

## Background paper on Roundtable 3:

### Development of Climate Related Information in Support of Climate Change Adaptation and DRR

#### Co-chairs:

- ▶ **Dr Maryam Golnaraghi** World Meteorological Organization  
Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction Programme
- ▶ **Mr Frank Sperling** World Bank  
Climate Focal point for Africa

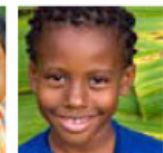
#### Panellists:

- ▶ **Dr. Maxx Dilley** UNDP – Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery  
*“Climate information needs for climate adaptation and risk management”*
- ▶ **Mr Edward Anderson** World bank - Latin America and Caribbean  
*“Climate information needs for Disaster Risk Reduction”*
- ▶ **Ms Patricia Kennedy** World Food Programme  
*“Climate information needs and food security”*
- ▶ **Mr Knud Falk** Danish Red Cross Society  
*“Climate information needs and humanitarian challenges”*
- ▶ **Dr M. Kumar Kolli** World Meteorological Organization  
*“Challenges and opportunities for provision of climate information to support climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction”*
- ▶ **Prof. Laban Ogallo** IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC)  
*“Current capacities through international programmes and regional perspectives”*

**Format:** 10 - 12 minute statement by each panellist (72 minutes) followed by a discussion session

(Please see back for the overview and issues that will be used to frame the discussions)





## Overview

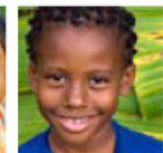
The round table on “Development of Climate Related Information in Support of Climate Change Adaptation and DRR” will engage a multi-disciplinary panel of experts from at-risk sectors and climate science. It will examine the challenges for decision-making in various climate-sensitive sectors in context 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.

### **The following issues will be used to frame the panellists' statements discussions during this session:**

- 1) **CHARACTERISTICS OF CLIMATE RISK IN THE SECTOR:** Different sectors experience different risks at different time and spatial scales. Managing these risks must be addressed within the sectors decision-making framework and the relevant climate information needs.
- 2) **DECISION-MAKING TIME FRAMES:** Different sectors with climate risk have different planning horizons and project impact time frames. How do we bridge/improve the dialogue between climate information providers and users from different segments of these sectors to ensure that climate information is tailored to practical information needs for different time frames of decision-making?
- 3) **VARIABLES/SCALES:** Different climatic parameters, statistics at different spatial and temporal scales matter to different sectors (e.g. annual totals, monthly totals, seasonal totals, precipitation, run-off, extremes, etc.) How can scientific information be provided (content, format, visual format) that is a non-experts (who does not understand indices, underlying assumptions etc.)?
- 4) **CLIMATE INFORMATION NEEDS, OBSERVATIONAL DATA/CLIMATE FORECASTS AND PROJECTIONS:** Much emphasis is placed on climate CHANGE, which results on a strong focus on





climate projections and often overlooks that understanding natural climate variability from year to year is often more important in building resilience. When and how do seasonal to annual climate forecasts and long-term (multi-decadal) climate change projections matter in development planning? How should this information be treated in relation to analysis of historical observations and other climate information?

- 5) **LEARNING FROM CURRENT CLIMATE FOR THE BETTER MANAGEMENT OF RISKS IN THE FUTURE:** The improved understanding of current climate characteristics provides opportunities for reducing vulnerabilities. Regions, where climate variability is strongly influenced by predictable climatic regimes such as El Nino and La Nina, can benefit from seasonal forecasts and early warning systems. In which regions there is climate predictability and skill in seasonal forecasts today? How do we ensure that these climate forecasts would benefit the most vulnerable stakeholders?
- 6) **UNCERTAINTY:** Uncertainty in the available climate information and particularly in climate change projections is often cited as an excuse for a "wait and see" approach. Can we afford not to take any actions? Example, the Sahel Both wet and dry scenarios are in the realm of possibility. What are the best scenarios to plan with to ensure the best preparedness of a particular sector? How can scientists help evaluate these scenarios while also taking into account the decision-making needs?
- 7) **DEVELOPING CLIMATE INFORMATION BASED ON USER NEEDS:** There is large communication a gap between the sectoral planners, policy makers and climate scientists and information providers. How can this gap be bridged to facilitate development of relevant climate information based on user needs for improved decision-making? How can we overcome challenges such as technical know-how, capacity issues, and lack of climatic data and tools in low income, high risk countries?

