

OCHA
MALAGASY
SWITZERLAND
VIP/Ago Khan

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Le 8 mai 2007

Madame la Présidente,

Le nombre de catastrophes naturelles augmente de manière alarmante et leurs impacts, particulièrement sur les plus démunis et vulnérables, s'accroissent aussi.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies tiendra, à Genève, du 5 au 7 juin 2007, la première session de la Plate-forme Mondiale pour la réduction des risques de catastrophe qui sera présidée par M. John Holmes, Secrétaire général adjoint aux affaires humanitaires.

L'objectif de cette Plate-forme est de faciliter la mise en œuvre du Cadre d'action de Hyogo (2005-2015) sous la forme d'un forum d'échanges d'idées, d'expériences et de mesures efficaces entre les acteurs déjà engagés dans la réduction des risques de catastrophe et d'augmenter la prise de conscience et d'actions à tous les niveaux.

Les conclusions de cette réunion feront parties intégrantes de mon rapport sur la Stratégie internationale de prévention des catastrophes qui sera remis à l'Assemblée Générale.

Considérant l'important engagement de la Confédération suisse en matière de réduction des risques de catastrophe, j'ai l'honneur de vous inviter en votre qualité de Chef d'Etat du pays hôte à ouvrir la première session de la Plate-forme Mondiale le mardi 5 juin, à 10 heures. J'interviendrai personnellement lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture en m'adressant aux participants de haut niveau, parmi lesquels de nombreux Ministres gouvernementaux, à travers un message retransmis par vidéoconférence.

En espérant vivement que vous accepterez de participer à cet important événement, je vous prie d'agréer, Madame la Présidente, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

Ban Ki-moon

Ban Ki-moon

Son Excellence
Mme Micheline Calmy-Rey
Présidente de la Confédération suisse
Berne



27-06192

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

Le 8 mai 2007

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Le Secrétaire général vous serait reconnaissant de bien vouloir faire transmettre la lettre ci-jointe à Son Excellence Madame Micheline Calmy-Rey, Présidente de la Confédération suisse.

Une copie de cette lettre est jointe pour votre information.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, l'assurance de ma très haute considération.

Le Directeur de Cabinet

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Nambiar', with a horizontal line underneath.

Vijay Nambiar

Son Excellence
Monsieur Peter Maurer
Représentant permanent de la Suisse
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
New York

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Le 8 mai 2007

Monsieur le Président,

Le nombre de catastrophes naturelles augmente de manière alarmante et leurs impacts, particulièrement sur les plus démunis et vulnérables, s'accroissent aussi.

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Les conclusions de cette réunion feront parties intégrantes de mon rapport sur la Stratégie internationale de prévention des catastrophes qui sera remis à l'Assemblée Générale.

Compte tenu de l'importante expérience de Madagascar dans le domaine de la prévention des catastrophes, j'ai l'honneur de vous inviter à adresser un discours à l'occasion de la session d'ouverture de la Plate-forme Mondiale le mardi 5 juin, à 10 heures. J'interviendrai personnellement lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture en m'adressant aux participants de haut niveau, parmi lesquels de nombreux Ministres gouvernementaux, à travers un message retransmis par vidéoconférence.

En espérant vivement que vous accepterez de participer à cet important événement, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, les assurances de ma très haute considération.



Ban Ki-moon

Son Excellence
Monsieur Marc Ravalomanana
Président de la République de Madagascar
Antananarivo

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Le 8 mai 2007

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Le Secrétaire général vous serait reconnaissant de bien vouloir faire transmettre la lettre ci-jointe à Son Excellence Monsieur Marc Ravalomanana, Président de la République de Madagascar.

Une copie de cette lettre est jointe pour votre information.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, l'assurance de ma très haute considération.

Le Directeur de Cabinet

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nambiar', with a horizontal line underneath.

Vijay Nambiar

Son Excellence
Monsieur Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy
Représentant permanent
de la République de Madagascar
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies
New York



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

8 May 2007

Your Highness,

The number of disasters triggered by natural hazards is dramatically increasing and their impact, particularly on the poorest and most vulnerable, is rising.

Over the period 5-7 June, 2007, under the chairmanship of Mr. John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations will convene the First Session of the multi-stakeholder Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, Switzerland. The objective of the Global Platform is to facilitate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices among those involved in disaster risk reduction, and to raise awareness and commitment to effective action at all levels. The outcome of the meeting will form part of my report on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to the General Assembly.

