



## **HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT**

**Monday 5 November 2007**

**10.00-12.00**

**Chameleon Suite**

**Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard, Malta**

Chair: Awni Behnam, President of IOI



## Message to the Conference

Mário Soares,

*Presidente, Patron of the IOI*

It is with great pleasure – and honour – for me to be again in Malta and to address the opening of this 32<sup>nd</sup> session of *Pacem in Maribus*.

First of all, I would like to greet with great esteem the President of the Republic, H.E. Edward Fenech Adami, and the European Commissioner Joe Borg, the President of the International Ocean Institute (IOI), Awni Behnam, as well as the Maltese authorities and personalities here present.

Indeed, I must say that this visit to Malta, the host country of IOI, is particularly dear to me. Over the years, I have followed the consistent, active role that Malta has played in international cooperation concerning the oceans and the enlightened contributions of its representatives in the negotiations that led to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea comprising political, economic, social and environmental measures.

In particular, I here wish to mention Ambassador Arvid Pardo's determinate contribution to the concept of the "common heritage of mankind" applied to the resources and sea-beds and incorporated in the new governance of the oceans: an avant-garde idea, bearer of the future, but that awaits to be seriously implemented by the world community because of the reservations formulated on Part XI of the United Nations' General Assembly. It is, therefore, with deep regret that I will not be present for the homage being paid to Ambassador Arvid Pardo under the aegis of the Prime Minister of Malta - who I salute nonetheless.

Once again, it is necessary to stress the long and complex process that led to the Convention of the United Nations on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and thereafter to the international entities, which today form the Law of the Sea.

This all goes to demonstrate the time required to render viable ideas and concepts. This is clearly highlighted in the Report of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans (The Ocean, Our Future), that I presented in Lisbon during Expo '98, in my capacity as President of the Commission and of which my dear friend Guido de Marco was Vice-President. In this report, we tried to raise awareness amidst the national and international communities for the need of a responsible governance of the oceans in the XXI<sup>st</sup> century, based on democratic practices, equity and peace (Declaration of Lisbon, 1998). In this spirit, I am pleased to note the themes forming part of the Programme of *Pacem in Maribus* XXXII concerning the challenges and the involvement of the women and youth.

Nearly ten years after the International Year of the Oceans established by the United Nations in 1998, it is worth reflecting once again on the relation between humankind and its maritime environment. The progress achieved in the knowledge of the ocean thanks to science and to technology, also stimulated by a widened international cooperation, has allowed a more efficient integration of the sea in the processes of economic development and globalization.

The negative impacts of the industrial revolution on resources and the marine environment has become more and more serious, despite the efforts made to mitigate them. Climatic warming and the increase of the sea level only highlight and represent vital challenges for humankind.

Awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to the Intergovernmental Panel on the Climate Change (IPCC) and to former Vice-President Al Gore are media indicators of the great importance of the challenge with which we are faced and of the need to confront such an issue.

However, it is necessary not to yield to uncertainty. It is necessary to pursue the triangular dialogue among governments, the private sector and civil society as recommended at the Summit of Johannesburg in 2002.



The contributions of Arvid Pardo, Elisabeth Mann-Borgese, my friend Salvino Busuttill fortunately, - happily still among us - and of all those who have associated themselves with the programmes of the International Institute of the Oceans (IOI) are an example and a source of inspiration for the future. In this perspective, and taking into account the theme of this Conference, we must stress that the objectives of a sustainable development imply solidarity with the future generations. I am sure that the Youth Ocean Parliament, whose inauguration is envisaged during this conference at the Parliament of Malta, will become a privileged forum to this end.

I have followed with great interest the leadership of the E.U. Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Joe Borg, Malta's former Minister of Foreign Affairs - regarding the strategy of the European Commission aimed at establishing an integrated European policy for the seas and the oceans. The "Blue Book" presented in Lisbon on October 22 at the informal Conference of Ministers of Member States in charge of maritime affairs, which will be submitted to the Council of Ministers next December, constitutes a historic event for Europe. It is also an event of international dimensions in respect of the spirit of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and of Agenda.

It is of fundamental importance that within the framework of a European policy for the sea, appropriate systems for management and dissemination of information be established, with a view of facilitating dialogue between the scientific community and the decision makers. Indeed, the decision makers must be able to explain to the scientific community what type of information they require to take some decisions, just as the scientific community must provide clear information that can be used as a basis for political decisions. This would allow for the implementation of an European network of information for which a nucleus already exists in Lisbon through EurOcean – the European Centre of Information for Marine Sciences and Technology of which Malta's Council for Science and Technology is a member.

To conclude, in 2008, with experts and other personalities who have been associated with the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, I intend to revisit and analyse critically our original proposals of which, at the time, some were considered utopian by the so-called realists, and thus learn from the past in order to prepare for the future.

