

METEOROLOGICAL AND CLIMATE SERVICES TO SUPPORT DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

15 May 2014

Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria



Description

Every year, disasters due to weather-, climate- and water-related hazards cause significant life and economic losses. In Africa, from 1970 to 2012, 1 319 reported disasters caused the loss of 698 380 lives and economic damages estimated at US\$ 26.6 billion. The worst ten reported disasters in terms of human deaths were associated with floods and droughts which accounted for 97% of the total number of lives lost and 42% of reported economic losses. The Fifth Assessment Report (5AR) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has highlighted the changing characteristics of severe weather and climate extremes, posing challenges for medium and long-term risk reduction and sustainable development planning.

Climate and weather information and services provided in a seamless manner, by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) serve as critical information and basis for prevention, preparation, contingency planning and effective response to severe weather and climate extremes that can result in disasters. However, for climate and weather information and services to result in reduced disaster risk, collaboration between NMHSs, disaster management and managers of other key sectors is critical. This collaboration has already led to greatly improved Early Warning Systems (EWS) enhancing systematic observations of weather data and improved weather and climate forecasts, which benefits early and timely preparedness that result in the decrease of the global loss of life by a factor of 10 since the mid-1950. With the development and the increasing use of climate services new prospects are emerging for long term planning and effective adaptation to climate variability and change in climate sensitive sectors contributing to increased resilience and improved livelihoods of climate vulnerable communities.

The session - organized in a panel format - aims at:

- Showcasing examples of successful use of climate services to support contingency planning in DRR, long term planning and adaptation to climate variability and change;
- Highlighting the benefits of weather and climate services for DRR;
- Highlighting the challenges in accessing and applying climate information for decision making;
- Proposing ways to address these challenges through the post 2015 Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

Panelists include policy makers and practitioners from the meteorological and disaster management sides.

PROGRAMME

Moderated by Filipe Lúcio; Rapporteur: (TBD)

INTRODUCTION

11:00 hrs Opening remarks
Filipe Lúcio, Director, Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), WMO

PANEL DISCUSSION

11:10 hrs Panelists

H.E. Saviour Kasukuwere, Minister of Environment, Water and Climate, Zimbabwe and
Bureau Chair of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET)
Mr. Joseph Alozie, Nigeria Meteorological Agency
Vivaoliva Uria Shoo, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
(TBD), Instituto Nacional de Gestão de Calamidades (INGC), Mozambique

OPEN DISCUSSION

12:15 hrs Questions and Open Discussion

13:00 hrs Closure
