

Policy Forum

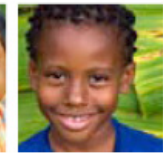
Linking Climate Change Negotiations and Disaster Risk Reduction

Venue: The 1001 Hall, Islands Brygge 89, Copenhagen S

Programme – 12 November 2008

12:00	Bus transfer – departure from First Hotel (if pre-booked)
12:30	Arrival and registration – lunch
13:15	Seating of participants
13:30	<p>Welcome and introduction to the Policy Forum</p> <p>Ms. Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, Head of Department Humanitarian Assistance and NGO Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark</p> <p>Mr. Roberto Acosta, Coordinator UNFCCC – Climate change adaptation and the negotiation framework.</p> <p>Ms. Helena Molin Valdés, Deputy Director United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UNISDR)</p>
ROUND TABLES	
14:00	<p>Round Table Session I : Focus on Prioritisation</p> <p>Introduction to Round Tables: Purpose, process, product</p> <p>Each Round Table will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify 2-3 main urgent priorities • formulate a brief justification and description of what the major challenges are for each priority.
14:30 – 16:30	<p>Round Table 1:</p> <p>Joining Forces: One Unified Approach for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Ms. Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, Head of Department Humanitarian Assistance and NGO Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark <p><i>Compared with the humanitarian community, which through the cluster approach has achieved a degree of structure and cohesiveness over the past three decades, the international disaster risk management community is in an earlier state of formation. Two international processes for organizing the latter have been the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the 2006 humanitarian review of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). Despite these processes and because of the emergence of a number of new actors, notably the establishment of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, there still is a lack of clarity as to how various initiatives supporting disaster reduction and recovery fit together. This Round Table will enable all relevant stakeholders to gain an overview of the state of play as well as help identify questions or issues for further clarification.</i></p>





Round Table 2:

Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Risk Management Practices: Critical Elements for Adaptation to Climate Change.

- Chair: Ms. **Madeleen Helmer**, Head,
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre in the Hague

Disaster Risk Reduction, Risk Management and Risk Transfer have been identified as important strategies to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change in the coming decades. In Poznan Governments will exchange views on the integration of risk reduction strategies in the adaptation element of the new climate change agreement.

Scientists, humanitarian and development agencies and organisations have prepared technical papers and position papers, which are the basis for the discussion at this round table.

Round Table 3:

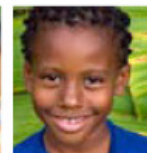
Development of High Quality Climate Related Information in Support of Climate Change Adaptation and DRR.

- Chair: Dr. **Maryam Golnaraghi**, Ph.D. Chief
Disaster Risk Reduction Division, World Meteorological Organization
- Co-Chair: Mr. **Frank Sperling**, Environmental Specialist
Climate Change Team, World Bank

The roundtable will engage a multi-disciplinary panel of experts from at-risk sectors and climate science. This session will examine the challenges for decision-making in various climate-sensitive sectors in the context of changing patterns of risks. Specifically, issues related to different time frames of decisions-making, needs for different types of climate information at different time and spatial scales and challenges with production of climate information, particularly in low income, high risk countries will be discussed.

Opportunities for better management of future risks based on understanding and responding to current climate will be explored and issues related to uncertainty associated with available climate information in context of decision-making will be examined. Expected outcome would be to identify concrete initiatives engaging scientific and technical, development and humanitarian partners to develop a consistent framework for development of climate information built upon the information needs and requirements of the sectors, latest scientific and technical methodologies, regional cooperation and national institutional capacity development.





Round Table 4:

Keeping the Focus Where It Should Be: Reducing Vulnerability and Building Resilience.