Drawing on your Foundation's commitment to promoting and creating effective sustainable solutions through partnership, institution building and community action in the developing world, I should like to invite you to share your experiences and lessons learnt in disaster risk reduction with participants at the opening segment of the First Session of the Global Platform on the morning of Tuesday, 5 June. I will deliver a pre-recorded message via video-conference to the opening ceremony, which I understand will include several high-level participants, including Ministers of Government.

I very much hope that you will be able to accept my invitation to participate in this important event.

Please accept, Your Highness, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ki Moon Ban' in a cursive style.
Ban Ki-moon

His Highness the Aga Khan
Gouvieux



To: Mr. Nambiar,

Please see attached for your approval and SG's signature self-explanatory letters addressed to the Presidents of Madagascar, Switzerland and His Highness the Aga Khan.

The letters were reformatted for greater clarity in EOSG in consultation with and approval of OCHA.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AG'.

Andrew Gilmour
4 May 2007

cc: Mr. Kim Won-soo

Handwritten initials in blue ink, possibly 'KW'.

27-06192

For Mr. Nambiar's
approval upon
return, please.

ACTION
COPY

LAG
Y/C
AS } note only

Note to Mr. Nambiar



GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Please find attached letters to the Heads of State of Madagascar and Switzerland and His Highness the Aga Khan, for the Secretary-General's signature.

These letters are invitations for the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which will take place from 5-7 June 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland under my chairmanship.

The formal opening of the meeting will take place on the morning of Tuesday, 5 June. We are aiming for attendance by Ministers from Member States, as well as the heads of the main United Nations agencies and high level experts. It was also agreed from the Policy Committee Meeting of 10 April on Disaster Risk Reduction (Decision No. 2007/19), that the Secretary-General would participate in the first session of the Global Platform via video-link or pre-recorded message.

As in my note to the Secretary-General of 6 March 2007, the overall objective of the Global Platform is to increase further political awareness of and commitments to the need for effective nation action. I attach the announcement of the Global Platform.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Holmes".

John Holmes
1 May 2007

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

First session, Geneva, Switzerland
5 - 7 June 2007



In an increasingly vulnerable world, nations, communities and individuals are confronted daily with the suffering and loss of lives and livelihoods resulting from disasters triggered by natural hazards. Worldwide, the number of disasters grows every year. This trend, compounded by dramatic projections related to climate change and global warming, has made the international community realize how urgent it is to significantly increase national, local and community action to reduce risk, manage vulnerabilities and prevent further disasters.



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Announcement

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters was adopted by 168 Governments at the World Conference for Disaster Reduction in Kobe (Japan) in January 2005 to achieve a "substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets". Governments committed to five priorities for action:

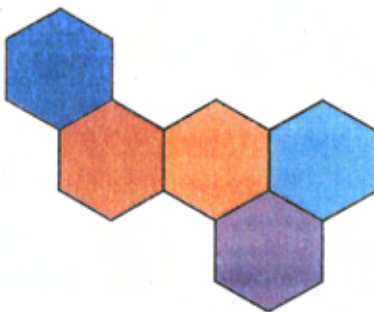
1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.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

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in his capacity as chairperson of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR), launched a consultative process in 2006 to consider practical ways to strengthen the ISDR system and better support Governments to meet their commitment to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action. Those broad consultations identified a set of proposals, one of which was to convene a multi-stakeholder Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In setting up the Global Platform, it is foreseen that it will become the main global forum for all parties involved in disaster risk reduction, namely Governments, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, regional bodies, civil society, the private sector, and the scientific and academic communities to:

- **Raise awareness on reducing disaster risk:**
 - Increase the profile of disaster risk reduction as part of development and climate change adaptation, recognizing that it is "everybody's business" and must be a multi-stakeholder undertaking, with Governments' playing a central role;
 - Reiterate the commitment of policy and decision-makers to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action.
- **Share experience:**
 - Learn from good practice;
 - Provide practical guidance for nations and communities to reduce disaster risk.
- **Guide the ISDR system:**
 - Assess progress made in implementing the Hyogo Framework, and identify obstacles, critical problems and emerging issues that must be addressed to speed up national and local implementation;
 - Enhance cooperation and concerted action by the international community to support national and local implementation of disaster risk reduction including identification of priorities for the ISDR system for 2008-2009.

Regional meetings and processes will complement and feed into the Global Platform.



