Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Preparatory Committee
First session
Geneva, 14-15 July 2014

Concept note

Technical Workshop 3
Mutual reinforcement of DRR, SDGs and Climate Change agreements

Date, time: 15 July, 15.00 – 17.00
Venue: Geneva, Palais des Nations, building E, room XVIII
Session language: English (with interpretation into 6 UN official languages).

Moderator:
H.E. Ambassador Dr. Walid M. Abdelnasser, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Egypt.

Panelists:
Ms. Filomena Nelson, National Disaster Management Office, Samoa;
Mr. Erling Kvernevik, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway;
Dr. Solomon Muchina Munyua, Acting Director, Centre for Pastoral and Livestock Development, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD);
Dr. Youssef Nassef, Coordinator, Adaptation Programme, Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Organizers: UNISDR, Focal point: Glenn Dolcemascolo.

1. Background and Rationale


The policy foundations for coherence and mutual reinforcement are well established in the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference and the UNFCCC processes. In 2012, the Rio+20 outcomes, countries called for “appropriate and effective measures, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development, including through strengthening coordination and cooperation to reduce exposure to risk for the protection of people, and infrastructure and other national assets, from the impact of disasters, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and any post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction”.

In the UNFCCC, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) was established to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention to be adopted at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2015 and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020.
The same decision specifically addressed enhanced action on adaptation based on the Cancun Adaptation Framework which called for “enhancing climate change related disaster risk reduction strategies, taking into consideration the Hyogo Framework for Action, where appropriate, early warning systems, risk assessment and management, and sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance, at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels, as appropriate.

As governments move towards implementing national plans for these three areas, the opportunities to create shared value and multiple benefits are enormous. Some countries have moved steadily in this direction and have managed to establish institutional arrangements and incentives for mutually reinforcing efforts to strengthen resilience. This includes ensuring that risk information is at the heart of climate change and development planning processes. It also includes reviewing policies and strategies to ensure that they are well-aligned and not contradictory, identifying funding mechanisms that prioritize initiatives with multiple and measurable benefits in all three areas, strengthening the institutional mechanisms that ensure coordination and providing incentives and opportunity for cooperation among the institutions working in these fields.

2. Session objectives
This session provides the opportunity to look at national efforts that promote coherence and to consider how international frameworks can support and encourage further progress in implementing coherent and mutually reinforcing approaches to disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate action. Throughout attention will be given to the political and economic contexts that have supported these efforts.

3. Expected outcomes
The expected outcome will be suggestions for how coherence and mutual reinforcement can be addressed within the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Measures to strengthen coordination and cooperation with relevant mechanisms for sustainable development and climate change are expected to emerge as well.

4. Proposed agenda

15.00 The Moderator offers opening remarks and introduces the panelists.
15.10 Remarks by panelists: Samoa, Norway, IGAD.
15.25 Remarks by Coordinator, Adaptation Programme, Secretariat of UNFCCC.
15.30 Remarks by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk.
15.35 Discussion and comments from the floor.
16.50 Closing remarks by the Moderator.
17.00 Session ends.