On this point, I would briefly like to go back to the last century. At the time of the 4-yearly congress that was held in Lisbon in May 1904, the International Association of the Sea, formed by representatives of ten European countries and the United States, debated at length the usefulness of creating an International Maritime Union with a Permanent Office. This proposal, backed by Portugal and France, caused heated discussions and the report on the congress carried the words of one of the speakers whose reaction at the lack of vision by some of the participants on the subject of this initiative was: "Utopia, yesterday; progressive ideas, today; universal ideas, tomorrow; finally, law.

Today, among the "progressive ideas" in hand, I will mention among others: the organization of a United Nations conference on ocean governance in the XXIst century, the promotion of measures for the efficient use of the seas and the oceans for peaceful purposes, the revision of the High Seas within the perspective of becoming a "space trusteeship " of the world community; the setting up of an independent observatory for ocean affairs as a voice of civil society; the strengthening of access to information by citizens and decision makers.

I am confident that the International Ocean Institute and the regional centres, with the support of the Government of Malta, will actively pursue their commitment towards this vision of ocean governance at the service of humankind; utopia today, will become reality tomorrow.

Thank you.



## An integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union

Joe Borg

*European Commission,  
Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to participate in your conference today exactly forty years after the oceans were recognised as forming part of the common heritage of mankind.

This is also an auspicious occasion as we, in the European Union, are also setting out along the course charted by those, such as Arvid Pardo and Elizabeth Mann Borghese, who accorded the oceans and seas their due recognition.

It is in fact less than a month ago that the European Commission launched an Integrated Maritime Policy for Europe in which, for the first time, the EU explicitly recognises that an integrated approach is needed for the seas and oceans. The origins of this argument lie in the fact that there is a maritime dimension to virtually every major issue facing Europe today, be it climate change, job creation, international competitiveness, trade, transport, energy, environmental protection and so on. This means that whichever way one turns, one can see evidence of the strong links that exist between these sectors. It also means that the solutions to many of these issues are likely to be found within, or in conjunction with, one or many of the others.

Given this reality and the fact that we believe that looking at our oceans and seas in a coherent manner is the start of something new and exciting for Europe's maritime future, we have captioned our new approach "an ocean of opportunity."

I do not mean to suggest by this that the EU has not taken note of maritime issues so far. Clearly this is not the case. EU policies already exist in a number of maritime sectors such as fisheries or shipping, and the maritime dimension is already partially covered by separate policies on trade, the environment, regional development and employment. However, what *is* new about this initiative is that it represents the first attempt by Europe to truly deal with all aspects of maritime affairs in a strategic, comprehensive and integrated manner.

Some, and, in particular, many of you who have dedicated so much of your lives to *pacem in maribus*, may wonder why the EU has only arrived at this conclusion now. The International Ocean Institute has, for one, proclaimed the need to look at the ocean as a whole for decades. Other organisations and meetings have also called for an integrated approach to ocean affairs.

The EU, however, is not a single entity or a single decision-making body. As you are aware it is made up of a number of institutions that share decision-making in the three primary bodies of the Commission, the Council and the Parliament. It is also fair to say that the EU itself is constantly in a process of change. There are times when the pace at which the EU operates must, of necessity, be slow and other times where renewed vigour and impetus allow it to forge ahead with new initiatives.

I believe that we are now on the edge of an upswing. As a result of the agreement reached on the Reform Treaty a couple of weeks ago, the EU is able to move forward on a number of substantive policies with renewed vigour and focus. Given this, the timing and approach of our new maritime strategy is ideal.

Our strategy also represents, for the first time in the Community's history, an opportunity to bring a wide range of competences together in a collective and collaborative approach. This means that not only will natural relationships be emphasised in hitherto unlinked sectors, it also means that previously unconnected areas will obtain a deeper knowledge and understanding of each other.



For this to succeed, policy-makers will depend on the ever-wider involvement of stakeholders. Now that Member States and the EU institutions are free from the emotive discussions of internal reform, I have every confidence that they, together with our other partners, will be able to embrace this opportunity with open arms. Most of those who were consulted during the year-long discussions that we had on the Green Paper, which served as a precursor to this Integrated Maritime Policy, were vocal in their support for this coherent approach to maritime affairs.

This is a new *European* policy. However, insofar as the oceans and seas know no borders, the policy that we are bringing to fruition will also serve the *global* community. In fact, the design of policies in the service of mankind at large is becoming increasingly necessary in the face of new threats such as global warming and climate change. Add to these the challenges of depleted ecosystems and damaged marine environments, rising sea-levels, flooding in coastal areas, coastal erosion, hurricanes and other severe storms, and one is faced with a series of very difficult, longer-term questions about the health of the entire planet.

Rather than shying away from finding the solutions necessary, the European Commission *is* building the necessary capacity to meet these myriad challenges. With the launch of the new Integrated Maritime Policy we are saying that not only do we believe the challenges can be met, but also that these can be turned into opportunities if only we can take the right steps forward.

In this, there are many parallels between your own approach and ours.

We share your deep concern for the oceans' sustainability. We share a determination to tackle the problems and, as I have just indicated, we also share confidence in our ability to find the right solutions.

