

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

First session Geneva, Switzerland 5-7 June 2007

7 June 2007

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group: Report of Brainstorming Session and Proposal for Next Steps

The following is a brief summary of the meeting's outcomes and an outline of next steps to promote commitment to action.



Meeting Report and Proposal for Next Steps

The members of the former IATF/DRR Working Group (WG) on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as a few newcomers, met during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on 7 June 2007(please see participants list in Annex 1). The group discussion, ably facilitated by Roy Brooke, OCHA, focused on whether the WG wished to continue to collaborate as a "thematic platform" on climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the activities it should undertake.

The following document first briefly summarizes the meeting's outcomes. It then identifies steps and products for each of the WG's identified interests to encourage commitment to implement.

Meeting outcomes

Participants agreed ...

- To continue collaboration as a working group and, as soon as joint activities are agreed, invite Governments and additional interested organizations to join. The UN/ISDR secretariat is developing guidance on modalities for thematic platforms under the Global Platform, which can guide the WG's inclusion of Governments and organizations.
- To learn from the successes and challenges of existing thematic platforms to ensure the group's efficacy and the usefulness of its products.
- To maintain a focus on practical, value-added initiatives.
- That the WG will serve several *functions*:
 - Ocherence: to identify synergies and gaps to plan specific outputs and avoid unhelpful duplication of work among organizations active on the interface between climate change, development, humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction.
 - Sharing and adapting information: to gather, analyze and disseminate local-level information to the strategic levels. For example, the WG could provide the UNFCCC with on-the-ground lessons by feeding information to the Nairobi Work Programme continuously, share knowledge with practitioners seeking to integrate climate change information in DRR and development projects, and provide analysis of short-to-longer term risk and to support training, among others. Related functions include sharing information within the WG on upcoming meetings, events and policy forums.
 - O Policy: influencing agendas with information by undertaking 12-month planning to identify strategic activities and opportunities. The WG would be a voice to link the UNFCCC and the Hyogo Framework (as well as other international initiatives and conferences) in upcoming negotiations and work for the post-2012 framework. It would promote the development of an IPCC special report on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, as well as craft messages on adaptation funding. This function would be closely linked to "sharing and adapting information", above.
 - Reducing our carbon footprint: to ensure we "walk our talk" by sharing, developing and implementing guidance to reduce greenhouse gases emitted through the Global Platform members' activities and meetings. This function would inform the nascent UNwide process to reduce emissions as well as drive implementation among disaster risk reduction partners. In particular, the WG would explore projects that reduce greenhouse gases and produce risk-reduction benefits simultaneously.

The WG also discussed the growing interest of the humanitarian community in climate change and the need to engage partners active in disaster risk reduction, management, response and reconstruction in understanding and incorporating climate change concerns into their practices and operations.

Next steps

To implement the WG's functions as agreed, the following set of activities and steps could be undertaken. WG members are asked to express their interest in undertaking specific activities by adding their names to the relevant activities.

Activity A: Gathering and sharing good practices in climate risk-reduction:

- 1. Form a committee: Members interested in implementing this activity identify a lead organization and roles for all members of the committee by 13 August 2007.
- 2. Establish a list serve for this activity by 13 August 2007.
- 3. Hold a virtual/actual meeting of members of the committee to identify good practice sources, types of activities to be considered, methods for collecting information, ultimate product format (existing or new database, publication?), dissemination strategy, etc, by 8 October 2007. (Note that if members wish to present results at COP-13 to be held in Bali 3-14 December, the first meeting should be held in early September and all deadlines adjusted accordingly.)
- 4. Identify Governments that could be interested in collaborating and joining the WG by 8 October 2007.
- 5. Assign roles and resources: identify which members will gather information, who will be responsible for organizing info in the selected format, maintaining/updating info, etc. Identify criteria and deadline for selection of good practices and whether compilation will be continuous. Ascertain whether dedicated human resources are required by 8 October 2007.
- 6. Gather the best practices and agree on which to integrate into the final product by 1 December 2007.
- 7. Share draft with the Working Group and other experts by 17 December 2007.
- 8. Gather and incorporate comments and prepare for publication: identify financial resources required and responsibility for editing by 28 January 2008.
- 9. Publish by end of February 2008.
- 10. Disseminate: organize a side event at subsidiary body meetings in May (or COP), WG members distribute to their networks, submit to relevant UNFCCC databases and programmes, share with IIED February meeting participants, etc.

