

Bali Action Plan

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, 3-14 December, brought together more than 10,000 participants, including representatives of over 180 countries, observers from intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and the media.

The conference culminated in the adoption of the Bali Action Plan by government delegations. The Plan provides the roadmap toward a new international climate change agreement to be concluded by 2009, and that will ultimately lead to a post-2012 international agreement on climate change.

Over 2007, the ISDR secretariat provided systematic input to the pre-conference drafting process that was coordinated by the UN Secretary-General's office.

In paragraph 1c, the Bali Action Plan highlights the significance of disaster risk reduction, as part of enhanced action on climate change adaptation, including, inter alia, consideration of the following:

- (i) International cooperation to support urgent implementation of adaptation actions, including through vulnerability assessments, prioritization of actions, financial needs assessments, capacity-building and response strategies, integration of adaptation actions into sectoral and national planning, specific projects and programmes, means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, and other ways to enable climate-resilient development and reduce vulnerability of all Parties, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States, and further taking into account the needs of countries in Africa affected by drought, desertification and floods.*
- (ii) Risk management and risk reduction strategies, including risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance.*
- (iii) Disaster reduction strategies and means to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.*

The strong emphasis on disaster risk reduction in the Bali Action Plan reflects a growing recognition that climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction agendas are closely linked. The linkages need to be understood in order to combine synergies and to overcome that the climate agenda is still mainly focused on mitigation.

Much needs to be done to understand the linkages and to use disaster risk reduction as an effective element of adaptation policy.

The secretariat will now reorient its efforts on climate change to support countries in the next steps of implementing the Bali Action Plan.