



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

# Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas in 2011:

UNISDR regional office for the Americas  
Annual Report 2011



### **United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction**

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) is the United Nations-mandated global strategy to engage a wide range of actors in a coordinated effort to reduce the risks of disasters and to build “a culture of prevention” in society as part of sustainable development. The UNISDR acts as the focal point in the UN system for the coordination of disaster reduction as well as to ensure that disaster risk reduction becomes integral to sound and equitable development, environmental protection and humanitarian action.

The ISDR system comprises the cooperative mechanisms, including, the biennial Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, regional and national platforms, through which governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, international financial institutions, technical institutions and networks, and civil society organisations interact, share information and collaborate on risk reduction programmes and activities.

UNISDR coordinates the partnerships and leads a global disaster risk reduction movement focused on meeting the objectives of the Hyogo Framework of Action.

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# Editorial

## Message from UNISDR Americas head of office

The year 2011 was a new record year in disaster losses. The reinsurance company Munich Re recorded USD 380 billion of global economic losses (2/3 higher than in 2005, the previous record). This trend is likely to continue if we do not take urgent actions to ensure that development is done in a way that reduces risk to natural hazards rather than contributes to increase vulnerabilities.

Incorporating disaster risk reduction (DRR) into the sustainable development framework is probably one of the most cost-effective measures to ensure development gains are maintained and enhanced. It is therefore essential that disaster risk reduction be integrated at all levels and sectors of development, including particularly into planning, public infrastructure investments, agriculture, health, education and urbanization.

The Hyogo Framework for Action is the international instrument that can help make this possible and it is the function of the UNISDR regional office-the Americas to promote it, support national DRR efforts, advocate for greater investment and the integration of DRR into policies and programmes and inform and connect people by providing practical tools and analytical information surrounding disaster risk.

To fulfill this mandate, during 2011 the UNISDR Regional Office-the Americas continued working with governments, inter-governmental and international organizations, parliamentarians, representatives of local governments, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society and the academic and private sectors. The important and diverse number of activities that we have carried-out throughout the year has been supported by the active network of partner organizations that are the backbone of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Some key achievements for 2011 include the II Session of the Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas held in Mexico, in March 2011 and its outcome document, the Communiqué of Nayarit through which a political commitment to increase the profile of disaster risk reduction as an integral aspect of sustainable development and adaptation to climate change was galvanized. The strong participation of representatives of the Americas in the III session of the Global Platform for DRR held in Geneva, in May 2011, was also indicative of the increased level of importance given to DRR in the region.

Throughout 2011, the UNISDR regional office for the Americas mobilized and coordinated the promotion of regional alliances with intergovernmental organizations such as CAPRADE, CEPREDENAC, CDEMA and REHU/MERCOSUR. The process leading to the implementation of the Central American Policy for Integral Risk Management (PCGIR) supported by SICA/CEPREDENAC merits a special mention as it introduces DRR as a binding policy instrument for the member countries.

UNISDR also supported the fifth meeting of the Forum for Sub-regional Coordination and Cooperation Mechanisms on Disaster Risk Management in the Americas that led to the proposal that was included in the Global Platform Chair's Summary suggesting the establishment of an IGO global coordination mechanism that facilitates and promotes the exchange of experiences, policies and practices among regions in the world.

In the Caribbean, CDEMA supported the promotion of the global ISDR campaign on resilient cities by organizing the Making Caribbean Cities Resilient workshop resulting in the Port-of-Spain Declaration and Action Plan.



The global campaign has continued with a steady growth during 2011 in the Americas, reaching by the end of the year 117 local governments from 22 countries that have signed on to the campaign.

Regarding HFA implementation, 30 countries and territories of the Americas submitted their progress reviews in 2011. This reflects a substantial increase in the number of countries that reported on HFA progress in the 2009-2011 review cycle as compared to the previous one. For the first time, three sub-regional and one regional progress reports were also submitted by CAPRADE, CEPREDENAC, CDEMA and the Organization of American States respectively.

2011 was also a year in which closer and stronger collaboration was achieved with several partners allowing more effective programming of common activities and outcomes as well as the exchange of experiences and tools and the harmonization of practices, building

upon existing initiatives. One example of this collaborative work was the organization of the International Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean held in October in Panama City, where Ministers of Education signed a Disaster Risk Reduction Declaration that aims at the establishment of a regional thematic platform to strengthen disaster risk reduction within the education sector.

This report also includes information on specific focus themes that provide a snapshot of the work that the regional office has promoted surrounding Private Sector engagement in DRR; Linking the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction agendas in the Americas; Progress made surrounding the Global Campaign: "Making Cities Resilient: My City is getting ready! And the One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals Initiative; as well as a brief summary of the many activities that took place in the region for celebrating the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2011.

*Ricardo Mena,  
Head of UNISDR's Americas Office.*

# Disaster risk reduction in the context of the Americas



Photo: Henriot Nader

The year 2011 was marked by the fact that large-scale disasters in terms of human impact and economic losses occurred in high and middle-income countries. According to the International Disaster Database of the University of Louvain, five countries of the Americas are in the list of the top ten in terms of highest number of disasters during 2011: United States (19), Mexico (10), Brazil (7), Guatemala (6), and Peru (5). By the end of the year, Tropical Depression 12E caused serious damages in Central America where more than 1 million people were affected in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras. In the case of Brazil for example, the floods were the deadliest in the country's history (900 deaths).

These data and information serve to reaffirm the fact that although much progress has been made to improve disaster response ca-

pacities, the Americas remains as one of the most vulnerable regions to natural hazards around the world. Reducing disaster risk constitutes one of the biggest challenges ahead for the region and rapid progress will only be possible if governments, civil society and the private sector integrate disaster risk reduction as a key element of development planning and economic investment.

UNISDR and its partners are working towards this end and building "a culture of prevention" in society as part of sustainable development. The international document guiding these efforts is the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) 2005-2015. In the Americas, 17 National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and national HFA Focal Points for 35 independent countries and 15 overseas territories ensure its implementation at the national level.



The active engagement of the DRR stakeholders in 2011 set the ground for assessing HFA implementation and for discussing the post-HFA framework. During the 2nd session of the Regional Platform for DRR of the Americas held in March in Nayarit, Mexico, the need for the establishment and/or strengthening of mechanisms that enable the joint, continuous review of DRR strategies, plans, programs, and actions, including considerations for climate change adaptation, ensuring participation of all relevant stakeholders and with the support of regional and sub-regional intergovernmental agencies was highlighted.

Key messages consolidated during the Regional Platform were presented during the 3rd session of the Global Platform for DRR that took place in May in Geneva. Recommendations of the Chair's summary of the Global Platform relevant for the Region include: (1) Increase dedicated budget allocations for disaster risk reduction by using risk assessment, budgetary planning and project evaluation mechanisms in all development investments. (2) Encourage collaboration with communities and volunteers including through participatory risk assessments and local multi-stakeholder monitoring and reporting. (3) Develop indicators to measure public and private sector investments at the national and regional levels. (4) Account for disaster losses in a standardized manner to support multi-hazard, integrated assessments as the basis for development decision-making and open-source risk public information.

The Global Platform also took into consideration the main recommendations of the HFA mid-term review that address topics such as the need for revision of the leadership of respective authorities based on each country's institutional priorities and competencies; the participation of the private sector as a responsible agent for DRR; as well as the need to take the integration of DRR and the Mil-

lennium Development Goals (MDGs) into consideration. Given that these recommendations are closely interrelated and need to be appropriately integrated, expanding the work surrounding DRR to a wider context is recommended in the short and medium term, particularly towards 2015.

Broad stakeholder consultations that will define the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction will start in 2012. The facilitation by UNISDR of the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction is conducted on the basis of:

- a request by the United Nations General Assembly;
- multiple resolutions providing guidance on DRR;
- findings collected through the Mid-Term Review process;
- outcomes of the successive country-level reporting cycles through the HFA Monitor;
- the analysis of the Global Assessment Reports;
- results of deliberations at the Global Platforms;
- outcomes of regional ministerial meetings, as well as regional and thematic DRR platform sessions.

For the Americas, the outcomes of the 3rd session of the Regional Platform for DRR to be held in Argentina, 29-31 October 2012 will be most relevant for this process.

