



# Coping with Climate Change

## Strengthening Resilience and Adaptation

22 MARCH 2019, 11:35-13:00

Room 7+8, International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)  
(without interpretation)



### OBJECTIVES

The main aims of the round tables are:

- to provide a mutual learning space where participants from governments can interact with their peers and other relevant stakeholders in order to exchange experiences, propose solutions to address identified problems and anticipate future developments; and
- to identify main lessons and compile a set of key messages that can be shared with a wider audience.



### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. In the landscape of risk prevention, implementation of Goal 13 in coherence with the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework contributes to address underlying causes of fragility and crises, allowing our society to engage in their resilient and sustainable future in a changing climate. What are some of the core areas where governments in the region could enhance action and cooperation to address disaster and climate risk?
2. How do we accelerate action to combat climate change-related disaster risk? What kind of institutional reforms, system changes and policies do we need to enable this?
3. There is a strong interdependence of the private sectors and a sustainable financial system which will determine governments' ability to manage disaster and climate risk through effective policies. How do we make sure that the financial architecture takes this into account? How can the region most effectively use the climate and disaster-related funds, for integrated and robust adaptation and mitigation activities?
4. Tackling disaster and climate risk is essential for sustainable development and achievement of SDGs. In five years from now, what needs to be in place for effective management of climate risk? What are the critical climate threats that require urgent action (e.g. food security, financial shocks, trade, infrastructure, water-related and security threats)?

5. Building resilience and adapting to climate change will require action at multiple levels and with a range of stakeholders from different sectors. More effective policies, risk management systems and response capacities at national level will need to be equally matched by investments at local levels, particularly in communities and for people who are most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. How do we best promote integrated and multi-level measures and what examples can be used as reference for scaling up these efforts? How do we promote cooperation at regional and transboundary level on adaptation, in order to maximize its effectiveness and prevent maladaptation?

## Case studies

### **France:** The second French National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change

In 2018, the second French National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change (PNACC-2) for the period 2018-2022 was launched. Its objective is to implement the necessary actions to adapt the territories of mainland and overseas France to the anticipated regional climate change by 2050. The hypothesis adopted involves an increase in the global mean surface temperature of 2°C compared to the preindustrial era, even if France acts on the national and international level to limit this increase to 1.5°C.

Presenter: Ms. Marie Carrega, Deputy Secretary General, National Observatory on the Effects of Climate Change, Ministry for an Ecological and Solidary Transition, France

### **Montenegro:** Montenegro's Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy addressing resilience and adaptation

The Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Montenegro addresses a number of important areas. It involves developing a Study on Natural Disasters and Man-made Disasters for the needs of the Spatial Plan of Montenegro and the preparation of the Spatial Plan. It requires drafting of a Plan of General Regulation for the whole territory of Montenegro, including all hazards endangering citizens and the environment, which had not previously existed. Other important components are conducting an Analysis of Seismic Risk as a part of the Plan of General Regulation and preparing the Law as well as National and Local Plans of Adaptation on Climate Change by 2020.

Presenter: Mr. Ljuban Tmusic, Head of Department for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid, Directorate for Emergency Management, Ministry of Interior, Montenegro

### **E3G:** Connecting climate change, disaster risk and sustainable finance

The Sendai Framework emphasizes the need for risk informed investments to achieve disaster resilience. In March 2018, the European Commission published the EU Action Plan on Financing Sustainable Growth setting out a range of planned policy and legislative measures to reorient capital flows towards sustainable investment and manage financial risks stemming from climate change. In order to support these measures, which have a strong expert and stakeholder engagement, E3G is working with forward-thinking institutions, investors and civil society to embed sustainability, disaster risk and climate change as a core outcome. Through analysis, thought leadership and outreach, E3G is working to facilitate the shifting of private capital to support climate resilience, low carbon and a sustainable European economy that can be a blueprint for regions around the world.

Presenter: Mr. Tom Bruke, Chairman E3G

**European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC):** Tackling the interrelationships between climate change, agriculture and health

Climate change is impairing food and nutrition security worldwide and the challenges will increase. Changes in temperature and water availability, in pests and diseases act to reduce crop productivity and current agricultural practices are a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), the global network of more than 130 science academies, is completing a [project](#) with four regional working groups (Europe, Africa, Asia, the Americas) taking a robust evidence-based approach to explore options for improving food and nutrition security, including innovation for climate-smart agricultural adaptation and for mitigating agriculture's contribution to climate change.

Presenter: Mr. Robin Fears, Director Biosciences Programme, EASAC

**Piccola Industria Confindustria: FLUMEN:** a model of cooperation between private and public sector to address resilience while adapting to the changing climate

Flumen is a collaborative project between several Institutions and Loccioni Group with the aim of securing a stretch of the Esino river in order to prevent dangerous flooding for the company and their territory. After this investment, the entire territory and the headquarters of Loccioni are safe and the potential risk of flooding is not only mitigated but transformed into an opportunity.

Presenter: Mr. Giancarlo Turati, Vice President of Piccola Industria Confindustria and Member of the Task Force on Emergency Management

**Croatia:** Strengthening climate change resilience and health adaptation through heat health action planning

As a result of climate change, health systems need to prepare for and adapt to gradual changes in health outcomes caused by extreme events such as heat-waves. The objectives of the heat-health action plan (HHAP) are to give health and social care services the capacity to act quickly and responsibly to reduce morbidity and mortality during heat-waves, especially in vulnerable population groups. This requires the health community to play an active role in awareness-raising and advocacy, strengthening the evidence base and climate and health programming. It requires the health sector to work in a coordinated manner with other actors.

