



Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Development in Pacific Island Countries – The Need for Leadership by Central Agencies.

COMMUNIQUÉ

1. Adopted by the CEOs of Finance and/or Planning and Disaster Management as representatives of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) member countries, together with representatives of Regional Disaster Risk Management Partnership and donors, international and regional organisations, national agencies, and civil society at the “2nd Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Management Meeting for CEOs of Finance/Planning and Disaster Management”, held 14th-15th May 2009, in Nadi, Fiji Islands.

Re-affirmed the following Challenges and Opportunities

2. Recognised the importance of the leadership and collaborative roles of Ministries of Finance and Planning, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) agencies and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) agencies to work in collaboration with other relevant national authorities to ensure that disaster risk considerations are integrated in national and sector planning and budget allocation processes to **promote sustainable development**;
3. Re-emphasised the importance of **proactive, multi-faceted, cross-sectoral approaches to integrating disaster risk considerations into national planning** with effective partnerships between stakeholders at all levels, encouraging and increasing coordination among those levels, avoiding duplication, and promoting ownership and endorsement of the Pacific DRM Framework as a feasible long-term strategy for sustainable development;
4. Noted the links between **poverty and vulnerability to disasters**, and acknowledged the mutually reinforcing relationship between poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction, and the importance of also addressing poverty reduction objectives through effective DRM actions and vice-versa;
5. Re-emphasised the importance of sound **baseline data and information, and data sharing** to inform and strengthen **evidence-based decisions** for DRM;
6. Acknowledged the **narrow economic base and limited resource capacity** in most Pacific Island Countries and Territories and called on the Pacific DRM Partnership Network and other multi-lateral instruments for **timely and coordinated** assistance for DRM;

7. Confirmed the need for **expanding the knowledge base** regarding DRM in the Pacific through hazard and risk assessments, post-disaster physical, socio-economic, cost-benefit analyses and environmental damage and loss assessments to inform decision making and building resilience;
8. Recognised the significance of the upcoming **2nd Session of the ISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** as a unique opportunity to present the Pacific island Countries and Territories DRM and CCA challenges, to share solutions and best practices and identify areas needing attention;
9. Was cognisant of the valuable contributions and support from the **Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)** and other **Partners** of the **Pacific DRM Partnership Network** in the progress of priority actions articulated in the Pacific Regional DRM Framework for Action that was endorsed by the Pacific Forum Leaders in 2005;
10. Noted the potential opportunities presented by the **Pacific DRM Partnership Network** in supporting DRM and CCA actions.
11. Welcomed the **South-South** opportunities for cooperation and sharing of experiences from the Caribbean Region for all Pacific countries;

Key Priority Actions

In acknowledging the priority accorded by the Pacific Island Forum Leaders to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation identified in the *Pacific Plan* and Pacific Islands Countries commitments under international and regional policy frameworks, as key sustainable development imperatives, CEOs agreed to the following actions requesting SOPAC and partner support to:

1. Continue **high-level political advocacy and leadership**, to seek genuine commitment for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation as key sustainable development imperatives at international, regional and national levels;
2. Strengthen the collaborative **integration of DRM and CCA** at the regional and national levels and coordinated development and implementation of the national **DRM National Action Plan (NAP) and Climate Change National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA)**;
3. Increase **community awareness and preparedness programmes**, and promote engagement and ownership of ground-level initiatives in DRM and CCA;
4. **Harmonise terminology and concepts** in the area of DRM and CCA, to foster **collaborative implementation** of the Pacific DRM Framework and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC);
5. Continue to support **institutional strengthening of DRM and CCA agencies** and encourage **robust and evidence-based governance** to facilitate the implementation of DRM and CCA programmes for increased resilience and sustainable development;

6. **Broaden the Pacific DRM Partnership Network** to include relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector, utilities and services that are essential stakeholders for DRM and sustainable development to assist in the mobilisation of resources to support initiatives;
7. Incorporate best practices and lessons learned from **traditional DRM practices** with applied scientific and technical methodologies and approaches;
8. Strengthen **South-South** collaboration and coordination, specifically in sharing lessons learned and best practices, including the Caribbean experience on catastrophic risk financing instruments and, methodologies and approaches such as disaster damage and loss assessment (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Damage And Loss Assessment and Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis).
9. Recommend mid-term review of the Pacific **DRM Framework** following on from mid-term review of the **HFA in 2010**.

In conclusion CEOs commend this Communiqué to: national governments and key national and local stakeholders, Pacific Island Forum Leaders through the SOPAC Governing Council and the Pacific Plan Action Committee, members of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network, and the ISDR 2nd Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

15th May 2009
Nadi
Fiji

Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management 2009
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