



**The Third Asian Ministerial Conference
on Disaster Risk Reduction
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**Discussion Paper on
Mobilizing Resources for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**From Recovery to Preparedness:
Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction**

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The views expressed in this discussion paper are those of the author and should not necessarily be considered as reflecting the views or carrying the endorsement of the United Nations.



Regional & Global Backdrop for DRR



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- The Asia-Pacific region is home to 61% of the world's population.
- In the first half of 2008, of all reported natural disasters in the world:
 - 37% of all disasters occurred in the region (101)
 - More than 99% of all reported victims (228,316)
 - More than 89% of all people affected (116,549,382)
 - Over 87% of overall economic damage (US\$30.63b)

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Regional & Global Backdrop for DRR



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- The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) shape the global and regional backdrop in which DRR operates.
 - The HFA aims to mainstream DRR into all aspects of development planning to build the resilience of nations and communities to disaster.
 - The Millennium Declaration holds a key objective “*to intensify our collective efforts to reduce the number and effects of natural and manmade disasters*”.

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Regional & Global Backdrop for DRR



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- DRR is crucially important for at least three reasons:
 - 1) The cost of disasters is high and growing.
 - 2) Disasters do not discriminate between cultures, gender or wealth, but their impacts do.
 - 3) Investing in disaster preparedness can save countries from huge economic losses in the long term.
- DRR is a precondition for achieving sustainable socio-economic development. It represents an important augmentation of the sustainable development paradigm.

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Investing in DRR Makes Economic Sense



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- Investing in DRR makes significant economic sense:
 - The effective mobilization of resources for DRR in development saves significantly more lives, livelihoods and money than resource mobilization post-disaster.
 - World Bank estimates that, on average, countries can save \$7 in recovery costs for every \$1 spent on risk reduction measures.
- The key question is how to achieve this.

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An Integrated Approach Is Required



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- Incorporating DRR measures into social, economic and physical infrastructure requires an integrated approach that takes into account the political costs and benefits, and economic tradeoffs of the funding mechanisms available; such as:
 - national budgets
 - insurance
 - international aid
 - external credit
 - public-private partnerships
 - other partnership arrangements
 - UN Thematic Platforms.

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A National Policy Commitment



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- Disaster risk reduction is a primary policy issue.
- It must be pursued as a crosscutting issue aimed at ensuring policy integration among various sectors and across topics such as:
 - agriculture
 - food security
 - health
 - education

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1. Earmark a Percentage of Humanitarian Funding for DRR



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- It is recommended that the Conference establish a target percentage of humanitarian funding that should be earmarked for DRR.
- Establishing such a target would:
 - help to promote investments in DRR;
 - encourage governments to measure the relative amounts invested for DRR as compared with humanitarian funding; and
 - result in an overall reduction in the economic and human costs of disasters.

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2. Promotion of Measures to Integrate DRR into Socio-economic Development



- It is recommended that the Conference identify as a priority technical assistance in specific, practical measures to integrate DRR into socio-economic development.
- Technical assistance could be provided by the UN, donors and non-governmental organizations, with an emphasis on South-South cooperation.



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3. Risk Assessment

- It is recommended that the Conference establish risk assessment as a priority area of work, to enable governments to make informed decisions to invest in DRR measures.
- Relevant areas of support by the international community could include:
 - a) further development of standard risk assessment guidelines combining scientific, economic and social aspects, and
 - b) capacity development in risk assessment for all levels of government as well as communities.

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3. Risk Assessment (cont.)



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- More accurate risk assessments would be expected to:
 - a) increase the resources mobilized for DRR,
 - b) ensure these resources are targeted for effective measures in high-risk areas, and
 - c) be used as the baseline for disaster damage and loss assessments.



4. Partnership and Regional Information Sharing Arrangements



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- It is recommended that the Conference identify as a priority the need to explore partnership and regional information sharing arrangements.
- The key areas of support by the international community could include:
 - promotion of innovative partnerships with scientific communities and academic institutions;
 - further encouragement of cost-effective and widely accessible technologies in support of early warning at national to local and community levels; and
 - establishment of national and regional networks for effective information sharing and coordination.

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5. Integration of DRR into Local, National and Regional Planning



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- It is recommended that the Conference encourage countries to develop practical institutional frameworks and funding arrangements that could facilitate the full integration of effective DRR mechanisms into local, national and regional planning as a cross-cutting necessity for sustainable socio-economic development.

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6. Investing in Hazard Preparedness Planning and DRR Measures



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- It is recommended that the Conference encourage countries to promote comprehensive hazard preparedness planning and DRR measures at the local, national and regional levels as an ongoing and necessary investment that will provide significant long term benefits through cost effective response and recovery.

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7. DRR Tools and Knowledge Sharing



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- It is recommended that the Conference encourage countries to mobilize resources to support the ongoing development of DRR tools and regional cooperation in the exchange of knowledge of funding modalities and their application in mobilizing resources for DRR.

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8. Guidance to Donors



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- It is recommended that the Conference recognize and encourage certain good practices by donors to mobilize resources for disaster risk reduction, such as:
 - a) earmarking a certain percentage of humanitarian funding for disaster risk reduction, and
 - b) providing funding in a manner consistent with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, e.g., through multilateral joint programming mechanisms, making use of national systems and procedures, and providing funding in accordance with national development strategies.

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9. Regional Coordination and Cooperation



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- It is recommended that the Conference recognize and encourage better coordination and cooperation among international and regional agencies and institutions as well as donors in DRR.

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DRR is an Essential Investment



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- DRR must be an essential part of a country's investment in sustainable development, as countries have the power as well as the responsibility to protect their citizens and their national assets by reducing losses from disasters.
- Embedding DRR into the policies covering the daily business and actions of government agencies and organizations requires medium to long-term funding as a priority commitment.

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Contact Details



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Thank You

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