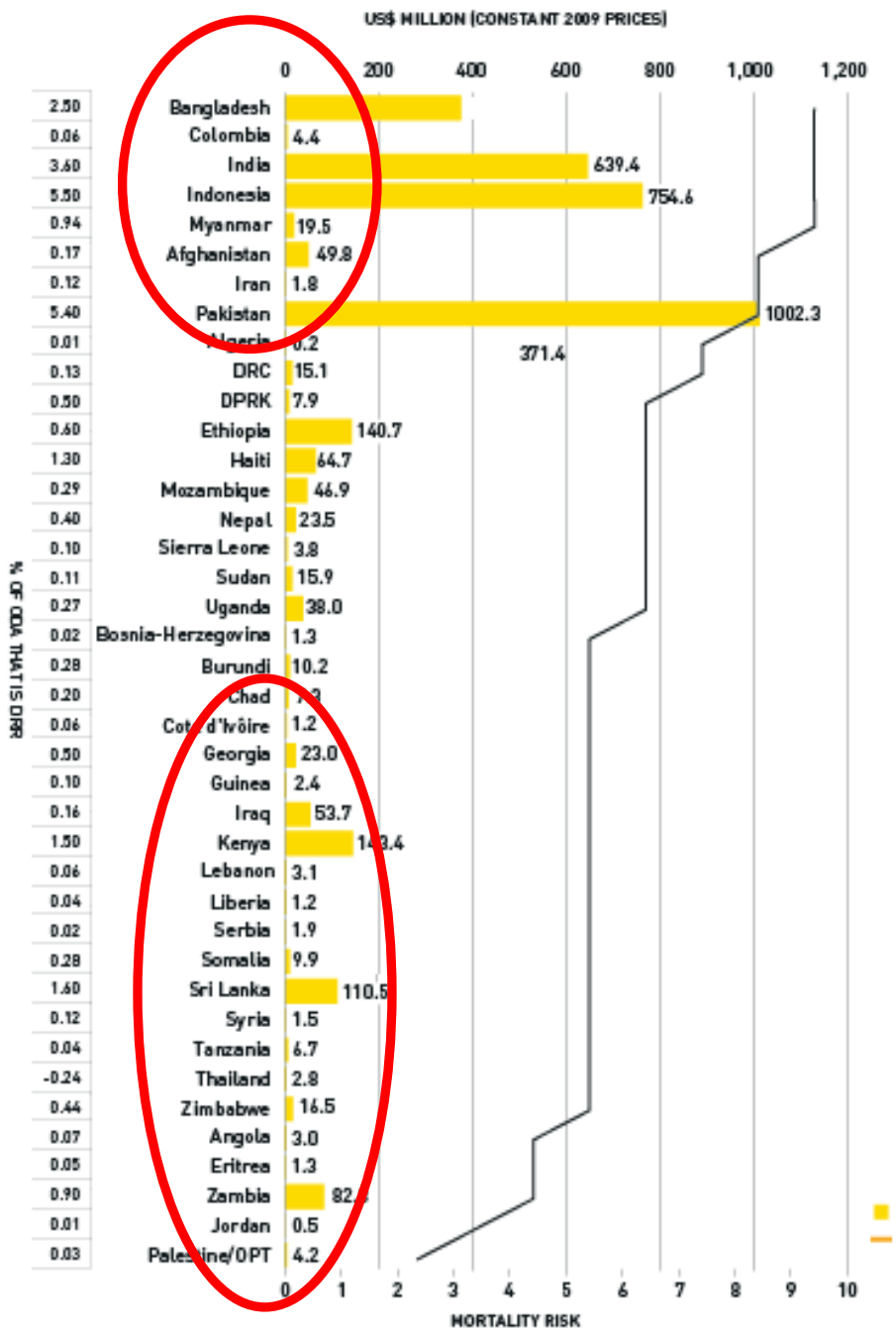
14 countries collected less than US$100 per person in government revenues in 2010; only 2 of these received more than US$50 million in DRR.

DRR financing up, down, and full of issues...

