

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION
(IDNDR 1990 - 2000)

**Update of events since the World Conference
on Natural Disaster Reduction (May 1994)**

Addendum 2 to the Introduction by the Director IDNDR to the General Assembly
(version 3 on 11 November 1994)

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I. GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

1.1 IDNDR/Intersectoral

IDNDR Secretariat has conducted several follow-up meetings on the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction. A meeting on 23rd August 1994 with the representatives from the Regions who were involved in the preparation of the World Conference (PrepCom), concluded that there is a need to establish a more regular follow-up of this informal nature. Another "Yokohama Conference Follow-up Meeting", including members of the PrepCom, representatives of UN family, and members of the Scientific and Technical Committee took place on 27 September 1994. Regular meetings will continue on 10 November, to discuss the short and long term IDNDR projects and to establish a framework for programme development. Inter-agency discussions on the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction include also meetings on 12 July and 5 September 1994, attended by UNESCO, WMO, UNV, WHO and DHA. The annual IDNDR Day was celebrated on 12 October 1994. The theme of this IDNDR Day was 'A Safer World for 21st Century', with a focus on "vulnerable communities". Materials including posters were produced and distributed to National IDNDR Committees and other Decade partners. Statements were launched by the Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Secretary General of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction / Director of the IDNDR Secretariat. The statements focused on the need to sensitize decision-makers and opinion-leaders to the importance of identifying vulnerable communities, aiming at reducing that vulnerability before a natural event becomes a natural disaster.

1.2 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF's mandate to protect and improve the well-being of the most vulnerable groups, children and women, anywhere in the world, by definition, includes the aspect of disaster preparedness and prevention. By supporting empowerment of communities at the local level and capacity building at the national level, UNICEF programmes enhance abilities to deal with disasters and to mitigate the negative effects of disasters. Policy and procedural guidelines for UNICEF staff in emergencies include both emergency response and preparedness/prevention activities. This is reflected in the new handbook for emergencies which will be finalized by the end of 1994 as well as in UNICEF's internal emergency management training. Following the recommendation of the Yokohama Strategy to include disaster reduction into national development plans, UNICEF representatives have been advised to incorporate disaster reduction elements in the programmes in disaster-prone countries.

1.3 Department of Humanitarian Affairs/United Nations Development Programme

The first phase of the UNDHA/UNDP Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) has been completed. A final evaluation report will be submitted by the end of December 1994. The proposal for the second phase of the Programme DMTP MARK II has, as its central goal, the reduction of vulnerability to disasters and emergencies, thus helping to create the conditions under which sustainable development can prosper. MARK II will accomplish this by focusing on principal objectives - i.e., improving the effectiveness of disaster and emergency management in selected countries; strengthening the disaster/emergency management capacity of other international and regional bodies and institutions. Building on DMTP, MARK II

will make contributions which establish a common framework and standards, including: Consolidating and building on gains made in countries that have benefitted from DMTP's proven strategic planning and training model and extending the approach to disaster-prone countries not yet covered; Expanding follow-up to ensure satisfactory implementation of recommendations which enhance national capacity, with a special focus on mitigation and preparedness improvements, and to ensure a satisfactory transition to other funding and implementing collaborators; Further integrating the disaster/emergency management programmes of UN agencies and concerned NGOs into the DMTP process and becoming a point of reference for disaster/emergency training within the UN System; Increasing field co-ordination by focusing in particular on strengthening UN and national Disaster Management Teams; and Continuing to expand and make accessible high quality training materials that focus equally on man-made and natural disasters and integrating material on environmental concerns, human rights, peace-keeping and peace-making.

1.4 Administrative Committee on Coordination.

During the 15th meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), Sub-committee on Water Resources, held in Washington in September 1994, the outcome of the IDNDR World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was discussed. Through the intermediacy of WMO, contact has been made with the inter-agency mechanism for coordinating activities in the field of water, to coordinate the activities for the decade (water-related disasters).

