



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 22-26 May 2017 – Cancún, Mexico



Report by Michel Veuthey
Deputy Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta in Geneva
Geneva, 1 July 2017

Two years after the Third UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in **Sendai** (Japan) in March 2015, one year after the **World Humanitarian Summit** in Istanbul in May 2016, some 4,000 participants and delegations from over 180 countries attended this **2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**, convened by the Government of Mexico and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).¹

Participation in Cancún (as in Sendai in 2015)² allowed to “show the flag” of the Order, to network, to disseminate and to gather up-to-date information about risk reduction and humanitarian action in the perspective of the next Global Platform in Geneva in 2019.³

The 2017 Global Platform in Cancún aimed at implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Its motto was « From Commitment to Action ». Key recommendations included :

- Bridge the worlds of **humanitarian aid and development**
- Propose **technical improvements** such as a better support for the preparation of national disaster loss databases; early warning systems for least developed countries; empowerment of local authorities to manage disaster risk; application of disaster risk management to overall economic planning; and the empowerment of women in leadership on disaster risk management.
- Promote **risk-informed investments for the resilience of infrastructure and housing**, especially for the poor and vulnerable. It was the focus of the Leaders' Forum co-chaired by the President of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto and the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed.⁴
- **Move from commitment to action and ensure coherence across implementation of the Sendai Framework,⁵ the Paris Agreement on Climate Change⁶ and other elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁷**

The Delegations of the **Holy See** (H.E. Msgr. Silvano Tomasi), the **Sovereign Order of Malta** and **Caritas Internationalis** in their statements in Plenary stressed the need to take into account **fundamental human rights and spiritual values** protecting the life and dignity of all human beings, as well as the role of **faith-based organizations (FBOs) in prevention, response and reconstruction.**

On the first day of the Global Platform the two faces of the debate were confronted:

- the **technical and material aspects**, the early warning and response mechanisms;
- the **human, ethical, even religious** approach.

The U.N., most Governments, NGOs and private business representatives did deal with technical, material early warning, preparedness and response.

The Order of Malta, along with other FBOs and some Governments, put the emphasis on the human and spiritual side, bearing witness on values: faith, hope and charity are indeed the main factors of resilience, response, reconciliation, social reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The message of Cardinal Parolin, Secretary of State, attached to this report, stressed the importance of **prevention and resilience**, the need for a better management of human and natural resources (including water), the need for consciousness-raising efforts in order to improve the plight of the most vulnerable, to involve the poor directly in training programs, and to provide both material and spiritual assistance. The victims and the most vulnerable should have an essential role in the processes of prevention, response and reconstruction:

“The capacity of local communities to mobilize themselves ought never to be underestimated in catastrophic situations. Religious and cultural traditions also play a significant role and represent a source of enrichment for the work of resilience. All this calls for broad participation, cooperation, integration and dialogue among all actors, especially in the local communities, including the indigenous peoples.”

It was important for the Order of Malta to work together in Cancún with other Catholic representatives under the leadership of **H.E. Msgr. Silvano Tomasi**, Archbishop, Delegate Secretary of the Secretary of State of the Holy See, with the eleven member strong team of Caritas Internationalis.⁸ This quite useful cooperation could be continued for the **preparation of the 2019 Global Forum in Geneva.**

The ongoing negotiations of both **Global Compacts on Refugees⁹ and Migrants¹⁰**, the 2018 commemorations of the 20th anniversary of the « **Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement** », ¹¹ the 70th anniversary of the **Universal Declaration on Human Rights** and of the **Genocide Convention**, ¹² as well as the forthcoming 70th anniversary of the **Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949** on the protection of war victims could be opportunities for the Order of Malta to

- reaffirm **common values** and
- promote **operational synergies**

with FBOs as well as with like-minded stakeholders within the UN system, regional organizations, local civil society, academics, private business, artists and medias.

Next Global Platform shall take place in **2019 in Geneva**, most probably chaired by Manuel Bessler (SDC). We would recommend to be ready to participate to the 2019 Geneva meeting with a large delegation and with documents on the Order, on Malteser International and on our activities. Sendai in 2015, Cancún in 2017, as Geneva in 2019, present many opportunities to network, to share experiences, to promote projects and publications.

In Cancún, we could (re)establish contacts with

- **HOLY SEE:**

- H.E. Silvano TOMASI, Archbishop, Delegate Secretary of the Secretary of State
- Dr. Paolo CONVERSI, Desk Officer, Section for Relations with States – International Branch, Secretariat of State of the Holy See paoloconversi@hotmail.com
- Mons. Kevin RANDALL, krandall@diplomat.va, posted in Mexico.