In addition to the principle of sustainability which you strongly advocate and which we unreservedly support, I notice that a number of the themes you are dealing with during this conference are common to key elements of the Integrated Maritime Policy. Your focus here on the central role to be played by women and youth, matches the prominence we have given to the social dimension of maritime policy, to the emphasis we have placed on the quality of life in coastal regions and to the importance of education, training and personal engagement in maritime affairs.

Our maritime strategy is centred on finding the right balance between policies aimed at the goals of prosperity, preserving the environment and enhancing the social dimension of maritime industries. No one goal should be achieved at the expense of the others, given that within the single vision that the maritime strategy offers, they are mutually dependent and can be fully complementary. In our view, any maritime development will only be sustainable if it allows people whose work or lives depend on the oceans and seas to share in the benefits of the European social model.

This is why we have focused on improving the quality of life in coastal regions through the strengthening of careers and the improvement of employment in the maritime sectors. This applies to areas as diverse as sustainable maritime tourism through to high-tech marine engineering and research, and includes traditional sectors such as fisheries and shipping.

In order to enhance life in coastal regions, part of what we are aiming to do is to promote local and regional maritime clusters, bringing together not only different enterprises, but also different sectors and different stakeholders in the European maritime community, to develop synergies between their activities. Regional authorities have repeatedly told us of their desire to concentrate on attracting new, vertically- or horizontally-integrated businesses to their areas in order to build such clusters.

This ranges from increased economic activity in Europe's regions to better connections between related businesses, increased scope for research and technology, to the strengthening of employment through targeted training and better mobility. Clusters have already proved to yield beneficial results that contribute enormously to better quality and higher standards for European maritime products and services. They also help to integrate the maritime economy better into such regions.

Clusters can also boost employment and the sustainability of the maritime economy overall and can help areas that have long depended on declining traditional activities to move into new



sectors that have a potential for growth. Success will depend largely on innovative action by stakeholders - and by this I do not mean that the onus is on large-scale or high-tech industries to provide new jobs and opportunities. It is also up to the individuals and the communities who have a stake in life at sea and in coastal regions, to play their part.

We recognise that women are currently under-represented in maritime related sectors. We see opportunities, however, in promoting the increased participation of women hand in hand with the evolution in the nature and the diversity of maritime professions. Coastal and maritime tourism, spatial planning, marine research and data management are just some of the many examples of fields in which women can easily become more involved.

A recently commissioned study by the EU into the role of women in the fisheries sector throws interesting light on the challenges and opportunities facing women. It found that women are paid less than men for the same work; are often made to feel unwelcome in seafaring activities such as fishing; and also feel somewhat discriminated against in aquaculture. As a result, women constitute only 3% of the workforce in these areas. Women are, however, over-represented in the seafood-processing sector, yet this work unfortunately holds few career prospects for them.

However, all is not doom and gloom. In the better-compensated fields of fisheries management and administration, women have made significant inroads, particularly in the public sector - and there are a number of women-managed aquaculture activities. The role of women as a support to seagoing spouses is largely undervalued, although the study does consider that there is potential for women's positions, in the fisheries sector, to improve as co-managers of family businesses and community-based inshore fisheries. The study recommends action to assist women to take a more prominent role, bettering their skills-set through courses on management, the use of IT and the setting up of networks for shore-based women.

In the European Commission we will reflect further upon the ideas contained in this report, even if our strategy targets the strengthening of careers and employment right across the maritime sector, beyond the specific, albeit extremely important, aspects of gender and of age. The Integrated Maritime Policy also aims to exploit the links between policy areas as diverse as transport, fisheries and education.

Insofar as youth are concerned, you have highlighted the role of today's young people as the leaders of tomorrow. The sustainable development of the maritime sector will depend on its ability to attract these leaders of tomorrow - both women and men - to form part of a highly qualified and high quality workforce. We see a major role for education and training, at many levels. Like *Pacem in Maribus* and the International Ocean Institute, we are turning our attention increasingly towards curriculum development, teacher training, capacity building and training partnerships, in a bid to create quality jobs in the maritime sector.

Improving the working conditions at sea takes on particular importance in this respect. We are proposing actions to make seafaring a more attractive profession and, because the human element is a key factor in maritime safety and the protection of the environment, we are also proposing that this should be reflected in the training and certification of seafarers and in the provision of suitable labour conditions for those working onboard ships.

One specific project we have put forward and which has received wide support, including from Member States, is the development of a Certificate of Maritime Excellence to enhance the skills and competences of seafarers. More broadly, it is hoped that this initiative will maintain a flow of highly competent personnel to the shipping industry and related maritime clusters. In this regard, fishing deserves special attention, given that it is one of the most dangerous professions. Regulations affecting fishermen's work at sea, need, therefore, to be reviewed, if this situation is to be improved. A Communication designed to review the regulatory social framework for more and better seafaring jobs in the EU, was adopted on the same day as the maritime policy package and so work is already proceeding apace on this.

Closer links with EU Member States, social partners, maritime clusters and maritime academic institutions will also make it possible to boost the status of seafaring careers. It will also provide young Europeans with more attractive prospects for a life-long career in such maritime clusters. Crucially, this approach can facilitate mobility between sea- and land-based jobs, including in navigation, engineering and electronics.