Volume?
%ODA?
Project Concentration
-- 32% 2005
-71% 2006
-- 30% 2007
Post Tsunami?
Project Length



DRR in the context of mortality risk...



Concentration
Diversity across risk
Low risk high $$$?
Not that much ODA
Zambia/DRC
Priority - % of ODA

Sahel US$3.8 billion ODA, US$25 million DRR

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DRR in the context of government possibilities...

COUNTRY	2005 (US$bn)	2006 (US$bn)	2007 (US$bn)	2008 (US$bn)	2009 (US$bn)	2010 (US$bn)	MORTALITY RISK	GOVT REV PER PERSON 2010	DRR (US$m)
Lebanon	4.5	5.0	5.7	6.9	8.4	8.3	5	1,955	3.1
Bosnia-Herzegovina	4.7	5.6	6.8	8.1	7.3	7.2	5	1,925	1.3
Angola	12.4	21.0	27.7	42.8	23.3	36.0	4	1,896	3.0
Algeria	38.2	50.1	53.2	80.3	50.7	62.3	7	1,760	0.2
Iraq	0.0	33.6	45.0	66.4	44.8	55.3	5	1,757	53.7
Serbia	9.9	11.4	16.4	19.5	16.4	15.0	5	1,523	1.9
Colombia	37.0	42.8	56.5	61.1	61.0	69.7	9	1,505	4.4
Iran	45.7	66.4	87.8	89.3	82.9	97.5	8	1,299	1.8
Thailand	39.6	45.8	52.9	58.0	54.7	65.9	5	968	2.8
Jordan	3.2	4.4	5.0	5.6	5.9	6.0	3	923	0.5
Georgia	1.2	2.0	2.9	3.5	2.9	3.0	5	716	23.0
Syria	7.9	8.5	9.2	10.6	12.9	13.1	5	580	1.5
Indonesia	53.9	72.6	81.9	107.4	87.4	119.1	9	512	754.6
Sri Lanka	3.4	4.4	4.8	5.6	5.5	6.8	5	332	110.5
Sudan	4.2	7.5	9.3	12.4	8.3	10.3	6	239	15.9
India	147.4	174.9	240.6	249.0	226.6	267.6	9	220	639.4
Zambia	1.3	1.8	2.1	2.7	2.0	2.9	4	217	82.8
Haiti	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.9	6	191	64.7
Kenya	4.0	4.7	6.0	6.6	6.7	7.8	5	190	143.4
Zimbabwe	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.9	2.2	5	174	16.5
Chad	0.4	0.9	1.6	2.2	1.1	1.9	5	169	7.3
Pakistan	15.2	18.0	21.5	23.9	23.5	24.8	8	134	1,002.3
DRC	0.8	1.1	1.5	2.1	1.9	2.5	7	115	15.1
Mozambique	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	6	82	46.9
Liberia	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	5	80	1.2
Tanzania	1.6	1.8	2.1	3.0	3.4	3.6	5	80	6.7
Guinea	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	5	70	2.4
Bangladesh	5.6	5.9	6.4	7.2	8.8	11.5	7	70	371.4
Cote d'Ivôire	2.8	3.2	3.8	4.4	4.3	4.5	5	67	1.2
Nepal	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.3	2.0	6	66	21.5
Uganda	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	6	62	3.0
Afghanistan	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.3	1.7	8	60	4.8
Eritrea	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	5	54	7.3
Ethiopia	1.8	2.2	2.5	3.2	3.9	4.2	4	49	140.7
Myanmar	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.7	1.8	2.5	9	49	19.5
Sierra Leone	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	6	43	3.8
Burundi	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	5	34	10.2

Very different countries
Relatively stability
Disparities in DRR to revenues
14 less than US$100

- More than 20% growth
- 0 to 20% growth
- 0 to -10% growth
- -10 to -20% growth
- Less than -20% growth

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Perhaps not... But surely it is still based on what is needed?