1.5 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

In response to Yokohama Conference recommendations, UNESCO has accelerated the finalization and dissemination of disciplinary educational and information materials related to disaster reduction. Free copies of the abstracts of the Scientific and Technical Poster Sessions, which took place in Yokohama, were distributed widely. UNESCO has also supported the production of three posters on earthquake preparedness and community risk zonation which were distributed on the occasion of the 1994 International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. Four training modules, related to structural upgrading in earthquake-prone areas and the protection against floods have also been finalized with a view to their testing and dissemination. In investing in the Yokohama follow-up process, UNESCO will attempt to assert an active role in the combat that it is engaging since 1960 against natural hazards. The follow-up of Yokohama presents an opportunity for UNESCO to assert its recognized role in the study of the mechanisms of natural hazards and relevant environmental hazards, and of the scientific and technical mitigation of risks arising from it. From the organizational point of view, an Inter sectoral Task Force for IDNDR, chaired by the Assistant-Director-General for Science, will oversee UNESCO's contribution to the follow-up to the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction and the IDNDR. Activities are focused on improved understanding of risks; installation of detection and warning systems, seismological networks; development of scenarios of potential disasters in selected areas; protection of educational buildings and cultural monuments through specific projects; preparation of a series of briefs and educational materials on selected key topics such as: women and natural disaster reduction; disaster directives for school children, for community leaders, etc., and; education of the public, information to communities at risk, before, during and after the disaster, through interdisciplinary activities and communication/ information measures.

1.6 World Meteorological Organization

The outcome of the Yokohama Conference was reported to the WMO Executive Council at its forty-sixth session in June 1994. In reaffirming the Organization's strong support for the Decade, the Council requested the Secretary General of WMO to monitor closely the developments within the IDNDR, so that the Organization could respond appropriately. It also agreed that natural disaster reduction be given prominence in the Fourth WMO Long-term Plan and appreciated the fact that WMO was the only UN agency familiar with operating a world-wide monitoring and communication system in real time and that fuller use could be made of this system to disseminate precautionary predictions and actual warnings of pending disasters. It felt this would be particularly appropriate as in many countries the Meteorological and Hydrological Services are also responsible for monitoring and forecasting other types of disasters. Consequent to these decisions, the WMO Secretariat has been actively assisting the IDNDR secretariat in planning the follow-up to the Yokohama recommendations. On 21 September 1994, a meeting was held at WMO to discuss the availability of meteorological, hydrological and other geophysical information to support humanitarian and relief efforts. The meeting intended to start a process of inter-agency discussions on the issue and to lead to practical results, in terms of current disasters i.e. in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.. The discussion focused essentially on meteorological information. Hydrological and geographical information are to be covered at a future meeting.

1.7 World Health Organization

WHO is increasing its focus on emergency preparedness issues; three WHO Regional Committees included emergency preparedness on their agenda this year, and the topic is scheduled for discussion during the 1995 WHO Executive Board meeting. In addition, emergency preparedness, and the link between relief and development is becoming a standard feature of training sessions for WHO Representatives. Emergency preparedness will also be included in a series of upcoming regional briefings to WHO staff, starting in January 1995 in Africa. WHO's present and future emergency preparedness programmes fit within the changing approach of WHO to emergency management, with an emphasis on health activities that can be developed within a multi-sectoral framework. Regarding publications, WHO is developing, or revising, its earlier manuals on the subjects of community emergency preparedness, nutrition in large populations, environmental health and emergency management, and rapid assessment protocols for the health sector. Regarding training, in addition to supporting ongoing programmes such as the HELP course (with ICRC) and the training courses at WHO's collaborating centres, WHO is currently preparing briefing sessions and regional seminars for WHO staff. With regard to the post-Yokohama IDNDR inter agency efforts, WHO is and will remain committed to IDNDR goals and objectives as highlighted in the conference statement and the plan of action.

1.8 United Nations Volunteers

UNV Specialists and UNV Field Workers have continued to work closely with local NGOs and community-based organizations in various countries. They are involved in strengthening the organizations' technical and managerial capacity, they facilitate national disaster preparedness coordination, and they contribute to management and policy formulation. UNV Specialists are also increasingly involved

in supporting emergency relief as well as UN Disaster Management Teams. UNV has continued to explore the scope of joint programmes with regional, subregional and national disaster management centres, as well as support to National Committees established for the IDNDR, in collaboration with UNDP and DHA.

1.9 International Telecommunication Union

During the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Kyoto 19 September - 14 October 1994, a Resolution, based on World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) Resolution No 7, requesting ITU and DHA to convene a Conference on Disaster Communications in 1995/6, was proposed by the Member States of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union. This would be a last step before a Convention on Disaster Communications. The Resolution refers to the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction and WTDC Resolution 7 (Buenos Aires). The Resolution on Disaster Communications was unanimously adopted. Disaster Communication Workshops in the Caribbean, and South-east Asian regions in 1995, discussed during the Kyoto Conference, will be organized in close collaboration with DHA/IDNDR.