Members interested in activity A:

Name	Organization	Subactivities of interest (all or identify subactivities)	

Activity B: Providing policy guidance on UNFCCC on post-2012 regime

- 1. Form a committee: Members interested in implementing this activity identify a lead organization and roles for all members of the committee by 13 August 2007.
- 2. Establish a list serve for this activity by 13 August 2007.
- 3. Hold a virtual/actual meeting to identify the areas in which the group will provide policy guidance, create subcommittees if necessary to gather information, identify target policy makers and opportunities to advocate (such as planned meetings of governments), establish vehicles for policy advocacy/lobbying (publication, press releases, bilateral or group discussions with policy makers?), identify resources needed (travel?), etc. by 21 September 2007. (Note registration for side-events at COP13 starts 25 September.)
- 4. Identify Governments that could be interested in collaborating and joining the WG by 21 September 2007.
- 5. Assign roles and responsibilities for specific activities to committee members by 21

September 2007.

- 6. Develop advocacy tools; these might include, among others:
 - A WG policy paper for the inclusion of adaptation issues in the post-2012 regime and a lobbying effort with Governments.
 - A WG statement to be presented at SBSTA-26 and side event at COP-13 in December.
 - A short article or selection of good practices for a double-issue of *DR+CC Infolink* newsletter for COP-13.
 - A joint WG submission to Nairobi Work Programme. (Note information on tools for economic resilience is due 17 August; socio-economic information for vulnerability assessment is due 21 September.)
 - WG press releases and a training programme for the media.
 - Other??
- 7. Advocate for and collaborate on an IPCC Special Report
 - a. Send out letters to Governments by 15 August 2007.
 - b. Identify Government representatives from WG members' networks to target for advocacy/lobbying by end of August 2007.
 - c. Follow up with phone calls in September and October 2007.
 - d. Attend relevant meetings to advocate with Governments (e.g., IPCC Valencia meeting in November, IUCN congress in October, Red Cross November conference, COP-13 in December, DIHAD in June, etc).
 - e. If IPCC proposal is accepted, identify proposed authors and DRR literature for review.

Members interested in activity B:

Name	Organization	Subactivities of interest (all
		or identify subactivity)
Silvi Llosa	UN/ISDR secretariat	SubActivity 1, 2, 3. Propose to co-lead subactivity 7.

Activity C. Developing methods for reducing our carbon footprint

- 1. Form a committee: Members interested in implementing this activity identify a lead organization and roles for all members of the committee by 13 August 2007.
- 2. Establish a list serve for this activity by 13 August 2007.
- 3. Hold a virtual/actual meeting to discuss existing information on carbon-neutrality and emission-offset initiatives (such as recent reviews by OCHA or Up in Smoke) and initiatives by UN bodies, private sector and NGOs toward carbon neutrality by 17 September 2007.
- 4. Assign roles and responsibilities for specific activities to committee members and ascertain if additional human resources are required by 17 September 2007.
- 5. Identify Governments and organizations for pilot studies and that can join the WG (Indonesia for Bali COP?) by 17 September 2007.
- 6. Develop guidance by 29 October 2007.
- 7. Share with WG and expert reviewers.
- 8. Publish guidance online and hard copy.
- 9. Disseminate: share with Global Platform members using full WG's network, feature at COP-13 side event.

Members interested in activity C:

Name	Organization	Subactivities of interest (all or identify subactivities)

Meeting Participants

Emily Wilkinson	Benfield Hazard Research	
	Centre	
Paul Borsboom	CARE	
Richard Weaver	EU-CORD/Voice WG on	
	DRR	
Antony Spalton	IFRC	
Saleemul Huq	IIED	
Carmen Schlosser	ISDR	
Silvia Llosa	ISDR secretariat	
Marcus Moench	ISET	
Jacob Korreborg	OCHA	
Norah Niland	OCHA	
Roy Brooke	OCHA	
Ian O'Donnell	ProVention Consortium	
Sarah LaTrobe	Tearfund	
Caroline Borchard	UNDP	
Kamal Kishore	UNDP	
Shefali Juneja	UNDP	
Glenn Dolcemascolo	UNEP	
John Carstensen	UNEP	
Maliza van Eeden	UNEP	
Pascal Peduzzi	UNEP/DEWA-Europe	
Annett Moehner	UNFCCC	
Kristie Ebi	WHO	
Amir H. Delju	WMO	