The year 2012 will be important especially for the incorporation of DRR into the sustainable development agenda addressed in the upcoming Rio+20 Earth Summit to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June.

# UNISDR Strategic Framework

UNISDR's Strategic Framework looks to the year 2025 to realize its vision of "a world where the social, political and economic imperatives for reducing disaster risk are acted on." It sets the organization's direction, outlining outcomes and targets until 2015.

The development of the Strategic Framework was informed by the HFA Mid-Term Review, Regional Ministerial meetings, UNISDR partner consultations, the outcomes of the 2009 and 2011 Global Platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the findings of the 2009 and 2011 Global Assessment Reports, as well as the UN General Assembly Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction. The Strategic Framework also takes into account the need for continued advocacy and to apply the practice of disaster risk reduction in the context of the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change and its Cancun Adaptation Framework, the MDGs and the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

## Towards 2025

Our **VISION** is a world where the social, political and economic imperatives for reducing disaster risk are acted on.  
Our **MISSION** is to connect governments and partners; to produce evidence for disaster risk reduction; to mobilize decision and opinion makers; and to support strengthening of the resilience of nations and communities to disasters and the impacts of climate change.

## 2012-2015 Strategic Objectives and Outcomes: "Connect and Convince"

### SO1: Lead and Coordinate

Strengthened support to the implementation and coordination of the ISDR and the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) and improved coherence with climate change adaptation and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

#### Outcome:

- 1.1. Collective and coherent actions agreed and undertaken to reduce risks at global, regional and national levels

### SO2: Credible Evidence

Producing and disseminating credible evidence to strengthen decision making at local, national and regional levels in support of disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation and achievement of the MDGs

#### Outcomes:

- 2.1. National priority setting and planning for DRR informed by accessible and organized information produced through the government-led monitoring and peer review of the HFA
- 2.2. DRR and climate change adaptation reflected in national planning instruments and documents based on improved risk information, including hazards, vulnerabilities and risks

### SO3: Advocacy and Outreach

Increased public and private sector investments in DRR and climate change adaptation through advocacy and outreach

#### Outcome:

- 3.1. Increased public demand for and political commitment to local action and budget allocations to DRR and climate change adaptation

### SO4: Deliver and Communicate Results

More effective, results-oriented UNISDR to carry out its mandate

#### Outcomes:

- 4.1. Communications and knowledge management tools effectively support UNISDR objectives
- 4.2. Enlarged, sustainable and predictable resource base
- 4.3. Results-focused implementation of UNISDR's strategic priorities

## Summary of Outputs 2012-2015

### SO1: Lead and Coordinate

1. Participatory consultations on a post-HFA framework and Global Platform in 2013
2. World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015
3. Guidance to six Regional Platforms and follow-up plans of action
4. Review of roles of National Platforms to improve quality
5. Coherent action by the UN system to reduce disaster risk in countries

### SO2: Credible Evidence

6. Updated HFA Monitor tool
7. Report on ten years of HFA implementation
8. Scaling-up national disaster loss databases and loss accounting
9. Facilitate tracking of DRR investment
10. Global Assessment Reports in 2013 and 2015

### SO3: Advocacy and Outreach

11. Making Cities Resilient Campaign (Target: 2,500 local governments)
12. Implementation of Global Platform targets for safe schools and health facilities (Target: 400,000 pledges)
13. Thirty global, regional and local ISDR Champions and other key opinion makers supported for leadership and visibility in scaling up DRR

### SO4: Deliver and Communicate Results

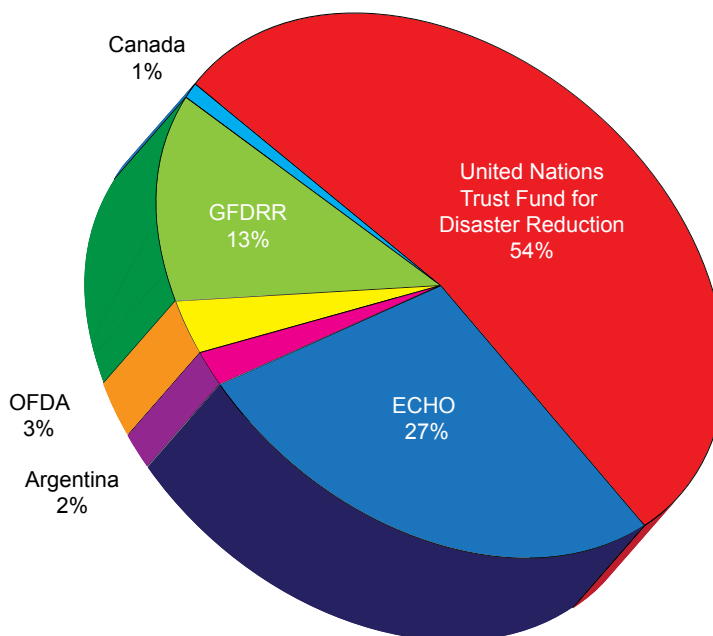
14. External communications strategy raises profile for DRR practice
15. Knowledge management tools enhanced, including PreventionWeb
16. Systematic engagement with donors
17. Results Based Management System

## UNISDR's regional office for the Americas

With the Hyogo Framework for Action as the main orienting tool with the overarching goal of Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, UNISDR addresses the underlying drivers of risk in recognition that DRR is in fact a development issue that involves us all. In keeping with the UNISDR's biennial workplan 2010-11, the regional office has prioritized initiatives such as: promoting the global campaign focusing on resilience at the local level; the 2009-11 HFA progress review cycle at the national, sub-regional and regional levels in the Americas, piloting the progress review process for the local level; as well as through support to the Regional and National Platforms for DRR as the main tool

for the promotion of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral networks to achieve incidence in legislation and policy for DRR in the region. For achieving these results, UNISDR maintains an expanded network of key partners, including the United Nations system and international community, regional intergovernmental organizations, high-level government decision-makers from all development sectors, parliamentarians, local governments, the academic sector, NGOs and the private sector, for joint action to achieve high-level engagement, public awareness and increased political and financial commitment to DRR as an essential aspect for safer and more resilient living conditions throughout the region.

### Funds Received in 2011: USD 2,498,885\*



\* A contribution by Brazil (USD) 500,000 was received in December 2011 and will be reflected in 2012.

Approximately half of the total funding for the regional office was contributed by different donor countries to the UNISDR Trust fund for Disaster Risk Reduction. Other donors such as DG ECHO, GFDRR, OFDA, Argentina and Canada supported specific projects that are reflected in the highlights section.

# Highlights in 2011

The UNISDR regional office for the Americas reflects the diversity of contexts and needs for the implementation of disaster risk reduction among the different subregions. This strategy is also underlined by focusing on different themes and campaigns to promote disaster risk reduction efficiently and effectively. The achievements in 2011 are presented by subregional distribution, highlighting specifications and projects, as well as thematic areas of work per subregion.



Photo: UNISDR

## Disaster risk reduction implementation among the sub-regions in the Americas

The UNISDR regional office for the Americas seeks to promote increasingly wider synergies and partnerships among different stakeholders at all levels with the goal of building stronger linkages among disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change agendas, increasing investment in DRR and improving resilience at the local level among other things. The regional office in Panama has the mandate of pro-

viding technical support to a geographical area comprised of 35 sovereign States and 15 overseas territories of the Western Hemisphere comprised of North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

At the sub-regional level, UNISDR Americas works closely with the Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO) supporting different subregions.

### IGOs and Sub-regions of the Americas

- **Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Response (CAPRADE):** Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú
- **Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA):** Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
- **REHU/MERCOSUR:** Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay
- **Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC):** Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama
- **North America:** Canada, Mexico, USA



## Support to regional Intergovernmental Organisations as specialised agencies for DRR

Throughout 2011, the UNISDR regional office for the Americas mobilized and coordinated the promotion of regional alliances with intergovernmental organizations. Several intergovernmental regional organizations played a critical role in fostering the HFA priorities either by the development of relevant strategies to support country efforts towards the accomplishment of HFA priorities, or by becoming active advocates for addressing regional priorities within the context of the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Regional entities such as CAPRADE, CEPREDENAC, CDEMA and REHU/MERCOSUR catalyzed fostering the inclusion of DRR into national policies. A remarkable example has been the approval of the Central American Policy for Integral Risk Management (PCGIR) supported by CEPREDENAC: PCGIR introduces DRR as a binding policy instrument for its member countries. Based on this experience CEPREDENAC was awarded with a certificate of Merit of the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2011.

