



CONCEPT NOTE

Legislators and Governance for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) *Parliamentary Meeting at the Fourth Session of the Global Platform on DRR*

Schedule	10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on 20 May 2013 CICG Annex, Room-A (Swiss Mission Building)
Organizers	UNISDR and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
Background and Rationale	<p>Disaster risk and the impact of disasters have continued to pose challenges to human safety and sustainable development over the last 20 years, despite increased efforts by many stakeholders.</p> <p>Only recently, countries as diverse as Japan, Haiti, Thailand, Mali or Pakistan have seen their GDP growth temporarily reversed by earthquakes, floods or drought. The scale of losses is enormous. About 1.3 million persons have been killed directly in disasters between 1992-2012 and 4.4 billion persons affected. The World Bank recently estimated that average annual economic losses provoked by natural hazards have more than tripled over the last three decades in real terms, equaling \$3.5 trillion dollars over that period.</p> <p>A high level of disaster risk is often the consequence of inadequate development planning and practices that have increased the vulnerability of entire communities. That risk load is continuing to grow worldwide at an alarmingly rapid pace, as development planning and practices continue to fail to assess and manage the risks of disasters.</p> <p>Growing risk will inevitably increase the impacts of disasters, killing more and more people and undermining the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development. In Kenya and Uganda, recent disasters contributed to rioting; recent disasters in Japan have increased resentment of the political leadership at the time. In the most fragile states, most famously Somalia, drought can be an inextricable part of a more complex emergency – mixing together failed governance and civil conflict with extreme poverty and thus extreme vulnerability of the poor.</p> <p>Curbing the trend of growing risk and reducing the impact of disasters will require strengthening governance for DRR. Effective governance for DRR is essential for building resilience of the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development</p>
Session Objectives	<p>The parliamentary meeting on governance for disaster risk reduction aims to contribute to the on-going consultations towards the <i>Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2)</i> and the post-2015 development agenda. More specifically, the session will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange information and knowledge on governance for DRR - Identify the challenges encountered for risk reduction and resilience-building - Identify key elements/drivers for enhancing governance for DRR at national level

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify key national mechanisms and institutions that are crucial for building resilience to disaster risks - Identify the roles and responsibilities of parliaments for enhancing national governance for disaster risk reduction. <p>Possible questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How is governance for disaster risk reduction being managed in your country? Strengths and weaknesses, challenges and opportunities? - What are the key elements or drivers, in your opinion, of governance for DRR in your country? - What is the connection between governance for DRR and governance for development? - Which national mechanisms or institutions are crucial for enhancing governance for DRR? Why? - What can parliamentarians do to strengthen governance for DRR at national and local levels? - What do parliamentarians recommend on governance for DRR in the HFA2?
Discussion agenda and structure	<p>A total of 150 minutes</p> <p>10 minutes for welcome and introduction</p> <p>30 minutes for presentations (4 speakers max.)</p> <p>40 minutes for Q & A</p> <p>60 minutes for brainstorming and discussions</p> <p>10 minutes for summary and closing</p>
List of expected outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased understanding and knowledge of parliamentarians on governance for DRR. - Increased understanding and knowledge on the roles and responsibilities of parliamentarians for enhancing governance for DRR - A set of action points of parliamentarians to promote and enhance governance for DRR
Background documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reforming risk governance – GAR 2011 (http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2011/en/home/download.html) - Quito Communiqué on the post-2015 development agenda (adopted by the IPU on 27 March 2013) (http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/128/quito-comm.htm)