

Analysis of similarities and differences between Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction agendas

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



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Evolution of Climate Change Adaptation process

1979 – First World Climate Conference

1988– WMO and UNEP created IPCC

1990– IPCC’s First Assessment Report

2001– COP7, Marrakesh, Morocco

2002– COP8, New Delhi, India

2004– COP10, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2006– COP12, Nairobi, Kenya

2007– COP13, Bali, Indonesia

2010– COP16, Cancun, Mexico

2011– COP17, Durban, South Africa

2013– COP19, Warsaw, Poland

2014– COP20, Lima, Peru

2015– COP21, Paris, France

2016– COP22, Marrakesh, Morocco

Lay foundation for some international climate change programs

IPCC to prepare assessments on all aspects of climate change and its impacts, considering formulating realistic response strategies

IPCC’s first assessment report

First operational decisions on adaptation. NAPA process. Least Developed Countries Fund (LCDF). Special climate change Fund (SCCF). **IPCC’s definition of Adaptation**

Delhi Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Buenos Aires Program of Work on Adaptation and Response Measures

Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

Bali Road Map Historical achievements according **special attention to CCA; Launch of the Adaptation Fund**

Cancun Adaptation Framework; **Resilience was first embedded within the CCA discourse**

Durban Adaptation Charter for Local Government

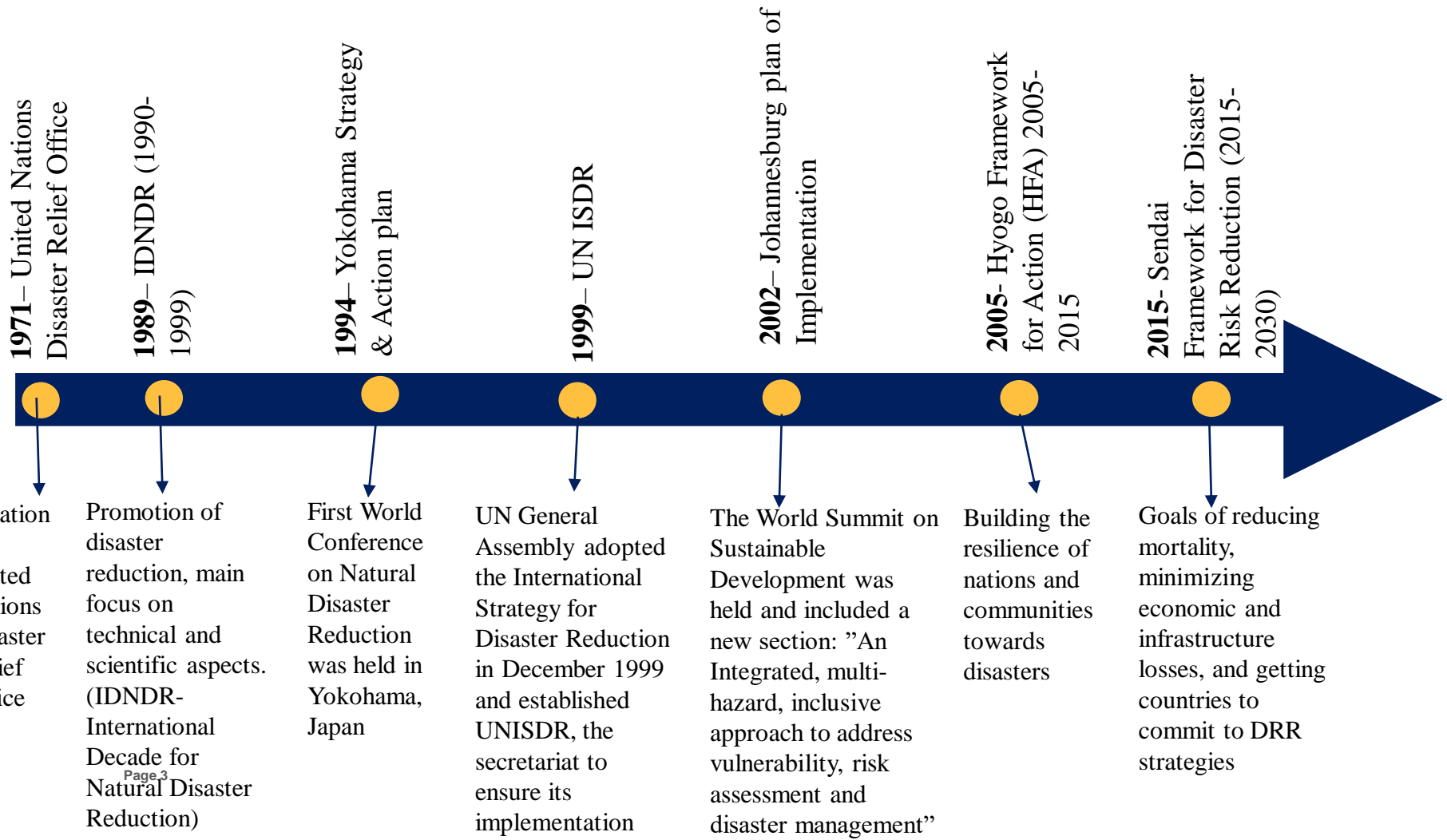
Warsaw International **Mechanism for Loss and Damage** associated with Climate Change Impacts

