

Towards a post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO DISASTERS

OPENING REMARKS FROM THE FACILITATOR

Integrating Disaster risk reduction, Climate change adaption and Sustainable development – Opening on 3 December 2012

Dear colleague practitioners of DRR, CCA, and Sustainable Development,

The fifth round of the first online dialogue on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the last round of the series is being hosted in parallel with the 18th Conference of the Parties (COP18) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) currently underway in Doha, Qatar.

We have had an enthusiastic participation and valuable inputs from all of you in all the 4 rounds so far. Many of you have emphasized the need to link disaster risk reduction more strongly to climate change adaptation and sustainable development in the new framework.

Questions for the fifth round

This fifth set of questions aims to enhance our understanding of these linkages, thus strengthening the mainstreaming of both disaster risk reduction and adaptation into development planning and practices.

1. Is there evidence of a change in the severity and frequency of extreme weather and climate events in your region? Has this led to changes in behaviour?
2. What progress has your country made in linking disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation, in policy, institutional dialogue and partnership and programming?
3. What are the experiences in your country on mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development planning and sectors? What are the lessons learned?

As we look ahead towards 2015 and beyond, it is clear that climate change will worsen the impact of disasters. Unsustainable development is a main causal factor in increasing disaster risks. On the other hand, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are closely linked, as *both* reduce the vulnerability of communities

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)* highlighted that climate related hazards are likely to increase in frequency, intensity, spatial extent and duration as a result of changing climate. The 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.

The UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) in 2011 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.

So too the Global Platform on DRR 2011 identified as a critical step to 'promote mechanisms and partnerships that integrate climate change adaptation and risk reduction into development planning, avoiding the inefficient use of existing resources, and ensure the availability of climate-related information and wider accessibility of technologies for risk reduction as a means for adaptation.'

Building the resilience of communities to climate and disaster risks are essential elements of making local development sustainable. Globally there is a shared recognition that climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are part of the sustainable development agenda outlined in the Rio+20 outcome document '*The Future We Want*'.

We look forward to robust discussions in this last round.

Warmly,

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Facilitator,
Online Dialogue on Post 2015 Framework for DRR