- **CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS** - Irene BROZ broz@caritas.va - José Luis LÓPEZ SANTIAGO, Cáritas Mexicana, emergencias@ceps.org.mex - Pasquale IONTA, Caritas Germany-International Department pasquale.ionta@caritas.de - Tulio MATEO, Catholic Relief Services, Dominican Republic tulio.mateo@crs.org - Prof. N. VINOD CHANDRA MENON, Founder Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India nvcmenon@gmail.com vinodmenon@ndma.gov.in - Zeituna ROBA, Cordaid Partners for Resilience Kenya, zrt@cordaid.org - Moges BEKELE, Cordaid Partners for Resilience Uganda, Moges.Bekele@cordaid.org - Nicole STOLZ, Head of Department Advisory Services, Caritas Suisse nstolz@caritas.ch

- **FRANCE** H.E. Ambassador Gautier MIGNOT, Deputy Director General for Global Affairs, Culture, Education and International Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development Now Ambassadeur de France in Bogota, Colombia
gautier.mignot@diplomatie.gouv.fr
- **GERMANY** - Peter FELTEN, Head of Division for Humanitarian Assistance-Policy, International Organisations, Multilateral Coordination S08-RL@diplo.de - Dr. Thorsten KLOSE-ZUBER, Desk Officer, Humanitarian Assistance-Policy, International Organisations, Multilateral Coordination S08-6@diplo.de - Julian TOST, Junior Advisor, Climate Risk Management, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), julian.tost@giz.de
- **SWITZERLAND** - Manuel BESSLER, Ambassadeur, Délégué à l'Aide humanitaire et Chef du Corps suisse d'aide humanitaire, SDC manuel.bessler@deza.admin.ch
- Benno BÜHLMANN, General Director, Federal Office for Civil Protection
benno.buehlmann@babs.admin.ch
- **BELGIUM** Gaëtane SCAVÉE, gaetane.scavee@diplomatie.fed.be
- **EUROPEAN UNION** H.E. Christos STYLIANIDES, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management
- **COUNCIL OF EUROPE** Gianluca SILVESTRINI, Head of Major Hazards and Environmental Division, Executive Secretary of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement gianluca.silvestrini@coe.int
- **ANDEAN COMMUNITY** General Secretariat (CAN) H.E. José Antonio ARROSPIDE DEL BUSTO, Ambassador, Director General jarrospide@comunidadandina.org
- **OCDE** Jack RADISCH, Senior Project Manager jack.radisch@oecd.org
- **IOM** Mohammed ABDIKER, Director, Department of Operations and Emergencies
mabdiker@iom.int
- **IFRC** - Elhadj As Sy, Secretary-General - Anne de RIEDMATTEN, Senior Officer, Intergovernmental Advocacy, anne.deriedmatten@ifrc.org - Isabelle GRANGER, Legislative Advocacy Coordinator isabelle.granger@ifrc.org (Specialist of International Disaster Law)

- **KENYA RED CROSS** Esther MUIRURI, Youth Chairperson esthermuiruri@gmail.com
- **UNICEF**: Antony SPALTON, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Specialist
aspalton@unicef.org
- **NRC** - Bina DESAI, Head of Policy and Research bina.desai@idmc.ch -
- Nina BIRKELAND, Senior Advisor, Disaster and Climate Change
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- **AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE** Maya KROITORU
mayak@jdc.org
- **UNIVERSITY OF PEACE**, Mayumi YAMADA, Assistant Professor myamada@upeace.org
- **DOSHISHA UNIVERSITY** Prof. Shigeo TATSUKI statsuki@mail.doshisha.ac.jp
- **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO** Marie-Noelle STEINIG mnsteinig@chicago.edu
- **URD** François GRUNEWALD www.urgd.org grunewald@urd.org
- **THE GENEVA ASSOCIATION**, the leading international think tank of the insurance industry Dr. Maryam GOLNARAGHI, Director, Extreme Events and Climate Risk
maryam_golnaraghi@genevaassociation.org
- **WORLD COUNCIL FOR CIVIL ENGINEERS** Prof. Mauricio PORRAZ, President
mauricio@porraz.com

Participants to the Cancún Global Platform included representatives of

- **Governments** : see the list of speakers on the site of the 2017 Global Platform:
<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en/programme/statements>
The most important statements are listed in a footnote¹³ and their texts can also be found in a dropbox : <http://bit.ly/2spr3a3>

- **UN Organizations** (the Secretary-General was represented by Mrs. Amina MOHAMED and by Mr. Robert GLASSER), including UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and its International Monitoring System (IMS). Its 300+ monitoring stations constantly monitor the globe for signs of

clandestine nuclear explosions. The data collected are used in a wide range of DRR applications, including tsunami warning, monitoring volcanoes and ash clouds, studying seismic events, and more.