Inequity
Based on what proxy?
Bangladesh, Palestine, Zambia, DRC
Sub-Saharan Africa

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	DRR PER PERSON (AVERAGE 2000–2009 POPULATION)	AVERAGE PROPORTION PEOPLE AFFECTED EACH YEAR	NUMBER OF DISASTERS	MORTALITY RISK
Zambia	7.10	3.6%	21	4
Haiti	6.94	1.2%	40	6
Pakistan	6.14	0.8%	67	8
Sri Lanka	5.68	3.0%	24	5
Georgia	5.13	1.6%	8	5
Kenya	4.04	3.1%	53	5
Indonesia	3.44	0.5%	152	9
Bangladesh	2.45	4.8%	84	9
Mozambique	2.28	4.8%	45	6
Afghanistan	2.05	2.4%	83	8
Iraq	1.92	0.0%	9	5
Ethiopia	1.90	3.9%	45	6
Burundi	1.39	4.3%	31	5
Uganda	1.34	1.0%	37	6
Zimbabwe	1.32	6.8%	21	5
Somalia	1.20	6.7%	40	5
Palestine/OPT	1.14	0.0%	1	2
Nepal	0.87	1.1%	27	6
Lebanon	0.77	0.0%	3	5
Chad	0.74	3.6%	22	5
Sierra Leone	0.74	0.0%	9	6
India	0.57	5.3%	186	9
Sudan	0.42	2.0%	36	6
Myanmar	0.41	0.6%	14	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.34	0.9%	14	5
Liberia	0.34	1.6%	11	5
DPRK	0.34	0.7%	13	6
Eritrea	0.29	3.9%	3	4
Guinea	0.26	0.3%	16	5
DRC	0.26	0.1%	64	7
Serbia	0.19	0.0%	4	5
Angola	0.18	0.6%	35	4
Tanzania	0.17	1.5%	39	5
Colombia	0.10	1.0%	50	9
Jordan	0.09	0.3%	4	3
Syrian Arab Republic	0.08	0.7%	5	5
Côte d'Ivoire	0.06	0.0%	13	5
Thailand	0.04	4.3%	54	5
Iran	0.03	0.3%	53	8
Algeria	0.01	0.1%	36	7

Key Findings

- The priorities for development aid is wrong if risk is important; DRR financing comes from humanitarian budgets.
- Major humanitarian recipients are particularly affected by disasters.
- DRR financing is:
  - heavily concentrated in a few countries.
  - considerably unequal across similar countries and contexts.
  - not based on any obvious proxy of need: DRR is not a priority in the countries that need it most.
  - does not necessarily take into account government capacity nor financing.
- Investment levels are shockingly low.

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Financing for DRR

A Final Word

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International aid and reducing risk: Too simple?

- Follow the evidence, the risks.
- Prioritise assistance based on analysis of risks.
- National leadership essential.
- Prioritise assistance based on national government capacity.
- Do what international aid does best.
- Coordinate actions.
    - Look at the needs through a single lens.

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Humanitarian financing.
Clarity Counts.

Our aim is to provide access to reliable, transparent and understandable information so that we can all work to ensure better outcomes for people affected by humanitarian crises.

Global Humanitarian Assistance is a Development Initiatives programme, funded by the governments of Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom

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UNEP

Floods in Pakistan 2010

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Drought in the Horn of Africa 2011

