



Joint Communiqué from Stockholm Policy Forum on Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management

A Policy Forum on Climate Smart Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Stockholm, Sweden on October 26, 2009. Co-organized by the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the event gathered approximately 100 country representatives, practitioners and experts from both the disaster risk management and climate change communities to identify promising practices and critical actions for implementation of adaptation efforts.

As members of the leadership of the above organizations, we have been fully briefed on the discussions held and concur with the following conclusions of the event:

We recognize that disasters are a key concern for sustainable development in a changing climate. Besides changes in long-term averages, climate change is already bringing changes in extremes. Those who are already most vulnerable will be worst affected, especially the poorest in developing countries.

We hope that Parties to the UNFCCC will come to a strong agreement in Copenhagen that includes enhanced action, not only on mitigation to avoid the unmanageable, but also on adaptation to manage the unavoidable. This especially includes managing the risk of climate-related extremes and reducing vulnerability of those most at risk.

We recognize that while a strong Copenhagen agreement is crucial, the real work will not be done in Copenhagen, but around the world, for many years to come;

We recognize that building capacity for better risk management at all levels requires engaging a much wider range of stakeholders than before;

We recognize that financial commitments must be increased and be supported by political will, human capital and social safety nets;

We commit ourselves to the following and encourage other bilateral and multi-lateral agencies to join us:

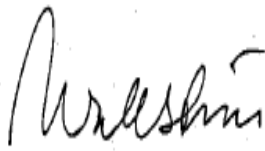
1. Integrated delivery of our support for adaptation and disaster risk reduction, including incorporation of climate risk into relevant operations and sectors;
2. Within the mandates and capacities of our institutions, ensuring that our policies, programs and our dialogues with partners facilitate action to address particular challenges identified in the Stockholm Policy Forum, including:

- working through existing regional institutions to foster trans-boundary and regional cooperation for adaptation efforts;
- supporting local actors for sustainable action to reduce climate risks, with an appropriate balance between on the one hand infrastructure and technical solutions and on the other hand strengthening people's existing adaptive capacity and resilience; and,
- harnessing the resources, imagination and mobilizing power of the private sector to support innovative and widespread risk management in a changing climate, particularly among the most vulnerable sectors of the global population.

We stand ready to support governments and UNFCCC arrangements in meeting the challenges of a changing climate through our commitment to build the resilience of communities and nations informed by the prior commitments under the Hyogo Framework for Action.



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