

## BCPR Mandates

In June 1989, the UNDP Governing Council first allocated core resources for disaster preparedness, with an approved policy framework aimed “to stimulate the interest and actions needed to create comprehensive disaster preparedness plans, strategies and structures and to promote disaster mitigation activities within the context of development planning and implementation”. Since then UNDP has developed a substantive body of disaster reduction and recovery activities as part of its portfolio of cooperation with programme countries, implemented through its Resident Representatives, regional Bureaux and specialized programmes.

In 1997 the U.N. G.A. transferred to UNDP the responsibilities of the Emergency Relief Coordinator-ERC for operational activities for natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness. (52/12B). Therefore, UNDP created the Disaster Reduction Unit, as part of the Emergency Response Division, which is now the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR).

**In mid-1998**, in response to this decision, and to further focus its overall strategy and range of activities in the field of disaster reduction, UNDP established the Disaster Reduction and Recovery Cluster (DRRC) as a component of its Emergency Response Division (ERD), now the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR).

In 2000, an informal session of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA responded positively to a presentation by the then ERD on “UNDP in disaster reduction and recovery”. In its first regular session of 2001 the Executive Board approved the “Role of UNDP in crisis and post-conflict situations” as part of the UNDP Business Plans 2000 – 2003, fully recognizing the importance of disaster reduction and recovery as a component of its business area on crisis prevention and recovery as a new Bureau with the following mandate: “To enhance UNDP’s efforts for sustainable development, working with partners to reduce the incidence and impact of disasters and violent conflicts, and to establish the solid foundations for peace and recovery from crisis, thereby advancing the UN Millennium Development Goals on poverty reduction.”

In 2003 on December 23, the General Assembly of the United Nations gathered and adopted the Resolution A/RES/58/214, in order to summon for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in January 2005.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) received a clear mandate from the United Nations General Assembly to operate in “special development situations,” where disasters and violent conflicts have undermined the human, social, physical, and institutional capital that sustains development. (Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Population Fund Documents: DP/2000/18, 20 March 2000; DP/2001/4, 27 November 2000.)

### **The G.A. has also requested to UNDP**

To cooperate with regional and national organizations in order to increase the capacity to respond to natural disasters

To strengthen and build operational capacities in natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness as well as to maximise international cooperation

To support governments to undertake regular reviews of early-warning requirements and capabilities at national and community levels.

To integrate comprehensive disaster risk reduction programmes as integral elements of U.N.support for socio-economic development programmes

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

### A/RES/52/12B Resolution (19 Dec 1997)

#### " Humanitarian affairs

15. Decides to designate the Emergency Relief Coordinator as the United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, who will, inter alia, retain responsibility for coordination of natural disaster relief;

16. Decides also to transfer to the United Nations Development Programme the responsibilities of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for operational activities for natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness, with the understanding that the resources for this task will be separate and additional to the resources of the United Nations Development Programme for development activities and that they will be provided by a grant from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999"

**The United Nations Programme for Reform, in 1997, undertook to redistribute operational aspects of responsibilities of the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) to other parts of the UN system.** Functions of disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness were noted as relating to national capabilities and, therefore, more appropriately situated in UNDP. Based on these proposals, the General Assembly decided at its 52nd session to transfer to UNDP the responsibilities of the ERC for operational activities for natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness.

Crisis prevention and recovery has been an increasingly prominent dimension to UNDP's work. In 1997 it received a clear mandate from the UN General Assembly to operate in "special development situations". (**General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, (annex, paragraphs. 9-10), General Assembly resolutions 52/12A and B.**)

### A/RES/56/103 Resolution (14 Dec 2001)

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, and its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 54/219 and 54/233 of 22 December 1999 and 55/163 of 14 December 2000, and recalling agreed conclusions 1999/1 of the Economic and Social Council and Council resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, Recognizing the importance of the principles of neutrality,

"International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development"

4. Stresses, in that context, the importance of ***strengthening international cooperation in the provision of humanitarian assistance in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, from relief and mitigation to development***, including through the provision of adequate resources, and encourages the effective use of multilateral mechanisms;

5. Also stresses that humanitarian assistance for natural disasters should be provided in accordance with and with due respect for the guiding principles contained in the annex to resolution 46/182, and should be determined on the basis of the human dimension and needs arising out of the particular natural disasters;

