

The **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)** is a global framework established within the United Nations for the promotion of action to reduce social vulnerability and risks of natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters.

Its main purpose is to facilitate, in an inter-agency effort, that Governments and communities in disaster-prone areas integrate the management of risk into their development policies, programmes and projects. The long-term goal is to enable communities to become resilient to disasters saving lives as well as social, economic, and environmental assets.

By working through a network of international organizations, scientific and expert institutions, civil society, private sector interests and government officials, the ISDR aims to increase public awareness about disaster reduction, to motivate commitment from public authorities, and to stimulate inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral partnerships that can improve the scientific knowledge on natural hazards and the causes of disasters.

The Strategy was launched in January 2000, through United Nations General Assembly with the support of two international mechanisms:

- an Inter-Agency Secretariat, in Geneva, Switzerland, and
- an Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, that represents:
 - *UN agencies, organizations and programmes:* FAO, ITU, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN/HABITAT, WFP, WHO, WMO, and World Bank;
 - *Regional entities:* African Union, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Interstate Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Council of Europe, Ibero-American Association of Civil Defence and Civil Protection, Organization of American States/Inter American Committee for the Reduction of Natural Disasters (OAS/IACNDR), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), and.
 - *Civil Society Organizations:* Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC), Kenya; Global Fire Monitoring Centre (GFMC), Freiburg, Germany; International Council for Science (ICSU); International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and Munich Reinsurance Company, Germany.

For additional information about ISDR, see pages 19-20 of this volume and visit the website at www.unisdr.org.