

**EXTRACTS prepared by the ISDR Secretariat and the Working Group on
Wildland Fire
from the text of the “Draft Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on
Sustainable Development” (WSSD)
with regards to Natural Disasters, Disaster Reduction and Wildland Fire
as it was presented 2 September 2002 at WSSD in Johannesburg¹ and approved
by the Summit**

Chapter II. Poverty eradication

6. (l) [Agreed] Combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and floods through such measures as improved use of climate and weather information and forecasts, early warning systems, land and natural resource management, agricultural practices and ecosystem conservation in order to reverse current trends and minimize degradation of land and water resources, including through the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa as one of the prime tools for poverty eradication;

10. (b) [Agreed] Use low-cost and sustainable materials and appropriate technologies for the construction of adequate and secure housing for the poor, with financial and technical assistance to developing countries, taking into account their culture, climate, specific social conditions and vulnerability to natural disasters;

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Chapter IV Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development

23. [Agreed] Human activities are having an increasing impact on the integrity of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well being and economic activities. Managing the natural resource base in a sustainable and integrated manner is essential for sustainable development. In this regard, to reverse the current trend in natural resource degradation as soon as possible, it is necessary to implement strategies which should include targets adopted at the national and, where appropriate, regional levels to protect ecosystems and to achieve integrated management of land, water and living resources, while strengthening regional, national and local capacities.

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¹ Note that the text it is extracted from the un-edited version of the “future draft report of the Main Committee of the World Summit on Sustainable Development”, 2 September 2002. Paragraph numbers and final edited text may be different in the final version

25. [Agreed] Develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, through actions at all levels to:

(d) [Agreed] Develop programmes for mitigating the effects of extreme water-related events.

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(Main paragraph (35) which relates exclusively to disaster risk reduction:)

35. [Agreed] An integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, is an essential element of a safer world in the 21st century. Actions are required at all levels to:

(a) [Agreed] Strengthen the role of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and encourage the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to its Trust Fund;

(b) [Agreed] Support the establishment of effective regional, sub-regional and national strategies and scientific and technical institutional support for disaster management

(c) [Agreed] Strengthen the institutional capacities of countries and promote international joint observation and research, through improved surface based monitoring and increased use of satellite data, dissemination of technical and scientific knowledge and the provision of assistance to vulnerable countries;

(d) [Agreed] Reduce the risks of flooding and drought in vulnerable countries by, inter-alia, promoting wetland and watershed protection and restoration, improved land-use planning, improving and applying more widely techniques and methodologies for assessing the potential adverse effects of climate change on wetlands and, as appropriate, assisting countries that are particularly vulnerable to these effects;

(e) [Agreed] Improve techniques and methodologies for assessing effects of climate change and encourage the continuing assessment of these adverse effects by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

(f) [Agreed] Encourage the dissemination and use of traditional and indigenous knowledge to mitigate the impact of disasters, and promote community-based disaster management planning by local authorities, including through training activities and raising public awareness;

(g) [Agreed] Support the on-going voluntary contribution of, as appropriate, NGOs, the scientific community, and other partners in the management of natural disasters according to agreed, relevant guidelines;

(h) [Agreed] Develop and strengthen early warning systems and information networks in disaster management, consistent with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

(i) [Agreed] Develop and strengthen capacity at all levels to collect and disseminate scientific and technical information, including the improvement of early warning systems for prediction of extreme weather events, especially El Niño/La Niña, through the provisions of assistance to institutions devoted to addressing such events, including the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño phenomenon;

(j) [Agreed] Promote cooperation for the prevention and mitigation of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from major technological and other disasters with an adverse impact on the environment in order to enhance the capabilities of affected countries to cope with such situations.

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36. [Agreed] Change in the Earth's climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind. We remain deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks of negative impacts of climate change and recognize that, in this context, the problems of poverty, land degradation, access to water and food and human health remain in the centre of global attention...../../

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39. [Agreed] Strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa to address causes of desertification and land degradation in order to maintain and restore land, and to address poverty resulting from land degradation. This would include actions at all levels to:

(d) [Agreed] Integrate measures to prevent and combat desertification as well as to mitigate the effects of drought through relevant policies and programmes, such as land, water and forest management, agriculture, rural development, early warning systems, environment, energy, natural resources, health and education, and poverty eradication and sustainable development strategies;

(e) [Agreed] Provide affordable local access to information to improve monitoring and early warning related to desertification and drought;

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40. [Agreed] Mountain ecosystems support particular livelihoods, and include significant watershed resources, biological diversity and unique flora and fauna. Many are particularly fragile and vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and need specific protection. Actions at all levels are required to: ...

(b) Implement programmes to address, where appropriate, deforestation, erosion, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, disruption of water flows and retreat of glaciers;

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VIII. Sustainable Development for Africa

59. [Agreed] Deal effectively with natural disasters and conflicts, including their humanitarian and environmental impacts, recognizing that conflicts in Africa have hindered and, in many cases, obliterated both the gains and efforts aimed at sustainable development, with the most vulnerable members of society, particularly women and children, being the most impacted victims, through efforts and initiatives, at all levels, to:

(a) [Agreed] Provide financial and technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of African countries, including institutional and human capacity, including at the local level, for effective disaster management, including observation and early warning systems, assessments, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery;

(b) [Agreed] Provide support to African countries to enable them to better deal with the displacement of people as a result of natural disasters and conflicts and put in place rapid response mechanisms;

(c) [Agreed] Support Africa's efforts for the prevention and resolution, management and mitigation of conflicts and its early response to emerging conflict situations to avert tragic humanitarian consequences;

(d) [Agreed] Provide support to refugee host countries in rehabilitating infrastructure and environment, including ecosystems and habitats, that were damaged in the process of receiving and resettling refugees.

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IX. Means of implementation

83. [Agreed] Reduce unsustainable debt burden through actions as debt relief and, as appropriate, debt cancellation and other innovative mechanisms geared to comprehensively address the debt problems of developing countries, in particular the poorest and most heavily indebted ones..../.../..

a) [Agreed] Implement speedily, effectively and fully the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative, which should be fully financed through additional resources, taking into consideration, as appropriate, measures to address any fundamental changes in the economic circumstances of those developing countries with unsustainable debt burden caused by natural catastrophes, severe terms-of-trade shocks or affected by conflict, taking into account initiatives which have been undertaken to reduce outstanding indebtedness;

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99. Promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, as set out in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

(e) [Agreed] Promote the access and transfer of technology related to early warning systems and to mitigation programmes to developing countries affected by natural disasters.

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103. Improve policy and decision-making at all levels through, *inter alia*, improved collaboration between natural and social scientists, and between scientists and policy makers, including actions at all levels to:

(a) [Agreed] Increase the use of scientific knowledge and technology, and increase the beneficial use of local and indigenous knowledge in a manner respectful of the holders of that knowledge and consistent with national law;

(b) [Agreed] Make greater use of integrated scientific assessments, risk assessments and interdisciplinary and intersectoral approaches;

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119. noviens Support efforts to prevent and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, including through urgent actions at all levels to:

(a) Provide affordable access to disaster-related information for early warning purposes;

(b) Translate available data, particularly from global meteorological observation systems, into timely and useful products.