

Monday 15 June 2009

ASEAN and Central Asia Pre-Session Meeting

1) Key questions or issues raised, main challenges or constraints identified:

- a. Many ASEAN countries have reported considerable progress on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, in particular, HFA Priority for Action 5 (Strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels).
- b. Countries acknowledge that much remains to be desired on the implementation of HFA Priority for Action 4 (reducing the underlying risk factors).
- c. Presentations on the International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL) and other normative frameworks for international cooperation on disaster response highlighted the need to ensure compliance to current normative standards and to facilitate incorporation of other interested member states.
- d. There is a recognized need to consider vulnerability reduction and adaptation to climate change as an explicit objective of the development agenda. Furthermore, a clear need for strengthening support to countries on how to better mainstream DRR within national development agendas and development planning processes, including public-private investment and mechanisms for increased dialogue, sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices within the region and with other regions.
- e. Not to build a new institutional framework but rather reinforce existing national resources (technical, financial and institutional) based on current processes and institutions involving different development actors and stakeholders, including communities, NGO's, the educational community and private sector.
- f. Countries from the LAC region highlight the need for enhancing the empowerment of local capacities while strengthening the links with national and intergovernmental DRR and CC adaptation Agendas. There was a strong focus on local and community level involvement as well of gender issues in DRR, mainly empowerment and the roles of women.
- g. Bridge intersectoral, intergovernmental and transboundary efforts for sustainable development and DRR practices, including better information for the decision-making process, involvement of academic and scientific knowledge and spatial information systems.
- h. Despite similar approaches to DRR and a focus on more holistic and comprehensive multiple hazards throughout all sectors, there remains a gap between efforts of Latin America and the Caribbean.

2) Principal proposed solutions, messages or recommendations:

- a. ASEAN stressed the importance of reviewing benchmarks & baseline indicators for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.
- b. Discussion of concrete follow-ups to the Kuala Lumpur Protocol on the establishment of the *Central Asian Coordination Center for Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction*.
- c. Tajikistan delegation referred to 4th ECO International Conference on Disaster Risk Management which is going to be held in Oct 2009 in Dushanbe and asked for financial and technical support by donors and ECO Secretariat.

- d. Greater coordination, support and guidance for integrating risk reduction actions into development agendas at local, national and regional levels and increased involvement of other relevant actors.
- e. Facilitate a thematic platform on geographical and spatial technologies information systems (UN-SPIDER).
- f. Enhance South-South cooperation mechanisms.
- g. Recommendations from the senior policy forum on advancing common frameworks ranged from setting specific financial targets to prioritizing coherence within the UN system approach to these fields.