Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction in Climate Change Adaptation Related Agendas at COP18, Doha, Qatar.

Background

Previous COPs have adopted a number of decisions linking disaster risk reduction to climate change adaptation. These decisions include the Adaptation Committee and the Loss and Damage work programme that were detailed in COP 17, in Durban, South Africa in 2011 as part of the actions envisioned in the Cancun Adaptation Framework adopted, in Cancun, Mexico 2010 at COP16. Furthermore, both The Bali Action Plan under the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) and the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change have explicitly considered and supported stronger efforts to reduce the risks of disasters.

The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and IPCC Special Report *Managing the Risk of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX)*[1] climate related hazards are likely to increase in frequency, intensity, spatial extent and duration as a result of changing climate. Furthermore, the UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) in 2011[2] estimated that over 80% of economic losses are attributed to weather-related disasters. Climate change is altering the face of disaster risk, not only through rises in sea-level and temperatures, but also through increased socio-economic vulnerability resulting from water stresses, impacts on agriculture, ecosystems, and health.

> IPCC SREX makes it clear that reducing the risk to disasters is an effective approach to climate change adaptation which requires integration with regard to policy setting capacities and knowledge. Tools, policies and expertise used by Governments to understand and address disaster risk as part of sustainable development efforts, contribute to nations and communities adaptive capacity to climate change. Examples include risk assessments, risk based planning, integrating disaster risk in development sectors, as well as early warning systems and strengthened capacities to prepare for and respond to disasters. The literature assessed by SREX identifies areas for joint efforts to reduce disaster risk and adapt.

Key messages on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

- Climate change will worsen the impact of disasters. Weather and climate related disasters are already a major and costly concern and climate change will make matters worse.

- Adaptation and disaster risk reduction are closely linked. Adapting to the impacts of climate change and reducing risk to disasters are priorities that are best

[1] The IPCC produced in 2012 this special report on extreme events "SREX" highlighting interlinkages between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Its available on: http://ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/

[2] The UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction is a biennial report of the United Nations coordinated and produced by the UNISDR. More information on http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/

addressed in an integrated manner. Both build resilience and reduce the vulnerability of communities.

- Reducing the risk of disasters leads to sustainable development. Unsustainable development is the main factor in growing disaster risks. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are part of the sustainable development agenda as outlined in the Rio+20 outcome document '*The Future We Want*'.

- Risk reduction tools are ready for adaptation use. There are many well-proven tools and methods that can be applied and contribute to the acceleration of climate change adaptation, such as risk assessments, environmental protection, early warning systems, and insurance.

- Climate change adaptation reflected in a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Any future global blueprint for disaster risk reduction provides opportunity guide adaptation action.

Strengthen disaster risk reduction in key climate change adaptation agendas at COP18

1. The five Workshops organized since COP17 in Durban under the UNFCCC on the loss and damage work programme, provided opportunities to understand better how up-to-date risk assessments and models contribute to estimates of potential climate change impacts that in turn support development of informed-policy decisions.

    - Urge that work on the loss and damage work programme promote local and national owned disaster loss data and related risk assessments for more effective planning and prioritizing of adaptation actions.

2. Development of national adaptation plans (NAPs) can provide useful mechanisms to address climate change and disaster risk in national and local sustainable development planning. The Guidelines for the NAPs initiated in COP17 provide an opportunity to reiterate that disaster risk reduction capacities, tools, and institutions can assist developing and least developed country Parties to formulate and implement adaptation plans.

    - Recommend that NAPs include risk assessments (based on disaster loss data) will help to prioritize actions that reduce the risk of extreme climate events in national adaptation plans. Risk assessments will also identify gaps in adaptive capacities at national and local levels. ,

    - Recognise that there are national and local institutions engaged in the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster* with expertise and functioning effective mechanisms to address the risk of natural hazards in national and local development planning

    - Use national and local reporting on progress against the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action* to further guide adaptation planning.

- Recommend that the Guidelines promote the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction national plans, which have proven effective in a number of countries, for example in the Pacific Island states.

3. The workplan of the Adaptation Committee can further strengthen the linkages between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and allow more systematic approaches to ensure methodologies offered by disaster risk reduction practices address the negative impacts of climate change.

- Recommend that the Adaptation Committee explore the establishment of a sub-group[3] to identify and reflect upon existing mechanisms, institutions and policy frameworks - including the Hyogo Framework for Action and its future arrangements.

- Promote the use of existing regional approaches, strategies and policy frameworks to reduce disaster and climate change impacts, including trans-boundary losses and damages, into the Adaptation Committee both on assessing and addressing the adverse effects of climate change.

[3] Parties agreed that the Adaptation Committee should coordinate and link with all relevant bodies, programmes, institutions and networks, within and outside the Convention. The Cancun Adaptation Framework also makes direct reference to the relevance of the Hyogo Framework for Action for its work.