1.10 Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission

During the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, IOC reported on its activities during the Technical Committee on Early Warning Systems. There was a consensus between the tsunami scientists attending the meetings, that the tsunami hazard was a forgotten issue among others impacting more frequently. The IOC Executive Council during its twenty-seventh session discussed the IOC IDNDR-related activities and commented on the importance of the development of the IOC programmes targeted to meet the IDNDR objectives. The Yokohama Strategy and Yokohama Message were strongly supported. The Executive Council adopted Resolution IOC/EC-XXVII/6 Tsunami Warning System: ITSU and IDNDR Conference. In para. 119 the following statement was made regarding the World Conference: The Executive Council expressed its support to the outcome of the Yokohama Conference and reaffirmed its commitments to the implementation of the Decade. Noting that ECOSOC, at the session in July 1994, will consider the results of the Yokohama Conference, the Executive Council requested the Secretary IOC to inform ECOSOC urgently of IOC's position towards the Yokohama Conference and IDNDR. The Executive Council expressed belief that the IDNDR Secretariat, which was so successful in the preparation of the Conference, will be enforced and continue to be an operational arm of the UN in the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy. Other current activities of IOC as a contribution to the IDNDR are: (i) The Tsunami Inundation Modelling Exchange Project (TIME): The United States made a contribution to the project to support the TIME project in Japan to implement the project. (ii) The Real-time Exchange of Telemetry, Seismic and Tsunami Data: Two more countries joined the system since the World Conference. The European Council is seriously considering to establish a similar system for tsunami warning in the Mediterranean Sea, and (iii) The Tsunami Public Education and Awareness Programme: Italy, Russia and Japan have expressed their interest to publish modified versions of the existing educational materials on tsunamis and earthquakes as prepared by the Chilean government in their respective languages. The international coordination group (ITSU) meeting will be held in January 1995 in Honolulu. One of the agenda items will be to respond effectively to the decisions of the Yokohama Conference. The "ITSU-15

Session" will be held in French Polynesia Tahiti in August 1995.

1.11 International Civil Defence Organization

In April '94 the Xth World Conference on Civil Protection in Amman assembled ICDO member and non-member States, representatives of the United Nations Organizations and its specialized agencies, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. This Conference adopted a declaration called 'Universal Declaration on Civil Protection' inviting Governments to integrate prevention and preparedness measures in their long-term economic and social development policies, and to create or reinforce national structures of civil protection, so that they assume a coordinating function between all the national partners called upon to intervene in the struggle against disasters. The Amman Conference was considered as a preparatory meeting to the IDNDR World Conference.

1.12 Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries

The Foreign Ministers of the countries, members of the Non-Aligned Movement held their eleventh Ministerial Conference in Cairo, Egypt from 31st May to 3rd June 1994. The following text, concerning IDNDR was adopted: "The Ministers observed that, due to lack of sufficient infrastructure for prevention, preparedness, mitigation and disaster relief in the developing countries, they continued to be the main victims of natural disasters. They considered the outcome of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama, Japan from 23 to 27 May 1994, and recommended that the Non-Aligned countries follow-up thoroughly the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy For a Safer World, and intensify cooperation among themselves in this area. They also pointed out that progress in economic development would contribute to building the infrastructure necessary for disaster reduction in the developing countries and that concessional resources, together with technological transfer, are of critical importance to the strengthening of their efforts in this regard".

II. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

2.1 Economic Commission for Africa

By Resolution 773(XXIX) of 5th May 1994, the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Social and Economic Development and Planning of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, endorsed the IDNDR Mid-Term Report for Africa and an African Common Position for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction. The proposed activities in that Report and the Common Position included, among others, national capacity building and the development of country level disaster data bases. The results of the Yokohama Conference also highlighted these as priority areas in the implementation of the IDNDR. From the medium and long-term perspective, the ECA has advocated the adoption of the approach on a close linkage between rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. The approach underscores the need for humanitarian assistance to conform to a macro-economic policy framework. ECA has carried out substantive work in this area. It prepared a guideline on the Agenda on Emergency, Humanitarian, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Affairs in Africa, to map out a comprehensive approach for meeting the challenges in the

1990s and beyond.

2.2 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

A resolution has been adopted by ECLAC Members during the Cartagena meeting from 2 - 27 April 1994 to encourage the Member States to include disaster reduction in their national and local development plans. ECLAC has made a first appeal for financial support to fulfil the new mandate in the disaster field.

2.3 Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

An advisory mission to India on the application of the Manual and Guidelines for Comprehensive Flood Loss Prevention and management took place in September 1994. Another advisory mission on water-related natural disaster reduction to Cambodia took place in September 1994

2.4 Organization of African Unity

During its Sixtieth Ordinary Session, at the Summit of Heads of States and Governments, the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity in Tunis on 12 June 1994, endorsed the recommendations of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, and recommended that priority be given to national capacity building and the development of country level disaster information systems.