We are also aiming to upgrade our information about education, training, employment and other vital elements of socio-economic data on the maritime economy and in coastal regions. This will be supported by a Maritime Research Strategy which will need to be developed to support specialised infrastructure, research vessels, databases, information management, education and capacity-building as well as advanced technologies that can usefully be applied.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the important work started by Arvid Pardo and Elisabeth Mann Borghese, and continued by all of you, the importance of the oceans is not yet widely or fully understood. In order to address this, another of the objectives of the Integrated Maritime Policy is to raise the visibility of Maritime Europe. We have decided to plan an annual European Maritime Day, which will bring together high-profile events, award ceremonies, and awareness campaigns on maritime careers and on Europe's maritime heritage. This will allow us to maintain contact with our stakeholders, promote networking among groups and reaffirm stakeholder commitment.

We are also planning to produce a European Atlas of the Seas. We have found that although much information is available about Europe's oceans and seas and about maritime activities, this tends to be located in different repositories. By bringing it all together in a form that would allow the general public easy access, those interested in the sea, and in particular, young people can get to know more about the maritime world.

Making our maritime past and present more visible will help raise a generation of citizens for whom an integrated approach to maritime policy is self-evident. In so doing, it will also increase the awareness of the importance of sustainability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The vision of *Pacem in Maribus* has served to pioneer and advance the cause of the sustainable governance of the oceans for years. It has inspired and mobilised many into action for the creation of effective solutions. It has also brought the realities faced by the oceans and seas to our attention in a way that we can no longer sit back and watch.

We expect the Integrated Maritime Policy to allow us to fully play our part towards achieving the objective of well-managed oceans and seas that can offer to mankind a sustainable source of prosperity.

I wish you every success with your conference and augur that more and more will join us on this quest.

Thank you.



## Message to the conference

Juanito Camilleri

*Rector, University of Malta*

Excellencies, distinguished guests, colleagues...

As Rector of the University of Malta, I would like to join the previous speakers to welcome you to Malta, and to this Conference, which, I am sure you appreciate, bears special meaning to our small island-state.

“Women, Youth and the Sea”.

To my mind all three symbolise “Life” and “Hope for the future”.

The Sea is an invaluable source of food and ecological wealth, it sustains a range of economic and recreational activity, it has provided an interface between societies and cultures throughout the millennia, it commands the awe of humankind as it represents the unreachable, as its depths and underlying mysteries continue to defy human reach and cognition.

Today we are learning how to use the sea as a global climate gauge, as it plays an important role in interpreting and predicting climate change patterns. More than ever before, people – whether, like us, living intimately with the sea, or whether living in the heart of a continent – are appreciating that the sea, in particular ocean dynamics, determines the quality of all our lives.

Much as the Sea is the Common Heritage of Mankind, which we must cherish... Climate Change is the Common Concern of Humankind and its cause must be tackled proactively. I believe that it will become increasingly evident that the two – the Sea and Climate Change - are inextricably interlinked.

I realise that my view of the Sea radically contrasts that found in mythology or old biblical texts, where it is portrayed as chaotic and unwieldy – somewhat masculine even demonic – I feel that perspective describes the sea rather superficially, perhaps superstitiously, from a position of fear of the unknown. I trust modern-day experience and science have taught us better.

For all it's worth, here's my view.

The Sea - the giver and sustainer of life - the birth-space of life on our planet, the source of millions of life forms and the means of growth of civilizations through the millennia.... today, the Sea, remains central to global socioeconomic growth, but, paradoxically, remains threatened by pollution, overfishing, and mostly so by lack of education and sensitivity.

Women, the givers and sustainers of life, today are taking on proactive roles promoting an environmentally aware global culture, a caring culture. Whether through their pivotal role in educating and imparting values to their children, whether through their role as leaders of organisations and of nations, women in all strata of society are bringing a new pragmatic and realistic perspective to the word “Sustainability”. We need to see that the socioeconomic processes which are unfolding as a result of globalisation, are kept in check by a deep-rooted appreciation of “Life” and by a profound drive to impart “Hope for the Future” as a legacy for our children.

Youth – our Hope for the Future - must take on the role of guardians of their legacy at a young age. They must be assisted by all of us to attain, but more importantly retain, high-ideals regarding the protection of the environment, in particular our Seas. They must become champions for the sustainability of our planet at large in the face of relentless consumerism, pollution, and consequent climate change.

Dear Delegates, “Women, Youth, and the Sea”, all three are of central importance to the University of Malta.

Women - I am proud to say that in the past eighteen months the University of Malta has seen the appointment of the first woman Pro Rector and the first woman Dean of Faculty. Moreover, the





outstanding achievement of several women has been recognised through their promotion to the grade of Professor and Associate Professor, and moreover, several women have taken on senior management positions including the roles of Finance Director, Director of Communications and Alumni Affairs, and Director of Human Resources Development, to mention but a few. Though I am not a believer in positive discrimination, I am a strong believer that all doors must be open to allow women of calibre to take their rightful place in leadership roles at all levels at University and in society at large.

