



2015 MEETING OF THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOCAL POINTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS AND PROGRAMMES (DRR FP RA-TC-TP)

**3–5 November 2015
WMO Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
Room: Salle C1**

Webpage:
http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/eventsThematic_en.html

CONCEPT NOTE

(as of 29 October 2015)

Background

WMO is the specialized scientific and technical agency of the United Nations responsible for development of guidelines, standards and coordination of a global network operated by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of its 191 Members for monitoring, detection, forecasting and analysis of weather-, climate-, and water-related hazards and conditions. Through its six regional associations (RAs), eight technical commissions (TCs), and technical programmes (TPs), WMO engages leading experts around the world to develop guidelines, manuals and standards for its Members' consideration and adoption.

Disaster Risk Reduction – a high priority for WMO

The seventeenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-17) in June 2015 reaffirmed disaster risk reduction (DRR) as one of the high-priority areas for WMO, thereby acknowledging the significance of the Sendai Framework for WMO and the new opportunities and challenges it poses for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). The scope and objectives of the WMO DRR Programme, established in 2003, were aligned with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA) to support NMHSs in (i) the provision of hazard information for risk assessments, prevention, response, recovery and risk

transfer across sectors; (ii) the preparedness through early warning systems (EWSs); (iii) the ability to respond to user requirements; and (iv) the cooperation and engagement in disaster governance structures at all levels. Through this crosscutting Programme, WMO has played an important role in supporting its Members in implementing the HFA. The WMO DRR priority cuts across all other WMO priorities and contributes to related priority areas such as capacity development and the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

WMO is now realigning its DRR Programme with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (hereafter referred to as Sendai Framework), while considering the provisions of other global frameworks that are highly relevant to DRR, for example, on sustainable development, climate change, humanitarian assistance and urban issues. A first step was the decision by EC-66 and Cg-17 to produce and regularly update a WMO DRR Roadmap.

The adoption of the Sendai Framework by 187 countries at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, is of enormous significance to the DRR priority of WMO. The new Framework addresses four priorities for action:

1. Understanding disaster risk;
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction (DRR) for resilience; and,
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The Sendai Framework defines the roles of stakeholders and of international cooperation and global partnerships and includes seven global targets that are to be achieved over the next 15 years.

WMO Members contribute with a number of activities and supported by nearly all WMO RAs, TCs, and TPs to each priority for action of the Framework, especially for the priorities for action 1 and 4. While WMO Members produce forecasts and warnings for hazardous conditions, it is essential that societies are prepared to act appropriately in response. Education and training is the key to improving prevention and preparedness for response, recovery, and reconstruction. EWSs for natural hazards work only if communities have access to appropriate systems and information and if the members of those communities know how to respond when they receive such warning messages. Ensuring access to timely environmental hazard information and communicating (issuing and disseminating) impact-based forecasts and risk-informed hazard warnings to end users in a manner that is efficient, timely, understandable, and actionable are crucial for DRR. Such an approach would require a framework for standardized and interactive operations and partnerships for preparedness and response, as well as indicators to monitor processes, performance, and expected outcomes.

It also highlighted that the Framework's global target number 7, which reads “*substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030*”, is particularly relevant to WMO and its DRR priority.

The WMO Disaster Risk Reduction Programme

WMO's DRR Programme is cross-cutting and inextricably linked to the WMO RAs, TCs, and TPs. Hence, the DRR Programme strives to ensure that the activities of WMO's constituent bodies and programmes and their operational and research networks are aligned when assisting Members in their efforts to reduce disaster risks and the impacts of hydrometeorological hazards. Major decisions of WMO governing bodies (WMO Congress and Executive Council), international conferences relevant to the DRR Programme as well as milestones of the WMO DRR Programme – both during the past four and the coming two years – are schematically shown in Annex I of Document 7.