2.5 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

In order to formulate a collective position on disaster mitigation for the Yokohama Conference by the Member States of SAARC the Government of India hosted a Workshop in New Delhi in April 1994, which was attended by representatives from all Member States. The report and recommendations of the New Delhi Workshop were presented to the Fourteenth Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers in Dhaka on 30 -31 July 1994. The Council endorsed the recommendations for early implementation by the Member States.

2.6 Council of Europe

A meeting, organized by the Council of Europe, within the framework of the EUR-OPA open partial agreement for major hazards took place in Brussels on 4 - 7 October 1994. The meeting was a follow-up of the Ministerial meeting held in Moscow in October 1993 on a platform of cooperation between Eastern Europe, the South of the Mediterranean and Western Europe in the field of natural and technological hazards. The Moscow Charter refers to the conversion of military apparatus and technologies for peace time applications in case of sudden disasters. The meeting focused on training cooperation on use of remote sensing; and the constitution of 'permanent risk management units'.

2.7 Hazards Research and Applications in USA

The 19th Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop 18 - 21 July 1994 in Boulder - the main disaster reduction event in the US - brought together more than 300 participants. Discussions were held on various topics, covering the entire disaster continuum, ranging from response processes to environmental and developmental impacts of natural disasters. A summary of the outcome of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was also presented at the workshop.

2.8 Programme Development for Natural Disaster Reduction in Latin America

The follow-up of the World Conference in Latin America includes visits by IDNDR staff and PAHO to Argentina, Chile and Peru with the objective to promote activities in October 1994 on the theme "Vulnerable Communities". In Argentina discussions focused on the need to strengthen National IDNDR Committees or similar disaster reduction institutions. The visit to Chile was a follow-up on Government requests to visit and strengthen the links between the institutions, and the cooperation between ECLAC, IDNDR/DHA and PAHO. The objective to visit Peru was to document positive experiences of community work for disaster NGOs and donors. The Yokohama Conference seems to have given the national initiatives a great promotive action. This is especially the case in Peru, where a programme has been prepared to fulfil the IDNDR targets and to highlight the IDNDR month.

2.9 Natural Disaster Reduction in the Mediterranean

During a major annual event in Bari, Italy, the "Fiera del Levante" 10 - 17 September, one of the days was dedicated to disaster reduction, with particular reference to the World Conference. Panels with participation from the Government of Italy, several Mediterranean countries and IDNDR Secretariat, discussed disaster reduction in the Mediterranean. The Government officials acknowledged the importance of disaster reduction, and pledged support to activities aimed at disaster reduction, including a Mediterranean intergovernmental conference. The Government and the industrial/commercial sector are committed to disaster reduction, and supportive to IDNDR strategies for the second half of the Decade.

2.10 Regional Disaster Reduction Activities in the Pacific.

A Pacific Programme for Disaster Reduction has been formulated during the third IDNDR Regional Disaster Reduction Meeting, held in Suva, Fiji from 6 - 14 September 1994. The meeting aimed furthering the cooperation in disaster management between Pacific Island countries. The meeting followed earlier meetings in Solomon Islands (1992) and Vanuatu (1993) and was the Pacific follow-up to the 'World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction' in Yokohama. The programme includes the following components: (a) In-country training and technical assistance; (b) Regional training; (c) Disaster mitigation projects; (d) Regional support materials; (e) Information management; and (f) Regional cooperation and coordination.

2.11 Policy and Institutional Requirements for Disaster Reduction in Asia

For the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and the Plan of Action in the Asian region a seminar, organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in Bangkok, was held 3 - 5 October 1994, to consult with senior level decision-makers on identification of primary policy and organizational issues within disaster-affected Developing Member Countries, identification of critical elements of institutional capacities to realize prevention and mitigation practice as a part of national development planning, and adoption of a specific action plan to realize both institutional measures and programme opportunities. The meeting, financed by the Asian Development Bank, contributed to the mid-term review of the institutional issues of ADPC. Several countries and regional organizations are steadily advancing in their disaster reduction/mitigation programmes, and require institutional support from within the region in the process.

2.12 Countries of Central Eastern & South Eastern Europe

The 3rd Conference on cooperation of the countries of Central, Eastern & South Eastern Europe in the Area of Protection against Natural and other Disasters was held in Ljubljana from 4 - 7 October 1994. The delegations at the Conference agreed to adopt 15 principles and initiatives for improved protection against industrial and nuclear accidents.

