



INFORMAL PLENARY SESSIONS

Wednesday, 17th June

The following report has been prepared by Earth Negotiations Bulletin.

On Wednesday, 17 June, the informal plenary, co-chaired by Margareta Wahlström and Michel Jarraud, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), discussed concrete steps toward mainstreaming DRR and conducting the mid-term review of HFA implementation. Co-Chair Jarraud said that making investment decisions on the basis of previous experiences is difficult because the past is no longer a good indicator of the future due to climate change. He noted considerable progress in responding to natural disasters over the last decade, including significant reduction in casualties and development of regional centers for typhoons. Many stressed the importance of utilizing local knowledge and wisdom relevant to DRR.

Various participants stressed the need for, inter alia: long-term policy agendas; early prevention and preparation for natural disasters beyond 2015; regular monitoring; involvement of international development sectors in DRR; better integration of development and humanitarian efforts; and provision of positive incentives for change. Others highlighted the need to: measure how the HFA is improving the ability of communities to address risk; assess the actual impact of national DRR platforms; share experiences in national policy implementation and regional collaboration; learn from best practices, “bad practices” and the absence of practices in relation to DRR; broaden the HFA to incorporate multiple discourses on climate change, development and DRR; develop capacity building modules; and utilize recent scientific information.

Noting the widespread view that absence of local DRR action is a major problem, one participant called for involving local authorities in the ISDR process and remarked on their absence at this conference. Some noted the difficulties in measuring progress, conducting a cross-national comparative analysis of policies, or applying lessons from one region to another. Others underscored the importance of using consistent and universally valid methodology for collecting data and conducting the HFA review. Co-Chair Wahlström requested participants to identify resources they could offer for the review process.