



SESSION REPORT

Urban Risk – Increasing the effectiveness of local action on risk reduction and adaptation

Session Date: June 17, 2009 11:00-

Session (tick the box and insert the relevant title):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Pre-session:
<input type="checkbox"/>	High-level panel:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Round Table:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Informal Plenary:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Event:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Number of Participants: *Total: 100+*

(Please count the no of people, not all will be recorded in the list)

Impossible to count because the room was full, many participants were standing; and there was a lot of in-and-out since there was no more sitting available.

Summary of the session:

The round table discussion focused on the role of local authorities and local actors in DRR and their participation in the implementation of the HFA. The round table was structured along four questions that were addressed by the panelists plus a discussion from the participants. The questions were:

- a. What are the changes in governance that would enable and operationalize local action?
- b. How can we encourage cities and communities to establish local partnerships on risk reduction and adaptation?
- c. How can local action be more effectively supported by donors and funding organizations to reduce urban risk particularly for poor communities?
- d. How can local actors intervene and contribute more effectively in the global agenda for DRR and Climate Change?
- e. How can a more effective partnerships be put in place between donors, central governments, and local actors and communities?

Key questions raised (max 5), by whom and answers provided:

1. Reinforcing the legal and institutional context to enable local action; such as effective decentralization and self governance
2. How to accomplish multi-stakeholders' involvement and build effective linkages and mechanisms between central and local governments on one hand and local government and communities and private sector on the other hand
3. Need to strengthen technical capacity of local authorities, but also sensitivities to community

- issues and particularly to the issues of the poor, women, and other disadvantaged
4. The need to adopt a comprehensive approach and to ensure that resources are spent most effectively especially in view of the additional complications caused by climate change
 5. Possibility to improve knowledge sharing

Main challenges/constraints identified (max 3):

1. Legal and institutional instruments
2. Dealing with the poor, highly vulnerable neighborhoods
3. Dealing with informal settlements and informal livelihoods

Key Messages (max 3): Proposed solutions to the main challenges / Recommendations:

1. Effective partnerships
2. Enabling local governments and local actors in the implementation of URR
3. Shared ownership by everyone

Conclusions by the Chair of the session:

Chair concluded by stressing again the relevance and importance of local authorities and local actors in the implementation of DRR. He mentioned that the attention to local actors is a very positive sign for recognizing the critical need for their involvement. The second part of the HFA represents an opportunity for moving towards local implementation.

Session reporter's Name:

Fouad Bendimerad

ISDR Drafting Secretariat:

(Name ISDR staff receiving report from Reporter)