Presenter: Ms. Inge Heim, Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences, Croatia



## BACKGROUND

According to Swiss-Re, the cost of disasters worldwide in 2017 has reached an average of \$306 billion in total economic losses and produced global insured losses that made it the third-most expensive year.

Europe for that part is highly – and increasingly exposed to risks from natural hazards. Extreme events have increased in Europe, with more heat waves, droughts and forest fires in southern and central Europe, while the number of floods and instances of heavy precipitation has increased in Northern and

North-eastern Europe. The number of forest fires in the EU have more than doubled. Heatwave, storms and floods have severely affected Italy, Austria, Russia, Poland, Czech Republic and Germany that have left a trail of victims and severe damage to critical infrastructure. According to the European Environment Agency (EEA), weather and climate-related extremes accounted in 2016 for 92% of total reported disaster events and around 83% of the total losses. Slow-onset events and longer-term changes in temperature and precipitation may also contribute to increasing disaster risks in Europe (e.g. climatic changes impacting exposure to disease outbreaks).

Most extreme weather events and climate change impacts are water-related (for example floods and droughts). Since the majority of freshwater resources in the region are crossing borders, transboundary and regional cooperation in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction can help to prevent negative impacts of unilateral measures and make adaptation measures more effective.

Risks related to economic losses and infrastructure damage are rising because of increasing number and value of the assets exposed to hazards, the inadequacy of prevention measures and the growing interconnectedness of markets, societies and technologies in a digitalized economy. Disasters are obstacles to economic growth, prosperity and to achieve sustainable development. The direct and indirect costs of disasters with potential cascading and global effects are a real threat to economic stability and well-being of societies. Increasing resilience is the common goal of both Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) communities.

Integrated National and Local DRR and adaptation strategies/plans form the basis of government policy to resolve and address the continuing exacerbation of risks in the region. According to the Sendai Framework monitor, more than 19 countries from Europe and Central Asia have established their national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the SFDRR and majority of local governments from these members states have initiated implementation of their DRR plans. In addition, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Adaptation Plans of numerous countries foster policy coherence and finally resilience.

However, building resilience and adaptation towards changing climate can-not be addressed through government policy alone. There is a growing momentum behind the understanding that a sustainable financial system is critical for delivering climate resilience – with investments that support low carbon and disaster resilient portfolios rather than high carbon, risky ones. There is a strong interdependence of the public and private sectors and a sustainable financial system will determine governments’ ability to manage disaster and climate risk through effective policies. As an example, the EU has launched a sustainable finance initiative to reorient capital flows towards sustainable growth and in line with the international agreements. As part of this, a taxonomy – classification system – is being established to have a clear framework from which to determine the sustainability of economic activities. Climate related disaster risk and adaptation is an important sector of this work, alongside the mitigation component. Together, this is a crucial first step to channel investments into sustainable, disaster resilient activities and support greater climate action.

While countries are progressing towards the 2020 target set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (11 and 13) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (target E), there are still emerging threats that needs to be factored in and addressed to ensure that lives are protected, and prosperity is secured.



Food security, is one critical threat among several, including knock on impacts on health, security and transport. The trade flows, for example, are expected to be increasingly disrupted by scarcity and tensions over resources as well as with spill-over effects which will critically impact the lives of European citizens. At the same time, many production systems in the region are already unsustainable and vulnerable to shocks – including those stemming from extreme weather events and disasters caused by natural hazards– making future productivity gains uncertain. Achieving food security under these conditions will require a holistic approach, necessitating sustainable increases in agricultural production, a diversification away from climate sensitive crops, more efficient use of scarce resources, enhanced macro-level management to stabilize trade and import, and large investments at community and local levels centred on supporting people whose lives and livelihoods depend on natural resources. Some of the countries in the Europe and Central Asia region are among the most vulnerable to changes and variability in climate, and many are already experiencing negative impacts on their agro-ecosystems. Increased damage and losses to the crop, livestock, forestry and fisheries subsectors are already being reported.

In the EU, the transboundary effect of climate change on the trade flows alone is estimated to decrease the EU welfare by 20%, according to the European Commission Joint Research Council. Taken together, it is clear that the scale of these threats require a gear change in taking urgent action on climate change. Across the European region, and internationally, a range of reforms and initiatives are underway that could support greater climate change. Now is an opportunity to leverage impact to deliver a sustainable future.

Moreover, there is a significant impact of climate change on health, increasing appreciation of the need to address both climate change and its impacts on health. Challenges for health are expected to increase, exacerbated by prevailing environmental health exposures and risks. While climate change affects everybody, some population groups and specific settings are more vulnerable than others. The health community should therefore be fully engaged in national intersectoral mechanisms for adaptation to climate change



### SDG LINKAGES

Alignment of country-level policy processes under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction can help to advance climate-resilient development across all SDGs, in particular Goals 1, 2, 6, 9 and 11 amongst others.



### PARTICIPANTS

The roundtable will provide a platform for exchange among policymakers and government officials to encourage peer learning and design of practical solutions to identified problems, while including the voice of civil society, private sector and academia.



### **MODERATOR AND RAPPORTEUR**

The round table will be moderated by Ms. Dominika Reynolds, Advisor, Civil Protection and Crisis Planning Department, Ministry of the Interior, Slovakia.

The rapporteur for SDG 13 will be Mr. Laszlo Borbely, State Counsellor to the Prime Minister of Romania.



### **ORGANIZERS**

This round table is organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).