

World Meteorological Organization Organisation météorologique mondiale Secrétariat 7 bis, avenue de la Paix - Case postale 2300 - CH 1211 Genève 2 - Suisse Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11 - Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81 wmo@wmo.int - www.wmo.int

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## Our ref.: WDS/DRR/Post-2015 DRR

GENEVA, 25 April 2014

Annexes: 2

Subject: Regional consultations for the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR-III)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to inform you about the latest developments with the upcoming consultations for the drafting and adoption of the "Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction" (hereafter referred to as Post-2015 Framework for DRR,) which will supersede the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (hereafter referred to as HFA). The Post-2015 Framework for DRR will be considered by Member States for adoption at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR-III) to be held in Sendai, Japan from 14 to 18 March 2015. The outcomes of WCDRR-III will influence the wider Post-2015 development agenda as well as the Conference of the Parties process factored in the WMO Strategic Plan 2016-2019.

As the term of HFA is drawing to an end, preparations are underway for the drafting of the Post-2015 Framework for DRR, involving global and regional consultations facilitated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UN-ISDR Office) in cooperation with the regional socio-economic groupings in different regions. In 2014, a number of regional consultations are planned to solicit further input from the Member States and other regional stakeholders on priority areas and related actions that need to be included in the drafting of Post-2015 Framework for DRR. I would like to draw your attention to the dates and locations of these Regional DRR Platforms and Ministerial consultations in your respective Regions (Annex I). These regional consultations are complemented with two Preparatory Committee Meetings to be held on 14-15 July and 17-18 November 2014, in Geneva, Switzerland for reviewing the interim drafts of the Post-2015 Framework for DRR before submission to the WCDRR-III. You can obtain further information on the above process and events at: http://www.preventionweb.net/wcdrr/.

In 2014, Member States are planning their national delegations and preparing for their participation in the respective regional consultations on the Post-2015 Framework on DRR and the WCDRR-III, through the national agency (e.g., HFA focal point) or mechanisms (e.g., national DRR Platform) in each country responsible for these matters.

- To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6765)
- cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

Specifically, I would like to inform you that, to date, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretariat has:

- Briefed the presidents of the regional associations (RAs) about the abovementioned process and will work with the RA presidents as well as you, the Members of the Regions, for planning and engagement in the relevant events of the regional consultation meetings;
- Established coordination with the UN-ISDR Office for engagement of WMO in the regional consultations and planning of WMO participation at WCDRR-III;
- Developed key WMO messages for the Post-2015 Framework for DRR to underpin WMO interventions at the regional consultations and Preparatory Committee Meetings (attached as Annex II). These messages may need to be updated as the process evolves, in which case updates will be communicated to you as necessary.

A link to WMO activities at the regional consultations and to the WCDRR-III webpage will be established on the WMO website by the end of April, the content of which will be updated regularly.

Finally, the implementation of the HFA, which WMO supports through its various Programmes has led to major developments at the national, regional and global levels to shift the paradigm from post-disaster response to disaster preparedness, leading to changes in national DRR policies, legal and institutional frameworks, and working arrangements. However, the consultations for the Post-2015 Framework for DRR indicate the need for further risk reduction efforts through among others, effective integration of early warning information and services into various socio-economic sectors' planning and risk management practices as an integral part of national and regional development activities. This renewed focus is expected to have profound impacts on the role, responsibilities and working arrangements for the NMHSs and the strategic direction of the WMO Programmes in the 2016 to 2026 period.

To this end, I would like to urge you to:

- Engage in and contribute to your respective national consultations and planning processes for the regional consultations and the WCDRR-III;
- Participate as part of your national delegation, if possible, in relevant regional consultations as well as in the WCDRR-III, and kindly inform the Secretariat if you or a member of your service will be attending these events;
- Consider the attached key messages (Annex II) for your respective discussions at national level as well as interventions during the regional consultations.

Please note that I have designated Mrs Maryam Golnaraghi (mgolnaraghi@wmo.int), Chief of the Disaster Risk Reduction Division as the focal point of the WMO Secretariat on these issues with the support of Mr Tang Xu, Director, Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services Department and Mr Rob Masters, Director, Development and Regional Activities Department for assistance on regional consultations and the WMO Regional Offices will also assist in coordination of regional consultations. I look forward to working with you all to ensure that the experience gained and lessons learnt through the implementation of HFA, opportunities for the development of Global Framework for Climate Services to support DRR and the critical contribution of our community are reflected in the Post-2015 Framework for DRR as we prepare for the Seventeenth Congress.

Yours faithfully,

(M. Jarraud) Secretary-General

# WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

## WDS/DRR/Post-2015 DRR, ANNEX I

| Ministerial Conferences and Regional Platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction<br>(as of 15 April 2014)<br>Consultations on Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Planning<br>of WCDRR-III |   |
|---|---|
| Region  | Date 2014 (Place)   |
| Africa (RA I)   | 5-8 May (Abuja, Nigeria) –<br>African DRR Platform with Ministerial Segment     |
| Americas (RA III and RA IV)   | 27-29 May (Guayaquil, Ecuador)  |
| Arab States (RAs I, II and VI)  | 10-12 June (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt)   |
| Pacific (RA V)  | 2-4 June (Suva, Fiji)   |
| Asia (RA II and RA V)   | 23-26 June (Bangkok. Thailand) –<br>Asian DRR Platform with Ministerial Segment |
| Europe (RA VI)  | 10 July (Milan, Italy) - Ministerial meeting                                    |
| Europe (RA VI)  | 6-8 October (Madrid, Spain) –<br>European Forum (Tentative)                     |
| <b>1st Preparatory Committee Meeting:</b><br>Zero draft of Post-2015 Framework for<br>DRR and Planning of WCDRR-III   | 14-15 July (Geneva, Switzerland)  |
| <b>2nd Preparatory Committee Meeting:</b><br>Zero draft of Post-2015 Framework for<br>DRR and Planning of WCDRR-III   | 17-18 November (Geneva, Switzerland)  |
| UN Secretary-General's Report and UN GA Resolution on ISDR  | September/November  |

# WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

### WDS/DRR/Post-2015 DRR, ANNEX II

### WMO MESSAGES FOR INTERVENTIONS AT THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON POST-2015 FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Every year, disasters due to weather-, climate- and water-related hazards cause significant loss of life and economic losses. From 1970 to 2012, 8,835 disasters, 1.94 million deaths, and US\$ 2.4 trillion of economic losses were reported globally (US\$ prices adjusted to 2012) as a result of droughts, floods, windstorms, tropical cyclones, storm surges, extreme temperatures, land slides, volcanic ash and wild fires, or health epidemics and insect infestations. Reported economic losses have increased significantly over the last decades. These impacts are being attributed to both climate change as well as to increasing exposure of people and economic assets due to development in at-risk areas<sup>1</sup>.

Of the more notable disasters, over the past decade, the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 is estimated to have caused more than US\$ 10 billion in economic losses<sup>2</sup> in 20 Indian Ocean Rim countries, while the Tohoku earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident in Japan in 2011 resulted in approximately US\$ 206 billion of economic losses<sup>5</sup>. The predominant impact of meteorological, hydrological and climate hazards in developing countries is the high death toll, whereas in developing countries it is economic losses.

There is clear evidence of the systemic nature of risk in relation to global economic interdependencies. For instance, the slow-onset flooding in Thailand in 2011 caused losses of US\$ 40 billion,<sup>3</sup> especially in the automobile and electronics industries, whilst the disruption caused by the ash cloud from the 2010 eruption of Eyjafjallajokull volcano in Iceland had an estimated impact of US\$ 5 billion<sup>4</sup> on the aviation and tourism sectors<sup>3</sup>.

More than half of the world's population lives in cities and urban settlements, where investments in urban development generate new risks or exacerbate existing ones. Urban flooding has already become the leading form of disaster in the world, according to the Global Risks Report 2014<sup>5</sup>. It is projected that most urban growth will occur in middle- and lower-income countries, which have more limited capacity to manage these risks and thus low levels of resilience, and in coastal areas which are exposed to rising sea levels, storms, or tsunamis<sup>6,7</sup>.

The Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has highlighted the changing characteristics of weather extremes, posing challenges for medium- and long-term risk reduction and sustainable development planning.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> IPCC 2012: Summary for Policymakers. In: Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation. A Special Report of Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge and New York.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Cosgrave, J. (2007): Synthesis Report: Expanded Summary. Joint Evaluation of the International Response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami. London: Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (http://www.preventionweb.net/files/2097\_VL108905.pdf).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Guha-Sapir, Hoyois, P. & Below, R. (2012): Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2011. Brussels.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Oxford Economics (2010): The economic impact of air travel restrictions due to volcanic ash. Oxford (http://www.airbus.com/company/environment/documentation/?eID=dam\_frontend\_push&docID=10262).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> World Economic Forum (2013): Global Risks 2014, Ninth Edition. Cologny/Geneva.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> IFRC (2010): World Disasters Report 2010. Focus on urban risk. Geneva.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> UNISDR (2013): From Shared Risk to Shared Value –The Business Case for Disaster Risk Reduction. Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. Geneva.

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With these considerations, reductions of underlying socio-economic risks and development of resilience to disasters caused by hazards (natural and man-made) requires:

- 1) An integrated and holistic approach (all hazard, multi-sectoral, multi-level including local national, regional, international) to quantification of risks, using meteorological, hydrological, climate and environmental information to support risk informed, science-based decisions across all socio-economic sectors. This will strengthen disaster resilience and sustainable development:
  - Investments are required for modernization and further development of the core capacities of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in hazard monitoring, databases, forecasting and analysis. Strengthened cooperation between these services and the user community to support risk-informed decision-making should be considered a priority for national and local development planning;
  - Effective coordination and leveraging of government investment and risk financing strategies with international development and climate-related funding in areas such as institutional and infrastructure capacities, hazard/risk and climate information systems are critical to maximize resources, avoid duplication, and ensure sustainability;
- 2) Building resilience within communities for safety of people, their livelihoods and property is the highest priority. Investments in development and strengthening of national Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) should be considered as an integral part of strategies for building resilience. To this end:
  - Investment in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and disaster risk management decision-support systems, particularly in developing and least developed countries, lead to significant benefits from advances in forecasting and early warning systems;
  - Raising community awareness of the impacts associated with weather-, water- and climate-related hazards and preparedness measures is critical to building resilience;
  - International, regional and national cooperation to ensure harmonization and interoperability of the national MHEWS, development and transfer of technologies, and data exchange are critical in leveraging resources, sustainability and managing risks associated with transboundary and larger scales hazards;
- 3) The changing patters of weather, water, climate and environmental hazards caused by climate change imposes new challenges for sustainable development and disaster resilience. Ability to predict the characteristics of these hazards and their interaction with the socio-economic systems is critical for risk-based decision-making. To this end:
  - Investments in high-impact weather and climate research and modeling, observing networks and the development of operational weather, climate and hydrological services to inform climate risk analysis are needed to inform medium- and long-term investments and strategic planning for risk reduction and building community resilience in a changing climate;
  - Benefits from the new global partnership of governments and organizations, established under the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) will support risk-informed strategies, build disaster resilience and contribute to sustainable development in the post-2015 agenda.