



United Nations

A/CONF.206/L.7



**World Conference on Disaster
Reduction**

Distr.: Limited
21 January 2005

**Kobe, Hyogo, Japan
18-22 January 2005**

Original: English

Agenda item 14
Conclusion of the Conference

Draft report of the Conference

Chapter I

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Conference

[to be completed after the conclusion of the Conference]

Chapter II

Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and place of the Conference

1. The World Conference on Disaster Reduction was held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005. During that period, the Conference held ___ plenary meetings.

B. Attendance

2. The following States were represented at the Conference:

[to be completed at a later date]

3. The following associate members of regional commissions were represented by observers:

[to be completed at a later date]

4. The following State, having received an invitation to participate as an observer at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, was represented:

Timor-Leste

5. The secretariat of the following regional commission was represented: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

6. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented:

[to be completed at a later date]

7. The secretariats of the following Conventions were represented:

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

8. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented:

[to be completed at a later date]

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

[to be completed at a later date]

10. The list of non-governmental organizations attending the Conference is included in annex ___ to the present report.

11. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, having received a standing invitation, participated as an observer.

C. Opening of the Conference

12. The World Conference on Disaster Reduction was opened on 18 January 2005 by the representative of the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

13. The Conference observed a minute of silence in the memory of the tens of thousands of people who lost their lives during the recent tragic Indian Ocean tsunami disaster.

14. The Conference heard a video presentation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

15. The Conference heard an address by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

16. The Conference also heard addresses by Mr. Yoshitaka Murata, Minister of State for Disaster Management, Government of Japan, and Mr. Toshizo Ito, Governor of the Prefecture of Hyogo, Japan.

17. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 January 2005, the Conference heard an address by His Excellency Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan.

D. Election of the President and other officers

18. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 18 January 2005, the Conference elected, by acclamation, as President of the Conference, Mr. Yoshitaka Murata, Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan.

19. At the same meeting, as decided by the Preparatory Committee at its first session, the Conference elected as Vice-Presidents those countries which served as officers of the Preparatory Committee. They were: Ecuador, Federal Republic of Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, and Russian Federation. As at the Preparatory Committee, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran would serve as Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. Japan was elected an ex-officio member of the Bureau.

E. Adoption of the rules of procedure

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 18 January 2005, the Conference considered the provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.206/2). As there was not yet an agreement on the adoption of the text, the Conference agreed to function on the basis of the provisional rules.

F. Adoption of the agenda

21. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 18 January 2005, the Conference considered the provisional agenda as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.206/1). The Conference decided to inscribe on its agenda an additional item entitled "Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future". The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President and other officers
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Accreditation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups

6. Organization of work of the Conference, including the establishment of a Main Committee
7. General statements
8. Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future
9. Report on the discussion of the thematic segment
10. Report on the public forum
11. Review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World
12. Adoption of the programme outcome document
13. Adoption of the Conference Declaration
14. Conclusion of the Conference

The agenda as adopted was issued as document A/CONF.206/4.

G. Accreditation of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups

22. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 18 January 2005, the Conference approved the accreditation of the non-governmental organizations listed in document A/CONF.206/3.

H. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations

23. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 18 January 2005, the Conference approved the accreditation of the intergovernmental organizations listed in document A/CONF.206/INF.4.

I. Organization of work of the Conference, including the establishment of a Main Committee

24. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 18 January 2005, the Conference approved its organization of work as outlined by the President. It decided, in accordance with rule 46 of the provisional rules of procedure, to establish a Main Committee, whose main responsibility would be to carry out the drafting of the programme outcome document and a declaration. The Conference agreed that the Main Committee could create subcommittees or working groups, as required, and elected Mr. Marco Ferrari (Switzerland) as Chairman of the Main Committee.

J. Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee

25. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 18 January 2005, in conformity with rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference decided to establish a Credentials Committee composed of Austria, Benin, Brazil, Bhutan, China, Ghana, the Russian Federation, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America.

