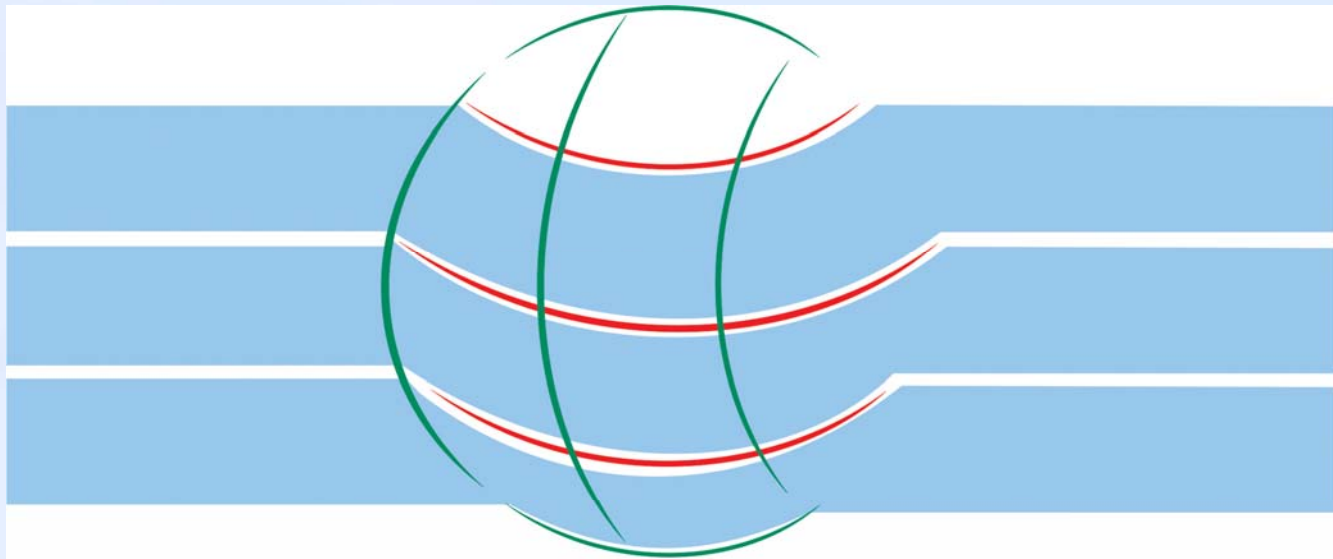


The World Conference on Disaster Reduction: Serious commitments and clearer priorities for the next decade



World Conference on Disaster Reduction
18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

*Yuichi Ono, UN/ISDR Platform for the Promotion of
Early Warning, Bonn, Germany*

Outline

- 1. Why the Conference?**
- 2. Objectives**
- 3. Format**
- 4. The second session of the Preparatory Committee for the WCDR in Geneva from 11-12 October 2004**
- 5. Contents of the Programme Document (tentative)**

1. Why the Conference?

Background

- First Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction
 - Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action (IDNDR, 1994)
- UN Millennium Development Goals (2000)
- World Summit on Sustainable Development:
 - Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002)
- 3rd World Water Forum Ministerial Declaration in Kyoto (2003)

2. Objectives

- Conclude the **review of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy**, updating the **guiding framework** on disaster reduction
- From **commitment to implementation!**
- To identify **specific activities** aimed at ensuring the implementation WSSD
- Increase **awareness** of importance of disaster reduction policies
- **Share information** including on good practices and identify gaps

3. Format

1) Intergovernmental process/segment

To ensure the adoption of outcomes

2) Thematic segment

Thematic policy discussions focusing on implementation, good practices & partnerships

3) Public forum

To raise awareness to a wider public

1) Intergovernmental segment:

- delegates to make statements
- discuss and negotiate on the outcomes of the Conference for final adoption

2) Thematic segment: 5 clusters, 45 sessions,

- **exchange experiences and good practices** in order to enhance the implementation of the programme outcome
- identify issues requiring further discussion at international, regional, national, and community levels
- **launch specific initiatives or partnerships** to support the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- facilitate **networking and exchange of information** between partners and organization

Thematic areas of the WCDR (5 clusters, 45 sessions)

Cluster 1: Governance: institutional and policy frameworks for disaster risk reduction

(UNDP, ProVention Consortium, UN-HABITAT, UNV)

Cluster 2: Risk identification, assessment, monitoring and early warning

(WMO, UNU, EC/JRC)

Cluster 3: Knowledge management & education- building a culture of resilient communities

(UNESCO, IFRC, UNICEF)

Cluster 4: Reducing the underlying risk factors (including recovery practice- sustainable solutions)

(UNEP, WHO, UNCRD)

Cluster 5: Preparedness for effective response

(OCHA, WFP)

High Level Round Tables

1) Disaster Risk: The Next Development Challenge

2) Learning to Live with Risk

3) Emerging Risks: What Will Tomorrow Hold?

- Each round table will be opened by a recognized keynote speaker, followed by a panel discussion with Heads of Delegations, Heads of Agencies, community leaders and experts.

Two Regional Meetings and One Regional Session

Regional inputs

3) Public forum:

- open to the public
- workshops, exhibition booths and poster sessions

4. The second session of the Preparatory Committee for the WCDR in Geneva from 11-12 October 2004

- Over 400 participants
- representatives of 106 UN Member States, UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs
- Discussed the format and the outcome documents (Regional sessions added and reduction of thematic sessions suggested)

Two outcome documents for adoption at the WCDDR:

A **political declaration**: with a strategic vision to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural and technological hazards in the period 2005-2015

A **programme document**: containing elements for policy measures to implement the strategic vision set out in the declaration, tentatively entitled “**Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters: Elements for a Programme of Action, 2005-2015**”

5. Contents of the Programme Document (tentative)

I. Preamble

II. An international agenda 2005–2015

III. Priorities for action

IV. Implementation

V. Monitoring and follow-up

I. Preamble

- Challenges posed by disasters
- International frameworks for disaster reduction
- The Yokohama Strategy: lessons learned and gaps identified

II. An international agenda 2005–2015

- Objectives of the WCDR
- Desired outcome and strategic goals
- General considerations

III. Priorities for action

- Ensure disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning
- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
- Reduce the underlying risk factors
- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response

IV. Implementation

- Responsibilities
 - Member States
 - Regional organizations
 - International organizations, including the United Nations system
- Voluntary partnerships
- Resource mobilization

V. Monitoring and follow-up

- Member States
- Regional organizations
- International organizations, including the United Nations system

See you in
Kobe!