7. Reaffirms that ***disaster reduction forms an integral part of sustainable development strategies and needs to be considered in the development plans of all vulnerable countries and communities***, and also reaffirms that within such preventive strategies, ***disaster preparedness and early warning systems must be strengthened further at the country and regional levels***, inter alia, through better coordination among relevant United Nations bodies and cooperation with Governments of affected countries and regional and other relevant organizations with the aim of maximizing the effectiveness of natural disaster response and reducing the impact of natural disasters, particularly in developing countries;

8. Emphasizes the importance of ***enhanced international cooperation, including with the United Nations and regional organizations, to assist developing countries in their efforts to build capacities, and to predict, prepare and respond to natural disasters***;

9. Stresses the need for ***partnership among Governments of the affected countries, relevant humanitarian organizations and specialized companies to promote training in, access to and use of technologies to strengthen preparedness for and response to natural disasters, and to enhance the transfer of current technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries***, on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed;

12. Stresses that particular international cooperation efforts should be ***undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, regional and subregional capacities of developing countries for disaster preparedness and response***, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, more efficiently and at lower cost;

13. Welcomes the role of the ***Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point within the overall United Nations system for the promotion and coordination of disaster response preparedness among the United Nations humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian partners***;

14. Also welcomes the ***establishment of the positions of regional disaster response advisers by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as well as the initiative of the United Nations Development Programme to establish regional disaster reduction adviser positions***, and encourages the further development of those initiatives in a coordinated and complementary manner in order to assist developing countries in capacity-building for disaster prevention, preparedness mitigation and response;

17. Encourages ***further cooperation between the United Nations system and regional organizations in order to increase the capacity of those organizations to respond to natural disasters***

#### **A/RES/54/233 Resolution (22 Dec 1999)**

“International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters from relief to development”

4. Stresses the need to ***strengthen efforts at all levels, inter alia, at the domestic level, to improve natural disaster awareness, prevention, preparedness and early warning systems***, as well as international cooperation, in response to emergencies from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, bearing in mind the overall negative impact of natural disasters, the resulting humanitarian needs and requests from affected countries, as appropriate;

5. Encourages further efforts by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and

Emergency Relief Coordinator, Inter-Agency Standing Committee members and other members of the United Nations system in promoting preparedness for response at the international, regional and national levels and strengthening the mobilization and coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system in the field of natural disasters, inter alia, through the effective deployment in all regions of the world and expansion of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination roster appropriately to include more representatives from countries of Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, bearing in mind that these representatives are funded by the participating countries;

6. Also encourages further efforts by the ***United Nations Development Programme to strengthen operational activities and capacity-building in natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness, taking due account of the evolving comprehensive strategy to maximize international cooperation in the field of natural disasters;***

7. Invites the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and concerned organizations, taking due account of the evolving comprehensive strategy to maximize international cooperation in the field of natural disasters, ***to strengthen their support to the United Nations disaster management teams which are dispatched upon request by host Governments and steered by the United Nations resident coordinator;***

13. Stresses that particular international cooperation efforts should be ***undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, regional and subregional capacities of developing countries for disaster preparedness and response,*** which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, more efficiently and at lower cost;

#### **A/RES/50/117 Resolution (20 Dec 1995)**

#### International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

##### A

***Reiterating the validity of the conclusions of the first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994,*** in particular with regard to its call for increased bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral cooperation in the field of disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation,

***Commending*** those countries, national and local institutions, organizations and associations that have adopted policies, allocated resources and initiated action programmes, including international assistance, for disaster reduction and, in this context, ***welcoming the participation of private companies and individuals,***

***Commending*** all countries and intergovernmental and regional organizations that have actively engaged in regional and subregional assessments of vulnerability to natural hazards and have consequently initiated regional and subregional cooperation in the field of disaster reduction, including the exchange of data and technology, as well as the development of joint administrative, technological and scientific approaches for applied disaster reduction,

***Commending*** those organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, scientific associations and non-governmental organizations which, in accordance with decisions of their governing bodies, have incorporated the recommendations of the General Assembly relating to disaster reduction and those of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in their programmes of work, thus contributing towards effective progress in disaster reduction in their mandated responsibilities and respective fields of activity, including the allocation of budgetary resources for disaster reduction,

