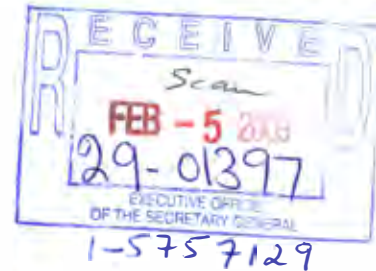


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Note to the Secretary-General

Launch of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction ✓

1. Further to my note of 16 June 2008 (attached), I would like to seek confirmation of your participation in the launching in Bahrain of the ISDR System's first Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. The drafting of the Global Assessment Report is now complete, and the launch date has been fixed for May 11, 2009 in Bahrain. As you are aware, the Government of Bahrain contributed generously to UNISDR to produce the report, and attaches great importance to your presence at its launch. The Government of Bahrain has already circulated a communiqué to all the Permanent Missions in Geneva and New York informing of the launch of the report, and formal invitations will soon be sent out. It is expected that the launch will also be attended by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, by regional governments, and senior representatives of international organizations and inter-governmental regional organizations.
3. The report provides compelling evidence of the gravity of the combined challenge of reducing disaster risk and reducing poverty in a context of global climate change. It also provides recommendations on how to address these challenges in a way that can galvanise cooperation between governments, civil society and the international community. Your launching of the report in Bahrain will provide a clear signal of leadership by the UN on one of the key development challenges of our time.
4. If you agree to attend, you would be invited to make an opening speech at the launch ceremony on the morning of May 11, followed by a press conference later the same morning. As I recall, the original intention was to combine this with a bilateral visit to Bahrain too.
5. The report launch will build momentum, visibility and commitment for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which will take place one month later in Geneva (16-19 June 2009).

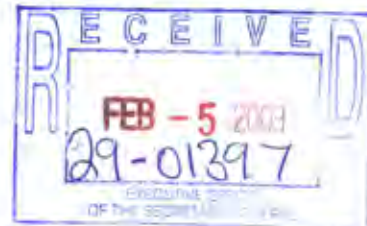
John Holmes
John Holmes
3 February 2009

28-07-09

Note to the Secretary-General

1. The aim of this note is to propose a possible visit to Bahrain in May/June next year to launch the ISDR system's first Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. As recent events in China and Myanmar have once again highlighted, disaster risk reduction is a critical challenge for the UN, and will only get worse due to climate change.
2. The second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is scheduled to take place during the week of 15-19 June 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. Building on the success of the first session (June 2007) this is expected to be a major event to galvanize international cooperation among Governments, civil society, scientific and technical communities, private sector and citizens for accelerated action to reduce the impact of disasters. I hope that the Secretary-General will agree to open the second session of the Global Platform and to make a major speech on the importance of disaster risk reduction globally, as recommended by the Policy Committee.
3. The ISDR system's first biennial Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction will be a landmark document to focus world attention on disaster risk, to consolidate political and economic support and commitment to disaster risk reduction, and to assist the ISDR Global Platform in the framing of global policy and priorities. The Policy Committee has recommended that the Secretary General spearhead the launching of the Global Assessment Report.
4. The Government of Bahrain has recently confirmed a contribution of US\$ 1 million for the ISDR Global Assessment Report and has proposed a major global and regional launch in Bahrain in May or early June 2009, a few weeks before the Global Platform. They are very keen for you to be there, not least since you have not yet paid a bilateral visit to Bahrain. The report launch could provide a powerful stimulus to build momentum, visibility and commitment for the Global Platform. It could also strengthen commitment to disaster risk reduction from countries in the Middle East and North Africa region and open a key window of opportunity to build a mechanism through which Gulf Coordinating Council countries can become major supporters of disaster risk reduction through the ISDR system, on a sustainable basis, including financially.
5. Therefore, I would like to ask you to consider launching the Global Report in Bahrain, in May or early June 2009, in conjunction with your first bilateral visit to the country, and to present a major speech at the opening of the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2009.

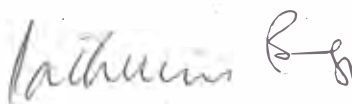
John Holmes
16 June 2008



Note to Mr. Nambiar

Launch of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

1. Please find attached a note to the Secretary-General on his participation in the launching of the ISDR System's first Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bahrain (11 May 2009).

for 
John Holmes
3 February 2009