- **Regional and Sub-regional Organizations** : African Union, Council of Europe, Andean Community, ASEAN, League of Arab States
- **Humanitarian Organizations** : Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (IFRC, Bangladesh Red Crescent, German Red Cross, Kenya Red Cross, Mexican Red Cross)
- **Military Organizations** such as the « Pacific Partnership », an annual deployment of the US Pacific Fleet, in cooperation with regional governments and military forces, along with humanitarian organizations and NGOs.¹⁴
- **NGOs**, local such as BRAC (Bangladesh), international such as OXFAM International,
- **Academia**, such as International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) of Tohoku University in Japan <http://irides.tohoku.ac.jp/eng/>
- **Publishing Houses** such as Routledge *The Routledge Handbook of Disaster Risk Reduction Including Climate Change Adaptation*, April 2017, 528 p.
- **Think Tanks** such as URD (François Grunewald)
- **Medias**, such as the BBC, which did organize a side event « Action ! How can media and communication prompt social and behaviour change for disaster risk reduction ? »¹⁵
- **Private Business**, including insurance companies (Geneva Group;¹⁶ Zurich Insurance Group) and investment banks, as well as partnerships such as ARISE, a group of 140 companies and private sector organizations partnered with UNISDR to drive action toward the achievement of Sendai.

For the Order of Malta, Cancún was an opportunity to be on the picture, on the list of speakers, to attend side-events, to exchange ideas, to demonstrate the willingness of the Order to listen to others and to cooperate.

For Governments, international organizations, academics and NGOs, Cancún was a platform to **present projects and research programmes** such as

- **GERMANY**: under the tripartite leadership of the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Federal Foreign Office, and the Ministry of Interior, several organizations, like GIZ, the German Red Cross and the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance presented their approaches for different components of a holistic Disaster Risk Management system, developed with Germany, which might be transferred to the international system :

« **Global Disaster Risk Management** » (GIDRM)

www.gidrm.net.¹⁷ Germany was present in Cancún with a large delegation and a market booth to facilitate exchange of German approaches, activities and experience. All documents from the German delegation are available for download : <https://www.gidrm.net/news/germany-global-platform/>

The German Delegation organized four side events in Cancún :

- **Resilient Businesses** : Approaches and Strategies for Integrating DRM and CCA into Private Sector Investments German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) GERMANY Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. Contact : Thomas Lennartz (thomas.lennartz@giz.de)
- **Protecting Disaster Displaced Persons** through better Data and Knowledge on displacement : Platform on Disaster Displacement, Germany, IDMC, IFRC. Contact : Sarah KOELTZOW (SarahK@unops.org)
- **Forecast-based Financing : Investing in humanitarian action before disasters strike** German Red Cross, German Federal Foreign Office. Contact : Thorsten Klose-Zuber (S08-6@diplo.de)
- **From Managing Disasters to Managing Risks : The Power of forecast-based action, index insurance and multi-year recovery finance.** World Food Programme; African Risk Capacity (ARC); Oxfam; German Red Cross; IFRC, The START Network Contact : Giorgia Pergolini (giorgia.pergolini@wfp.org)

- **TURKEY**: AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, Turkey): AKFEN project for monitoring and governance of the management of temporary settlements; AYDES (Disaster Decision Support System), designed to monitor and conduct all stages of disaster and emergency management on a common platform.
See : <https://www.afad.gov.tr/en/>

- SAFER NEPAL, a joint presentation of the Government of **Nepal**, INGOs working in Nepal, NGOs and other international and national stakeholders working in DRR in Nepal, including DPNet-Nepal. <https://practicalaction.org/safer-nepal> & <http://dpnet.org.np>
- **The HUMANITARIAN DATA EXCHANGE (HDX)**, an open data platform, joined by more than 250 organizations, including UNISDR, IDMC, UNOSAT, UNHCR, IOM,

IFRC, sharing more than 4,250 datasheets. More than 250,000 users have visited the site:
<https://data.humdata.org> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCVyiZhYb4M>
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/59215ab5efe33HDXinMexicoTeran.pdf>

