

Climate Change Conference

COP15 Copenhagen |

7-18 December 2009 |



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Key recommendations of IFRC to the State Parties – Climate Change Conference (COP15), Copenhagen

1. Disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and scaled-up disaster response should be confirmed and embedded as key elements of adaptation strategies in the final text of the Copenhagen Agreement. The focus must remain firmly on a solution-oriented approach to proactively addressing the unavoidable rises in risks that we already know we will face.
2. We must strengthen disaster response systems at all levels (local, national and global) and enable systematic early humanitarian action to be triggered by early warning. This represents a paradigm shift in how we manage humanitarian operations, but it is essential if we are to meet the unprecedented contemporary humanitarian challenges posed by climate change risks.
3. Adaptation efforts must prioritize people and communities where vulnerabilities are highest. Adaptation must be fully integrated into longer-term disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies.
4. Local-level preparedness and risk reduction actions should be recognized as key elements in adapting to climate change. The agreement reached in Copenhagen must not only address the issue at national level, but must also engage and empower local people, local governments and local civil society actors.
5. Adaptation funding should cover increased costs of humanitarian action to respond to climate-related disasters. Transparent mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that local communities benefit from this funding. Substantial additional and new financing to current Official Development Assistance (ODA) will be crucial to put any agreement into practice.
6. Robust resource mobilization mechanisms must be developed for adaptation, that ensure the flow of both financial and technical support to local actors.
7. Agreement must be reached to drastically reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to avoid catastrophes in the future.



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