

## **UNISDR Regional Office of Africa**

**September 7, 2012**

### **Post HFA Consultations for SADC and IGAD initiated**

The Climate Outlook Forums for the Greater Horn of Africa and that of the Southern Africa region were organized in Zanzibar from 29 - 31 and in Harare, Zimbabwe from 23- 25 August 2012 by IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Services center respectively, in collaboration with UNISDR Africa. The two gatherings brought together Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) focal points, key development sectors (water, agriculture, infrastructure among others) and climate services providers represented by National Hydro-Meteorological Services (NHMS) and universities to discuss the use of climate science products to anticipate risks and inform DRR and climate change adaptation activities. The third day was set aside by the DRR managers with technical support from UNISDR to focus on HFA monitoring and reporting and as an occasion to initiate the regional debate on Post HFA.

To set the Post HFA debate rolling, the participants were challenged to reflect on key policies, institutional and trans-boundary issues and future DRR perspectives in relation to the regional resilience building and the envisaged regional consultative process. At the national level, participants were challenged to reflect on national leadership and resource capacities for DRR, the recent magnitude of disaster losses and risks, policy, institutional landscape for DRR, gains made so far in reducing risks and mainstreaming DRR into key sectors and the future national resilience perspectives.

The two sessions on promoting better HFA reporting in terms of quality and quantity were closely linked to the session on post HFA debate. This was in view of the realization that the HFA reports would provide information on achievements, gaps and challenges in the implementation of DRR as the basis for the post HFA debate. The HFA reporting sessions identified possible challenges of initiating and conducting the consultations with key stakeholders at the national level. The key ones included the time limitations, funding and logistical challenges. Participants present were asked to devise mechanisms at the national level in confronting these challenges in order to produce inclusive and credible reports on the status of the HFA implementation in their respective countries.

### **Laying the ground for regional and national consultations on the Post HFA debate**

Participants at the forum deliberated on coordination, operational and resource issues that would facilitate the envisaged consultative processes at the regional and national level. At the regional level, Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) with the support from UNISDR would initiate and coordinate the process while at the national level; there were suggestions that IGOs could ask member states to initiate the process with the Prime Ministers' offices or the National Platforms for DRR taking the lead. Participants felt there was need to devolve the process further to the

local levels but this required presence of strong disaster risk management (DRM) structures and appropriate technical support for UNISDR and/ or its partner.

It was recommended that detailed national level consultations should be in place before the upcoming Global Platform for DRR so as to advise and feed into the conference. There was need to sensitize law makers first for political/budgetary support an initiative that could be spearheaded by the IGOs parliamentary system. Technical advisers to the legislature needed to be involved to draw the parliamentarians' attention to these issues based on evidence. Orientation seminars to parliamentarians and those below them were to be explored.

There was need to sensitize and co-opt other key sectors (food security/ agriculture, environment management, health, water) also to promote ownership of the process as well as political planners, finance departments etc. It was proposed that strategic institutions like the major River Basin Management Authorities within the region be co-opted into leading consultations due to their logistical and operational advantages. Participants were encouraged to ensure critical self-reflection during the consultative processes.

### **Next steps**

Participants asked to follow up with and initiate national level consultations with relevant institutions as suggested.

Main issues to follow up:

- Who are the key players/sectors, leaders to involve in the consultations?
- In which framework(s) consultations should be conducted to ensure high level (quantity and quality) political commitment.

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