

The Russian Federation

Positions for the United Nations World Humanitarian Summit

I. Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk

It is an unfortunate fact that member states across the globe must face the economic, humanitarian, and environmental tragedies and hardships brought on by disasters. In the past 12 year alone, disasters have cost \$1.3 trillion in damage, directly affected 2.7 billion people, and killed 1.1 million people.¹ Disasters are an inevitable reality and, therefore, Russia strongly recommends that the international community make further strides in strategically managing risks and reducing vulnerability from disasters through further developing and strengthening humanitarian partnerships and humanitarian assistance in conjunction with focused efforts on creating and buttressing disaster risk reduction (DRR) developmental policies. Russia urges all member states to realize that, “we have to act decisively now, to guarantee a safer world for future generations” as stated in the Geneva Mandate affirmed by this body in 1999.²

Russia is accustomed to handling environmental catastrophes. Flooding, wildfires, and extreme temperatures account for frequent causes of disaster within Russia. In light of these past and recurring experiences, Russia has fully supported and continues to support UN actions for the global management of natural and manmade disaster risks such as: the creation of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the implementation of the Hyogo Framework, and newly adopted Sendai Framework in May of this year for the global management of natural and manmade disaster risks. Additionally, Russia has fully endorsed the Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action, and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in the endeavor to combat disasters from the perspective of development, rather than from a purely humanitarian perspective. Within the Russian Federal Ministry, the Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM) was established in 1994 in response to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction, a decade designated in Res. 44/236 with the objective to decrease the destruction, loss of life, and social and economic hardships caused by natural disasters. EMERCOM has proven vital in combating domestic and international disasters. As recently as October of 2015, Russian aircraft aided in suppressing wildfires in the Republic of Indonesia.³ Furthermore, the EMERCOM national platform was assimilated in to the Hyogo Framework for Action, established in 2005. Russia encourages all member states to focus on the development of DRR initiatives and partnerships and not solely on the humanitarian consequences of disasters.

Russia advocates that DDR must be increasingly viewed as a developmental priority, instead of a purely humanitarian priority. While humanitarian assistance and needs are ever growing in light of current regional conflicts, developmental frameworks and policies that create DRR infrastructure on a national level, such as the aforementioned EMERCOM within the Russia, would prove vital in decreasing vulnerabilities and economic, ecological, and humanitarian consequences of disasters. Since 2008, Russia’s contribution to humanitarian aid has steadily risen with 59% of Russian humanitarian aid given to nations classified as long-term recipients of aid in 2012.⁴ In order to ensure that member states, specifically developing member states, use aid in humanitarian and developmental efforts, Russia suggests that the UNISDR spearhead a summit at which member states with DRR infrastructure and strategies, and member states lacking such infrastructure may come together to discuss DRR development on a national level within each state. This summit would take place in 2020 to mark the start of a new decade of international DDR measures. The Paris Declaration for Aid Effectiveness would serve as a starting framework for developed and developing member states to forge and strengthen partnerships focusing on development of DRR infrastructures already in place, and DRR infrastructures tailored to the risks of individual states. This framework would pursue development as a priority to increase and create DRR responses and strategies. These efforts would be designed to decrease the consequences of future disasters and provide developing member states the knowledge and ability to handle disasters at a national level.

¹ http://www.preventionweb.net/files/25833_20120318disaster20002011v2.pdf

² <http://www.historyandtheheadlines.abcclio.com/ContentPages/ContentPage.aspx?entryId=1474686¤tSection=1473215&productid=29>

³ <http://en.mchs.ru/news/item/5165903/>

⁴ <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/countryprofile/russia>