- **The International Recovery Platform (IRP)**, conceived at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, in January 2005
<http://www.recoveryplatform.org>
- **“Japan Religion Coordinating Project for Disaster Relief”**, established by Sokka Gakkai International after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 with academics and faith-based organizations and local faith leaders <http://www.rk-world.org/news12marjrpd.aspx>
- **King’s College of London and Christian Aid** in consortium with Action Aid, Concern, Help Age, Muslim Aid, Oxfam, Saferworld and World Vision : *Linking Preparedness Response and Resilience (LPRR)*¹⁸ – *how can humanitarian responses better promote community resilience?* <http://www.preventionweb.net/experts/oped/view/53595>
- **The Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector (GADRRRES)** promotes the Worldwide Initiative or Safe Schools (WISS) in supporting school safety globally displayed the three pillars of Comprehensive School Safety (CSS): School Learning Facilities, School Disaster Management, and Risk Reduction and Resilience Education. Among the members are: UNESCO, UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision, the IFRC, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). See: <http://gadrrres.net/who-we-are/members>

A number of interesting publications were launched in Cancún, beginning with the Global Assessment Report (GAR) on Disaster Risk Reduction Atlas :

- UNISDR *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction Atlas*¹⁹
http://www.preventionweb.net/files/53086_garatlaslr2.pdf
- UNISDR *Disaster resilience scorecard for cities*
- UNISDR *Words into Action Guidelines : Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response*
- UNISDR *Words into Action Guidelines – Concise guide on design and conduct of simulation exercises*
- UNHCR *UNHCR policy brief on displacement and disaster risk reduction: 2017 update*

- UN-HABITAT *Trends in urban resilience*
- World Bank *World Bank Group @ the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017*
- World Bank, UNESCO, WMO and ICHARM *Water and Disasters – Sustainable, Resilient and Innovative Water Cycle Management*.
- World Food Programme *A world without hunger needs disaster risk reduction*
- IOM *Taking Sendai forward : Strategic plan on disaster risk reduction and resilience 2017-2020*
- IOM; Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC) *Migrants in disaster risk reduction: Practices for inclusion*
- IOM *IOM in disaster risk reduction and resilience*
- The European Commission Joint Research Centre *Atlas of the human planet 2017 : Global exposure to natural hazards*
- Africa Union Commission (AUC) and Partners for Resilience *Mitigation of, response to and recovery from El Nino Impacts – Is Africa learning from past disasters?*
- German Humanitarian Assistance (German Federal Foreign Office & German Red Cross) & IFRC *Forecast-based Financing (FbF)* <https://vimeo.com/192437779>
- Overseas Development Institute *Delivering disaster risk reduction by 2030: pathways to progress*
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) *Pre-event financial protection in key to flood recovery*
- ActionAid International *Beyond caring: Enabling women's leadership in disaster reduction by breaking down the barrier of unpaid care work*
- ActionAid – UK *The wrong model for resilience: how G7-backed drought insurance failed Malawi and what we must learn from it*
- ARISE *Implementing the Sendai Framework through cross-sectoral collaboration – the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)'s innovative approach to building resilience*.
- ARISE Network Japan *Introducing ARISE Network Japan: How we work towards resilience*
- Concern Worldwide *Driving action for disaster-affected communities*
- Culture and Disaster Action Network (CADAN) *Culture & DRR: No one left behind*
- Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR); International Council for Science (ICSU) *Cities and disaster risk reduction*
- Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR); International Council for Science (ICSU) *Cohherence between the Sendai Framework, the SDGs, the Climate Agreement, New Urban Agenda and the World Humanitarian Summit, and the role of science in their implementation*
- Zurich Insurance Group Limited: Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center *Flood resilience through community-driven action and partnerships*

- Zurich Insurance Group Limited: Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center
Measuring flood resilience: the Zurich Flood Resilience Measurement Tool
- Zurich Insurance Group Limited: Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center
Investing in risk-informed infrastructure to support flood resilience
-

All of the above listed documents can be downloaded on the following link:

<http://bit.ly/2r7YLkD>

UNRISD has an excellent website : www.preventionweb.net

For the 2017 Global Platform in Cancún, please visit :

- <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en> (English)
- <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/es/> (Spanish)

A quite useful App was made available in Cancún for mobile phones
and the 2017 Global Platform Cancún was on Twitter : #MEXICOGP2017

APPENDIXES

1. In attachment : Statements by the Holy See, the Order of Malta

2. In a Dropbox : <http://bit.ly/2spr3a3>

ALL THE MAIN DOCUMENTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE DROPBOX

<http://bit.ly/2spr3a3>

Michel Veuthey

Geneva, 1 July 2017 DG

¹ The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Dr. Robert GLASSER, is a former Secretary-General of CARE. Prior to joining CARE, he was Assistant Director General at the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

² See the Sendai Report by the Delegation of the Order of Malta : <http://bit.ly/2tl5Su0>

³ Most probably chaired by Ambassador Manuel BESSLER, Delegate for humanitarian aid and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (or by Ambassador Manuel SAGER, Director-General of the Swiss Development Cooperation).

