

The transition from Relief to Development Following Natural Disasters

- 1) A few **elements to capitalize for the future** from the Tsunami operations

Collective achievement based on key factors: 1) strength of local governments and presence of national frameworks; 2) Very fast mobilization of teams; 3) local and international military assets; 4) early availability of large amount of money; 'stingy' or 'not stingy' what are the issues? 5) Human factor: people show their best side.

2) **CHALLENGES AHEAD – WORKING TOGETHER**

- A) **Ensure that there is not gap**, and rather continuity, between relief, recovery and rehabilitation in terms of planning and funding: coordination and appeal mechanisms as tools in support of national leadership

It is key to have a clear understanding of what reconstruction means and requires. Of particular relevance are 1) the coordination mechanisms in place and their functioning, 2) the definition of policies by local governments in certain key areas, such as land use and property rights, and 3) a sustained international assistance.

- B) **Supporting national leadership and ownership from the outset**: 1) institution strengthening 2) Coordination of NGOs.

International understanding and support to the **national policy decisions making** process within national governments on key/crucial issues (housing, property rights etc): the role of donors and the international institutions.

Assisting government in ensuring that **marginalized communities** do not remain marginalized also in, and rather benefit from, the relief, recovery and rehabilitation phase

Equity in assistance

C) **International coordination:**

- 1) Forceful donor coordination at field level
- 2) **Stabilize partnerships**: military and NGOs
- 3) Continuous **improvement for the UN**. Our systems, and **common services – UN deploy hubs for coordination**
- 4) **Transparent and accountable** donor (including UN) coordination ref - PWC presentation
- 5) Role of **Regional Commissions**
- 6) Role of **Special Envoy**

Early warning: the Pacific system will help in the establishment of the Indian Ocean one. In 6 months the basic structures will be in place; in 12-18 months a reasonably well functioning system should be in place; but the long-term focus is the creation of the "multi-hazard" system as per the Kobe and Phuket conferences and commitments. The establishment of an early warning system will also help revitalise trust and boost certain key economic sectors, such as tourism, of vital importance for the overall recovery and reconstruction.

D) Donor- national government - INGO-UN-RCRC

- 1) Shared concern to give same message about the time required to implement projects with the resources made available.
- 2) Longer timeframes are indeed conducive to better-planned and government-lead reconstruction efforts.
- 3) The Flash Appeal: 95% funded, extension of timeframes

E) Natural disasters and MDGs:

- 1) Natural hazards and disasters high on the international agenda
- 2) Key to follow-up on the existing appeals.
- 3) Follow-up to Kobe – collective efforts

3) WHAT COULD BE ECOSOC CONTRIBUTION TO ADDRESS SOME OF THE CHALLENGES

- 1) **UN Reform Agenda:** High Level Panel Report discussions and natural disaster – agenda for discussion at GA
- 2) **International coordination machinery:** ECOSOC as key juncture for UN system coordination (Specialized Agencies, Regional Commission), strengthening partnerships,
- 3) **Coordination of policies on key challenges** – High Segment discussions
- 4) Promotion definition of **legal frameworks**
- 5) **NGOs** are an important capital: how to further develop the partnership on operational and strategy/policy issues (Cardozo report)