

UN System Support to Adaptation: Progress and Opportunities for Enhanced Action

13:15 to 14:45, 5 December 2011

Room: Levubu River in the Durban Exhibition Centre
Durban, South Africa

Climate change impacts are already adversely affecting systems and sectors essential for human livelihood, such as water resources, agriculture, food security, health, sustainable land management, human infrastructure and coastal zones. Communities who are most vulnerable to these impacts are often those least able to respond.

The United Nations system and its partners collectively offer a range of tools, services and expertise to assist vulnerable countries and communities to manage climate-related risks in their efforts to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development. The UN system stands ready to support Parties in developing, implementing and financing adaptation activities under the Convention.

This side event takes place against the backdrop of the on-going crisis in the Horn of Africa, currently facing its worst drought in 60 years. The crisis highlights the need to link immediate humanitarian relief with deliberate capacity building efforts for long-term resilience, and the importance of partnerships in enhancing coordination, and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of resource use.

The “UN System Support to Adaptation: Progress and Opportunities for Enhanced Action” side event will feature panellists from four UN agencies (WMO, UNU, UNCCD, UNISDR), and one national government. Representatives from other organizations (FAO, IFRC, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO) will also make interventions. Panellists will highlight successful and potentially innovative adaptation approaches aimed at reducing vulnerability, managing risk and strengthening capacity to build people’s resilience across a range of issues and sectors. The discussion will emphasize lessons learned and opportunities for the UN agency partnership to enhance and scale-up efforts through more effective integration of adaptation with other challenges such as sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, public health, food, water security, etc.

The event will be moderated by Mr. Joydeep Gupta

Agenda

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| 13:15-13:25 | Welcome and Overview: UN System Support to Adaptation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) |
| 13:25-14:05 | Panel: Progress and Opportunities for Enhanced Action <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colonel Samuela Saumatua, Minister of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment, Government of Fiji• Mr. Konrad Osterwalder, Rector and Under Secretary-General of the United Nations, United Nations University (UNU)• Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)• Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) |
| 14:05-14:40 | Interactive session |
| 14:40-14:45 | Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General, WMO |

The United Nations System Delivering as one on adaptation to climate change