- Chair: Ms. **Margaret Arnold**, Head ProVention Consortium, Geneva

Poor households manage a myriad of risks on a daily basis. These risks emanate from a great range of sources, including natural hazards, environmental degradation, social marginalization, conflict, lack of access to information and services, etc... The risk landscape is changing rapidly, with climate change magnifying a number of risks, and existing risks becoming increasingly interdependent. This creates a much more complex and challenging environment for humanitarian and development actors, where institutional barriers for understanding and cooperation become irrelevant and even detrimental to providing effective support to poor communities in reducing risk and recovering from shocks. A unified focus on understanding vulnerability and how to build resilience is called for. Climate change is amplifying risks; the global visibility of the climate change agenda provides an opportunity for CCA to become an amplifier of key messages and mobilizer of actors around the need to support and empower poor communities to better manage risk. This roundtable will focus on how the risk landscape is changing, explore what this means for humanitarian and development agencies, and develop practical, actionable recommendations for supporting on the ground climate and disaster risk reduction.

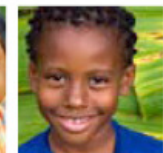
Round Table 5:

Coordinating financing mechanisms for effective responses to preventing and managing disasters related to climate change.

- Chair: Ms. **Jenty Kirsch-Wood**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer Disaster and Vulnerability Policy Section, OCHA, Geneva

This session will focus on how potential adaptation funding mechanisms could support disaster prevention and management, particularly in the most at risk settings. The UNFCCC negotiations are discussing the establishment of a new adaptation fund, operating under the Convention, which could provide assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries to enable them to address climate change and adapt to its adverse effects. Clearly, such a fund must consider how it can help the most at risk developing countries to prepare and respond in the case of extreme and potentially disastrous climate change related hazard events. Some negotiators have begun to discuss if there is a need to establish a preparedness and rapid international assistance mechanism. However, it is not clear if such new funds would duplicate existing mechanisms, or if there are opportunities to coordinate climate change assistance within existing humanitarian response funding systems? What role existing UN humanitarian coordination mechanisms should play in a future climate change adaptation system? Could organisations such as UN OCHA play an important role in such coordination?





Round Table 6:

Human Rights, Gender and other Cross-Cutting Issues: Rights Based Approaches in Future Policies Related to Climate Change Adaptation and Humanitarian Responses.

- Chair: Mr. **Herluf G. Madsen**, Head of International Department, Save the Children, Denmark

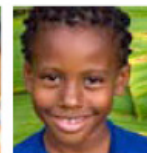
Climate change will lead to an increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters and it will be people in the poorest countries, especially women and children, who will bear the brunt of these disasters. Climate change threatens the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the commitments to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and reduce child mortality.

This calls for new approaches and rights based frameworks. Development actors must have a better analysis of disaster risks and vulnerabilities and disaster risk reduction needs to be mainstreamed into planning and programming.

The roundtable will discuss how development actors can respond in flexible and innovative ways to the new challenges posed by climate change and make concrete recommendations on how human rights, children's rights, gender and other crosscutting issues can be reflected in new policies and approaches incl. how this work can be taken forward.

16.30	Break
REFLECTION & CLOSURE	
17:00	Joint reflection
17:45	Cultural inter-play: Tamra Roseanes
18:00	Reception – tapas and wine
19:15	Departure – transfer to hotel (if pre-booked)





Programme – 13 November 2008

08:00	<i>Bus transfer – departure from First Hotel (if pre-booked)</i>
08:30	Arrival and registration – morning snack
08:45	Seating of participants
09:00	Reflections and cultural interplay
09:15	<p>Round Table Session II : Focus on Ideas for the Future</p> <p>Introduction to Round Tables: Purpose, process, product</p> <p>Each Round Table will formulate inputs for short- and long-term actions to be taken on each priority including immediate concrete steps for supporting COP-14 and COP-15.</p> <p>The inputs could be addressing negotiators, covering national and international response, and supporting the technical community.</p>
09:30 - 11:00	<p>Round Table 1 – 6 <i>(continued from 12 November)</i></p>
11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:30	Consolidation and plenary presentations of suggestions from round-tables
12:00	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <p>Ms. Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, Head of Department Humanitarian Assistance and NGO Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark</p> <p>Mr. Roberto Acosta, Coordinator UNFCCC - Climate change adaptation and the negotiation framework</p> <p>Ms. Helena Molin Valdés, Deputy Director United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UNISDR)</p>
12:15	Closing ceremony – cultural interplay
12:30	<i>Light lunch snack</i>
13:00	<i>Departure – bus transfer to hotel (if pre-booked)</i>