⁴ **A Leaders' Forum** was held on Wednesday 24 May 2017 in Cancun, Mexico, at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction chaired by H.E. Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, the **President of Mexico** with the participation of H.E. Mr. Jovenel Moïse, the **President of Haiti**, H.E. Mr. Taneti Maamau, the **President of Kiribati**, H.M. King Mswati III, **Head of State of Swaziland**, H.E. Mr. Robert Mugabe, the **President of Zimbabwe**, H.E. Mr. Mattlan Zackhras, Minister in-Assistance to the President of the Republic of the **Marshall Islands**, H.E. Mr. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, the Deputy Prime Minister of **Mongolia**, H.E. Ms. Inonge Wina, the Vice President of Zambia, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Vice-President for Sustainable Development of the World Bank, executives of intergovernmental organizations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, parliamentarians, local government representatives, business and civil society executives and other stakeholders. Their objective was to determine and commit to practical measures for the reduction of economic losses to disasters and the resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets and livelihoods with a focus on infrastructure and housing.

⁵ <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/43291>

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks: (i) Understanding disaster risk; (ii) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; (iii) Investing in disaster reduction for resilience and; (iv) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. It aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years. The Framework was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015.

⁶ http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf

⁷ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

⁸ Eleven members from Caritas country teams of Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Kenya, Uganda, Philippines, Switzerland.

⁹ See Towards a Global Compact on Refugees : <http://www.unhcr.org/towards-a-global-compact-on-refugees.html>
As outlined in **UNHCR's 'roadmap'**, the global compact on refugees will have two parts:

1. The **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework**, as already agreed to by Member States in the New York Declaration and supplemented by a preamble and concluding paragraphs.
2. A programme of action that will draw upon good practices from around the world, and set out specific measures to be taken by UN Member States and others to operationalize the principles of the New York Declaration.

The programme of action will provide a blueprint to ensure refugees have better access to health, education and livelihood opportunities and are included in their host communities from the very beginning. It will also set out

tangible ways host governments can be supported when faced with large movements of refugees, and responsibility sharing systems so they do not shoulder the burden alone. This could include, for example, standby and partnership arrangements to deploy technical expertise, the release of funding reserves, or activation of resettlement quotas.

How will the Global Compact on Refugees be developed?

The global compact on refugees is being developed through three inter-related processes:

1. The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework will continue to be applied to specific countries or situations including by drawing lessons from existing or past refugee situations. [Learn more about this work here](#).
2. Thematic discussions on the key aspects of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework are taking place with involvement of UN Member States, NGOs, academics, experts, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders. These discussions will take place in dedicated sessions from July 2017, as well as in existing fora, such as UNHCR's 2017 Annual Consultations with NGOs in June 2017. Key topics will include: past and current regional approaches to large movements of refugees; measures to be taken on the reception and admission of refugees; support for immediate and ongoing needs of refugees and host communities; and durable solutions for refugees. [Learn more about the thematic discussions here](#).
3. A stocktaking of progress made and lessons learned will take place in late 2017, including at the [High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges](#) in December.

UNHCR will then produce and circulate a draft of the proposed global compact on refugees. Formal consultations will take place between February and July 2018, informing the final text to be proposed by the High Commissioner in his 2018 annual report.

¹⁰ The **Global Compact for Migration** will be the first, intergovernmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner (<http://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>). The global compact is framed consistent with target 10.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which member States committed to cooperate internationally to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration and its scope is defined in Annex II of the New York Declaration. It is intended to:

- address all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects;
- make an important contribution to global governance and enhance coordination on international migration;
- present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility;
- set out a range of actionable commitments, means of implementation and a framework for follow-up and review among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions;
- be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; and
- be informed by the Declaration of the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

<https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration>

See also A/RES/71/1 (« New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants »)

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ODG/GCM/NY_Declaration_ENG.pdf

¹¹ The “**Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement**” restate and compile human rights and humanitarian law provisions relevant to internally displaced persons. They were drafted by Francis M. Deng. A “Handbook” and “Legal Annotations” (2008, 187 p.) by Professor Walter Kälin were subsequently developed.

www.unhcr.org/protection/idps/43ce1cff2/guiding-principles-internal-displacement.html

<http://www.unhcr.org/4c2355229.pdf> (« Handbook for the Protection of IDPs »)

<http://www.unhcr.org/4371fae52.pdf> (“Training Module”)

https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/spring_guiding_principles.pdf

¹² Both adopted on 10 December 1948 :

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf

<http://www.hrweb.org/legal/genocide.html>

¹³ Here are the links to Official Statements available online in PDF format:

