



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction  
*Secretariat, Geneva*

## **Opportunities to enhance action on adaptation under Decision -/CP.16 and the Cancun Adaptation Framework**

### **Submission by the United Nations secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) to the UNFCCC Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action and the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

#### **Background**

To capitalize on the momentum of the successful outcome of UNFCCC COP 16 in Cancun, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Support Group established an informal group of Governments. The United Nations secretariat of ISDR (UNISDR) facilitated the work of the informal group and the development of a set of recommendations which are informed by views the UNFCCC Parties and ISDR system partners.

The informal group convened twice to assist the UNISDR secretariat to develop a final set of proposed views, which are intended to assist Parties and relevant organizations effectively address the issue of disaster risk reduction, as invited by UNFCCC decision -/CP.16.<sup>1</sup>

The fact that the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF) calls for “enhanc[ed] climate change related disaster risk reduction strategies” and mentions the Hyogo Framework for Action by name represents significant progress strengthening the implementation of adaptation and the reduction of climate-related disaster risks.<sup>2</sup> In particular, the CAF forms the basis for strategic and focused suggestions regarding the form and function of the Adaptation Committee and elements to facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction via the proposed work plan on loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.<sup>3</sup>

The views in this submission focus on two fundamental points: the relevance to climate change adaptation of efforts carried out under the Hyogo Framework for Action to reduce and manage risk to extreme climate events, in both policy and practice; and second, that disaster risk reduction and adaptation have the most leverage when placed at the centre of national development planning.

In light of above, the longer-term perspective of the views provided in this document is to support Parties and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to develop a process to enable least developed country Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and to effectively integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts into the proposed process.

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<sup>1</sup> “Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention.”

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., Paragraph 14(e).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, Paragraph 26.

The views below were circulated in draft form to the ISDR Inter-Agency Group (IAG) and other ISDR partners. They benefited from inputs from the United Nations University (UNU), the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), ACT Alliance, among others. The proposed views in this document relate specifically to the submissions concerning:

1. Views on the composition of, and modalities and procedures for, the proposed Adaptation Committee, including on proposed linkages with other relevant institutional arrangements;<sup>4</sup> and
2. Views and information on what elements should be included in the work programme, including, including through workshops and expert meetings, approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries.<sup>5</sup> These include the following:
  - a) Possible development of a climate risk insurance facility to address impacts associated with severe weather events;
  - b) Options for risk management and reduction; risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance, including options for micro-insurance; and resilience building, including through economic diversification;
  - c) Approaches for addressing rehabilitation measures associated with slow onset events;
  - d) Engagement of stakeholders with relevant specialized expertise.

**1. Views related to the Adaptation Committee**

It is suggested that the Parties consolidate the link between the activities carried out to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action and its related institutional mechanisms established by the UN General Assembly under the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the Adaptation Committee.

Therefore, the following views, if taken into consideration, would “promot[e] synergy and strengthen [ . . . ] engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centers and networks” (Paragraph 20(c)). Such action is also in line with the Parties’ request to enhance 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 local, national, sub regional and regional levels.

<b>Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (Decision -/CP.16, Para. 21)</b>	<b>Views on the Adaptation Committee</b>
<i>Invites</i> Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 21 February 2011, views on the composition of, and modalities and procedures for, the Adaptation Committee, including on proposed linkages with other relevant institutional arrangements;	1. The composition of, and modalities and procedures for the Adaptation Committee should reflect the importance of disaster risk reduction as a crucial element of climate change adaptation, with a focus on expertise and know-how that exists in developing countries and regional organizations. Recognizing that extreme climate events is only one aspects of climate risk to be addressed by the Adaptation Committee.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., Paragraph 21.  
<sup>5</sup> Ibid, Paragraph 28.

	<p>2. The Parties should establish a mechanism to formalize the integration of disaster risk reduction experts (from governments, international organizations, research institutes, civil society and the private sector) to assist the Adaptation Committee in its proposed functions<sup>6</sup> as set out in Decision -/CP.16.</p> <p>3. To achieve the above, the above mechanisms under the Adaptation Committee should be composed of experts with technical expertise on planning and implementing disaster risk reduction and adaptation, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Experts from national meteorological services;</li> <li>- National focal points and experts in disaster risk reduction; and</li> <li>- Experts from development agencies.</li> </ul> <p>4. The Adaptation Committee should be able to provide guidance and support on emerging issues.</p>
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<sup>6</sup> These include, but are not limited to the following:

- provide technical support and guidance to the Parties;
- strengthen information and knowledge sharing;
- promote engagement with national, regional and international organizations and networks;
- provide information and recommendations to enable climate resilient development and reduce vulnerability;
- strengthen data and knowledge systems; and
- improve climate-related research and systematic observations for modeling.