

## Linking Climate Change Negotiations with Disaster Risk Reduction

**Roundtable no. and title:** **3** Development of High Quality Climate Related Information in Support of Climate Change Adaptation and DRR

### **Main points of discussion:**

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The discussions were formulated around two main issues, (1) approach to climate risk management and DRR, (2) development of targeted climate products and services

#### **1. APPROACH:**

Climate risk management should take into account managing risks at all time frames which addresses climate variability and change; need for immediate actions to cope and adapt to current climate risks, guided by climate information

Status of Climate information:

- For international policy negotiations already available: coordinated scientific research and assessments facilitated through UN(e.g., WMO and IPCC);
- Need for tailored climate products and services, which address thematic and sector specific (public and private) information needs for strategic and operational sectoral planning, operations and project levels

Need for segmentation of sectors and understanding of their needs and requirements for climate products & services for decision support

Recognition of need for strengthening the existing and establishment of new formalized dialogue mechanism between climate information providers (e.g., National Meteorological and Hydrological Services) and sectoral users (e.g. policy makers, development practitioners)

Climate information should be driven by development concerns

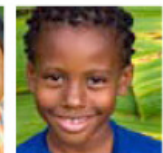
Government accountability is needed for ensuring availability of technical capacities, observing and forecasting infrastructure for provision of climate information is a public good

Utilization of new probabilistic risk assessment tools for scenario analysis to support decisions – climate information is one input.

#### **2. CLIMATE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

- Need to develop “tailored” data, forecast and projection products based on sector requirements driven by development issues rather than scientific issues
  - Need for cross-institutional linkages through dialogue, forums and feedback mechanisms that bring together sectors with climate information providers at national, regional and global levels,
  - Understand needs and requirements (content, dissemination) as well as new demands for information

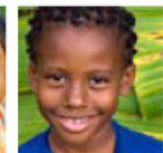




- The format and communication of Climate information need to be harmonized and conveyed to the targeted stakeholders
- Need for operational capacity and infrastructure development for provision of climate products and services to serve national and sectoral needs
  - Meteorological, hydrological and climate Observation networks and data and related quality
  - Data policy issues
  - Climate Forecast and projection tools
  - Technical training and know-how
  - standards
  - Computational and information management systems
  - Product development and dissemination to target sectors
- Need to understand and link with local knowledge systems
- Build on current initiatives by the UN (WMO) for coordination of global, regional and national technical capacities through climate science community, global climate processing centers, Regional climate centers, National Meteorological services) to facilitate climate information for sectoral planning at national level.

- Main challenges:**  
The following main challenges were raised and discussed:
- Purposes of climate information - Awareness building (e.g. identifying the scope of the problem)? Policy and strategic support (e.g. policy, strategic and regulatory frameworks for managing risks)? Enabling action (e.g. sector specific investments, operational planning and management)?
  - What sectors are at risk to climate? Identification and segmentation of the at-risk sectors? What are their decision framework (temporal and spatial scales, etc)? What are the specific needs for climate information:
  - Sector and activity specific information needs to understand risk – What climate parameters matter? What time horizons are important? What resolution is required? What are the right information formats?
  - Development of systematic linkage between providers and users of climate information to guide climate product and service development and delivery – What cooperation mechanisms would work at international, regional, national levels, at public and private sector level?
  - Technical capacities of stakeholders in utilizing climate information – What is the ability of the stakeholder to incorporate climate information into decision-making processes?
    - Scientific and technical capacities in delivery of climate products and services operationally to various stakeholders– Need to understand the limits of science and associated uncertainties. What is possible? What is not?
  - Operational dissemination of climate products and services– What are the right mechanisms to ensure that the stakeholders are reached effectively?





- Enabling environment – What are the necessary conditions, dialogue processes and capacity development needs to allow stakeholders to utilize climate information systematically and a major input into decision-making?
- Institutional and Infrastructural capacity development at relevant levels to enable systematic provision of climate products and service – What are the requirements for observation networks and data, data policy issues, forecast and projection tools, technical training and know-how, computational and information management systems, product development and dissemination to target sectors? What are existing capacities and are they sufficient for delivery of climate products and services operationally? Is there a need for integrated risk analysis tools to support decision making?

**Suggested action points for a roadmap on further streamlining of DRR and CCA towards COP-15 – including appointment of drafting group to formulate each action point in further detail.**

Three levels of priorities of action is recommended:

**1) Through UNFCC, Poznan and Copenhagen Negotiations:**

At the country level, ensure that negotiation preparations are guided by the following principal issues:

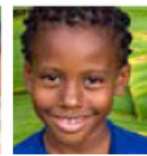
- Future adaptation work should be based on a comprehensive framework addressing current and future climate risks
- Disaster Risk Reduction is recognized as an essential element of adaptation, undertaken today
- Governments to commit to sustainable investment in climate information (observing networks, data, forecasts, analysis) as a critical public good and that this information is available and supports development needs at the national level; as well as on-going scientific progress
- Recognition of need for strengthening the existing and establishment of new formalized dialogue and feedback mechanism between climate information providers and sectoral users and decision-makers

This can be achieved through communicating these messages with development and technical stakeholders that participate in the negotiations through their national delegations. It requires a proactive engagement of country focal points for DRR and climate to ensure these messages are integrated in national negotiation positions.

**2) Through strengthened cooperation among scientific and development and disaster community (International to national Levels)**

- Establish standard tools, methodologies and climate information to support development decisions
- Ensure practical relevance of tools, and information standard through the explicit engagement of stakeholders and recognition of implementation and needs (engagement of technical, sectoral experts, agents in the





process)

### **3) Through Regional/National Cooperation**

- Improve sectoral planning through establishment of dialogue and provision of targeted climate products and services building on existing national and regional projects and programmes supported by development banks and agencies (e.g. in Central America, Southeastern Europe, Africa, etc)

Establish feedback and evaluation mechanisms on lessons learnt from development practitioners in different regions to guide climate information providers (e.g. national meteorological services) in the generation of practically relevant climate information.