It should be noted that:

- a) Cg-17 reconfirmed the establishment of the DRR Focal Points of TCs and TPs (DRR FP TC-TP) and requested it to include focal points of the RAs as a mechanism to support the WMO-wide coordination of DRR activities (now DRR FP RA-TC-TP); and,
- b) EC-67 established the EC Working Group on DRR (EC WG-DRR) to provide guidance on the implementation of the DRR Programme.

In order to better define users of different weather, water, and climate services for DRR and their requirements as well as to leverage the activities of RAs, TCs, and TPs, EC-64 supported the utilization of DRR user-interface expert advisory groups (UI-EAGs), comprised of leading experts from the diverse DRR user community (public and private sectors), United Nations and international partner agencies, academia as well as from the NMHSs. It decided to endorse the establishment of UI-EAGs on: (i) Hazard/Risk Analysis (HRA); (ii) Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS); (iii) Disaster Risk Financing (DRF); and, (iv) Humanitarian Planning and Response (HUM). Cg-17 encouraged the Secretariat to continue with such user-driven approaches in the development of DRR knowledge products, science-based and risk-informed services, and in the implementation of demonstration projects.

The WMO Disaster Risk Reduction Roadmap

EC-66 requested the Secretary-General to develop a WMO DRR Roadmap of prioritized and realistically achievable activities and deliverables that are consistent with the WMO Strategic and Operating Plans as well as the work plans for relevant WMO programmes and projects. A first draft was presented to Cg-17 and further input will be during this Workshop. It should be recalled that Cg-17 emphasized that all DRR activities should consider and leverage existing guidelines, good practices, frameworks, etc. from the RAs, TCs, TPs and from NMHSs' own DRR roadmaps, frameworks and good practices.

The Roadmap will guide WMO's activities in all components of disaster risk management as well as their further enhancement and coordination across WMO constituent bodies and programmes. It is a coordinated organization-wide plan of action with prioritized activities and deliverables and will be continuously updated and verified for consistency with the WMO Strategic and Operating Plans and its constituent bodies as well as the work plans for related WMO programmes and projects.

The aim of the Roadmap is furthermore to emphasize the role WMO and the NMHSs of its Members need to play in the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework across all levels, sectors and timescales, including the provision of weather-specific early warnings with improved lead time, slower onset seasonal or climate-related information and hazard information for risk assessments, prevention, response, recovery, and risk transfer, i.e. the reduction of existing risks and preventing the creation of new risks.

In this respect, the DRR Programme provides assistance to WMO Members through:

- a) Developing DRR knowledge products (e.g. guidelines, standards, and training modules) in thematic areas such as hazard and risk assessment, MHEWS, humanitarian planning and response, and disaster risk financing;
- b) Supporting coordinated national and regional DRR capacity development activities and demonstration projects in these thematic areas; and,
- c) Promoting, engaging in, and facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships and forums for DRR at different levels.

About the Meeting

Meeting Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The goals of the 2015 Coordination Meeting of the DRR FP RA-TC-TP) are to:

1. Review and finalize the draft TOR of the DRR FP RA-TC-TP;
2. Review and provide input to the current draft of the WMO DRR Roadmap, in particular activities for the intersessional period 2016–2019;
3. Provide guidance and recommendations on the process for the development of standard identifiers for cataloguing extreme weather, water, and climate events including standard hazard definitions and a governing mechanism;
4. Discuss relevant DRR-related projects and activities of RAs, TCs, and TPs and their relation to prospective projects and activities of the DRR Programme.
5. Development of priorities of action and recommendations to better leverage DRR related projects and activities of RAs, TCs and TPs;
6. Provide recommendations for governance mechanisms / oversight arrangements including interactions with the PTC/PRA, Working Groups on DRR (or similar, if applicable) within RAs, TCs, and TPs, and the DRR UI-EAGs; and,
7. Develop a prioritized work plan for 2016–2017.

Meeting Participants

The meeting participants include formally designated focal points of the WMO RAs, TCs, and TPs as well as relevant WMO Secretariat staff.