6. Welcomes the measures proposed by the Secretary-General ***to bring the International Framework of Action for the Decade into line with the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action,***

*in order to provide disaster reduction activities worldwide and regionally with authoritative and effective programme guidance so as to ensure stronger cohesion of disaster reduction programmes* and the joint participation of concerned sectors in their implementation

8. **Welcomes**, in pursuance of its resolution 49/22 A, the restructuring of the Special High-Level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee for the Decade so that for the second half of the Decade they will provide the necessary support to global, regional and national policy and strategy development, public awareness-building and resource mobilization, and at the same time **provide links with the scientific community and support the national committees for the Decade and national authorities in their cooperative efforts to integrate disaster reduction programmes into national activities for sustainable development**

11. Decides, in pursuance of its resolution 49/22 A, **to convene a closing event of the Decade, through coordinated sectoral and cross-sectoral meetings at all levels, in order to facilitate the full integration of disaster reduction into the substantive efforts for sustainable development and environmental protection by the year 2000**

16. Decides to consider the question of the **International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction at its fifty-first session, as a separate sub-item under environmental questions related to the environment and sustainable development.**

## B

1. Takes note of the report of **the Secretary-General on early-warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment;**

4. Takes note of the conclusions and proposals made by **the Secretary-General in his report with respect to the improvement of early-warning capabilities, better international coordination in their use, and more effective and beneficial exchange of knowledge and technology;**

6. Also invites **the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to make the early-warning data gathered under the United Nations auspices readily available to the decision makers concerned at the international, national, regional and subregional levels;**

7. **Encourages all Governments to undertake, with the full support of the United Nations system, regular reviews of early-warning requirements and capabilities at national and community levels, within the framework of the development of national disaster reduction policies** in order to enhance protection of their national populations and assets;

A/RES/56/195 (21 Dic. 2001)

“International Strategy for Disaster Reduction”

3. Reaffirms that the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction should perform the functions as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, in particular those of serving as a main forum within the United Nations system for devising strategies and policies for disaster reduction and ensuring complementarity of action by agencies involved in disaster reduction, mitigation and preparedness, decides to review the activities of the Task Force in 2003, and **decides also that the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction should develop collaborative links with appropriate regional disaster reduction organizations;**

5. Recognizes that the framework for action for **the implementation of the Strategy, as endorsed by the Task Force, constitutes the basic guide for the implementation of the Strategy, and that**

*the framework shall be periodically reviewed, according to the evolving needs in the field of natural disaster reduction, and urges all relevant bodies within the United Nations system to cooperate fully within the context of the framework;*

6. Stresses that *the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy should be consolidated and enhanced to perform its functions effectively, in particular to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster-reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields;*

7. Calls upon *Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts with the United Nations system, other international organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective synergies in the field of natural disasters, and urges the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy to develop such synergies, as appropriate,*

10. Calls upon Governments *to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction, urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy in order to ensure such support;*

11. Invites Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system *to strengthen national participation, in particular of disaster-prone countries, in the implementation of the Strategy, including through national multisectoral and interdisciplinary platforms, in order to achieve sustainable development goals and objectives, with the full utilization of scientific and technical knowledge, including through capacity-building at all levels and the development and strengthening of global and regional approaches that take into account regional, subregional, national and local circumstances and needs, as well as the need to strengthen the coordination of national emergency response agencies;*

14. *Calls upon Governments and United Nations agencies to collaborate more closely in the sharing of disaster response and mitigation information,* to take full advantage of United Nations emergency information services such as ReliefWeb, as well as the Internet, and to consider other methods for the sharing of information

21. Recognizes *the importance of early warning as an essential element in the culture of prevention, and encourages renewed efforts at all levels to contribute to natural hazard monitoring and impact prediction, the development and transfer of technology, capacity-building for disaster preparedness, the detection of natural hazards and the issuance and communication of early warning,* as well as education and professional training, public information and awareness-raising activities, and stresses the need for appropriate action in response to early warning;

23. Decides to maintain the annual observance of *the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on the second Wednesday of October,* as a vehicle to promote a global culture of natural disaster reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness;

A/RES/58/214 (23 Dic 2003)

“International Strategy for Disaster Reduction”

2. Invites *Governments and relevant international organizations to consider disaster risk assessment as an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes;*

