XXIII OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
“Water governance in the OSCE area – increasing security and stability through cooperation”

Water security and disaster risk reduction

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Global multi-hazard average annual loss

Most frequently extensive events due to climatological and hydro-meteorological trigger;

(Source: UNISDR data from Global Risk Assessment.

2015

(UNISDR data from Global Risk Assessment)
Examples from Balkans Flood 2014

B&H:
• 2.04 billion Eur (damages + losses)
• 15% of GDP
• Mostly private sector (Source: B&H Floods, 2014, Recovery Needs Assessment-Local Government, UN, WB, EC)

SERBIA:
• Recession of 0.5% instead of growth 0.5% 1% GDP
• Reduction of exportation and increasing of importations results in 1% of GDP
• Fiscal position will deteriorate further by about 1% of GDP
• The private sector sustained higher values of destroyed assets
• Only 2% of damage and losses covered by insurance and reinsurance (source Ministry of Finance of Serbia)

Topic raising at the top of the international agenda and triggering a Global Call on DRR

Sustainable development cannot be achieved unless disaster risk is reduced and appropriate life conditions, also in terms of security as well as financial and economic capacity, are ensured for everybody:

• The Hyogo Framework for action 2005-2015
• The new regulation of the UNION Civil Protection Mechanism
• The OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/14
• UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
• The Sustainable Development Goals
• The Climate Change Agenda
The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

4 PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Priority 1 Understanding disaster risk
Policies and practices for DRR should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions: vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment.

Priority 2 Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk.

Priority 3 Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
Public and private investment in DRR are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries, their assets, as well as environment.

Priority 4 Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction
Strengthened disaster preparedness for response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction are critical to build back better.

Way Forward:
• UN Technical Expert WGs on Indicators and Terminology for Sendai
• Alignment with SDG indicators

Water Governance in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

• Recognizing Water is an essential element of national/regional sustainability,
• Recognizing that natural hazards may become disasters because of, among other factors, the vulnerability of societies, and acknowledging that the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and natural resources such as soil, water and forests are essential for the prevention of disasters,
• Noting the exacerbating effect climate change may have on the frequency and magnitude of disasters, and therefore the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation to effectively reducing disaster risk,
OSCE DECISION No. 6/14
ENHANCING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

• Recognizing that natural hazards may become disasters because of, among other factors, the vulnerability of societies, and acknowledging that the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and natural resources such as soil, water and forests are essential for the prevention of disasters,

• Noting the exacerbating effect climate change may have on the frequency and magnitude of disasters, and therefore the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation to effectively reducing disaster risk,

• Noting the significance of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and encouraging the participating States to actively engage in the preparations for the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) aiming at adopting the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in 2015,

• Noting the importance of the ongoing global negotiations on climate change in the context of the UNFCCC, aiming at adopting a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable

• Encourages the participating States to develop, co-ordinate and implement, where appropriate, disaster risk reduction measures with climate change adaptation and mitigation plans at all appropriate levels;

• Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in particular the OCEEA, within their available resources and mandates, to strengthen the exchange of knowledge and experience, building upon the OSCE’s good practices in disaster risk reduction gained particularly in the field of water management, flood risk management, and fire management;

UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

• Strengthens transboundary water cooperation and measures for the ecologically-sound management and protection of transboundary surface waters and groundwater. The Convention fosters the implementation of integrated water resources management, in particular the basin approach

• Requires Parties to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way and ensure their sustainable management.

• Requires parties bordering the same transboundary waters have to cooperate by entering into specific agreements and establishing joint bodies

• Water Convention was amended to allow accession by countries outside the UNECE region, entered into force on 6 February 2013, turning the Water Convention into a legal framework for transboundary water cooperation worldwide
Disaster Loss Accounting and Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment to support DRR strategies evidence based

Guidelines on Risk Assessment

Methodology already implemented in 87 countries and territories including Belarus, Serbia and Kosovo (Under UNSCR1244/99)

Promoting investments on DRR

- Plan new urban/industrial setting along with related CCA & DRR measures
- Adopt appropriate building codes for the specific area
- Protect your private/governmental strategic investments with insurance and reinsurance mechanisms

100 years urban growth in the city of Genova

Sea water level rising in the Venice lagoon
Practical Guidelines on integration of DRR in CCA

(To be completed and published by December 2015)

Bumps at the entrances of the underground parking lot and elevated air openings (Genova, Italy)

Infiltration dams inside levee, to handle storm water runoff (Karlstad, Sweden).

Protection against sea water rising level in the Venice lagoon (Venice, Italy).

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Final Remarks

Sustainable development cannot be achieved unless disaster risk is reduced and appropriate life conditions, also in terms of security as well as financial and economic capacity, are ensured for everybody. OSCE: to play as political/policy entity share concepts and ensure that remains part of the agenda at the international level [Strengthening disaster risk governance PR 2]

Disasters are most often caused by unappropriated land use management and unappropriated building codes, rather than to natural events. OSCE [share practises and focus on transboundary examples [Policy of risks PR 2]

Comprehensive and inclusive approach towards Disaster Risk Reduction is the key to success. Appropriate land use planning, adoption of appropriate building codes, raising of risk awareness, active participation of public and private stakeholders at national and local level are preliminary conditions to achieve DRR. OSCE: promotion of investments in DRR and enhanced Governance (corruption, accountability) [PR 3 Investing in DRR and PR 2]

The Sendai Framework for DRR set the strategy for next 15 years toward comprehensive and coherent DRR strategy, shifting the focus from what to do to how to do, identifying roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders and providing practical tools and guidelines.[OSCE contribute to guideline developments and indicators]

The Regional Office for Europe will keep supporting countries in European Region to develop and implement strategy aligned with Sendai Framework.

You can and you must play a relevant role in planning and implementing the way forward for the strategy
Thank you

www.unisdr.org
www.preventionweb.net
www.wcdrr.org