Youth – the very presence of an ancient University on a small island with limited resources is testimony to the fact that Malta has, for centuries, cherished its youth and has placed their education as a pivotal axiom for its socio-economic growth. Today our University has circa 10,000 students enrolled in no less than 120 undergraduate, and 85 postgraduate degree programmes across 11 Faculties and a host of institutes and centres.

The University is doing its utmost to promote student mobility as we are strong believers that the key to harmony and peace is better understanding, and the key to formulating coordinated action towards common goals and ideals is the sharing of common experience. And let's face it – what we experience at a young age has a major impact on our behaviour and mental disposition throughout life.

The Sea – the sea is a recurring theme at University. Apart from the work of the IOI-Malta Operational Centre of the University of Malta, which has played a significant role in the organisation of this conference, and apart from the world-recognised International Maritime Law Institute which we are proud to host on our grounds and honoured to work closely with, the University has a strong biology department which concentrates much of its research on marine issues and was instrumental in bootstrapping the Maltese fish-farming industry.

I would like to mention two of the new projects related to the Sea which are underway at the University of Malta. I am sure you will hear of others throughout the course of this conference.

First, we are in the process of setting up an Earth Systems Science Unit in the Faculty of Science, which will also cover the Sea and Coastal Management as a primary area of study.

I am particularly pleased to announce that the University of Malta is working with James Madison University, and will be launching in September 2008 a dual international Masters Programme in Sustainable Environmental Resources Management with the Sea as one of the foci of study.

Second, the University of Malta is collaborating with the University of Kaiserslautern and Fraunhofer Institutes to create a centre of excellence in Malta on marine software and systems engineering. Of course, one of the challenges here is that through integrated software and electronic navigational and engine control systems, energy efficiency of boats and ships is maximized and pollution reduced.

Dear Delegates, I know you have a long day ahead, so I think that I had best stop here before I get carried away...

To conclude, I sincerely hope that this conference achieves its aims...

I hope it places Women and Youth at the heart of a Sea of sensitive and pragmatic Change... and conversely

I hope that – through the active role of Women and Youth – the Sea is placed close to the heart of humankind.

Thank you for your attention.



## Message to the conference

Salvano Briceno

*Director, UN/ISDR Secretariat*

The ISDR aims at building disaster resilient communities by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters. As agreed in the Hyogo Framework for Action, the ISDR system works with national, regional and international partners in carrying out support functions to provide coordination and assistance in the promotion of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework (see attached two figures). Governments, UN agencies and regional organizations have already embarked on redefining national plans and strategies and in setting up promotional campaigns and institutional plans for further action. A system of partnerships composed of governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, thematic entities (thematic platforms, specialized partnerships, networks), scientific and technical bodies and networks as well as civil society and the private sector, all of which have essential roles to play in disaster risk reduction.

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was formulated as a comprehensive, action-oriented response to international concern about the growing impacts of disasters on individuals, communities and national development. Based on careful study of trends in disaster risks and practical experience in disaster risk reduction, and subjected to intensive negotiations during 2004 and early 2005, the HFA was finally brought to fruition and adopted by 168 Governments at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, 18-22 January 2005. The outcome it seeks is: "The substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries." This is further elaborated into three Strategic Goals and five Priorities for Action.

An important feature of the HFA is its legally non-binding character, which allows it to set out a well-grounded set of technical and organizational requirements for reducing disaster risks, while leaving the details of its implementation to the decision of governments and relevant organizations, according to their needs and capacities. The responsibilities for implementation and follow-up are defined for the different actors – particularly, States, regional organizations, international organizations, and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). Primary responsibility lies with States, but an enabling international environment of support is also vital.

Among other things, the HFA calls on the ISDR to "facilitate consultative processes to develop guidelines and policy tools for each priority area, with relevant national, regional and international expertise." The present document "Words into Action: A Guide for Implementing the Hyogo Framework" is the first product generated to meet this call. It has been prepared through a long process of drafting and consultation that has involved the participation of numerous organizations and individuals in dozens of countries. Drawing on their expertise and experience, the Guide describes 22 tasks that are organized to help address and guide the implementation of the HFA's five Priorities for Action. Depending on the national situation, the tasks may provide good starting points for organizing action, or useful references against which to check existing policies and procedures. Different users can draw on the parts that are useful to them, adapting the tasks according to their particular needs.

An important role of the ISDR system is to develop tools to help Government authorities and other organizations to implement the HFA. With this first overall guidance document completed, we will now facilitate efforts to develop guides for specific sectors and situations. To assist in this



effort, and to improve future versions of the present Guide, we would welcome feedback from its readers and users.