3. Stresses that continued *cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, are considered essential to address effectively the impact of natural disasters*

5. Also **recognizes the importance of integrating a gender perspective as well as of engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly in the disaster reduction stage**

7. Decides to convene a **World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005, at the senior-official level**, designed to foster specialized discussions and produce concrete changes and results

**A/RES/62/192 (19 Dic 2007)**

#### **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction**

2. Recalls that the commitments of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters<sup>3</sup> include the provision of assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes;

3. Welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the need for a more effective integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, planning and programming; for the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards; and for a systematic incorporation of risk-reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes;

4. Calls upon the international community to increase its efforts to fully implement the commitments of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action;

5. Invites Member States, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional bodies and other international organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and volunteers, the private sector and the scientific community, to increase efforts to support, implement and follow up the Hyogo Framework for Action

10. Further **recognizes the importance of coordinating climate change adaptation with relevant natural disaster risk-reduction measures, invites Governments and relevant international organizations to integrate these considerations in a comprehensive manner into, inter alia, development plans and poverty eradication programmes, and invites the international community to support the ongoing efforts of developing countries in this regard;**

12. Welcomes the regional and subregional initiatives developed in order to achieve disaster risk reduction, and reiterates the need to further develop regional initiatives and risk-reduction capacities of regional mechanisms where they exist and to strengthen them and encourage the use and sharing of all existing tools

13. Also welcomes the launch of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a partnership of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system managed by the World Bank on behalf of the participating donor partners and other partnering stakeholders, as a significant initiative to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;

15. Takes note with great interest and appreciation of the holding at Geneva, from 5 to 7 June 2007, of the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction,<sup>6</sup> the successor mechanism of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, as a useful forum for Member States and other stakeholders to assess progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

17. **Recognizes the importance of integrating a gender perspective and engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly at the disaster risk-reduction stage.**

**A/RES/52/200 (18 Dic 2007)**

## International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

2. Calls upon States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to participate actively in the financial and technical support for Decade activities, including those related to international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade, in particular with a view to translating the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action<sup>2</sup> into concrete disaster reduction programmes and activities;
3. Commends the national, regional and subregional efforts of affected countries, particularly those of developing countries, to reduce the impact of El Niño;
5. Calls upon the secretariat of the Decade to continue to facilitate a concerted international approach to improvements in early-warning capacities for natural disasters and similar disasters with adverse impact on the environment, with particular reference to El Niño;<sup>4</sup>
6. Welcomes the establishment of the Inter-agency Task Force on El Niño for cooperative work on the prevention and mitigation of and preparedness for natural disasters related to the El Niño phenomenon;
12. Recommends *that long-term public awareness and information programmes related to natural disasters, including those induced by El Niño and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, be integrated into comprehensive national disaster management programmes that focus on preventive strategies for risk reduction and that those programmes be included as integral elements of United Nations support for social and economic development programmes*

## BCPR'S Mandate

**UNDP's Strategic Plan 2008-2011, approved by the Executive Board in September 2007,** recognised that "the main human development challenges facing the global community today include: uneven growth, increasing inequalities and global health crises; deficit in democracy, participation and post-elections governance; environmental degradation and climate change; and conflicts and disasters". As a result, crisis prevention and recovery has been identified as one of the four focus areas for 2008-2011. The Strategic Plan also emphasises that UNDP's programmatic work should focus on the types of intervention that strengthen the coherence and impact of the UN system at the country level, in support of the strategy agreed with each country.

Within the UN System more generally, UNDP has worked closely with UN humanitarian agencies, both globally as well as at the country level. It is an active member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which brings together UN agencies as well as international NGOs with the purpose of strengthening humanitarian operations.

In 2005, the UN humanitarian system underwent a comprehensive reform process which clearly identified early recovery as a gap area and established it as one of nine original key clusters within the humanitarian architecture., *UNDP was designated as cluster lead for Early Recovery, in which capacity it leads a Cluster Working Group on the subject comprising a group of 23 international agencies and NGOs with an interest in this subject (see Annex 4 for the list of members). This decision reflects a shared understanding of the UN system and its partners of the close link between humanitarian, recovery and development interventions.*

## **WEBSITES**

[http://www.reliefweb.int/ocha\\_ol/about/resol.html](http://www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/about/resol.html)

<http://www.un.org/documents/>