



Dear Participants to the Global Platform,

Many of us are here for the fourth time in the last eight years to discuss together the HFA implementation advancement. However this time an additional challenge faces us: apart from assessing what we have already actually achieved, or perhaps not achieved, we have to figure out what we can achieve during the following ten years.

That last point is crucial and requires our full attention. In order to make real new and attainable proposals, we have to move out of the comfort zone “wish list” approach to the far more demanding and risky “task list” approach, with the additional difficulty of anticipating the future environment we will be facing over the next 10 years.

Climate change is a great contributor to such an uncertain future environment as it will very clearly affect the majority of natural hazards we face. If such an impact cannot be denied, its actual future impact and consequently the means required to cope with it, may substantially vary and such uncertainty is directly transferred to DRR.

Taking all this into account, the Council of Europe with its 47 member States, and more specifically its EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement and its 26 member States, wishes to pursue its work in promoting European citizens’ protection, not only against threats to human rights which is its main mission, but also against natural and technological risks.

In this aim, for the past 8 years the Agreement has been using the HFA1 as a reference for defining its own Medium Term Plans 2006-2010 and 2011-2015. The concrete contributions to the HFA1 over the years can be found in the successive European HFA Progress Reviews published by UNISDR Europe.

In view of the diverging level of achievement by the countries of each of the five HFA1 objectives, the Agreement is convinced that the HFA1 main messages are still pertinent, which is perhaps an unfortunate factor? Consequently HFA2 will not have to replace it but should rather complement and deepen it.

Such a complementary aspect is clearly illustrated by one of the topics emerging from the Summary of post-HFA1 dialogues, namely formally taking into account the climate change phenomena. HFA1 was defined when that new challenge was still under estimated and facts had proved that it is definitively a crucial issue for the future.

The deepening of HFA1 can be illustrated by another main topic cited in the above mentioned Summary, namely the governance issue. Even when the advocacy on DRR was successful, the actual implementation of measures to move from ideas to actions has often been confronted with issues related to governance requiring them to be addressed separately.

To conclude my brief statement, I wish to confirm the Council of Europe’s commitment through its EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, not only to continue contributing to the definition of HFA2 objectives but also to participating in its implementation after 2015 in its regional area and within its specific mandate.