- Official Statements <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en/programme/statements>
- Australia <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/australiasofficialstatement.pdf>
- Ethiopia <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/ethiopia2017gpdr.pdf>
- European Union <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/eustatement2017gpdr.pdf>
- Holy See (Message of Cardinal Parolin) <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/holyseemessagetogp2017.pdf>
- Luxembourg <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/writtenstatementluxembourgglobalpla.pdf>
 - Mauritius <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/mauritius.pdf>
 - New Zealand <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/globalplatformfordrr2017cancunzsta.pdf>
 - Pakistan [http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/GPDRR-%202017%20Country%20Statement-Pakistan\[1\].pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/GPDRR-%202017%20Country%20Statement-Pakistan[1].pdf)
 - Republic of Korea http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/Official%20Statement_Republic%20of%20Korea.pdf
 - Tanzania <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/attmyle4.pdf>
 - Thailand <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/5GPDRR%20Official%20statement%20-%20THAILAND%20updated.pdf>
 - Uganda <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/ugandanationalstatementgpdr2017.pdf>
 - United Kingdom <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/20170518%20Final%20agreed%20UK%20statement%20to%20GPDRR%202017.pdf>
 - African Union <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/25.05.2017.dreacommissionersofficia.pdf>
 - Common African Position to the 2017 Global Platform <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/commonafricapositionto2017globalpla.pdf>
 - East African Community (EAC) Secretariat <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/EAC%20Remarks%202017%20GP%20DRR%20Cancun-for%20submission.pdf>
 - Andean Community (Comunidad Andina) <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/comunidadandinaultimaversindeclarac.pdf>
 - Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) <http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/170525%20ADRC%20Official%20%20statement.pdf>

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- ESCAP
[http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/Global%20Platform%20for%20Disaster%20Risk%20Reduction_ESCAP%20\[1\].pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/Global%20Platform%20for%20Disaster%20Risk%20Reduction_ESCAP%20[1].pdf)
 - Pacific Community (SPC)
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/pacificcommunityspcstatementtothegl.pdf>
 - DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION INITIATIVE FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE
www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/dppiseestatementfinaldrrgpcancunmay.pdf
 - Sovereign Order of Malta
www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/ORDER%20OF%20MALTA%20CANCUN%202017EN.pdf
 - UNHCR
http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/UNHCR%20Statement%20to%20DRR%20GP%20_%2018%20May%202017.pdf
 - FAO
[http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/faostatementgp2017final1605173\[1\].pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/faostatementgp2017final1605173[1].pdf)
 - WFP
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/wfpofficialstatementtothe2017global.pdf>
 - IOM
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/iomstatement26may17final.pdf>
 - UNICEF
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/unicefstatementglobalplatformcancun.pdf>
 - UNU-EHS UN University Institute for Environment and Human Security
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/unustatement2017unisdrgp.pdf>
 - WHO
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/whostatementfinal24may.pdf>
 - World Bank
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/gp2017wbgstatementv5.pdf>
 - Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBO)
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/cancunglobalplatformstatementctbto.pdf>
 - Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
[http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/Disaster%20Statement%202017\[1\].pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/Disaster%20Statement%202017[1].pdf)
 - China Charity Alliance
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/China%20Charity%20Alliance%20Statement.pdf>
 - ARISE (Private Sector)
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/arisestatementfinal17052017.pdf>
 - Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK (Hong Kong) for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC)
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/ccoucstatementforgpdrfinal.pdf>
 - OXFAM
http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/OXFAM%20INTERNATIONAL%20OFFICIAL%20STATEMENT%20DRR%20GP_FINA.pdf
 - International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/53455ifehofficialstatement.pdf>
 - Science and Technology Stakeholder Group
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/scienceandtechnologystakeholdergrou.pdf>

- Women and Gender Constituency
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/wgcstatementgpdrr24may2017.pdf>
- Media Stakeholder Group Commitment
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/jointstatementmedia.pdf>
- Human Security Network
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/drrhsfinal.pdf>
- HelpAge (Older Persons)
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/olderpersonshelpagefinaldraftgp.pdf>
- ONG ACHE International (Haiti)
<http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/robertobrutusprotectiondescosystemes.pdf>

¹⁴ See « Pacific Partnership 2017 Shifts Focus to Humanitarian Aid/Disaster Relief»

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1114490/pacific-partnership-2017-shifts-focus-to-humanitarian-aiddisaster-relief/>

¹⁵ <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en/programme/side-events/view/669>

¹⁶ See the document :

http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/591d503830e35An_Integrated_Approach_to_Managing_Extreme_Events_and_Climate_Risks_-_Towards_a_Concerted_Public-Private_Approach.pdf

¹⁷ In order to respond more effectively to the global challenges posed by disaster risks, the German Government, led by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), has founded the Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM). The [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ GmbH\)](#) has been commissioned to manage the GIDRM.