Several key IGO activities supported by UNISDR in 2011:

- CEPREDENAC: supported the Regional Conference of Integrated Risk Management and Summit of Heads of State/Government held in El Salvador in July 2011. This conference helped in advancing and leveraging political commitment to the implementation of the Central American Policy of Integral Risk Management (approved in 2010) through the Joint Declaration and Action Plan of the XXXVII Summit of Heads of State of the Central American Integration System (SICA). This also led to support the preparation of the Summit held in December 2011 focusing on Integrated Risk Management "For the right to prevention", emphasizing the linkages between DRR
- CDEMA: supported the promotion of the global ISDR campaign on resilient cities through the Making Caribbean Cities Resilient workshop resulting in the Port-of-Spain Declaration and Action Plan. This activity took place under the framework of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management of the Caribbean where the Special Representative of the Secretary General for DRR highlighted achievements made in the Caribbean and provided suggestion to a post 2012 regional DRM framework. CDEMA and UNISDR will jointly follow up with national and local governments in the Caribbean on the implementation of the Port-of-Spain Action Plan.
- UNISDR supported the fifth meeting of the Forum for Sub-regional Coordination and Cooperation Mechanisms on DRM in the Americas. This forum was held in March 2011 in the context of the Regional Platform session in Mexico. It served as the basis for a proposal that was included in the Global Platform Chair's Summary suggesting the establishment of an IGO global coordination mechanism that facilitates and promotes the exchange of experiences, policies and practices among regions of the world. The first meeting of this global effort took place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Global Platform for DRR.
- UNISDR fostered the role of IGO's participation in the Intergovernmental meeting on the Hyogo Framework for Action Progress Review that took place in Incheon in November that was attended by CDEMA and OAS. During the meeting a workplan for the preparation of the Regional Review of the HFA in 2012 was developed.

## Countries participating in the HFA progress review process in 2009-11



### 30 Countries participated in the 2009-11 HFA review cycle

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda\*, Argentina, Barbados\*, Bolivia, Brazil\*, British Virgin Islands, Canada\*, Cayman Islands, Chile\*, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba\*, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras\*, Jamaica, Mexico\*, Nicaragua\*, Panama, Paraguay\*, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis\*, Saint Lucia, Turks and Caicos Islands\*, United States of America, Uruguay\*, Venezuela

\* Countries from which either only partial reports were submitted or no report at all for the 2007-2009 reporting period.

### In the Americas, 17 National Platforms exist:

Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, United States of America, Venezuela



## Hyogo Framework for Action Progress Review 2009-2011

At the regional level, reports were received from CAPRADE, CDEMA, CEPREDENAC and from the OAS surrounding HFA progress in the Andean Region, the Caribbean, Central America, and at the hemispheric level of the Americas among member States of the OAS respectively.<sup>1</sup>

At the national level, 30 finalized HFA progress reviews were submitted in 2011. This reflects a substantial increase in the number of countries that reported on HFA progress in the 2009-2011 review cycle as compared to the first-ever biennial reporting cycle of 2007-2009. Whereas for the 2007-2009 period 32% of countries from the Americas submitted their national HFA progress reviews, for the 2009-2011 period 60% of all independent countries and overseas territories from the Americas submitted their finalized and updated reports. With the exception of Canada,<sup>2</sup> all the 2009-2011 national progress reviews have been published and are available on PreventionWeb.

These 2009-2011 self-evaluations on the implementation of disaster risk reduction were submitted by national authorities as focal points to the Hyogo Framework for Action and UNISDR, provide invaluable insight into the advances being made in terms of DRR. For example, 80% of countries (24 out of 30) report that DRR is included in development plans and strategies, while 70% of countries (21 out of 30) report having a specific allocation of budget for DRR within the national budget. 70% of countries also informed about the inclusion of DRR in the national education curricula, while 83% (25 of 30 countries) reported on actions surrounding safer schools and hospitals. Furthermore, 16 out of 30 countries (53%) reported a national multi-hazard risk assessment available to inform planning and development decisions, while regarding the availability of tools to systematically register disaster losses, 77% (23 out of 30) responded affirmatively.

<sup>1</sup> The OAS report reflects only its member states and therefore does not include Cuba or Honduras.

<sup>2</sup> As per request by representatives of the Canadian government



Photo: J. Jenkins

## Pilot Phase of the Local Government Self Assessment Tool

The local Hyogo Framework for Action progress review process was developed to enhance the understanding of the status and progress of disaster risk reduction efforts at the local level. One of the main objectives is to provide a self-assessment tool and feedback mechanism for local and city governments to facilitate the understanding of gaps and challenges in disaster risk reduction at the local level. The second objective is to complement the national HFA monitoring and multi-stakeholder engagement process by providing information from the local level. A third objective is to provide a baseline for local governments participating in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign.

The pilot phase of the Local Government Self Assessment Tool (LG-SAT) started in 2010 and ended in December 2011. The project was supported by European Commission Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (DG ECHO) and Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR). As an initial step, a set of local level specific indicators for DRR were identified. This was followed by national and local consulta-

tion processes. The first part of the consultation process consisted of a series of two day multi-stakeholder workshops designed to facilitate a structured dialogue between different State and non-State actors active in disaster risk reduction at national and local levels. Five pilot countries, including Peru, were selected at the global level to carry out these consultations.

In a second phase, 25 cities from across the globe tested the LG-SAT online tool and carried out consultations at the local level. From the Americas, 6 local governments (Brazil: Florianopolis; Ecuador: Quito; El Salvador: Santa Tecla; Nicaragua: Telica; Peru: Lima; Venezuela: Chacao) undertook the consultation process, applied the tool and provided feedback surrounding the process.

Based on the feedback received from the national and local governments the local methodology and tools were adjusted. The LG-SAT will be officially launched in March 2012 as part of the national HFA review process 2011-13 and as a tool of the Making Cities Resilient campaign.



## HFA Mid-Term Progress Review:

The Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action aimed at addressing strategic and fundamental matters concerning the HFA implementation to 2015 and beyond. For the Americas, a special session was held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas in March in Mexico. It sought inputs from participants from the Americas surrounding the outcome of the HFA Mid-Term Review in order to identify concrete actions for follow-up and ways for moving forward, particularly in the Americas.

Conclusions and recommendations from this session include the following:

- The leadership of respective authorities should be revised based on each country's institutional priorities and competencies.
- The participation of the private sector as a responsible agent for DRR is crucial. Private projects should involve reducing the vulnerability and managing the risk derived by these projects. To support this, an appropriate legal framework should be created to regulate this responsibility, broad enough in scope to cover the eventual need for repair and/or compensation.
- Focus should be placed on the economic and financial aspects, in a coordinated and adequate way, based on the reality of each country.
- Integration of DRR and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should be taken into consideration. Given that these are appropriately integrated, expanding the work surrounding DRR to a wider context is recommended in the short and medium term, particularly towards 2015. In this sense, cooperation should move beyond being patronizing with a view towards sustainable development that integrally supports DRR as a continued process of human and environmental security.



## UN Development Assistance Framework

As focal point within the UN system for the coordination of DRR and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities of the UN system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields, the regional office participated with a senior resource person in a regional workshop on integrating DRR, CCA and sustainable development into the CCA/UNDAF for UN staff from 11 countries (10 from the Americas plus Equatorial Guinea) where the UNDAF will be rolled-out during 2011.

In coordination with UN system partners, the regional office is supporting the development of an Harmonized Guidance Note for Streamlining and Harmonizing the UN Development Group Guidance Notes on Mainstreaming and Integrating Environmental Sustainability, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change into the Common Country Assessment and the UN Development Assistance Framework.

## Capacity Building

The UNISDR Regional office for the Americas promotes and supports various capacity building activities and initiatives in the area of disaster risk reduction (DRR).