The Global Platform provides the main global forum for representatives of governments and other stakeholders - UN agencies, regional bodies, international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector and the scientific and academic communities – to assess progress made in implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, enhance global awareness of disaster risk reduction, share experiences among countries and learn from good practice, and identify remaining gaps and actions needed to accelerate national and local implementation of the Hyogo Framework. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. John Holmes, chairs the Global Platform. The Global Platform meets every two years. The first session was held in June 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The ISDR secretariat, through its thematic office of the Platform for Promotion of Early Warning in Bonn, conducted a multi-donor, multi-agency project to establish a tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean region immediately after the 26 December 2004 Tsunami. The objective of the initiative, “Evaluation and Strengthening of Early Warning Systems in Countries Affected by the 26 December 2004 Tsunami”, facilitated and coordinated by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), was to provide an overall integrated framework for strengthening early warning systems in the Indian Ocean region by building on the existing systems and to facilitate coordination among various specialized and technical institutions. The project has been highly relevant to the mandate of the UN/ISDR of advocating disaster risk reduction within the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters<sup>1</sup> and the work of the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW), one of the thematic platforms of the ISDR system.

The project underscored a partnership approach to supporting the integrated development of tsunami early warning systems in close collaboration with the numerous United Nations and other organizations which have been devoted to improving disaster risk management and risk reduction. In particular, the project supported the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC) in its leadership to achieve a consensus on the core elements of a tsunami early warning system and set up an interim warning system in the Indian Ocean region. The project was financed with a total of US\$10.5 million in contributions from seven donors, namely the Governments of Finland, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

The project components were identified broadly in two different areas, namely warning system development and preparedness. As a cross-cutting theme, the project has promoted “people-centred early warning systems” emphasizing: (i) risk knowledge, that is, prior knowledge of the risks faced by communities; (ii) monitoring and warning service; (iii) communications and dissemination of understandable warnings to those at risk; and (iv) response capability and preparedness to act by those threatened aspects.

The project was coordinated by the UN/ISDR-PPEW, as part of the larger Flash Appeal coordinated by UNOCHA, and was implemented by 16 partners, namely the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India and Sri Lanka Offices, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Jakarta Office, the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNUEHS), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) and the University of Geneva.



The activities of the project were structured into five key components: core system implementation, integrated risk management, public awareness and education, community-level approaches and project coordination. An interim tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean region has been operational since April 2005 with interim tsunami advisory information issued by two institutions, the Pacific Tsunami Early Warning Center in Hawaii and the Japan Meteorological Agency in Tokyo. This tsunami advisory information has been received by tsunami focal points of the Indian Ocean countries designated by 25 countries to date. The project activities were completed by 31 December 2006, except some capacity building activities which are expected to be completed by 31 December 2007 without additional cost implications.

Various lessons were learned from the project. Although both the multi-partner, multi-donor nature of the project and the time constraint for the implementation caused some administrative challenges, the project successfully assisted in strengthening coordination, partnerships, linkages and synergies among the implementing agencies and donors during the process of implementing the project. A number of local good practices have been identified through the regional offices of the UN/ISDR in Asia and Africa. Some success stories have been reported by implementing partners such as UNESCO/IOC, UNESCO Jakarta, WMO and UNDP Sri Lanka for the successful application of the procedures and warning systems developed under the project at the time of the occurrence of tsunami, earthquake and landslides in Indonesia and Sri Lanka in 2006 and 2007. All outputs and publication of the project will be disseminated to a wider audience by the UN/ISDR secretariat and each implementing partner to further enhance awareness on tsunami early warning and disaster risk reduction and to facilitate the Indian Ocean countries to exchange of experiences and replicate good practices.

The project contributed to maximizing effectiveness of inputs and resources by providing strategic direction for the implementation and monitoring of the project activities and avoiding overlaps between the implementing agencies. It was the first time that the UN/ISDR secretariat provided overall coordination to a project under the UN Flash Appeal which was not necessarily focusing exclusively on humanitarian assistance. Nevertheless, the integrated approach and coordination proved to be effective. The project has created an enabling environment for coordination and partnership-building necessary for the development of “end-to-end” and “people-centred” early warning systems in the Indian Ocean region. However, the project activities are only the first step for establishing fully-fledged tsunami early warning systems within a multi-hazard framework. Strong political commitment of the Indian Ocean countries as well as substantial financial and technical supports from the international community are crucial to achieve this goal in the long term. In order to realize the fully-fledged tsunami early warning systems (TEWS) with a close linkage with other ocean related hazards, the following actions are recommended.

- The UN/ISDR, UNESCO/IOC, WMO as well as other UN, international and regional institutions working on early warning systems should continue to provide their assistance to the Indian Ocean countries in enhancing capacities and mobilizing resources necessary for both establishment of the TEWS and the establishment of national platforms for disaster risk reduction.
- To generate an enabling environment for TEWS in the Indian Ocean region, the UN/ISDR secretariat, its regional offices and other members of the ISDR system should continue to assist the countries in Asia and Africa to establish and/or strengthen national platforms for disaster risk reduction to effectively implement the Hyogo Framework for Action.
- The regional coordination mechanism for the tsunami early warning systems through the UNESCO/IOC Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (ICG/IOTWS) should be strengthened through the activities of the Sixth Working Group on Mitigation, Preparedness and Response in addition to the ongoing discussion of the other working groups in order to ensure integration of tsunami early warning systems into national and regional mitigation, preparedness and response capability building efforts within a multi-hazard framework.
- Before the 26 December 2004 tsunami, many of the countries in the Indian Ocean region did not have a well organized disaster management system except for tropical cyclone-prone countries



such as India and Bangladesh. Thus, National Disaster Management Offices in most countries were very weak, and there were few established national platforms for disaster risk reduction in the region. The roles of the National Disaster Management Offices should be further enhanced for better coordination within a country.