2.13 African Regional Programme Development for Natural Disaster Reduction

For the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action in the African region a project proposal, mainly focused on Sub-Saharan Africa, has been formulated, and has been approved by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The project is based on one of the major recommendations resulting from Africa's preparation for the IDNDR World Conference: the organisation of a series of sub-regional workshops, whose objective will be to translate the goals of the Decade into concrete form at sub-regional, national and local level through appropriate programmes and projects. These sub-regional workshops are considered one of the most efficient and cost effective means of achieving this objective. They will, eventually, lead into comprehensive regional programmes and activities for implementation during the second half of the Decade. Three workshops are scheduled to take place from November 1994 to February 1995.

III. ACTIVITIES OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSOCIATIONS

3.1 International Council of Scientific Unions

The International Geological Union (IGU) and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) project on education for natural disaster reduction finalized its first phase: the compilation of a "Handbook for teachers" that will appear at the end of 1994. It is of considerable importance in the area of awareness raising. The Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Programme (GSHAP) had regional meetings in Brasilia and Athens in the second half of 1994. Further meetings are scheduled in Teheran (Iran), Boulder (USA), Italy and Melbourne (Australia) in 1995. The project on drought/famine (IGU), concentrating on Africa, had a meeting in Moscow (August 1994) and discussed the situation in central Asia. The flood hazard programme (IGU) had a meeting in Prague (August 1994) and implemented a second field survey on river floods in Bangladesh. The ICSU/WMO project on tropical cyclones has finalized a "Global guide to tropical cyclone forecasting" and a text on "global perspectives on tropical cyclone research. Both books will be published by WMO. The projects on reduction of volcanic disasters, and on intermediate earthquake prediction, are being implemented as scheduled.

3.2 Union of International Technical Associations / World Federation of Engineering Organizations (UATI/ WFEO)

Scientific activities with respect to disaster reduction in megacities have been initiated by UATI/WFEO and IGU. The project concentrates on engineering aspects and includes case studies on Jakarta, Karachi and Manila. It will be terminated, and

results be published, in 1995. The IGU project is coordinated by its study group on vulnerability of megacities that was founded on the occasion of the United Nations University sponsored megacities conference held in Tokyo in February 1994. It concerns the methodology of metropolitan vulnerability analysis and the preparation of a hazard atlas for megacities. It will further focus on a detailed analysis of one particular public facility: schools. Grassroots groups in hazard mitigation, "routine" and "surprise" natechs, sustainability, environmental management, natural security, etc. are elements of the programme. The Roving Seminar Project, an educational project for various regions of the world specifically designed to transfer preventive information - lead by UATI - includes several regional branches. The Caribbean branch will organize seminars in various English and Spanish speaking Caribbean countries. The Mediterranean and North African branch will organize its first seminars in Morocco and Monaco; In South East Asia a first seminar will be held in Indonesia. The feasibility of the "Reduction of Nyos-type Hazards" project - also lead by UATI - has been demonstrated at Lake Monoun in 1992 springtime, and will be fully achieved in early 1995 at Lake Nyos itself.

3.3 European Earthquake Engineers

During the European Earthquake Conference in Vienna, from 29 August to 2 September 1994, a session took place for discussing promotion of the IDNDR. Three presentations were held: the World Conference in Yokohama; IDNDR activities by the German Government; and introduction of a new data base system on earthquake disasters. A workshop was held by World Seismic Safety Initiatives (WSSI) titled "Mitigation of Earthquake Risks, Resources and Needs of European Countries" and included a meeting by the Board of Directors of WSSI on mobilization of resources in Europe for WSSI, citing the successful experience in mobilization of resources in Asian countries.

3.4 International Institute of Communications

The 25th IIC Annual Conference in Tampere, Finland, from 6 - 10 September 1994, which was a follow-up of the IIC Conference, also in Tampere from May 20-22 1991 contributed significantly to furthering the development of Disaster Communications, and resulted in a Resolution "Tele-communications for Disaster Mitigation and Disaster Relief Operations".

3.5 The Annenberg Washington Program

The Annenberg Washington Program published the report: "International Disaster Communications: Harnessing the Power of Communications to Avert Disasters and Save Lives.". The report highlights current trends in natural disasters, efforts to reduce the impact of disasters, and the vital role of communications in disaster mitigation. Included in the report are the first published proceedings from the May 24, 1994 International Roundtable on the Media, Scientific Information, and Disasters at the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama, Japan. The report was released at the 25th anniversary meeting of the IIC in Tampere, Finland.

IV. NATIONAL IDNDR COMMITTEES

New National IDNDR Committees have been created in Argentina and South-Africa. The South-African Committee held its first meeting on IDNDR Day on 12 October 1994. They concluded that there was room for exchange of expertise and knowledge between South Africa and the other members of SADC in various human and technological aspects of disaster reduction.