These include among others the following:

- Support the participation of public officers in the ILO/DELNET course on local sustainable development with special emphasis in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. In the framework of this course, the UNISDR RO-the Americas contributed with the development of a module on climate change and DRR that has been integrated into this course's syllabus.
- Provision of financial support for the participation of DRR experts in various academic programmes at the Henry Dunant Foundation, the Andean University Simon Bolivar in Ecuador, UPEACE in Costa Rica.
- Organization of specific training courses on DRR for public officials and trainer-of-trainers workshops such as the training organized in collaboration with CADRI, UNDP, OCHA and the Government of Brazil for 60 officials representing State Civil Protection organizations.
- The UNISDR RO-the Americas has also provided resource persons for capacity development training courses and meetings such as the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices, the UNDP Community of Practice on DRR, UNEP's climate change programme for Latin American and the Caribbean, and other initiatives in collaboration with IADB, IISD/UNDP and GIZ.



Photo: J. Trelles/UNISDR

## DIPECHO South America:



A project titled “Strengthened Disaster Risk Reduction in South America through greater fostering of the Hyogo Framework for Action priorities for action at the local, national and regional levels” is being implemented by UNISDR’s Regional Office for the Americas within the framework of the DIPECHO’s 2011-2012 Plan of Action for South America.

UNISDR’s DIPECHO South America 2011-2012 regional project began in April, 2011 and will finalize in 2012, involves three main strategic lines of action: (i) supporting overall regional coordination as well as orientation and guidance in consultative processes for the identification of DRR priorities in the South American region; (ii) Strengthening disaster resilient cities through regional adaptation and imple-

mentation of the Global Campaign “Making Cities Resilient: My City is getting ready!”; and (iii) promoting improved access to information materials, resources and tools from DIPECHO and other DRR partners in South America in order to share experiences and strengthen capacities for information management.

The European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) was set up in 1992 to provide rapid and effective support to the victims of crises outside the European Union. ECHO’s disaster preparedness programme (DIPECHO), launched in 1996, targets vulnerable communities living in the main disaster-prone regions of the world.



 10 countries are involved in the DIPECHO project for South America  
 3 pilot Countries

# DIPECHO project Caribbean



**21 countries are involved in the DIPECHO project for the Caribbean:**

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago; Overseas territories: Anguilla (UK), British Virgin Islands (UK), Cayman Islands (UK), Montserrat (UK), Turks and Caicos Islands (UK)

**2 pilot countries:** Dominican Republic & Saint Lucia

The 2011-2012 DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean establishes as one of its components the promotion of a close coordination among implementing partners, allowing the programming of common activities and outcomes as well as the exchange of experiences and tools and the harmonization of practices. These coordination efforts should be guided by the principle of building upon the existing initiatives.

The UNISDR is participating under this action plan with the initiative, "Strengthened Disaster Risk Reduction in the Caribbean at the sub-regional, national and local levels" to address improved coordination, sharing of experiences and harmonization.



Photo: J. J. Trelles/UNISDR

## Second Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas: Communiqué of Nayarit

<http://eird.org/plataforma-2011/en/index.html>

The past few years have witnessed a significant increase in the development of regional and sub-regional multi-stakeholder platforms for disaster risk reduction implementation. The development of regional platforms has contributed to the mobilization of key stakeholders in support of HFA's effective implementation at the regional, national and local levels, and to the definition and adoption of important political statements and commitments at Ministerial and Heads of State level.

The awareness raising and advocacy process that took place in the context of the Regional Platforms in the Americas, has contributed to a shift in DRR legislative frameworks in some countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Uruguay, Peru and Ecuador.

The Second Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held from 14-17 March 2011, in Nayarit, Mexico. The Regional Platform was convened and organized by the Government of Mexico (through the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and the Civil Protection Office of the Governorate Secretariat),

the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS), through its Department of Sustainable Development (OAS/DSD), and the secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), through its Regional Office for the Americas, UNISDR Americas.

In the months leading up to this meeting, an Advisory Council was established with participation of key institutions such as the OAS, the Government of México, CEPREDENAC, CDEMA, CAPRADE, REHU, WHO/PAHO, IDB, the World Bank, OCHA, UNDP and IFRC, to support and orient the general guidelines and consultations to ensure the success of the Regional Platform.

This association led to a stronger participation of representatives in the Regional Platform. The Platform obtained a Regional Commitment for DRR/CCA that was manifested in the Communiqué of Nayarit which in turn served to consolidate the contributions of the countries in the Americas Region for the Third Session of the Global Platform for DRR held in Geneva in May 2011.

The Second Regional Platform on DRR achieved the following results:

- The Regional Platform increased the number of participants with respect to the Regional platform of 2009 (11% more participants) and obtained a political commitment from participating Governments, Civil Society Organizations, Intergovernmental Organizations, Academic Sector as well as local government representatives to increase the profile of disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change as an integral aspect of sustainable development, recognizing that it is part of the development process and must be a multi-stakeholder undertaking with governments playing a central role;
- The Platform fostered the commitment of policy and decision-makers to continue their efforts to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action and monitor its advances;
- It also allowed to consolidate and coordinate key messages from the Americas Region's key institutions to the Global Platform on DRR, and raise political commitment from the governments and insti-

tutions of the Region to participate in the Global Platform (The Americas Region was the second Region with most participants in the GP after Europe).

- Provided practical suggestions for regional and sub-regional initiatives in support of national and community efforts to reduce disaster risk; and
- Raised the need for the creation and dissemination of information services tailored to specific users (public sector, communities, individuals) that support DRR and CCA decision-making processes.

In the case of the Americas, the Regional Platform is perceived as the main regional mechanism to guide the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. It has been the vehicle to promote coordination among sub-regional intergovernmental bodies and cooperation among the main disaster risk reduction actors in the Region. The outcome document of the regional platform in the Americas the Communiqué of Nayarit contributed relevant elements to the Global Platform for DRR, addressing global considerations, priorities, concerns and contributions based on regional reflections.



Photo: J. J.Trelles/UNISDR



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

The world's foremost gathering on reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations.

## Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2011

<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2011/>



UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

The Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Reconstruction Conference took place in Geneva, from 8 to 13 of May 2011. The Global Platform was opened by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and chaired by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Asha-Rose Migiro.

The Global Platform brought together the broadest ever cross-section of people committed to building resilience – including several Heads of State, Ministers, a Managing Director of the World Bank, over 2,600 delegates representing 163 Governments, 25 intergovernmental organizations, 65 non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, private sector, local government, academic institutions, civil society and international organizations. The UNISDR Regional Office for the Americas facilitated the participation of

key representatives from the region. With a total of 350 delegates attending the Global Platform, the Americas region was the second largest region represented. 20 countries out of 36 countries in the Americas, presented Country Statements committing to the implementation of disaster risk reduction.

The participation of high level representatives of the Americas Region, facilitated through UNISDR support, was catalytic for including DRR priorities (as identified in the Regional Platform in Nayrit, March 2011) into the GP chair summary. For example the experience of the “Forum for Sub-regional Coordination and Cooperation Mechanisms on Disaster Risk Management” in the Americas, established as part of the Nayarit commitments, provided a good practice that led to propose a global mechanism for exchanging experiences among IGOs.

## Critical steps addressed during the Global Platform particularly relevant for the Americas region:

- Increase investment in disaster risk reduction at the local level and ensure national growth does not increase local risks. Address local action directly in national growth targets, plans and policies. Strengthen capacities of local governments and ensure resource availability.
- Encourage collaboration with communities and volunteers including through participatory risk assessments and local multi-stakeholder monitoring and reporting.
- Draw upon the untapped potential of local actors and build on the role of women as agents of change.
- Develop standards and indicators for measuring the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction at both the national and regional levels to guide public and private sector investments and improve quality and consistency in implementation.
- Account for disaster losses in a standardized manner to support multi-hazard, integrated assessments as the basis for development decision-making and open-source risk public information.
- Increase dedicated budget allocations for disaster risk reduction by using risk assessment, budgetary planning and project evaluation mechanisms, in all development investments. Create incentives for investing in prevention. Protect public finances with contingency mechanisms, including insurance.
- Track investments in disaster risk reduction to provide clear evidence of the costs and benefits of investments through verifiable and accountable data to Governments and the public and as a further means of promoting aid-effectiveness.
- Ensure that responsibility for disaster risk reduction is backed by the necessary political authority to increase implementation across sectors through increased engagement with parliamentarians, local authorities and civil society.
- Strengthen public awareness of disaster risks through promoting universal access to risk information, education, building social demand for disaster risk reduction and promote individual safety and responsibility. Use available communication technologies to provide clear and concise information.
- Identify and prepare for emerging risks, including those associated with technological hazards and pandemics, through scientifically-informed multi-hazard risk assessments and scenario development. Encourage cross-sectoral cooperation that makes best use of available information and technology.



