



**Global Platform  
for Disaster Risk Reduction**  
Third Session, Geneva, Switzerland  
8 - 13 May 2011



World  
Reconstruction  
Conference  
Geneva, May 10-13, 2011  
Recovering and Reducing Risks after Natural Disasters

<b>Date of event:</b>	10 May 2011	<b>Reporters name and contact details:</b>	Michael Mosselmans <a href="mailto:Michael.mosselmans@wfp.org">Michael.mosselmans@wfp.org</a> +39 345 376 6478
<b>Name and Type of Event</b>	<b>High level roundtable: Preparedness</b>		
<b>N° of participants</b>	<b>7 panelists, audience of about 300</b>		

**1) Brief outline of key issues and challenges addressed in the event (1 paragraph)**

Best practices for financing and coordinating preparedness efforts that have political value, engaging the necessary government and non-governmental bodies, drawing on the best available technical expertise, reflecting accumulated experience, connecting local, national and international systems, and anticipating multiple hazards.

**2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations (maximum 5 bullet points)**

- It is critical to build networks with key players before a disaster. Simulations are an important tool to help get all the relevant actors working together.
- The importance of preparedness at community and household level was emphasized. We need to engage the whole of society, beginning with citizens themselves.
- Anticipated benefits in the future are not enough to stimulate resource-poor communities to prioritize preparedness. We need to do better at articulating the immediate present-day benefits of preparedness work.
- Preparedness slips between the humanitarian and development stools for funding. More successful fund-raising requires that we document, detail and price the consequences of major disasters – and measure preparedness better – in order to stimulate investment.
- Many lessons can be found in our experience of pandemic preparedness over the past 5 years. The Towards a Safer World initiative will pull together these lessons, leading to a conference in Rome September 15-16.

**3) Conclusions by the Chair of the event (1 paragraph)**

- We need to be sure that preparedness focuses on people and communities in ways that make sense to local leaders and legislators.
- We must integrate preparedness into the sustainable development agenda.
- We need to engage multiple stakeholders and to prepare adequately for their engagement through simulations.
- Response plans must be flexible to be able to react to unexpected and different types of crisis.
- We can learn from emerging innovative financing approaches including the requirement that government line ministries put a small proportion of their budgets into contingency planning.
- Towards a Safer World process is a platform for building consensus around practical approaches to move this agenda forwards.

#### **4) Attachments (List of Participants, Presentations, Background Documents)**

##### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Chair: Dr David Nabarro, UN System Senior Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza

Panelists:

Ms Christine Marin, Deputee de la Nord, membre de la Commission Environnement de l'Assemblée Parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe

Mr Vicente Nunez, Director, National Disaster Management Authority, Chile

Mr Rashid Khalikov, Director for Geneva, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Dr Bruce Aylward, Assistant Director-General for Polio, Emergencies and Country Cooperation, World Health Organization

Dr Geoffrey Love, Director, Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services Department, World Meteorological Organization

Dr Ronald Waldman, Team Leader, Humanitarian Preparedness and Response, Influenza and Other Emerging Threats Unit, USAID

Speakers from the floor:

Helena Lindberg, Director General, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

Mukesh Kapila, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Rudolph von Bernuth, Save the Children, US

Mohamed Yahya Ould Mohamed Mahmoud, CILSS, Centre Regional AGRHYMET