

UNFCCC statement for the plenary 'Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk
Reduction Alliances for Resilience'
The Third Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

12 May 2011

Thank you, Madame Chair,

- Thanks to all the panelists for their expression of a high-level commitment for harmonizing DRR and adaptation in national policies and in the implementation of resilience-building programmes. On this occasion, I would like to share some views from a climate change perspective and bring into light some of the most relevant provisions under the Cancun Adaptation Framework.
- The Cancun Agreements, reached under the outstanding leadership of the COP President, H.E. Minister Espinosa, contains the most comprehensive package ever agreed by governments to help developing countries deal with climate change impacts.
- The agreements contain the Cancun Adaptation Framework which ultimately seeks to reduce vulnerability and build resilience in developing countries.
- The Cancun Adaptation Framework includes a mandate to enhance adaptation through climate change related DRR strategies, taking into consideration the Hyogo Framework for Action, early warning systems, risk assessment and management, sharing and transfer mechanisms at local, national, subregional and regional levels, as appropriate.

The work programme on loss and damage

- The framework recognized the need to strengthen international cooperation and expertise to understand and reduce loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events. It also mandated a work programme to consider approaches to address loss and damage in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
- The specific activities to be undertaken under the work programme will be discussed during the next climate change negotiating session which will take place next month.
- The views expressed by Parties so far indicate that the work programme should assist them in a number of areas:
 - First, Enhancing understanding of different types of risk, vulnerability, approaches, tools and requirements for implementation, at different levels;
 - Second, Strengthening institutional capacity to address climate change related risk in an anticipatory manner;
 - Third, Catalyzing existing and future activities on loss and damage; and
 - Fourth, Increasing collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to achieve effective and comprehensive risk management.

- Following the implementation of the work programme, Parties will make recommendations at COP 18, in December 2012, on further action on loss and damage under the Convention. Therefore, it is important that the work programme for the period up to the COP 18 serve as a knowledge base that provides adequate inputs to the deliberations by the COP.
- We have already received a number of proposals for voluntary action in support for the work programme from a range of organizations, including the UNISDR secretariat, through their official submissions.
- It is clear from what I have been hearing this week that the DRR community has the potential to make a huge contribution towards reducing vulnerability, and strengthening institutional capacities for climate-resilient development.

Madam chair and colleagues,

- The mere existence of an international work programme on loss and damage does not in and of itself drive real action on the ground.
- The work programme on loss and damage provides an effective entry point for the DRR community to channel the knowledge and expertise accumulated from the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and to link the existing work with the adaptation policy process.
- The Cancun Adaptation Framework invites organizations working at different levels, the public and private sectors, civil society and other stakeholders to undertake and support enhanced action on adaptation at all levels, in a coherent and integrated manner, building on synergies among activities and processes.
- I encourage all of you to inform national and sectoral stakeholders with whom you interact, of your readiness to support enhanced action on adaptation by sharing your expertise and offering concrete action for addressing loss and damage.
- The successful implementation of the work programme, and ultimately reducing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, largely depend on the will and active support by all of you at present in this hall today.

Thank you, Madam Chair.