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ECOSOC HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT  
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PERMANENT MISSION OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**OCHA** United Nations Office  
for the Coordination of  
Humanitarian Affairs



**FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## **High-Level Panel on “Resilience to Natural Hazards and Climate-Induced Disasters”**

**Tuesday 28 June 2016 (18.15 – 19.30)**

**Conference Room 12, United Nations, New York**

### **Draft Concept Note**

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year’s theme: *“Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people’s humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability”*. It will focus on the options for concrete actions as follow-up to the roundtable on Natural Disasters & Climate: Managing Risks and Crises Differently held during the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016. The overall goal is to further elaborate the diverse possibilities for managing risks differently, including climate change and building resilience at the country level.

### **Background and theme**

In recent years, natural and climate-induced disasters have, on average, affected 218 million people, displaced another 26 million displaced and caused USD 250-300 billion in economic losses each year. Millions of people face repeated shocks from recurrent disasters, leaving them more vulnerable to each new shock and more dependent on assistance. Natural and climate related disasters like typhoons, earthquakes, floods and droughts are responsible for serious damages and losses to people’s lives and livelihoods.

Building resilience to natural disasters and climate-related risks in a broader context, and particularly in agricultural sectors, demands a change in the way we approach risks to anticipate and act early on identified threats. Increasing the resilience of livelihoods and the communities in which they are placed is a powerful lever to reach the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) pledge “to leave no one behind”. A comprehensive risk management approach needs to be based on creating an enabling environment including risk governance and mainstreaming of disaster risks into national policies and plans, promoting proper application of advances in risk analysis and early warning, reducing community vulnerability to crisis and disaster risks and better preparing for and responding to crises and disasters when they occur.

At national level, capacities and systems need to be strengthened rather than replaced in order to guarantee sustainable results and build resilient communities. Local actors need to be at the forefront of the concrete actions taken to strengthen resilience. In concrete terms, and as it was widely promoted during the World Humanitarian Summit, preparedness and response efforts should be 'as local as possible, as international as necessary'. Building resilience by managing natural disasters differently should also aim to fulfill the commitments and targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Managing disaster risks differently ultimately means aiming to prevent and/or mitigate disaster impacts and protect development outcomes by appropriately adapting to the effects of natural disasters and climate change.

Among the key themes emerging from the WHS roundtable on Natural Disasters & Climate: Managing Risks and Crises Differently, a few are particularly important for this side event's discussion namely:

- Disasters will continue to happen. But shocks do not need to become tragedies if there is investment in national and local preparedness.
- Building community resilience as a first line of response.
- The need for effective participation of women and other vulnerable groups in disaster management.
- Support to better coherence between local, national, regional and international efforts.
- The importance of partnerships.
- The need to improve transparency and accountability for better governance of risk management.

Building on the discussions and commitments from the World Humanitarian Summit, this side-event aims to highlight the recent trends on the devastating humanitarian consequences of natural and climate related disasters and to propose concrete actions for how the international community can work collectively to better understand, anticipate and reduce natural disaster risks by building resilience. It will enable concrete discussions on the main challenges and opportunities for solutions, and attempt to conclude with a set of proposed steps to start implementing the commitment to build a more collective approach to managing risks, and increasing investments in preparedness, reinforcing national and local systems, and agreeing clear responsibilities, triggers and guaranteed finance for enhancing resilience.

#### **Proposed Discussion**

- How can we strengthen partnerships in enhancing preparedness, risk reduction and building resilience at the country level? What are the gaps and lessons learned?
- How can we reach out to the most at risk and vulnerable populations in order to enhance their resilience to natural hazards and climate-related disasters? Panelists to share experiences and lessons learned.
- What are the next steps in moving forward the commitments to improve risk reduction actions at all levels (e.g. policy mainstreaming; early warning; reduce community vulnerability and better prepare and respond to disasters)? What is the experience coming from the NGO sector?
- How can international actors better support the prevention, preparedness and response at national and local levels? How can the UN support the localization of efforts to improve preparedness and response to natural and climate-induced disasters?

#### **Format**

The Panel will take place on Tuesday 28 June 2016, 18.15–19.30, in Conference Room 12, UN.

**Chair:** Director FAO Liaison Office in New York

**Panel:** Panelists will include Representatives from Member States in regions highly vulnerable to natural and climate-induced disasters, a representative from a lead NGO and from the UN system. The broad range of expertise and experiences shared by panel members will enrich the discussion and lead the way forward for operationalizing the commitments made during the WHS.



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### **Tentative Programme**

#### **Introduction**

Ms. Carla Mucavi, Director, FAO Liaison Office to the UN  
*Moving forward from the World Humanitarian Summit*

#### **Opening remarks**

H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji to  
the UN  
*Natural hazards and climate-induced disasters: Acting on a  
global challenge*

#### **Panellists**

H.E. Mr. António Gumende, Permanent Representative of  
Mozambique to the UN  
*Building resilience and responding to extreme weather events*

H.E. Mrs. Irene Susan Natividad, Deputy Permanent  
Representative of the Philippines to the UN  
*Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP) – Anticipating needs*

Ms. Jemilah Mahmood, Under Secretary General, IFRC,  
Partnerships  
*One Billion Coalition for Resilience – Why do we need it?*

*Mr. John Ging, Director, OCHA, Coordination and  
Response Division (tbc)  
Coordination and collaboration to build a resilient future*

#### **Question and Answers**