K. Documents

26. The list of documents before the Conference is contained in annex___ to the present report.

Chapter III

General debate

27. The general debate, which took place at the 1st to 7th plenary meetings, from 18 to 21 January 2005, covered the activities for disaster reduction (agenda item 7).

28. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 18 January, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of China, India, Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union), Germany, Uganda and Kazakhstan.

29. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 January, a high-level round-table was held, on the topic "Disaster risk: The next development challenge". The facilitator was Ms. Yvette Stevens, Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator and Director of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Geneva. The panelists were Mrs. Sadako Ogata, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Mr. Gareth Thomas, International Cooperation Minister, Department for International Development, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mr. Klaus Topfer, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Mr. Zephirin Diabre, Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, Mr. Geert van der Linden, Vice-President, Asian Development Bank, and Dr. Bernd Hoffman, Director, German Agency for Technical Cooperation.

30. Also at the 2nd plenary meeting, a second high-level round-table was held, on the topic "Learning to live with risk". The facilitator was Mr. Peter Walker, Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America. The panelists were Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, Mr. Edgardo Calderon Paredes, President, Peruvian Red Cross, Professor Hans van Ginkel, Rector,

United Nations University, and Ms. Corazon Alma G. de Leon, Former Chairperson, Civil Service Commission, the Philippines.

31. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 January, a third high-level round-table was held, on the topic “Emerging risks: What will tomorrow hold?” The facilitator was Mr. Salvano Briceno, Director, Inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The panelists were Dr. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization, Mr. Li Xueju, Minister of Civil Affairs of China, Mr. Ashok Kumar Rastogi, Secretary of the Government of India, and Mr. Daniel Biu, Deputy Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

32. Also at its 3rd plenary meeting, in the context of the general debate, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Poland, Thailand, Costa Rica, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Australia, Sudan (on behalf of the African Group of States), Ukraine, Madagascar, Japan and Romania.

33. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 19 January, a special forum was held, with the participation of Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Water and Sanitation, Government of Japan, and Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Secretary-General on Water and Sanitation, His Excellency Mr. J. Koonjul, Permanent Representative of Mauritius and Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States, Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the Secretary-General for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Ms. Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change, Mr. James Morris, Executive Director, World Food Programme, and Mr. Ad de Raad, Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers.

34. Also at its 4th plenary meeting, in the context of the general debate, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Mexico, Sweden, Norway, the Philippines, Turkey, Indonesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Bangladesh, France, Jamaica, Ecuador, Niue, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Benin, the Maldives, Egypt, the Czech Republic, Mongolia, Finland, Austria, Malaysia, South Africa, Cameroon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Singapore, Samoa, Ghana, the Sudan, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro, Guatemala, Cape Verde, Portugal, Botswana and Viet Nam.

35. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 20 January, the representatives of Switzerland, the United States of America, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Venezuela, Pakistan, Peru, Afghanistan, Zambia, Swaziland, Mozambique, Senegal, the Seychelles, New Zealand, Italy, Belgium, Canada, Yemen, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Algeria, Brazil, Spain, Nepal, Haiti, the Democratic

Republic of the Congo, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Barbados, Cambodia, Trinidad and Tobago, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Samoa, the Cook Islands, Greece, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Armenia, the Netherlands and the European Community made statements. Statements were also made by the observers for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the Council of Europe. The representative of the Council of Europe, the Director of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Geneva, the Director, Maritime Safety Division, International Maritime Organization, the Director of the Geneva office of the United Nations Development Programme, the Rector of the United Nations University, the Vice-President of the Asociacion Iberoamericana de Organismos Gubernamentales de Defensa y Proteccion Civil, the Director of the Office of Outer Space Affairs, United Nations, and the Vice-Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank also made statements.

Chapter IV

Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future

36. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 20 January, the Conference considered item 8 of its agenda, entitled “Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future” in a special session.

[Complete list of speakers at the special session to be included in the final report of the Conference]

37. At the conclusion of the special session, the Conference adopted the “Common statement of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future” (A/CONF.206/L.6/Rev.1).