## Parliamentarians

The UNISDR RO-the Americas in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) assisted in the organization of a side event in the framework of the IPU Assembly in Panama City on the role of Parliaments in Disaster Risk Reduction. This event provided a briefing on the outcome of recent international

consultations on disaster risk reduction, both among parliamentarians and at the United Nations, and discuss expectations for the forthcoming Global Forum which will focus on Investing today for a safer tomorrow. It will seek to generate debate and engage with more parliamentarians from different countries in the global campaign on making nations and communities resilient to disasters and climate change.



Photo: senado.gov.br

The regional office participated as well in the National Seminar on Civil Protection: Perspectives for Brazil organized by the Brazilian Congress that was held in Brasilia in November 2011.

# Focus themes

To accelerate the implementation of DRR, UNISDR is working with different stakeholder groups together which drive the DRR agenda in their area of expertise. In 2011, the engagement with local governments under the umbrella of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and the Urban Risk Platform continued. Other sectors such as education were strengthened by commitment from Ministers. UNISDR reinforced its collaboration with the Private Sector working with members who are taking the lead in ensuring the safety of long-term investments and planning ahead to protect industry and society from disasters, economic disruptions while ensuring business



Photo: Gustavo Wilches-Chaux

## Private Sector engagement in DRR

The UNISDR secretariat has established four strategic objectives which can be attained with the support of the private sector:

- a) Lead and coordinate
- b) Produce credible evidence
- c) Advocacy and outreach for increased public and private investments for DRR
- d) Deliver and communicate results for DRR

Following recommendations made by Private Sector representatives at the Global and the Regional Platform, UNISDR organized the meeting "Cooperation between Governments and Private sector for Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean" jointly with the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) and USAID/OFDA in November 2011.

The meeting has set the ground for establishing further integration of private sector efforts into DRR, specifically in three areas:

- The participants of the meeting welcomed the possibility of establishing a "Private Sector Promoting Group for DRR in Latin America and the Caribbean" under the umbrella of the UNISDR led Private Sector Advisory Group as an instrument to advance in disaster reduction related fields.
- Based on advances reached in the region, it will be important to engage the
- The agreement signed between SELA and UNISDR will ensure the coordination and interagency cooperation, and will further advance the participation of the private sector in disaster risk reduction. A follow-up session dedicated to the private sector and disaster risk reduction will be held at the 3rd Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2012 in Argentina.

Regional initiatives with the current efforts being developed at the global level through the UNISDR Private Sector Advisory Group formed during the Global Platform. In this sense, UNISDR will foster to integrate within the Region, the call for action issued by the Private Sector Advisory Group focusing on "Five Essentials for Business in Disaster Risk Reduction":

1. Promote and develop public-private partnerships
2. Leverage private sector expertise & strengths to advance disaster risk reduction & mitigation activities including enhanced resiliency & response.
3. Foster a collaborative exchange and dissemination of data: share information on assessment, monitoring, prediction, forecasting and early warning purposes.
4. Support national and local risk assessments and socio-economic cost benefit analyses.
5. Support the development and strengthening of national and local laws, regulations, policies and programs that enhance DRR and improve resilience.

## Linking the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction agendas in the Americas

Disaster risk reduction is essential for achieving sustainable development. Any effective framework for sustainable development needs to include clear prescriptions and practical applications of disaster and climate risk management. Equally, poverty and vulnerability reduction are integral to risk management. Climate change further reinforces the urgency of adopting integrated approaches to resilient development.

In the America's region about 3/4 of all disasters recorded in the period 1970-2010 are related to floods and storms. Exposure to these types of hazards also increased significantly. For example, the calculated number of people exposed annually to hurricanes in the region has increased from 1.1 million in 1970's to 5.2 million in the last decade.

There is a need to adjust regulatory and institutional frameworks so that they prioritize Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) as explicit sustainable development objectives at the national, subnational and local levels. Similarly, there is a need to urgently advance the integration of DRR and CCA policies within development planning and public investments.

One focus of the UNISDR Regional Office for the Americas is to provide technical support for the development of regional and national policies bridging the gap between DRR and CCA actions. Main regional and global events supported by the UNISDR Americas relating to the advocacy activities for DRR and CCA in 2011 were:

- One side event on DRR and CCA was organized during the 2nd session of the Regional Platform (March, Mexico)

- Provided regional perspective and expertise on climate change during the 3rd session of the Global Platform for DRR

- Advocacy at the highest level in two Central American Presidential Summits (July & December, El Salvador)

- Supported the organization of three workshops during the "International Week of Climate Risk Management" (October, Peru)

- Advocacy during the UNFCCC Panama Climate Change Conference (October, Panama)

UNISDR supported a decision of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), which requested to organize a workshop to identify challenges and gaps in the implementation of risk management approaches to the adverse effects of climate change, building on the lessons learned and practical experience of international, regional and national organizations and the private sector.

Following this recommendation an "International Week of Climate Risk Management" was held in Lima, Peru from 10 to 14 October. During this week several international workshops were organised. Three workshops were supported by UNISDR Americas:

1. A workshop on gaps and challenges jointly organized with UNFCCC and the Peruvian Ministry of Environment enabled about 80 representatives from Parties, relevant organizations, regional centers and networks, academia, civil society and the private sector, to share information on the current practices, approaches and institutional frameworks for different stages of managing climate-related

3 Modeling by the World Bank, included in: Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Unveiling Risk; Redefining Development. 2011. United Nations.

4 See decisión 1/CP.16, II. Enhanced action on adaptation, particularly para.14 (e)



Photo: UNISDR

risks at different levels, sectors and regions in order to identify region-specific gaps and challenges as well as those related to the risk management cycle. It also aimed to enhance understanding on a possible range of options to address various climate-related risks that countries are facing.

2. The UNISDR regional office for the Americas coordinated and supported, in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Peruvian Ministry of Environment, a workshop on “Insurance for Adaptation to Climate Change for Public, Productive and Financial Sectors” which was attended by about 250 national and international experts from 40 countries.

3. A third workshop supported by UNISDR, and organized by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), focused on regional aspects of climate change adaptation.

In the two Central American presidential summits for example which were held in El Salvador (July and December), the importance of linking DRR and CCA was clearly highlighted in statements made by UNISDR representatives. One meeting was attended by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction. Also the Central American Policy of Integral Risk Management (PCGIR, for its Spanish acronym) considers such integration.

It is important to note that the PCGIR is a binding agreement ratified by the national governments that are part of the Central American Integration System (SICA, Spanish acronym). UNISDR supported CEPREDENAC and

SICA through a grant agreement in order to facilitate the enhancement of national DRR mechanisms and its articulation with climate change adaptation, and for the presidential statement highlighting the importance of a synergistic action around these two issues.

UNISDR Americas continued providing technical support to parties/countries that are making efforts to better articulate DRR and CCA in their national plans and policies, such as in Peru, Mexico, Argentina, among others. A DRR and CCA report for the Andean region is currently under final revision expected to be published in 2012.

The regional office of UNISDR proposed the consideration of DRR and CCA content in regional reports such as GEO 5 (UNEP), Rio+20 regional inter-agency report coordinated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). It also supported the involvement of regional DRR experts in CCA activities in the region such as in the Iberoamerican Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC, for its Spanish acronym) as well as in IPCC’s Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX). The assessment concerns the interaction of climatic, environmental, and human factors that can lead to impacts and disasters, options for managing the risks posed by impacts and disasters, and the important role that non-climatic factors play in determining impacts. These actions have led to a better coordination and understanding among DRR and CCA communities and practitioners, which is reflected in new climate change institutional frameworks and funding proposals considering DRR.