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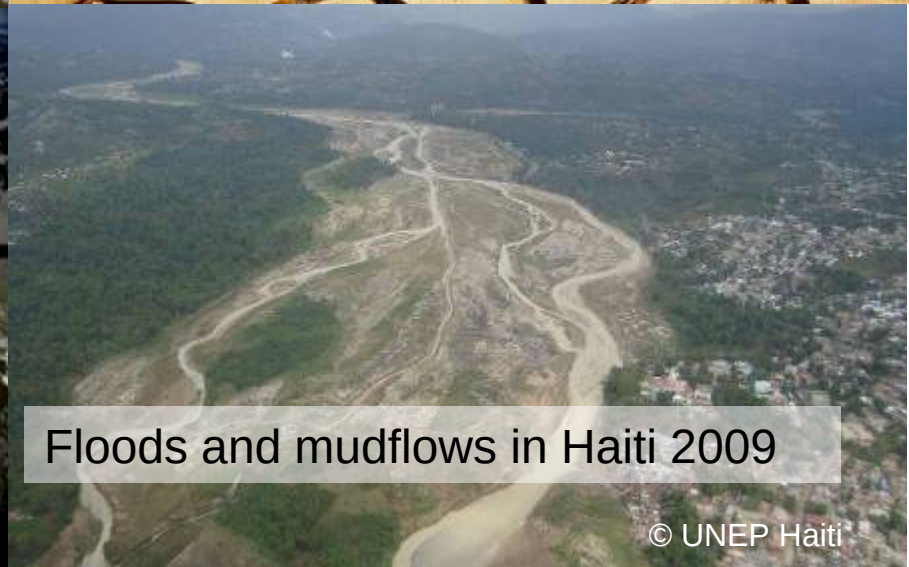
Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans 2005



Floods and mudflows in Haiti 2009

© UNEP Haiti

PEDRR

Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction

UNEP

Preserving wetlands for disaster resilience

Coastal wetland, Senegal

Natural buffers

PEDRR
Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction

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Coastal protection …

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PEDRR
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and Disaster Risk Reduct

UNEP

PEDRR

Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction

UNEP

Drought management

Burkina Faso and Niger

PEDRR
Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction

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Restoring floodplains

in the Netherlands

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Forest protection

…in Switzerland

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Closing Remarks by

His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly

On the occasion of the informal thematic debate on

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

New York, 12 April 2012

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have come to the end of this thematic debate.

It has been extremely ***informative*** and ***rich*** discussion on the topic of disaster risk reduction.

I am ***particularly*** ***grateful*** to Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom and Mr. Khaled Mansour for ***successfully*** and ***efficiently*** moderating the panels.

I would like to thank the distinguished ***opening speakers*** and all the ***panellists*** for their ***insightful***, ***timely*** and ***thought-provoking*** presentations, ideas and views.

Let me also express my ***appreciation*** for the ***active engagement*** of representatives of Member States, Permanent Observers, civil society, and academia.

Each of you have enriched today's discussion.

Last but not least, special ***recognition*** and ***gratitude*** goes to our coordinating partners who supported the efforts to organize this thematic debate – UNISDR, OCHA, DESA, UN-Habitat, UNEP, UNESCO, as well as the Permanent Missions of Australia, Indonesia, Japan and Turkey.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to emphasize few ***key points*** that emerged during today's discussion.

Clearly, there is ***unprecedented*** international momentum to reduce disaster risk.

We heard today that Rio+20 must ***strategically place*** disaster risk reduction within the ***development framework***.

This is a ***rare opportunity*** that must not be missed.

Speakers noted that disasters do not discriminate between rich and poor, north and south.

Similarly, addressing disaster risk requires engagement with ***all*** stakeholders, including the ***private sector*** and ***civil society***.

Taking a ***multi-stakeholder approach*** pays ***development dividends***.

A ***strong theme*** throughout the sessions was the role of ***local level*** leaders and communities.

Local communities often have the ***greatest stake*** in reducing risk - ***their*** risk.

Empowering local governments and community groups is a ***concrete measure*** that needs to be supported.

This is ***particularly relevant*** for growing cities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today's deliberations will be reflected in a President's Summary.

I ***urge*** Member States to ***consider*** this summary as they undertake the Rio+20 negotiations, and to use the findings to ***support*** their positions and find ***common ground***.

I ***welcome*** the High-Level International Conference on Large-Scale Natural Disasters in Japan this July, as we move towards the Third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015.

Today's debate and the upcoming conferences in Japan and Rio all provide ***support*** to the international community, as it considers the post-Hyogo Framework for Action in 2015.

Let me thank each of you ***once again*** for your ***active participation*** today, and for your ***ongoing commitment*** to the critical issue of disaster risk reduction.

Thank you.