



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Second meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 2), in conjunction with the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 12), in Nairobi, 6 - 17 November 2006.

***Statement to the twenty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 25)
Nairobi, 6 November 2006***

Statement Prepared and Delivered by the ISDR Secretariat

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank the UNFCCC Secretariat for providing this opportunity to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) secretariat to the twenty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 25). It is my pleasure to address this honourable audience.

I would like to express the interest of the ISDR System in supporting SBSTA's five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The ISDR System brings together a number of partners engaged in reducing disaster risk—it is committed to reducing the risks posed by climate change and variability. The ISDR System has the will, the capacity and some resources to support SBSTA's programme of work. It shares with SBSTA the same goal of strengthening Governments' capacities to deal with extreme events, focussing on the most vulnerable—that is, developing countries, in particular the least developed and small-island developing States. Moreover, the ISDR System brings to the relatively new area of climate change adaptation, a broad-and-institutionalized body of experience in reducing risk to extreme events, such as droughts, floods and storms.

In particular the areas of synergy that reduce disaster risk and enable climate change adaptation include:

- methodologies and tools for risk assessment, in particular bottom-up approaches focused on vulnerability and the inclusion of socio-economic information;
- methods and tools for adaptation planning, measures and actions, as well as their integration into sustainable development;
- experience and lessons learned from current measures for dealing with extreme events, including early warning systems;
- technologies and know-how, including indigenous knowledge, for reducing the risk posed by climate variability and change.

Supporting SBSTA's programme of work builds on ongoing collaboration with the UNFCCC and on existing activities undertaken by ISDR partners with Governments at country level. The ISDR secretariat recently collaborated with the UNFCCC's regional adaptation workshops in Latin America and Africa, as well as provided some of the hands-on knowledge just referred to, in conducting risk assessments focusing on community vulnerability and capacity at a UNFCCC workshop in Paraguay. The ISDR support to countries includes a survey of capacities and needs worldwide for early warning systems with specific recommendations, guidance for incorporating risk reduction measures in development planning, such as Poverty Reduction Strategies and UN Development Assistance Frameworks, as well as much needed substantial analysis of the cost/benefit of risk reduction. Country-level activities are supported by partners such as the World Bank, with whom the ISDR secretariat has just launched the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery to reduce the impact of disasters caused by hazards on populations and their livelihoods.

Our interest in supporting the SBSTA programme of work also responds directly to the mandate of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*, in which 168 Governments agreed to reduce underlying risks by integrating risk reduction measures and climate change adaptation.

Finally, the ISDR System is ready to support SBSTA's programme of work to build momentum *together* for incorporating risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development planning and practice. Reducing the risk posed by extreme events and sustainable development are mutually reinforcing objectives. A lot of knowledge and experience has been built up over the years. The Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved unless we work together to reduce the risk posed by extreme events.

We look forward to collaboration.
Thank you very much your attention.

Mission

The ISDR aims at building disaster resilient communities by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters.

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