5 [http://unfccc.int/adaptation/implementing\\_adaptation/items/6094.php](http://unfccc.int/adaptation/implementing_adaptation/items/6094.php)

6 See <http://ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/>

## Global Campaign: “Making Cities Resilient: My City is getting ready!!”



Photo: Defesa Civil/Brasil

By the end of 2011, 117 local governments from 22 countries in the Americas joined the making cities resilient campaign. Local governments commit to reflect at least one of the 10 essentials in their development processes. El Salvador (24) and Honduras (30) are the countries that have currently the highest number of local governments signed on to the campaign.

In the Americas, sign up ceremonies to the making cities resilient campaign are usually linked to capacity building workshops. In 2011 for example workshops have been held in Chile (February), Brazil (April), Honduras (August), Ecuador (November) and a Regional launch for the Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago in December. The workshop in Ecuador, for example, was organized in the context of the DIPECHO South America project. During the sub-regional capacity building workshop surrounding the development of disaster resilient cities in the Andean region of South America around 30 municipalities were trained.

The national training workshop in Honduras was organized by the UNISDR Regional Office for the Americas, together with UNDP in Honduras, the Secretary of State for Social

Development and the Permanent Commission for Contingencies (COPECO) with the auspices of the White Helmets Commission of Argentina, under the umbrella of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign. The workshop was aimed at technical staff of local governments in the 60 most vulnerable municipalities in the country, national authorities in various fields related to urban risk reduction and other actors involved in DRR at the local level.

A form of capacity building at the local level promoted through the campaign is city-to-city learning. Cities that have already demonstrated good practices and innovation in becoming more resilient to disasters can express their interest in becoming a Role Model in the campaign and share their experience with other local governments. In December 2011, funcionarios of Santa Tecla visited five municipalities in Honduras to exchange experiences. One of the outcomes of this technical mission is an agreed longer term exchange between Santa Tecla and Cantarranas based on similar risk profiles.

The campaign is further supported by political leaders. Four campaign Champions are representing four of the 5 sub-regions in the Americas: Ms Graziela Ortúzar, Mayor of

Lampa, Chile; Mr Oscar Ortiz, Mayor of Santa Tecla, El Salvador; Mr Marcelo Ebrard, Mayor of Mexico City, Mexico and Mr Keith Hinds, Mayor of Portmore, Jamaica.

Besides local governments, campaign partners are crucial for the successful promotion of the campaign and even more importantly the implementation of the 10 essentials.

The UNISDR office for the Americas is working closely together with 23 regional partner organisations. To ensure the integration of DRR into local development processes UNISDR works closely with national associations of municipalities. In 2010 cooperation agreements were signed with the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Associations of Local Governments (FLACMA) which represents 16.132 local governments throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, and with the Federation of Municipalities of the Central American Isthmus (FEMICA). The Dominican Republic Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU), the Colombian Federation of Municipalities (FCM), the Argentinean Federation of Municipalities (FAM) and the Chilean Association of Municipalities (ACM) support the campaign since 2011.

During the 6th Annual Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management in Decem-

ber 2011, CDEMA and UNISDR organized the Making Caribbean Cities Resilient workshop attended by local government representatives from 62 cities from 10 different countries. As a result of the workshop the Port-of-Spain Declaration and Action Plan were issued. The action plan includes, for example, increased investment in DRR at the national and local level, multi stakeholder engagement and co-operation among local governments.

As mentioned previously, 6 cities participating in the campaign from the Americas provided feedback to the Local Government Self Assessment Tool (LG-SAT) in its pilot phase. Based on the feedback received the methodology, tool and indicators were revised. All campaign cities will be invited to apply the tool and incorporate the related processes in the city planning processes.

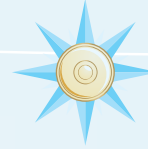
Following the approach of the LG-SAT, an online survey aimed at establishing a baseline from which to evaluate advances and achievements surrounding disaster resilient cities was carried out in 2011 within the framework of UNISDR's DIPECHO project in South America in which 74 municipalities participated from throughout the region. To define the progress made through DIPECHO projects, participating municipalities will be invited to report back towards the end of 2012.



Photo: COPECO

# Making Cities Resilient Campaign in the Americas

Location and amount of local governments that participate in the campaign, Champions and Role Models



**United States of America**  
2 Local Governments:  
Normandy; North Little Rock

**Canada** 4 Local Governments:  
District of North Vancouver;  
District Of Oak Bay; District of  
Saanich; Town of View Royal

**Honduras** 30 Local Governments:  
Alianza Valle; Choloma;  
Corquin Copan; Esquias; Gracias; Guaimaca Francisco Morazan;  
Gualala; Jigua Copan; Lapaera Lempira; Las Vegas; Lima Cortes;  
Macuelizo; Nacaome; Naranjito; Nueva Arcadia; Paraiso de Copan;  
Saba; San Antonio de Copan; San Juan de Flores (Cantarranas);  
San Manuel; San Marcos de Colon; San Marcos de Ocotepeque;  
Sensenti Ocotepeque; Siguatepeque; Tegucigalpa, Distrito Central;  
Tela; Tocoa Colan; Trinidad Copan; Trujillo; Yarula

**El Salvador** 24 Local Governments:  
Comasagua; Apopa; Ayutuxtepeque; Caluco; Ciudad Delgado;  
Cojutepeque; Comacaran; Ilopango; Izalco; La Libertad;  
Nahuizalco; Nejapa; Panchimalco; San José Villa Nueva; San  
Julían; San Martín; San Pedro Masahuat; Santa Ana; Santa María  
Ostuma; Santiago Nonualco; Santo Tomas; Zacatecoluca;  
Soyapango; Santa Tecla

**Mexico** 1 Local  
Government:  
Mexico City

**Venezuela** 1 Local Government:  
Chacoa

**Guatemala** 1 Local Government:  
Livingston

**Bolivia** 2 Local Governments:  
La Paz; Santísima Trinidad

**Nicaragua** 5 Local Governments:  
Larreynaga-Malpaisillo; Masaya;  
Quezalaguaque; San Juan de Río  
Coco; Telica

**Costa Rica** 2 Local Governments:  
San Jose; Siquirres

**Colombia** 2 Local Governments:  
Bogota; Suan

**Brazil** 11 Local Governments:  
Macaé; Araranguá; Blumenau;  
Florianopolis; Itajaí; Jaraguá  
do Sul; Joinville; Lages; Rio de  
Janeiro; Rio do Sul; Tubarão;  
Talisman

**Ecuador** 4 Local Governments:  
Cumanda; Guayaquil; Pallatanga; Quito

**Peru** 2 Local Governments:  
Cusco; Lima

**Paraguay** 4 Local Governments:  
Concepcion; Horqueta, Lautaro,  
San Pedro de Ycuamandyyú

**Chile** 5 Local Governments:  
Alto Bío-Bío; Graneros; Hualpén;  
Lampa; Río Claro

**Argentina** 9 Local Governments:  
Bulnes; Del Campillo; Huinca  
Renancó; La Cautiva; Las  
Higueras; Posadas; Sampacho;  
Santa Fe; Vicuña Mackenna

## Caribbean


**Cuba** 1 Local Government:  
Santiago de Cuba

**Dominican Republic** 3  
Local Governments:  
Bani; Sabana de la Mar;  
San Francisco de Macoris

**Haiti** 2 Local Governments:  
Port au Prince; Tabarre

**Jamaica** 1 Local Government:  
Portmore

**Trinidad & Tobago** 1  
Local Government:  
Port-of-Spain

 Local governments participate in the campaign in the indicated country



**Sign up today** to make your **city** resilient to disasters



District of North Vancouver, Canada  
District of Oak Bay, Canada  
District of Saanich, Canada



