**Statement from the Germany National Meteorological Service, Deutscher Wetterdiens (DWD) at UNFCCC expert meeting on assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change - Japan March 2012**

Panel discussion:

Part I: Standards, guidelines, availability, and accessibility to climate and hazard data and analysis

General

THX madam chair and WMO for inviting me to this session. I am speaking as coordinator of the WMO Regional Association for Europe Pilot Regional Climate Centre Network, a function voluntarily taken by the German Meteorological Service. I also serve as Co-Chair of the WMO technical Commission for Climatology Expert Team on RCCs.

RCCs, are centres of excellence that support member countries of a WMO Regional Association with climate products through their respective National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in order to enable these NMHSs to deliver climate information needed at national level. The product categories of RCCs include climate data, climate monitoring and long-range forecasts.

So the RCC is aimed at indirectly serving a wide range of users and applications. As such RCCs are a regional level operational infrastructure element of the GFCS.

Issue 1: What are the data and information requirements (hazards, climatic conditions, socio-economic impact data) for assessing impacts and climate risk, at different levels (sub-national, national, regional, global) and for at risk sectors and ecosystems?

Data and information requirements are in general defined at national levels. These requirements differ from country to country as their geographical and climatic situations differ, so do hazard risks. Observations made depend on funding provided.

Based on these national requirements regional level requirements for products to be generated by the RCC-Network have been agreed among the 50 members of WMO RA Europe. These requirements specify the types of products to be generated, as well as their spatial and temporal resolution. In order to support risk assessment the RCC on climate monitoring also produces short assessment studies of extreme events and presently is developing a hazard impact data base for the region.

At global level the Global Climate Observing System, GCOS, has defined requirements wrt spatial resolution for Essential Climate Variables, ECVs. In general requirements for observations are being documented and maintained in WMO's Rolling Review of Requirements. In 2005 a GCOS Regional Action Plan for Eastern and Central Europe was developed with a number of actions needed to improve climate observations in this region. This action plan still awaits implementation.

However, global and regional scale requirements in most cases are insufficient to meet the national and local user needs. It can be expected that in the context of adaptation planning existing requirements may need to be revised.

Issue 2: What data is available, where are the gaps, what are the challenges with data availability, accessibility in addressing the gaps (hazard, environmental and climatic conditions and socio-economic).

In general only a subset of the nationally available climate data is being exchange at regional and international level. In Europe data policies can be fully and open, as well as very restrictive. While some countries try to move towards a more open data policy others are just starting to move in the opposite direction. For EU member states the INSPIRE regulation is expected to facility access to environmental data in general, including meteorological data from 2013 onwards.

Thus data gaps, as seen from outside a country, can have different reasons, like missing station, technical problems, data policy. While meteorological data are exchanged on a routine basis, other environmental data are not.

To my knowledge there is no exchange of hazard data in WMO RA VI. In the context of the WMO RA VI Pilot RCC-Network context information about impacts of extreme weather events is being taken from newspapers and/ or case studies published by NMHSs – difficult to use if not in English in order to develop a data base of such type of information.

Exchange of socio-economic data is even more problematic, and not included in the RCC-Network.

Issue 3: Needs, gaps and challenges for an integrated approach to data analysis to support decision making

1. There is still a substantial amount of data on paper only, waiting for digitization before paper has decayed and this heritage will be lost forever. This is the only way to extend existing time series and close gaps in space and time.
2. It is of great importance that high priority is given to strict quality control, including regular homogenization of time series.
3. Exchange of quality controlled socio-economic data will remain a challenge, but may become a necessity if regional climate predictions have to be turned into meaningful information.