GIDRM works towards a close inter-ministerial cooperation and has set up an Advisory Board including five federal ministries, which are concerned with disaster risk management and public safety:

- Federal Foreign Office (AA)
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI)
- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building & Nuclear Safety (BMUB)
- Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Advisory Board meetings are held on a regular basis. The meetings allow the inclusion and consolidation of several sector perspectives and political interests within Germany and offer a possibility to jointly develop strategies for an improved Disaster Risk Management „*Made in and with Germany*“.

¹⁸ <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/programme-policy-practice/programmes/linking-preparedness-resilience-and-response-lprp>

¹⁹ THE GAR RISK ATLAS

The GAR Risk Atlas contributes to unveiling the hidden risk in national economies and their urban centres. Building on a multi-year effort by a consortium of leading scientific institutions coordinated by UNISDR, it provides a global vision of where and how disaster risk can undermine development. It estimates the probability of future disaster losses in the built environment for five major hazards (earthquakes, tsunamis, riverine floods, and tropical cyclones - winds and storm surge) and for every country and territory in the world and represents the results using robust risk metrics such as Average Annual Loss (AAL) and Probable Maximum Loss (PML). The GAR Risk Atlas (special report of the GAR series) presents the fully updated results of the global risk assessment in a visually appealing and innovative manner. <http://preview.grid.unep.ch/>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/gar-for-tangible-earth-2015/id977513490?mt=8> (App for iPhone) :

GfT (GAR for Tangible Earth) 2017 is a fully interactive free application on disaster risk reduction provided by UNISDR. Disaster data and statistics from throughout the scientific community is brought together in an easy-to-compare or "mash-up" format by the interface and scenario-building innovations from the Tangible Earth platform developed by ELP (Earth Literacy Program). Main Features

* Major disasters

Review the historical records of significant disasters (Cyclones, Floods, Earthquake, etc) around the world.

* Risk Atlas

Grasp the global landscape of disaster risks, visualised on an intuitive and dynamic 3D globe. Risks are quantitatively comparable beyond regions and type of hazards.

* Case studies

Study all risk driver & good practice stories from the GAR (Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction) by genre (climate change, economic vulnerability, governance capacity, etc).

* Earth diary

Read the latest news from the Prevention Web, published for the disaster reduction community.

* Country profile

Explore the detailed risk profile of countries, including estimated future economic losses and evaluations on social, economic and environmental drivers of risk.

* AR (Augmented Reality)



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

From the Vatican, 18 May 2017

Your Excellency,

The international community is becoming increasingly aware of the importance of prevention and resilience. Indeed, the year 2015 saw the adoption of three agreements, three Plans of Action, all profoundly interrelated and significant for the future of humanity: the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. The year 2017 represents an important step in the process of determining the most concrete and effective means for their implementation.

This process has as one of its major challenges that of integrating activities for disaster risk reduction with initiatives aimed at promoting integral human development, eliminating poverty and social exclusion, mitigating climate change and adapting to it.

In light of the above, I would like to emphasize three areas of particular concern for the specific theme of this meeting: disaster risk reduction.

There is a need, first of all, to reinforce the work of prevention, education and training, in order to reduce the human, material and economic losses caused by natural disasters. These, as we know, are often the result of poor management and aggravated by inadequate planning which fail to take into account the correct order of priorities. Increasing an awareness of the risks posed by natural threats demands careful attention to raising consciousness of those risks and various possibilities for preventing them. This will also lead to better management in a number of areas. I think, for example, of the management of water (cf. Pope Francis, *Address to a Seminar on the Human Right to Water*, 24 February 2017), a precious resource that is also one of the chief causes of natural disasters. Many educational programs and mechanisms of early warning now exist; used well, these can significantly reduce the loss of human lives due to natural disasters and shape a genuine culture of disaster risk reduction and resilience on the global and local levels. Such a culture would significantly improve efforts to combat poverty and respond to climate change, to say nothing of advancing the acknowledgment of human dignity and the centrality of the human person.