Marcelo Ebrard,  
Mayor of Mexico City, Mexico



Keith Hinds,  
Mayor of Portmore, Jamaica



Mexico City, Mexico



Oscar Ortiz,  
Santa Tecla, El Salvador



Santa Tecla, El Salvador



**Campaign Champions:**



**Role Models:**



Graciela Ortúzar,  
Mayoress of Lampa,  
Chile



Santa Fe, Argentina

# Making Cities Resilient

## My City is Getting Ready



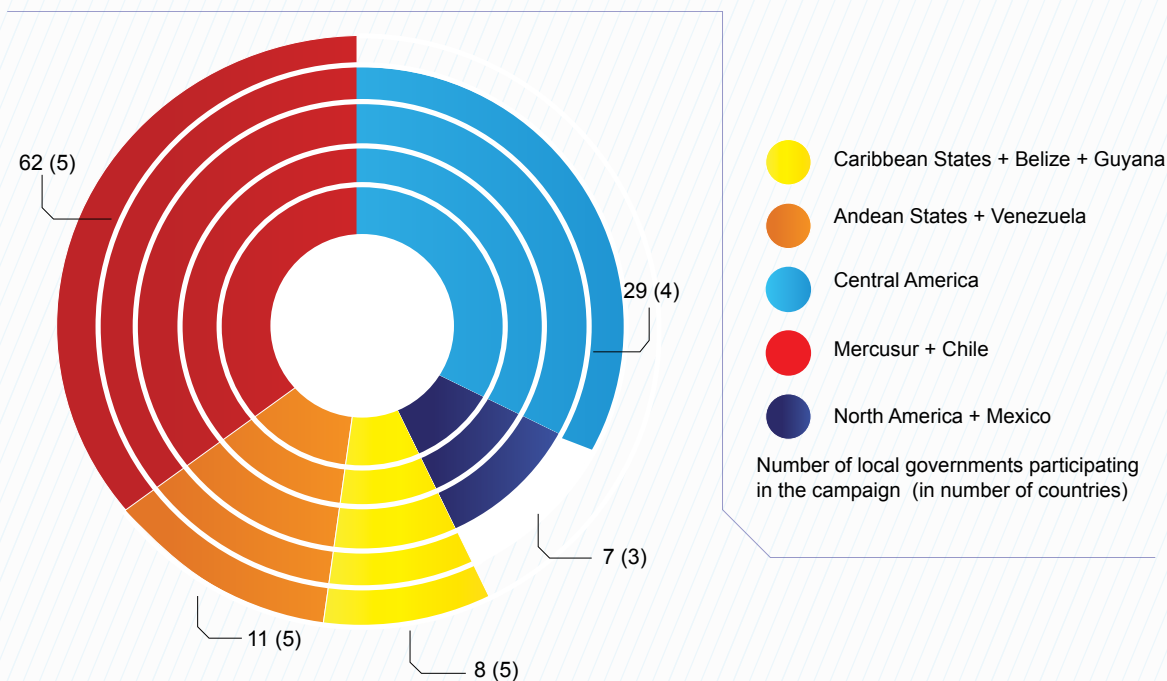
## Urban Risk Thematic Platform

The Urban Risk Thematic Platform for the Americas was first presented by the City of Bogota, Colombia, during the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2007. With the support of UNISDR the platform evolved to a network of local governments throughout the region focusing on strengthening their capacities for the incorporation of disaster risk management in urban planning and development. The platform provides a space to discuss common problems, exchange experiences and knowledge, and to strengthen urban risk management processes for participating cities. It further promotes initiatives for cooperation between cities and other strategic partners for the implementation of risk reduction practices based on existing tools such as the Hyogo Framework for Action and sustainable development policies.

The Urban Risk Platform met during the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Regional Platform in 2009 and agreed on the following action points to promote the main areas of work of the Thematic Platform and Making Cities Resilient Campaign focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Coordinate activities to promote the thematic platform and support the dissemination of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign;
- Organize sessions on urban risk and resilient cities in events at the regional level;
- Actively participate in relevant meetings on behalf of the Urban Risk Thematic Platform and UNISDR Americas.
- Conceptualize a “tool kit for Urban Risk Reduction” and / or “manual to guide local governments on how to advance the 10 essentials for making cities resilient”

## 117 local governments participate in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign in the Americas (Dec 2011)



## 2011 United Nations Sasakawa Award for DRR

This prestigious award is given to institutions or individuals who have carried out outstanding and internationally recognized actions in disaster risk reduction. In 2011, 2 of the 3 awards were received by actors from the Americas. The San Francisco municipality (Philippines), Santa Fe (Argentina) and the District of North Vancouver (Canada), were awarded the biennial UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction. San Francisco was recognized for its innovative use of the Purok system (term for the smallest community unit in the Philippines); Santa Fe for effectively communicating risk to citizens; the District of North Vancouver for providing as much information where possible to its community.

Learn more about the 2011 UN Sasakawa Award nominees and all submissions received:  
<http://www.unisdr.org/we/campaign/sasakawa>

## One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals Initiative

<http://www.eird.org/escuelas-hospitales/ejemplo/index.php>

The One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals initiative is a global advocacy effort to make schools and hospitals safer from disasters. This initiative is part of the 2010-2015 World Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign on "Building Resilient Cities - My city is getting ready!"

The "One Million Save Schools and Hospitals Pledging Initiative" is part of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and calls for pledging of specific schools and hospitals to be safe, sign-up for individuals or groups to become advocates or champions, collects good practices and provides guidance documentation prepared by partners and /or UNISDR. The initiative started in Asia and was launched

in the Americas in 2010 in partnership with UNICEF and WHO/PAHO. By the end of 2011, over 21,300 schools and hospitals have been pledged for safety. In 2012, UNISDR will develop an Action Plan for promoting the initiative further aiming at a three-fold increase of pledges.



Photo: J. Jenkins

## Ministers of Education sign Disaster Risk Reduction Declaration

Ministers of Education signed a Disaster Risk Reduction Declaration during the International Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Panama City in October. The conference was convened by the Ministry of Education of Panama in conjunction with Plan International, UNICEF, UNESCO, Save the Children, RET (Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust), World Vision, USAID/OFDA/LAC, the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and UNISDR.

In addition to strengthening the education sector in disaster risk reduction, the Declaration will align the integrated work among the guarantor States and international cooperation agencies and institutions supporting this issue, in order to achieve greater impact to the benefit of all children, youth, and communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2011

### Children and Young People

**are partners in Disaster Risk Reduction!**

The 2011 celebration theme was: Building Partnerships for Youth in Disaster Risk Reduction. In the Americas, various activities were organized both at the local (99 cities) and national (24 countries) level. 19 organizations commemorated the International Day for Disaster Reduction with media coverage throughout the region.

To view the activities reported in the Americas, please see:

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/section/230\\_CelebracindelDIRRD2011americas.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/section/230_CelebracindelDIRRD2011americas.pdf)



## Annex 1: Suggested readings 2011

- Global Assessment Report 2011 (GAR), UNISDR  
[www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/)
- Midterm review report, UNISDR  
[www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/hfa-mtr/](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/hfa-mtr/)
- Hyogo Framework for Action Progress Reports  
<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/progress/?pid:3&pil:1>
- Lineamientos para la cooperación entre gobiernos y el sector privado en la reducción de riesgo de desastres: Enfoques, avances y retos, Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe (SELA)  
[www.desenredando.org/public/varios/2011/2011\\_SELA\\_ALinayo\\_LineamientosCooperacionGobiernoSectorPrivadoDDR.pdf](http://www.desenredando.org/public/varios/2011/2011_SELA_ALinayo_LineamientosCooperacionGobiernoSectorPrivadoDDR.pdf)
- Vínculos entre las dinámicas demográficas, los procesos de urbanización y los riesgos de desastres. Una visión regional de América Latina, UN-HABITAT  
*Available on the UNISDR Americas website*  
<http://www.eird.org/publicaciones/dinamicas-poblaciones.pdf> (in Spanish)
- Guide to Climate Change Adaptation in Cities, World Bank  
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTUWM/Resources/GuideClimChangeAdaptCities.pdf>
- Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas: Communiqué of Nayarit  
<http://eird.org/plataforma-2011/pdf/Comunicado-de-%20Nayarit-en.pdf>
- Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2011: Chairs Summary & Stakeholder group statements  
<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2011/>

