***Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations***

**FAO Statement to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**

***Geneva, May 2013***

The review of the Hyogo Framework of Action has revealed good progress particularly in setting up structures for enhanced Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and in achieving a positive downward trend in mortality risk. However, despite these positive achievements economic losses have tripled over the last 20 years, and progress in addressing the underlying risk factors is still slow, especially for agriculture and other food and nutrition related sectors.

Factors driving disasters and crises, and related risk patterns facing populations and national authorities, are becoming more and more complex, dynamic and interconnected. They include: climate change; population growth-equity-poverty; demographic factors such as migration and urbanization; political instability; economic forces; environmental degradation; and pathogen mutation/adaptation.

Root causes of risks include inappropriate development practices and over-exploitation of natural resources. Thus, sustainable development is the foundation of any risk reduction effort. Cross sectoral mechanisms and approaches for risk reduction are fundamental but they must be complemented and reinforced through sector specific strategies and interventions with the full engagement of dedicated line ministries, local institutions, communities and other partners.

Within the agriculture sectors (including livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, forestry and natural resources) it is recognized that the enormous gains in production and productivity achieved in the past 3 decades are often accompanied by negative effects on the natural resources leading to land degradation, salinization of irrigated areas, deforestation, over-extraction of ground water and erosion of biodiversity. At the same time, more than 30 % of global food production is damaged or lost before being consumed. The total number of food and nutrition insecure people in early 2013 was estimated at 870 million, which is higher than it was 40 years ago. The current food production and distribution systems are failing to feed the world. Based on current trends, FAO estimates that due to population increase, urbanization and changes in consumption patterns, agricultural production needs to increase by 60 - 70% by 2050 to meet food demand alone.

As an example of work in order to meet these multiple challenges, FAO is promoting sustainable agriculture intensification which promotes landscape/ecosystem approaches which both regenerate and sustain the health of the farmland through conservation agriculture, use of appropriate seed varieties, integrated pest management, and plant nutrition strategies based on healthy soils and efficient water management.

Given the growing exposure to multiple stresses and shocks, building resilience of individuals, communities, livelihoods and ecosystems is one fundamental dimension of sustainable production systems.

Within the FAO new Strategic Framework *increasing the resilience of livelihoods to shocks and threats affecting agriculture, food and nutrition* has become one of the core strategic objectives of the Organization.

FAO’s resilience agenda has been inspired and informed by the HFA as well as by the organizations interconnected development and humanitarian work. It encompasses strategic partnerships and direct action in four key, mutually reinforcing areas for agriculture, food and nutrition at local, national, regional and global levels:

* **Govern risks and crisis**: Countries and regions have legal, policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks for disaster risk reduction and crisis management for agriculture, food and nutrition.
* **Watch to safeguard:** Countries and regions deliver regular information and trigger timely actions against potential, known and emerging threats to agriculture, food and nutrition.
* **Apply prevention and mitigation measures**: Countries apply prevention and impact mitigation measures centred on livelihoods that reduce risks for agriculture, food and nutrition.
* **Prepare and respond**: Countries and regions affected by disasters and crises with impact on agriculture, food and nutrition are prepared for and manage effective responses.

FAO is structuring and gearing its support in a proactive way along these 4 pillars and in line with its 7 core functions as well as governance and gender, in order to serve most affected people and countries/regions for agriculture, food and nutrition related sectors.

For FAO, the post 2015 framework should maintain the core elements of the current Hyogo Framework but with an additional focus for more inclusive and integrated approaches and a stronger emphasis on reaching the most vulnerable. Thus, FAO recommends to :

* Improve linkages between *humanitarian and development interventions* to risk management for agriculture, food and nutrition security. The HFA2 can provide a clear framework to support resilience building, linking prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery and risk management in development in a more systematic way.
* Accelerate the *institutionalization of disaster risk reduction in key sectors* such as agriculture (in its large sense comprising fisheries, forestry and natural resources), food and nutrition. The HFA2 should help member states increase disaster risk reduction and crisis management in key line ministries and promote multi-sector collaboration to address disaster risks in a complementary, coordinated, and proactive manner. Coordination and leadership for DRR should go beyond civil protection institutions and should increase its outreach and better access of highly vulnerable people to risk reducing measures and technologies available through the various sectors.
* Better i*ntegrate DRR and CCA in sectoral policies,* investment plans and development programmes in order to reduce emerging risks associated to extreme climate events. The institutional segregation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction poses practical implementation challenges, particularly from a food security perspective and especially at farm and community levels.