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SECRETARIAT DE LA STRATEGIE  
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## **SUBMISSION BY THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION TO THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME ON IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Geneva, 30 March 2011

**Subject: Submission of further views and information on the effectiveness of the Nairobi Work Programme on progress made and gaps, as well as new activities that may be needed to achieve the objective and expected outcomes of the Nairobi Work Programme.**

### **Background**

Pursuant to the Thirty-third session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, Parties and relevant organizations were invited to submit views and relevant information on the following issues in order to inform the review of the Nairobi Work Programme:

- progress made and gaps; and
- new activities that may be needed to achieve the programme's objective and expected outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

UNISDR has supported this mechanism directly and by serving as a conduit between DRR experts and the UNFCCC Parties. The views and suggestions below are informed by UNISDR's experience as a coordinating entity, as well as the findings of the 2011 *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction* (GAR), the 2009-2011 *HFA Progress Review* and drafts of the IPCC Special Report "Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation" (SREX). These views reflect the objective of the Nairobi Work Programme: "to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability."<sup>2</sup>

The Nairobi Work Programme was intended to be a five-year initiative (2005-2010) with nine work areas, some of which are directly related to DRR. The suggest inputs below refer to UNISDR's and the DRR community's engagement in the planning and implementation of adaptation under the UNFCCC. They are specifically geared to the broader question: How can the knowledge captured by the UNFCCC Parties through the Nairobi Work Programme be both enriched and used more effectively by the Parties to implement adaptation?

<sup>1</sup> UNFCCC SBSTA Thirty-third session, Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair. FCCC/SBSTA/2010/L.20.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its twenty-fifth session, held at Nairobi from 6 to 14 November 2006 (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11).

## **Views on progress made and gaps:**

1. Reviews of progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework by Governments and local authorities, available in the GAR and on preventionweb, show that some Governments — such as Viet Nam, Philippines and Cook Islands — have successfully incorporated DRR into adaptation planning processes and are building upon DRR expertise.
2. Despite Parties' progress incorporating DRR into adaptation planning, there is a general gap in the implementation of adaptation based on pragmatic and concrete measures and capacities that are available in disaster risk reduction. In order to close the gap, developing country Parties will need to develop adaptation funding proposals for cost-effective projects based on well established approaches to deal with climate extremes.
3. The Nairobi Work Programme has provided an opportunity to highlight a number of disaster risk reduction programmes and their relevance to climate change adaptation. For example, at least 21 countries have developed national disaster loss databases for disasters, a critical tool for estimating risk and vulnerability to climate change impacts at the national and sub-national level. Understanding of risk is essential for prioritizing development funding and the effective establishment of early warning systems.
4. Impacts of climate change, variability and extreme events on human health, agricultural productivity, ecosystems, etc., are not well documented. Furthermore, there are significant gaps in data that necessary to understand the impacts of climate change (e.g., soil maps, stream flow, etc.).

## **Proposed new activities and the work areas they would strengthen:**

Based on the experience of the UNISDR secretariat and its partners, the Nairobi Work Programme could be made more effective if it were more focused on emerging priorities in disaster risk reduction, emerging from the reviews of progress and risk in the ISDR/GAR and by systematically linking UNFCCC mechanisms to existing institutions both under and outside of the Convention. The six suggestions below indicate how the Nairobi Work Programme can better leverage these existing capacities within the context of the Cancún Adaptation Framework.

1. Strengthen understanding of risk to extreme events as basis for prioritizing adaptation financing based on loss databases and better integration of climate change scenarios in developing countries, especially SIDS and LDCs (NWP Work Area 2—Data and observations; Work Area 3—Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling; Work Area 4—Climate related risks and extreme events)
2. Better understanding and exchanges of experience on effective institutional frameworks for addressing disaster risk and climate change adaptation in development (NWP Work Area 6—Adaptation planning and practices)
3. Better understanding of drought risk modeling to systematize knowledge of drought on multiple sectors of the economy and upon human well-being (NWP Work Area 1—Methods and tools; Work Area 3—Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling; Work Area 4—Climate related risks and extreme events; Work Area 5—Socio-economic information)
4. Systematize results of the Nairobi Work Programme, their use by Parties and the effectiveness of different activities including relevant disaster risk reduction activities (NWP Work Area 6—Adaptation planning and practices)
5. Better understanding on implementation challenges for the application short and medium forecast for effective decision-making for immediate and longer-term development decisions that reduce risk (NWP Work Area 6—Adaptation planning and practices)