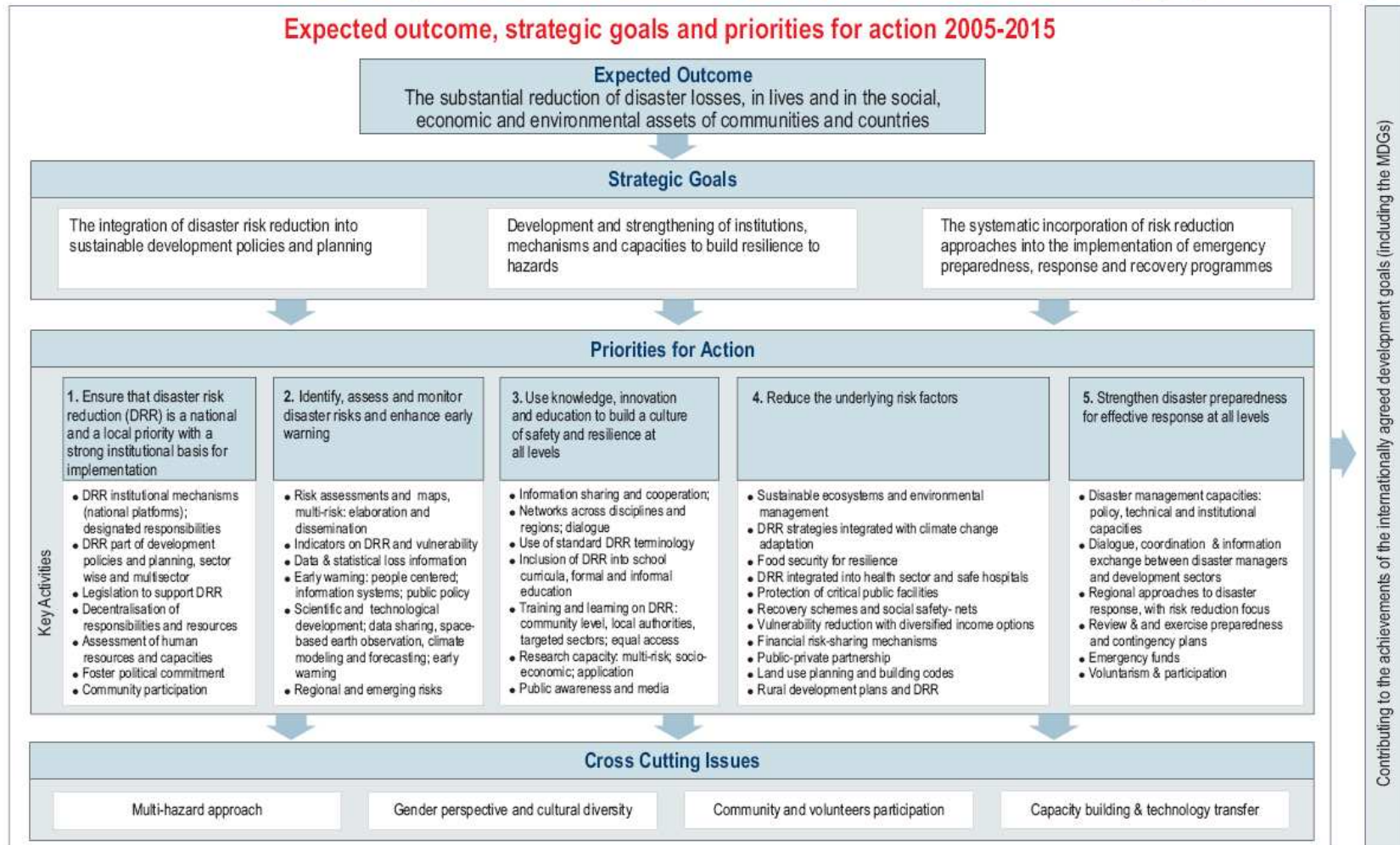
- Constructing structural measures such as sea walls and shelters should be considered to protect lives, properties, and significant infrastructures from tsunami. Currently, very few countries have implemented the structural measures mainly due to a lack of information on risks. Countries need to have access to such information.

Accurate tsunami risk assessment based on paleo-tsunami research in the Indian Ocean region is needed. Currently, sufficient scientific information is not available on the historical occurrence of natural hazards in the region, except Indonesia for which some records are available only for the last few hundred years. Research outcomes would facilitate policy-making process in each country. In addition, historical and geographical research should be promoted to analyze what happened in the region in the past.

