

## **GLOBAL BLUEPRINTS FOR CHANGE**

**First Edition--Prepared in conjunction with the International Workshop on Disaster Reduction convened on August 19-22, 2001**

The Global Blueprints for Change contain guidance for working together to improve the capability to identify indicators of physical, social, enterprise, and environmental vulnerabilities throughout the world and to select and implement realistic solutions to reduce them towards acceptable levels.

### **Theme A: LIVING WITH NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS**

#### **Topic A.1: Improving Community Sustainability**

##### **“A Note on Overcoming the Barriers to Community Sustainability”**

**This contribution was created by Fred Kringold, DRM—World Institute on Disaster Risk Management, and Nesrin Basoz, Geovera St. Paul Company**

**DISCLAIMER:** This manuscript was prepared as a contribution to the first edition of the Global Blueprints for Change and for use in conjunction with the International Workshop on Disaster Reduction convened on 19-22 August 2001 in Reston, VA. The manuscript is a "work in progress" and has not been edited for policy and for conformity with the other Blueprints.

## A NOTE ON OVERCOMING THE BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

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On the basis of experience with natural and technological disasters throughout the world, we recommend the actions outlined below as a means for improving community sustainability.

1. Every community of every Nation should start the process for achieving sustainability. This process is long and complex, requiring applications of science, traditional knowledge, and technology in conjunction with detailed knowledge on the hazard, built, and policy environments of each nation. It also requires the formation of networks of cooperating organizations that will collaborate in the development and implementation of public policies for disaster management. The scope includes science, engineering, and technology needed to resolve issues of public safety, security, health-care, and economic, environmental, ecological, and energy concerns associated with natural and technological hazards on local, national, and regional scales. The strategy is to capitalize on the gains made in past activities and the possibilities represented by new initiatives, turning both into opportunities to improve the peoples' capability in every nation to live with, build to withstand, and to learn from natural and technological disasters.
2. Use the **Global and Regional Blueprints for Change** (e.g., unified strategies for achieving sustainable (smart) development) as a tool to accelerate the process. The Blueprints, which will be developed, disseminated, and promoted by the Alliance for Disaster Reduction, are to be implemented at local and regional levels, after adjustments have been made to meet specific local situations. The blueprints will focus on SMART solutions (i.e., solutions that integrate social, technical, administrative, political, legal, and economic considerations) in order to eliminate the underlying causes of physical, social, enterprise, and environmental vulnerabilities in every community of every nation. Implementation of each Blueprint will be in accordance with existing public policies and professional practices in place at the local and regional levels of each Nation.
3. Use the collective guidance contained in the Global Blueprints for Change to improve the following kinds of choices that will ultimately lead to sustainability:
  - Prevention, mitigation, preparedness, early warning, emergency response, intervention, recovery and reconstruction.
  - The safety of citizens, and the resilience of the built environment.

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- Incentives for citizens, businesses, and communities to perform impact assessments and to prepare and exercise contingency and recovery plans.
- Performance codes and standards for buildings and infrastructure.
- Cost-effective repair, strengthening, and retrofit strategies to reduce vulnerabilities in residences, commercial buildings, and infrastructure caused by flaws in planning, siting, design, construction, and use.
- Integrated risk-based urban planning that is based on land-use capability analyses.
- Ways to mitigate by spreading the risk through insurance and other economic solutions.
- Creation of Centers of Excellence for Sustainable Development. The Centers are envisioned as the legacy of the Global Alliance for Disaster Reduction. Each Center is an existing organization (or a consortium of organizations) that is committed to making sustainable (smart) development a reality in all the communities in the nation or the region. The goal of each Center is to promote sustainability of the built environment in their geographic region. Its functions include serving as a regional clearinghouse for information and a resource for implementation of the Global Blueprints for Change, provision of technical assistance, and sustaining professional education. The first of up to 10 Centers of Excellence is expected to be established by the end of 2002.