



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
Second Session, Geneva, Switzerland
16 – 19 June 2009

Invest
Today
for a
Safer
Tomorrow

MEDIA ADVISORY

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WMO HIGHLIGHTS AT THE GLOBAL PLATFORM ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION Geneva (Switzerland), 16-19 June 2009

As a key actor in disaster risk reduction, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) will be actively involved in the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2009, convened by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UN/ISDR) from 16 to 19 June 2009 at the Geneva International Conference Center (CICG). This event will bring together Heads of State and/or Government, other Senior government officials, representatives of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental, as well as non-governmental organizations. The 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, with major contributions by WMO, will be a key document for the Global Platform. (More information at: www.PreventionWeb.org)

WMO will be actively involved in the Global Platform 2009. It is working in Multi-Hazard Early Warning systems, and technical support on hydrological, meteorological and climate-related hazard analysis for risk assessment, sectoral planning and financial risk transfer markets. In addition, WMO is enhancing the provision of climate information for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Main WMO activities open to the media at the Global Platform 2009 include the following:

High-level panels

The WMO Secretary-General will deliver a keynote speech in the High-level panel entitled "Reducing Disaster Risk in a Changing Climate", on 17 June from 9:30 to 11:00, CICG, Room 1.

Mr Jose Rubiera, Director of the Forecasting Department of the Cuban Meteorological Service, and Ms Maryam Golnaraghi, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, WMO, have been instrumental in organizing, and will actively contribute to, the High-level panel on the theme of "Enabling Community-Resilience through Preventive Action", scheduled on 17 June, from 15:00 to 16:30, CICG, Room 1.

Launch of the Integrated Flood Risk Management Help Desk

On 17 June, 13:00 - 15:00, WMO Secretary-General Mr Michel Jarraud will launch the Integrated Flood Risk Management Help Desk, CICG, Room 15.

Round-table on Early Warning Systems

On 17 June, 16:30 - 18:30, Ms M. Golnaraghi, WMO Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, will chair the Round-table on Early Warning Systems, CICG, Room (TBD)

Launch of Weather Info for All Initiative

On the occasion of the Global Platform, Mr Kofi Annan, President of the Global Humanitarian Forum (GHF) and Mr Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO, will announce a joint new initiative for weather monitoring in Africa. This launch will take place on 18 June from 10:30 to 11:30, CICG, Room 2.

WMO Press conferences

Enabling Community-Resilience through Early Warning and Risk Management

Speakers: Mr Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO, and Mr Jose Rubiera, Director of the Forecasting Department of the Cuban Meteorological Service. Date: 17 June, 14:00, CICG, Room 7.

Experts on integrated flood risk management (see above) will also be present.

Weather Info for All Initiative

Immediately following the launch of the Initiative (see above) Mr Kofi Annan, President of the Global Humanitarian Forum, and Mr Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO, will give a press conference on 18 June at 11:30, CICG, Room 7. A media kit and video news release will be made available.

WMO is the United Nations System's authoritative voice on weather, climate and water

For more information, please contact:

at WMO: Ms Carine Richard-Van Maele, Chief, Communications and Public Affairs, Tel: +41 (0) 22 730 8315, E-mail: cvanmaele@wmo.int ;or Ms Gaëlle Sévenier, Press Officer, Communications and Public Affairs, Tel. +41 (0) 22 730 8417, Cell: +41 788 177 883, E-mail: gsevenier@wmo.int ;
For film materials: Mr Kosmos Akande-Alasoka, Tel.: +41 (0) 22 730 8097, Cell: +41 (0) 79 257 3967, E-mail: kakande-alasoka@wmo.int , Web site: www.wmo.int

at UN/ISDR:Ms Brigitte Leoni, Acting Head of Communications, Tel: (41.22) 917 88 97, Email: leonib@un.org

at GHF: Mr Matthew McKinnon, Programme Manager, Tel. +41 (0) 22 919 75 07, E-mail: media@ghf-ge.org; or Annika Hartmann, Communications Assistant, Cell: +41 70 500 3517, E-mail: annika.hartmann@ghf-ge.org; or Keith Collins, Senior Associate, Cell: +41 22 703 5333, E-mail: keith.collins@ghf-ge.org