## Annex 2: Milestones in 2012

March March June		<p><b>Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) review process 2011-13</b></p> <p>Launch of the Local Government Self Assessment Tool (LG-SAT)</p> <p>Launch of the National HFA review process</p> <p>Launch of the Regional HFA review process</p>
1-3 March	Boca del Río, Veracruz, Mexico	<p><b>Annual Conference of Municipalities</b> (National Federation of Mexican Municipalities, FENAMM) <a href="http://conferenciademunicipios.mx/">http://conferenciademunicipios.mx/</a></p>
20-23 March	Chile	<p><b>Cumbre Hemisférica de Autoridades Locales: VI Congreso Latinoamericano de Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales, "ExperienciaAmerica"</b> <i>Asociación Chilena de Municipalidades; Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones de Gobiernos Locales (FLACMA); Organización Regional de Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos (UCGL)</i> <a href="http://www.sextacumbredealcaldes.cl/">http://www.sextacumbredealcaldes.cl/</a></p>
14-15 April	Cartagena	<p><b>VI Summit of the Americas</b> (Organization of American States, OAS) <a href="http://www.summit-americas.org/sixthsummit.htm">http://www.summit-americas.org/sixthsummit.htm</a></p>
20-22 June	Rio de Janeiro	<p><b>Rio+20 - United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)</b> <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/2012/rioplus20/">www.unisdr.org/2012/rioplus20/</a> <a href="http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/">www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/</a></p>
1-7 September	Naples, Italy	<p><b>World Urban Forum 6</b> (UN-Habitat) <a href="http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=672">http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=672</a></p>
13 October	globally	<p><b>International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2012</b> <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/2011/iddr/">http://www.unisdr.org/2011/iddr/</a></p>
15-19 October	Andalusia, Spain	<p>X Congreso Iberoamericano de Municipalistas Theme: "Buen Gobierno y Calidad de la Democracia Local" <i>Unión Iberoamericana de Municipalistas (UIM)</i></p>
29-31 October	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the <b>Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction</b> (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, UNISDR) <a href="http://www.eird.org">www.eird.org</a></p>
26 November- 7 December	Qatar	<p>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP18) <a href="http://unfccc.int/2860.php">http://unfccc.int/2860.php</a></p>
3-7 December	tbd	<p>7<sup>th</sup> annual Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management</p>





# SUMMARY of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters

## Expected outcome, strategic goals and priorities for action 2005-2015

**Expected Outcome**  
The substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.

### Strategic Goals

The integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning.

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards.

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

### Priorities for Action

**1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.**

DRR institutional mechanisms (national platforms);  
designated responsibilities;  
DRR part of development policies and planning, sector wise and multisector;  
Legislation to support DRR;  
Decentralisation of responsibilities and resources;  
Assessment of human resources and capacities;  
Foster political commitment;  
Community participation.

**2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.**

Risk assessments and maps, multi-risk; elaboration and dissemination;  
Indicators on DRR and vulnerability;  
Data and statistical loss information;  
Early warning: people centered;  
information systems; public policy;  
Scientific and technological development; data sharing, space-based earth observation, climate modeling and forecasting; early warning;  
Regional and emerging risks.

**3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.**

Information sharing and cooperation; Networks across disciplines and regions; dialogue;  
Use of standard DRR terminology;  
Inclusion of DRR into school curricula, formal and informal education;  
Training and learning on DRR: community level, local authorities, targeted sectors; equal access;  
Research capacity; multi-risk; socio-economic; application;  
Public awareness and media.

**4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.**

Sustainable ecosystems and environmental management;  
DRR strategies integrated with climate change adaptation;  
Food security for resilience;  
DRR integrated into health sector and safe hospitals;  
Protection of critical public facilities;  
Recovery schemes and social safety-nets;  
Vulnerability reduction with diversified income options;  
Financial risk-sharing mechanisms;  
Public-private partnership;  
Land use planning and building codes;  
Rural development plans and DRR.

**5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.**

Disaster management capacities: policy, technical and institutional capacities;  
Dialogue, coordination and information exchange between disaster managers and development sectors;  
Regional approaches to disaster response, with risk reduction focus;  
Review and exercise preparedness and contingency plans;  
Emergency funds;  
Voluntarism and participation.

### Cross Cutting Issues

Multi-hazard approach

Gender perspective and cultural diversity

Community and volunteers participation

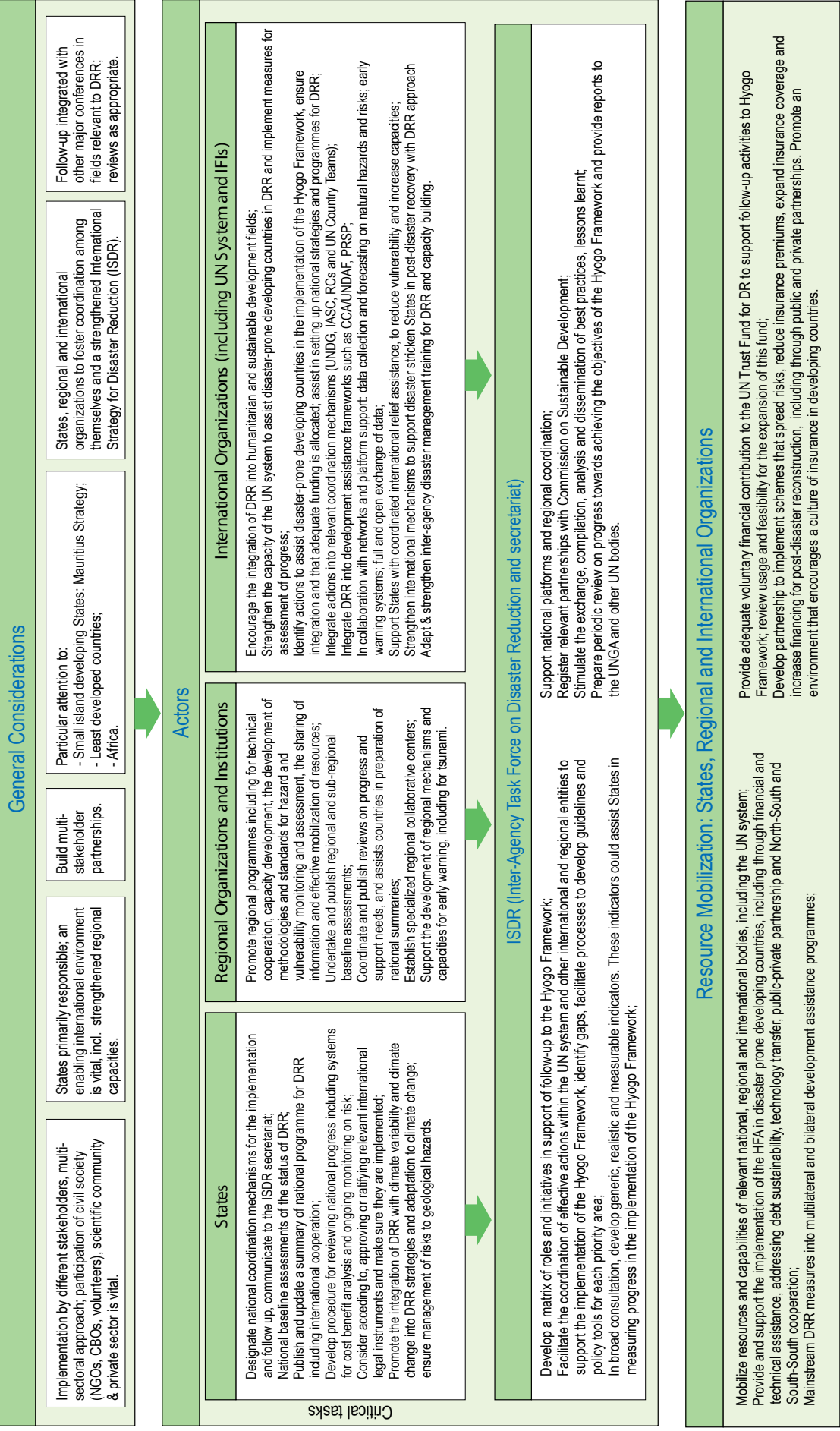
Capacity building & technology transfer

Contributing to the achievements of the internationally agreed development goals (including the MDGs).



## Implementation and Follow-Up

In order to achieve the strategic goals and act upon the priorities for action, the Framework identifies the following tasks for implementation and follow-up by States, regional and international organizations in collaboration with civil society and other stakeholders. The ISDR partners, in particular the Inter-agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR)\* and secretariat, are requested to assist in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action.



Critical tasks





Photo: J. J. Treilles/UNISDR

SAVE THE DATE:  
Third Session of the Regional Platform  
for Disaster Risk Reduction  
29-31 October 2012, Buenos Aires, Argentina

**United Nations International Strategy  
for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)**

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