



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

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Climate Change and Disaster Risks ISDR Recommendations for Action Now and Post-2012

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction¹ supports the United Nations' Secretary-General's messages on climate change and contributes to UN efforts for a coordinated, systemwide approach to tackling climate change.

The ISDR underlines that to reduce the risk of extreme climate events, action is required on twin policies: to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change, and to reduce the vulnerability of societies to inevitable climate change impacts. It promotes the following messages to ensure the integration of disaster risk reduction into current policies as well as in the post-2012 climate change regime:

1. Make adaptation to climate change a fundamental pillar of any post-2012 agreement.
2. Ensure that disaster risk reduction and climate risk management are core elements of adaptation to climate change.
3. Establish mechanisms to provide sufficient funding for adaptation to climate change and risk reduction, especially to protect the most vulnerable.
4. Take immediate action to implement adaptation to climate change and risk reduction in vulnerable countries in the period 2008-2012.

1. Make adaptation to climate change a fundamental pillar of any post-2012 agreement.

In addition to strengthening mitigation efforts, the post-2012 agreement must implement substantially scaled-up and sustained adaptation and risk reduction worldwide. The UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme is off to a good start but will require continued support to build countries' capacities to reduce the risks associated with extreme weather events and to adapt to climate change.

2. Ensure that disaster risk reduction and climate risk management are core elements of adaptation to climate change.

- Use the guidance of the Hyogo Framework for Action² to facilitate a systematic rather than project-based approach to adaptation to climate change.

¹ ISDR Working Group members include: United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations University, World Bank/Vulnerability and Adaptation Resource Group, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, IGAD Climate Predictions and Applications Centre, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, and Tearfund.

² *Hyogo Framework for Action: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*, agreed by 168 Governments in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan in 2005.

- Scale-up the use of existing disaster risk reduction tools that have proven to be effective in dealing with climate-related events that will be exacerbated by climate change. These include vulnerability and risk assessments, early warning systems, land-use planning and building code regulation, and institutional and legal capacities.
- Ensure adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction are integrated into development planning in all sectors. Establish inter-ministerial committees and national platforms for risk reduction to ensure inter-sectorial, multistakeholder coordination.
- Improve capacities and services for knowledge transfer from science to practice and application to bridge gaps in risk management in climate-sensitive sectors.

3. Establish mechanisms to provide sufficient funding for adaptation to climate change and risk reduction, especially to protect the most vulnerable.

- Undertake further study³ of the options for adaptation to climate change and the resources required to fund adaptation. The ISDR system has begun a study of the costs and benefits of specific disaster risk reduction measures, which will be useful to identify the costs of adaptation to extreme events.
- Agree on a target amount and timetable to generate funding for adaptation to climate change and related risk reduction and put in place mechanisms to generate the funds.
- Ensure the needs of poor countries and poor people are met in the management and disbursement of current and future adaptation funds. The primary objective of adaptation activities should be to build resilience and adaptive capacity in vulnerable communities.
- Establish implementation policies and mechanisms to ensure mainstreaming of adaptation to climate change, disaster risk reduction and climate risk management into ongoing development planning that serve the most vulnerable people.

4. Take immediate action to implement adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction in vulnerable countries in the period 2008-2012.

Immediate action is needed to develop effective capacities for adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction and to avoid major losses from extreme events between now and 2012. Additional resources need to be mobilized now to enable humanitarian and development organizations to manage the growing consequences of climate change and build the resilience of nations and communities. As agreed in UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.10, capacities need to be built "for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters relating to climate change, including contingency planning, in particular for droughts and floods and extreme weather events"⁴. Decisions are needed in Bali to commit to specific action with necessary resources for this immediate 2008-2012 period.

³ The UNFCCC estimates that the cost of adaptation for one year (2030) will be USD 50-170 billion in total, and USD 28-67 billion for developing countries. See UNFCCC Dialogue Working Paper 8 (2007), *Reports on the analysis of existing and potential investment and financial flows relevant to the development of an effective and appropriate international response to climate change*.

⁴ See FCCC/CP/2004/10/Add.1, Report of the Conference of the Parties on its tenth session, held at Buenos Aires in December 2004.