

## EVENT REPORT TEMPLATE

<b>Name and Type of Event</b>	<b>Side Event: Benefits of Climate Services for managing disaster risks for sustainable growth</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>21/5/2013</b>
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<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>+100</b>

### QUESTIONS:

The session included panelists spanning experts from agricultural, health and water resource management, development sectors and representatives from the regional and national meteorological and climate centers and services.

#### 1) What were the key messages, outcomes and recommendations from your event?

##### Key Messages:

- Risks associated with weather, climate and water related hazards in many socioeconomic sectors are leading to significant loss of life, livelihoods and socioeconomic impacts. Specifically, impacts of for agricultural production and food security, water resource management and health including epidemics were demonstrated
- Advancement in climate forecasting technologies provides unprecedented opportunities to understand and quantify the changing patterns and characteristics of hydro-meteorological hazards in a changing climate. This information if available operationally, can assist governments, sectors, and communities in making better informed planning and development decisions with longer time scales to reduce impacts of disasters through early warning systems, sectoral planning and risk management and financing and risk transfer
- Availability of and accessibility to reliable, user-driven climate services are critical for sectoral risk analysis and informed decision-making but there is need for such information at different timescales (weeks, months, seasons, years, decades) and spatial levels (local, national, watershed scale, regional, global).
- Development of climate services and integration of this information into decision-tools requires cooperation across many disciplines and agencies at national and local levels supported by regional and international cooperation and coordination in data sharing, transfer of technology and knowhow and joint training across producers and users of information
- At the national level, there is need for strengthening cooperation and operational engagement of various economic sectors and DRR community with the national

- meteorological and hydrological services to identify needs of these sectors for information and to develop products and services that are user-friendly and easily can be used for risk analysis, scenario analysis and decision-tools
- In many developing and least developed countries, the core capacities of national meteorological services are insufficient or non-existent to support these needs. According to the World Bank, basic capacity development of meteorological infrastructure for monitoring, forecasting, communication and data management and human resources in developing and least developed countries is conservatively estimated at 1.5 to 2 billion US dollars. This has to also be complemented with government financing for sustainability of these systems over time. Furthermore, there is need in investing in human expertise and capacities of these services to ensure effective development and delivery of the services. The World Bank has also indicated that investments in the meteorological systems and delivery for weather and climate services provides highest benefits through informed decision-making which leads to reduction of socio-economic impacts.
  - National meteorological and climate systems need to be operationally supported by a network of regional climate centers and global centers that are producing latest technologies for climate forecasting, and scenario analysis to help develop and downscale the climate analysis for national to local needs of various stakeholders in the sectoral value chain, (e.g., ministries of agriculture to agricultural extension and farmers)
  - To address these needs, WMO is expanding on scientific advances to increase the availability and accuracy of user-friendly climate services to help countries and communities, especially the most vulnerable, through the initiative, called the “Global Framework for Climate Services” (GFCS), which is being implemented by governments with support from WMO and its partners within and outside the United Nations system. It will include joint platforms between providers and users of climate services at different levels, and targets disaster risk reduction as one of its top priorities, along with food security, water resource management and health.

**Key Outcomes:**

- A better understanding of the impacts of climate conditions and extremes on agriculture, food security, health, water resource management and implication for disaster risk reduction decision-making.
- A better understanding of the challenges and opportunities to develop useful and targeted climate information and services,

**Key recommendations:**

- The session recommended that development and sustainability of climate services would require critical investment in national meteorological and climate systems and services, transfer of climate forecasting and analysis technologies and knowhow, through capacity development and training, strengthening of partnerships within and among economic sectors and user communities with meteorological and climate community for development and provision of relevant climate services to. These investments should be considered as a high priority

- of ministers of finance and planning as part of the national development planning, budgeting and development agenda with in multi-sectoral, multi-level approach..
- Strengthening of global, regional and national partnerships and coordination between the meteorological, climate and hydrological and the disaster risk reduction communities and sectors are critical to the development of science-based information to enable community action, build disaster and climate resilience, leverage resources, sustainability and manage risks associated with trans-boundary and larger scales hazards
  - This can be achieved through investments in the new global partnership under the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and continued improvements observing networks, technologies for climate forecasts and climate change scenarios and development, availability and accessibility of climate services in user-friendly formats targeted at different sectors, at different levels (global, regional, national, local) providing unprecedented opportunity to build disaster and climate resilience

**2) Based on the Synthesis Report of the HFA2 consultation process up to the GP13, what are specific recommendations and concrete examples for the main topics, themes and issues to be addressed in the HFA2? (Please also list any issues that might not have been captured in the global discussions yet.)**

**1. In the context of more integrated multi-sectoral, multi-hazard, multi-level approach to disaster risk reduction as an integral part of national development and resilience building:**

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- Development and sustainability of climate services would require critical investment in national meteorological and climate systems and services, transfer of climate forecasting and analysis technologies and knowhow, through capacity development and training, strengthening of partnerships within and among economic sectors and user communities with meteorological and climate community for development and provision of relevant climate services to. These investments should be considered as a high propriety of ministers of finance and planning as part of the national development planning, budgeting and development agenda with in multi-sectoral, multi-level approach.
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## **2. In the context of strengthened governance and institutional coordination**

- The implementation of the HFA by national governments is leading to amendments and/or development of new national DRR policies as well as legal and institutional frameworks. HFA2 should highlight the importance of anchoring roles, working arrangements and strengthening of technical agencies such as the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the amended and/or new policies and legal frameworks.

## **3. Coordinated financial resources to support capacity development**

- Effective coordination and leveraging of government investments and risk financing strategies with international humanitarian, development, climate-related funding in areas such as institutional and infrastructure capacities, hazard/risk and climate information systems are critical to avoid duplication, address gaps and ensure sustainability.

## **4. Investments in early warning systems**

- Investments in development and strengthening of national early warning systems should be considered as an integral part of national risk reduction and resilience-building planning with a multi-hazard, multi-sectoral and multi-level approach. Investments in these systems should reflect long-term sustainability. In this regard, investment in the national meteorological systems and networks, particularly in developing and least developed countries, would lead to very large benefits.