

First and Second Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meetings
Friday, 05 September 2014, 0920H – 1300H and 1500H – 1800H
Philippines – Geneva Views

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Allow me to thank you, the other members of the Bureau and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for convening the open-ended informal consultative meetings, which begins today.

The Philippines would like to commend the Bureau and the Secretariat for providing the delegates with the pre-zero draft, which is a good basis for all of us in the informal consultative meetings. We congratulate the Bureau and the Secretariat for this. We also thank you for giving us ample time to review it as well as for this opportunity to share our views and comments.

Allow me to share with you the Philippines' general views on the pre-zero draft.

General views

Central Role of Governments in DRRM

1. We agree that the principles contained in the Yokohama Strategy and the HFA general considerations must retain their full relevance in the new framework. We have noted the inclusion of the role of the State in the Guiding Principles in the pre-zero draft, stressing that it has the primary responsibility to holistically manage disaster risk.
2. Therefore, the Philippines reiterates that the central role of governments in enhancing risk governance, transparency, responsibilities and accountabilities of all stakeholders should be emphasized in the new framework.
3. To further elaborate, in disaster situations, the national government should take the primary leadership (the command and control role) in disaster risk prevention and management and in delineating and establishing the roles and functions of all DRRM actors – from the national agencies, local government units, international relief and aid organizations and even the disaster-affected public – to ensure coordination and convergence of all efforts.
4. As cross-cutting issues, DRR and climate change adaptation require the engagement of many actors and institutions operating at all levels under the supervision and command of the national government.

Inclusion of Migrants and Vulnerable Groups in Resilient Efforts

1. The Philippines calls for greater attention on the importance of the inclusion of migrants in DRR and in resilient efforts. We have noticed that migrants, who are also vulnerable to disasters, have not been explicitly reflected in the pre-zero draft.

2. We reiterate that migrants should also be accounted for in resilience efforts of States and the international community. We need to ensure the inclusion of migrants as part of strengthening the role and utilization of community groups, including their positive contributions in disaster activities and processes. Correspondingly, and as already reflected in the pre-zero draft, the protection and empowerment of vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and the important role of women and youth must be underscored in DRR.

Highlighting the Importance of “Build Back Better” in HFA2

1. The Philippines has always taken a proactive approach in reducing the risks posed by natural calamities. We use the “build back better” principle as the guiding framework in the development and implementation of rehabilitation and recovery interventions. This principle focuses on long-term sustainable efforts to reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen capacities to cope with future hazard events. This approach also takes into consideration the need for urgency while ensuring safety in implementing programs and projects.
2. Therefore, we would like to stress that the principle of “build back better” be given more focus in the new framework.

The Philippine would like to assure the Bureau and the Secretariat of the Philippines’ full support and cooperation in the crafting of a more responsive post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework that takes into account the differences in physical and geological and varying levels of development of countries.

We will provide specific comments on the different sections during this informal consultative meeting. We also intend to hear and learn more the views of our distinguished colleagues in connection with the form and content of the new framework.

Thank you.

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