



## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (DMISA)  
CONFERENCE 2014: 17 AND 18 SEPTEMBER, UMHLANGA ROCKS, DURBAN**

***The Conference will be presented in partnership with the Dealing with Disasters (DwD) Series - Disaster and Development Network (DDN) of Northumbria University, United Kingdom.***

**THEME: "BUILDING DISASTER RESILIENCE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS"**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Proposals towards the amendment of the Disaster Management Act of South Africa describe "disaster risk reduction" as both a policy goal and objective, and the strategic and instrumental measures employed for –

- (a) anticipating future disaster risk;
- (b) reducing existing exposure, hazard, or vulnerability; and
- (c) improving resilience.

**"Vulnerability to disaster is growing faster than resilience [...] Disaster risk reduction should be an everyday concern for everybody. Let us all invest today for a safer tomorrow." -- Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon,**

### **HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION 2005 – 2015: BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO DISASTER:**

DMISA supports the five Priorities for Action:

- (1) Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;
- (2) Identify, assess, and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning;
- (3) Use knowledge, innovation, and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels;
- (4) Reduce the underlying risk factors;
- (5) Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

**UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (UNISDR):** The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction coordinates international

efforts in Disaster Risk Reduction and guide, monitor as well as reports regularly on the progress of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The [Hyogo Framework for Action](#), a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards, will end its term in 2015.

In 2014 and 2015, UNISDR is continuing to prioritise implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities. This also heralds the consolidation of UNISDR work to process into five programmes, namely:

- (i) International cooperation to reduce disaster risk;
- (ii) Risk informed public policy and investment;
- (iii) Urban risk reduction and resilience;
- (iv) Risk sensitive business investment; and
- (v) Climate resilience.

### **The Future of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Resilience:**

The UNISDR is facilitating the process of developing a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. This process will culminate at the 3rd United Nations World Conference on DRR scheduled to take place in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan, building on the 'UN 2013 Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience'.

**Managing Disaster Risks for Resilient Development:** Disaster risk is increasing mainly as a result of growing exposure of people and assets to hazards. Detailed analysis shows that the biggest driver of disaster risk in recent years has been the substantial growth of population and assets in at-risk areas. Migration to coastal areas and the expansion of cities in flood plains, coupled with inappropriate building standards, are among the main reasons for the increase. Few countries have the tools, expertise, and mechanisms to consider the potential impact of disaster risk on their investment decisions. They rarely account for disaster losses, collect data, and assess risks systematically. As a result, they are not able to direct the necessary resources to protect their investments and reduce their exposure to future disaster impacts.

Environmental hazards need not turn into disasters. Deaths and damage resulting from disasters expose the cumulative implications of human decisions. Prevention is possible and often less costly than disaster relief and response. Disaster risk can be reduced by strengthening resilience: the ability of societies to resist, cope with, and recover from shocks.

The World Bank is responding to the growing demand from its clients through the aim to build disaster resilience through five core areas focusing on:

**Risk Identification:** By understanding disaster risks and anticipating the potential impacts of natural hazards, disaster and climate risk assessments can help governments, communities, businesses and individuals make informed decisions to manage that risk.

**Risk Reduction:** Disaster risk information can inform different development strategies, plans and projects that can in turn reduce risks. This can either be done by avoiding the creation of new risks or by addressing existing risks

**Preparedness:** Adequate preparedness measures are essential because disaster risk can never be completely eliminated. Preparedness through early warning systems save lives and protect livelihoods and is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce the impact of disasters.

**Financial Protection:** Financial protection strategies protect governments, businesses and households from the economic burden of disasters. These strategies can include programs to increase the financial capacity of the state to respond to an emergency, whilst protecting the fiscal balance.

**Resilient Reconstruction:** The challenge of reconstruction also presents an opportunity to promote disaster risk management through integrated resilient recovery and reconstruction planning that will drive longer-term resilient development.

By way of analysing the implications and applications of current drivers in this field in an inclusive way that will be well informed and inspirational, DMISA supported by the Dealing with Disasters series invites papers on, but not limited to the following topics:

Any aspect of disaster management and disaster risk reduction can be discussed as long as it deals with the challenge of understanding and guiding in the ways of community resilience:

- Why build Disaster Resilience?
- Disaster Resilience in communication networks
- Putting Disaster Resilience into practice
- Climate Change & developing resilience (by climate change we refer to change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer – described in the proposals to the amendment of the Disaster Management Act)
- Children and Disasters: Building resilience through education (can extend beyond education for children)
- Building Resilience and Business Continuity
- Building Resilience through Early Warning Systems
- Resilience across the changing Urban – Rural Interface
- Health Centred Disaster Resilience
- Weather and Climate Meteorological and Hydrological services to enhance community resilience
- Funding as a tool in building disaster resilience

**Abstracts:** Abstracts for approval, of no more than 300 words, should be submitted electronically to the Conference Coordinator – Ms Erika Swart: [erikaswart@mweb.co.za](mailto:erikaswart@mweb.co.za). Abstracts should clearly state the purpose, results and conclusions of the work to be described in the final paper. Language: English. Last day for submission of abstract: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

Please visit our DMISA Website for more information on the Conference: [www.disaster.co.za](http://www.disaster.co.za)