Another area of concern is the urgent need for such processes of consciousness-raising to pay special attention to those who are most vulnerable. Often the poor suffer most from natural disasters, which destabilize less secure economies and societies, and strike already precarious habitats or environments. It is advisable that such persons be involved directly and on various levels in training programs, knowledge sharing and consciousness-raising in the areas of prevention and disaster risk reduction. At the same time, together with the work of prevention, closer attention needs to be paid to our way of responding to the impact of natural disasters, which, needless to say, require material aid, but also human and spiritual assistance. Evaluating the “damage” caused by natural disasters must also take into account

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His Excellency Enrique Peña Nieto
President of the United States of Mexico

“the ‘interior damage’, the suffering of those who have lost their dear ones and have seen the sacrifices of an entire life swept away” (Pope Francis, *Address in Mirandola, Italy*, 2 April 2017). Hence the importance of comprehensive efforts to restore dignified living conditions to those affected by such disasters.

A third area of concern involves the recognition that the victims and those most vulnerable have an essential role to play in these processes of prevention, response and reconstruction. They are the ones who have the greatest interest in long-term plans to avert the risk of natural disasters. The capacity of local communities to mobilize themselves ought never to be underestimated in catastrophic situations. Religious and cultural traditions also play a significant role and represent a source of enrichment for the work of resilience. All this calls for broad participation, cooperation, integration and dialogue among all actors, especially in the local communities, including the indigenous peoples. These concerns are central to this Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, whose aim is to identify and share innovative solutions for an integrated approach at every level, from the local to the international.

A correct implementation of the aforementioned three documents demands a change of mentality and of lifestyle. When we look to the future of humanity, we cannot restrict ourselves to particular technical or sectorial areas. We are dealing with shared values, responsibilities and expressions of solidarity involving the good of the entire human family. As Pope Francis has observed, “when people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases... So our concern cannot be limited merely to the threat of extreme weather events or great natural disasters, but must also extend to the catastrophic consequences of social unrest. Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction” (Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, 204).

In the name of His Holiness Pope Francis, I express the hope that the work of the Global Platform will prove useful, fruitful and effective for enabling resilience to go hand in hand with the development of a genuine, responsible and fraternal cooperation grounded in the common good. In this regard, the Holy See stands ever ready to make its own specific contribution.

I have the honor to convey to you, and to all taking part in this important gathering, His Holiness's prayerful good wishes for the fruitfulness of your deliberations and his confidence that they will lead to more determined efforts to meet the challenges before us with ever greater solidarity and shared concern.

Yours sincerely,



Secretary of State



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENÈVE

Statement by Professor Michel Veuthey
2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Cancún (Mexico), 21 – 26 May 2017

The Sovereign Order of Malta would like to thank the Government of Mexico for hosting this Conference and UNISDR for their preparatory work.

The **Order of Malta**, founded 900 years ago, is one of the oldest Christian Faith-based humanitarian organization. It maintains diplomatic relations with 106 countries. It has 120,000 Members, professionals and volunteers active in 120 countries. It concluded more than 55 cooperation agreements. Through humanitarian operations and diplomacy, both bilateral and multilateral, it promotes respect for human life and dignity, religious freedom, solidarity towards all human beings in need without any discrimination. Its Worldwide Relief Agency, **Malteser International**, has its General Secretariat and European headquarters in Cologne, Germany. Its American headquarters are based in Miami, Florida, USA.

The Order of Malta and *Malteser International* help communities make emergency plans and implement protective measures to reduce the risk of disaster. *Malteser International* has implemented **disaster risk reduction projects** in many countries in Africa, America, and Asia. As a founding member of the *Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DiDRRN)*,¹⁹ we contributed to shape **disability**

inclusion in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2). The Order of Malta places a special focus on people with disabilities and their active participation in disaster preparedness.

The Order of Malta would also like to stress the **importance of families** in disaster risk reduction and recovery, as well as the role of **Faith-inspired organizations** and institutions (FBOs). FBOs, having the trust of local communities are often the first in, and the last out in disasters and crises. The strengths and resources of FBOs could complement those of other DRR stakeholders.

The Order of Malta would like to emphasize the **role of spiritual values**, which are synonymous with and supportive of **fundamental human rights, humanitarian rules¹⁹ and principles¹⁹**. These fundamental rules and principles should be respected in all circumstances – in natural disasters, internal strife, armed conflicts – by all stakeholders, for the protection of the life and dignity of all human beings, beginning with affected individuals, families and communities.

Protection means prevention and should always be a part of it. National, regional, and international legal instruments and customs should provide protection for all, including relief and medical workers, as well as religious personnel.

Universal religious values of solidarity and respect for life and human dignity could contribute to the effective implementation of fundamental rules and principles of human rights, refugee law, and international humanitarian law. The respect for these rules and values could effectively reduce risks in paving the way for conflict prevention and settlement, reconstruction and reconciliation. In the wake of the World Humanitarian Summit, the Order of Malta continues to work with other religious actors on ways to reinforce public conscience for peace, and in respect of human life and dignity.

Thank you.