As emphasized in the above tsunami project, the ISDR secretariat promotes the importance of comprehensive disaster risk reduction, which does not only focus on technical elements but also non-technical ones based on the HFA. This approach is adapted in other ocean-related disaster risk reduction such as storm surges, high waves, sea-level rise, and tropical cyclones.

Lastly, the ISDR secretariat is seriously considering the impacts of climate change. It has been promoting the importance of climate change adaptation in particular to reduce its risk and create climate change resilient communities.

## SUMMARY of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (Hyogo Framework)



DRR= disaster risk reduction

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## Implementation and Follow-Up

In order to achieve the goals and act upon the priorities identified in this Framework, the following tasks have been identified to ensure implementation and follow-up by States, regional and international organizations in collaboration with civil society and other stakeholders. The ISDR partners, in particular the Inter-agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction and secretariat, are requested to assist in implementing this Framework for Action.

### General Considerations

Implementation by different stakeholders, multi-sectoral approach; participation of civil society (NGOs, CBOs, volunteers), scientific community & private sector is vital

States primarily responsible; an enabling international environment is vital, incl. strengthened regional capacities

Build multi-stakeholder partnerships

Particular attention to:  
 - Small island developing States: Mauritius Strategy;  
 - Least developed countries;  
 - Africa

States, regional and international organizations to foster coordination among themselves and a strengthened International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

Follow-up integrated with other major conferences in fields relevant to DRR; reviews as appropriate

### Actors

	States	Regional Organizations and Institutions	International Organizations (including UN System and IFIs)
Critical tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate national coordination mechanisms for the implementation and follow up, communicate to the ISDR secretariat;</li> <li>National baseline assessments of the status of DRR;</li> <li>Publish and update a summary of national programme for DRR including international cooperation;</li> <li>Develop procedure for reviewing national progress including systems for cost benefit analysis and ongoing monitoring on risk;</li> <li>Consider acceding to, approving or ratifying relevant international legal instruments and to make sure they are implemented;</li> <li>Promote the integration of DRR with climate variability and climate change into DRR strategies and adaptation to climate change; ensure management of risks to geological hazards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote regional programmes including for technical cooperation, capacity development, the development of methodologies and standards for hazard and vulnerability monitoring and assessment, the sharing of information and effective mobilization of resources;</li> <li>Undertake and publish regional and sub-regional baseline assessments;</li> <li>Coordinate and publish reviews on progress and support needs, and assists countries in preparation of national summaries;</li> <li>Establish specialized regional collaborative centers;</li> <li>Support the development of regional mechanisms and capacities for early warning, including for tsunami</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage in the implementation of the ISDR by encouraging integration of DRR into humanitarian and sustainable development fields;</li> <li>Strengthen the capacity of the UN system to assist disaster-prone developing countries in DRR and implement measures for assessment of progress;</li> <li>Identify actions to assist disaster-prone developing countries in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, ensure their integration and that adequate funding is allocated; assist in setting up national strategies and programmes for DRR;</li> <li>Integrate actions into relevant coordination mechanisms (UNDG, IASC, RCs and UN Country Teams);</li> <li>Integrate DRR into development assistance frameworks such as CCA/UNDAF, PRSP;</li> <li>In collaboration with networks and platform support: data collection and forecasting on natural hazards and risks; early warning systems; full &amp; open exchange of data;</li> <li>Support States with coordinated international relief assistance, to reduce vulnerability &amp; increase capacities;</li> <li>Strengthen international mechanisms to support disaster stricken States in post-disaster recovery with DRR approach</li> <li>Adapt &amp; strengthen inter-agency disaster management training for DRR and capacity building.</li> </ul>

### ISDR (Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction & secretariat)

- Develop a matrix of roles and initiatives in support of follow-up to the Hyogo Framework;
- Facilitate the coordination of effective actions within the UN system and other international and regional entities to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, identify gaps, facilitate processes to develop guidelines and policy tools for each priority area;
- In broad consultation, develop generic, realistic and measurable indicators. These indicators could assist States in measuring progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework;
- Support national platforms & regional coordination;
- Register relevant partnerships with Commission on Sustainable Development;
- Stimulate the exchange, compilation, analysis and dissemination of best practices, lessons learnt;
- Prepare periodic review on progress towards achieving the objectives of the Hyogo Framework and provide reports to the UNGA & other UN bodies

### Resource Mobilization: States, Regional and International Organizations

- Mobilize resources and capabilities of relevant national, regional and international bodies, including the UN system;
- Provide and support the implementation of the HFA in disaster prone developing countries, including through financial and technical assistance, addressing debt sustainability, technology transfer, public-private partnership and North-South and South-South cooperation;
- Mainstream DRR measures into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes;
- Provide adequate voluntary financial contribution to the UN Trust Fund for DR to support follow-up activities to Hyogo Framework; review usage and feasibility for the expansion of this fund;
- Develop partnership to implement schemes that spread out risks, reduce insurance premiums, expand insurance coverage and increase financing for post-disaster reconstruction, including through public and private partnerships. Promote an environment that encourages a culture of insurance in developing countries.

