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Project
Request for information on disaster reduction
References:
UN Resolution A/RES/58/214,215; and
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To
Sálvano Briceño
ISDR, United Nations

National reporting and information on disaster reduction for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, 18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Japan

1. Political Commitment and Institutional Aspects

1.1 Are there national policy, strategy and legislation addressing disaster risk reduction?

National policy, strategy and legislation concerning risk reduction are constructed in such a way, as to reflect Sweden's all hazards approach to emergency management. This means that each municipality must be capable of managing a spectrum of risks and crises, including natural disasters.

In the beginning of 2004 a new law went into effect that requires all Swedish municipalities to provide protection from all types of accidents (2003:778). There is no distinction made as to whether the risks are from the environment or whether they are man-caused. According to the law, all risks must be inventoried and evaluated prior to writing an action plan. This plan will describe the safety measures that will be taken to reduce the likelihood of an accident occurring. Measures that would reduce the potential damage of an accident will also be addressed in this plan.

According to Swedish Ordinance 3 § (2002:472), the Swedish Rescue Services Agency and other related agencies are required to assist municipalities and counties in preparing for extraordinary events in times of peace. It requires a risk and vulnerability analysis and a program for crisis management in peacetime.

Ordinance 1988:1040, as well as stimulating accident prevention activities, focuses on eliminating or limiting damage to health, the environment and property. The ordinance also mandates preparedness for humanitarian efforts in other countries when a disaster happens.

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