

**JOINT MEETING
of the
2013 PACIFIC PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT &
PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE ROUNDTABLE**

*8th – 11th July
Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji*

Thematic Session 2

**DISASTER AND CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT
- EVOLVING PRACTICE AND LEARNING -**

Background

“If countries and donors do not act now to reduce PICTs extremely high vulnerability (and) above all if development planning does not begin to assess hazard risks and integrate risk considerations – the consequences are likely to be serious indeed.”¹ Continuing to focus on immediate disaster relief rather than investing in long-term disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation will increase economic and human losses, slow economic growth and delay or even erode progress toward Millennium Development Goals.

The impact of disasters on the fragile economies of the countries in the Pacific islands are well documented. In 2012 the World Bank reported that eight Pacific island countries are in the top 20 countries with the highest average annual disaster losses scaled by gross domestic product (GDP). Risks related to both slow onset natural hazards, such as droughts, and sudden onset natural hazards, such as tropical cyclones, extreme rainfall events, earthquakes, tsunamis, are known to disrupt hard-won development gains.

Risk reduction is a cross sectoral issue. For example, a single tropical cyclone or earthquake event can generate impacts across a range of sectors including health, education, housing, transport and commerce. By the same token, efforts to increase the resilience of communities and countries to disaster and climate risks also require forward planning and coordination across multiple sectors.

Governments, regional organisations and donors have started to look closely at investing in long-term disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This is illustrated by the growing number of examples of Pacific governments, regional organisations and donors who are moving beyond the rhetoric and starting to develop policies and practice approaches that accommodate the paradigm shift to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. For example, a handful of Pacific governments are establishing national mechanisms that support the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into their national development planning and budget processes, and at the regional level an integrated Pacific regional strategy for disaster risk management and climate change is being developed, which is the main topic of this *1st Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable*.

¹ Excerpt from *Acting Today for Tomorrow – A Policy and Practice Note for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific Islands Region* (World Bank, 2012).

Purpose

During this Thematic Session representatives from the Governments of Fiji and Tonga, Pacific Regional Organisations (PIFS, SPC and SPREP) and donor agencies (AusAID and the World Bank) will share their approaches and related experiences in moving their plans, budgets and programmes to supporting delivery of more disaster and climate risk resilient development outcomes.

This thematic session is intended to share evolving practices and learning related to how key actors such as:

- Governments are mainstreaming disaster and climate risks into development planning and budgetary processes, and how different forms of planning are helping their national agencies to reduce climate- and disaster-related risks;
- Regional organisations are integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into their whole-of-organisation planning and programming processes, and how the strengthening of synergies with other regional policy initiatives such as public finance management is gaining traction;
- Donors are integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in their regional and bilateral support strategies and programmes, and examining what will be needed through improved coordination and strengthened partnerships to ensure that support provided can respond to countries priority needs and deliver resilient development outcomes.

Format

The Thematic Session will consist of a series of short presentations by panelists, followed by a response from the Minister of Finance, Government of the Cook Islands to all of the presentations, and then leading on to a plenary discussion facilitated by Mr Garry Wiseman (Manager of the UNDP Pacific Centre).

Discussion

Both panel and plenary discussions should contribute to a rich dialogue and exchange of ideas on the challenges and opportunities that exist for countries, governments, development partners and donors as they strive to manage disaster and climate risks to development, through integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into their planning, programming and budget processes.

Intended Outcome

- The principal intent of this Thematic Session is to demonstrate how various key actors have advanced their internal efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into their work plans, programmes and budgets, and that much can be learnt from these evolving practices on how to deliver more resilient, enduring development outcomes.

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