Date and venue

The first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is scheduled to take place in Geneva, Switzerland Tuesday to Thursday, 5-7 June 2007 at the Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG). The venue will also be available for selected meetings and side events on Monday 4 June and on Friday 8 June 2007.

Participation

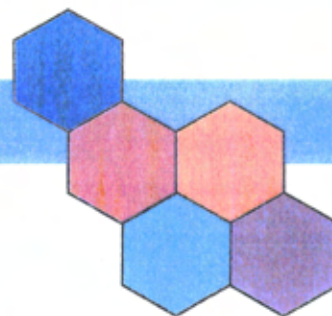
Representatives of Member States of the United Nations and members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction are invited to the first session of the Global Platform together with other regional, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations that are actively engaged in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is being convened by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on the basis of a mandate contained in the resolution of the General Assembly on the ISDR that calls for the adoption by Governments of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the convening of the Global Platform as a successor mechanism to the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, with the same mandate. The General Assembly also decided that the Global Platform would be open to all Member States and that the outcome of its deliberations should be reported to the General Assembly.

The Global Platform is a membership based mechanism for the ISDR system, as was the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction. The criteria for membership will be included as an agenda item at the first session.

For information on the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction please consult www.unisdr.org/eng/task%20force/tf-members-eng.htm

Structure of the session



The session will place particular emphasis on topical issues of concern to policy makers and specific substantive themes linked to the first priority for action in the Hyogo Framework: *Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.*

On the first day of the session, a *high level dialogue* will consider the urgency for all stakeholders to engage in disaster risk reduction from three perspectives:

- Reducing disaster risk through the Hyogo Framework for Action as a key strategy for *climate change adaptation*.
- Challenges in reducing disaster risk in urban settings and *mega-cities*.
- Roadblocks, costs, and opportunities to implement *disaster risk reduction policy*.

These discussions will bring together senior policy-makers, experts and practitioners who will offer views from their respective experiences.

On the second day a series of session *workshops* will address thematic priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action. They will provide an opportunity for participants to exchange good practice and lessons learned from their work experience. They will also offer guidance in specific subject areas. The themes chosen for the first session are:

- *Make disaster risk reduction a national and local priority*: exchange of experience among countries and organizations on different institutional options and national platforms.
- *Integrate disaster risk reduction in different sectors*: exchange of experience among a range of stakeholders on lessons learned in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the fields of:

- education and safer schools;
- health and safer health care centres;
- environment and ecosystem management;
- disaster preparedness.

On the third day of the session *plenary meetings* will focus on *monitoring progress in implementation of the Hyogo Framework* and will identify gaps, opportunities and priorities for further action by ISDR system partners. The results of the workshops will be brought to the plenary on the third day.

The Global Platform will also provide a venue for *parallel meetings and side events*, independently arranged by ISDR system partners addressing a range of issues of relevance to disaster risk reduction. Side events will include:

- A dialogue on public-private partnerships to reduce disaster risk.
- International policies on financing disaster risk reduction.
- The role of non-governmental organizations, the media and other stakeholders in building resilience of communities to disasters.
- Early warning: follow-up to the recommendation of the Secretary General's Global Survey of Early Warning Systems, and the Tsunami Early Warning system.
- Risk assessment and disaster statistics to inform decision makers.

The Platform will also make space available for partners to present their work through *poster displays* and *publications and documents* of a non-commercial nature related to the themes of the session.

A detailed annotated agenda will be made available to participants in mid-March 2007.

Outcome of the session


The outcome of the first session of the Global Platform will be reflected in a report to be prepared by the ISDR secretariat. It will be a summary of the discussions highlighting the key points and suggestions raised during the event. The report will constitute an input to the Report of the United Nations Secretary General on the ISDR to the General Assembly.

Organizational aspects

The ISDR secretariat is organizing the Global Platform on behalf of the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs.

Interpretation in the six official United Nations languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) will be available in the plenary and high-level panels. Session workshops will be conducted in English, French and Spanish. Side events will normally take place in English.

It is anticipated that limited resources will be available to cover the participation of delegates from developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing states. Further information will be made available in due course.



For all enquiries about the first session of the Global Platform please consult the website www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform which provides up-to-date information on the background, programme, organization of side events and displays, as well as practical information for participants. The website will act as a portal to centralize, compile and disseminate session documents, inputs and contributions during the preparation phase. Queries may also be sent to the ISDR secretariat at the following e-mail address globalplatform@un.org. Tel: +41 22 917 8895 Fax: +41 22 917 8964.

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www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform

