



FEATURED EVENT

Drought Resilience in a Changing Climate

CONCEPT NOTE

Schedule	Wednesday 22 May, 11:00 to 12:30 Room 2
Organizers	FAO UNCCD WMO Save the Children
Focal Points	John Harding, UNISDR (harding@un.org)
Background and Rationale	<p>Countries remain challenged to quantify the risk of drought and to put in place the required institutional mechanisms and measures that will reduce the longer term risks.</p> <p>Climate change is increasing temperature variability and access to water, potentially leading to land degradation and reduced agricultural production according to the IPCC Special Report on Extreme Events (IPCC/SREX, 2012).</p> <p>Governments, regional, multilateral and bilateral partners are recurrently responding to drought induced crisis and resulting food insecurity.</p> <p>The recurrent nature of these events and the difficulties in reducing drought risk has resulted in a number of initiatives to strengthen the resilience of communities to empower them to deal with the shocks and recover rapidly.</p> <p>The High Level Meeting on Drought Management Policies (HMNDP) was held from 11 to 15 March 2013 in Geneva and provided a rich exchange on what constitutes good national drought policies and modalities to promote collaboration around the topic.</p>
Session Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Take stock of the HMNDP outcomes and contribute to their dissemination within the disaster risk management community.2. Look at some of the key challenges in the application of drought policies and how to integrate these within disaster risk management plan and broader sustainable development. And,3. Present the findings of the recent assessment of agricultural drought exposure in Africa and the Middle East and how countries are addressing this in the context of climate change, based on the work of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR, 2013).
Discussion agenda and	The session will run as a facilitated High Level Expert Panel discussion. The Panel

structure	<p>will be composed of Government official and local officials. The perspective of a private sector expert will be sought regarding the application of risk sharing tools to address drought risk in line with the overall theme of the Global Platform Session.</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key recommendations and challenges from the HMNDP 2. Establishing national drought policies – country presentation 3. Measuring drought risk – expert contribution 4. Policies for drought resilient Agriculture – local perspective 5. Communicating around climate change and need for action
List of expected outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified practical steps for countries to establish effective drought policies as called for by the High Level Meeting on Drought Management Policies - Communication on the findings of the IPCC/SREX regarding long term changes and policies to address these
Relevance of the initiative	The event brings together different sectoral perspectives from Governments and regional organizations to discuss challenges in establishing national drought policies with a focus on national actors and Africa.
Subject's link to post 2015	The Featured Event will provide recommendations towards greater policy, investment and capacity development on drought risk management at country level in the context of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2).
Expected number of participants and speakers	400
Technical Equipment Required	Video projector, screen, computer, microphones
Background documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcome of the High Level Meeting on Drought Management Policies http://www.hmndp.org/node/335 - IPCC Special Report Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) http://ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/ - Global Assessment Report 2011 http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2011/