Lima Work Programme on Gender

Paris Agreement (2015-2030); Unprecedented importance on actions needed to help people adapt (nationally in INDCs & globally). Expectations that all countries will do their part to promote greater climate resilience. **Resilience by building adaptive capacity and reducing vulnerabilities to the adverse effects of climate change**

Call for “strong solidarity with those countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and underscore the need to support efforts aimed to enhance their adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability”

Evolution of Disaster Risk Reduction process



Similarities and Differences



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Purpose

Climate Change Adaptation

- IPCC defines CCA as “an adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climate stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits benefit opportunities”.

Disaster Risk Reduction

- UNISDR defines DRR as “the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events.”

Scope

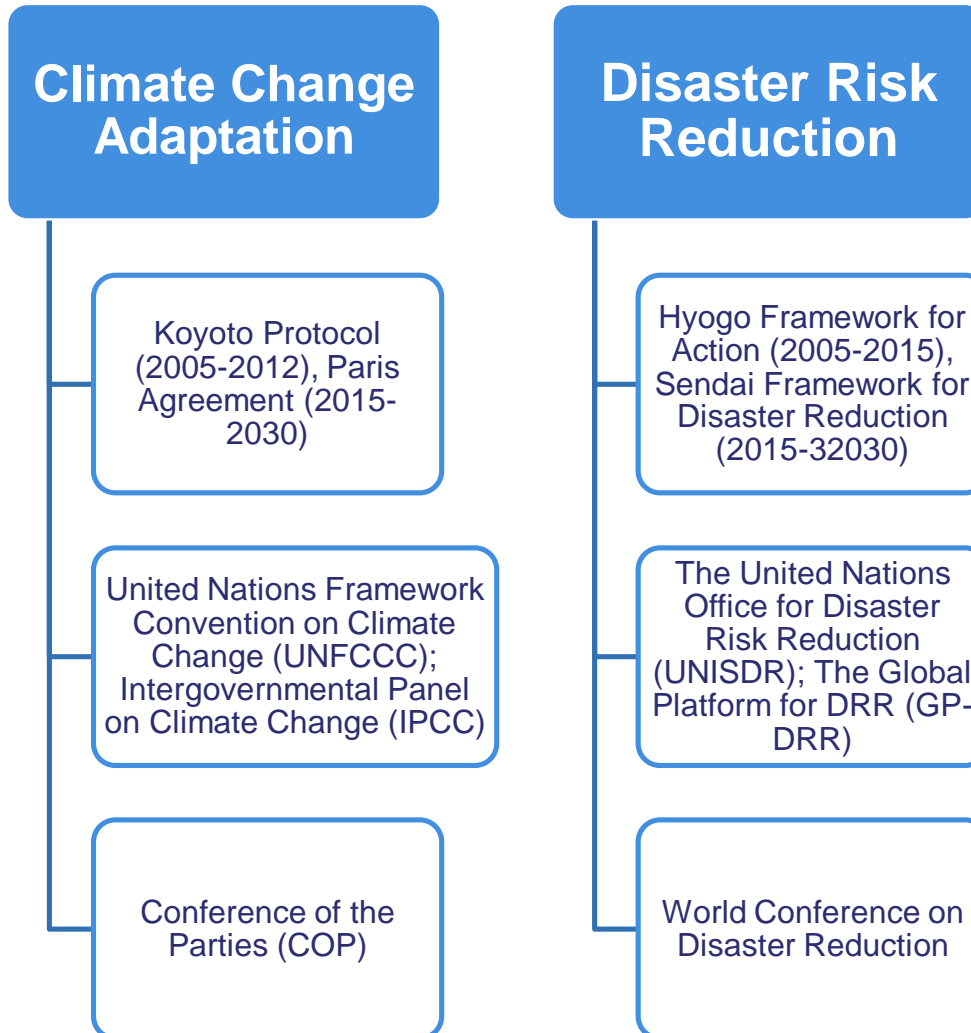
Climate Change Adaptation

- Tackling vulnerability to climate extremes; Relevant to climate-related hazard.
- Focuses on physical exposure and bases its discussions on science.
- CCA related strategies are concerned with the future climate projections and scenarios without being concerned about humanitarian assistance.
- CCA has the following elements of response: (a) observation; (b) assessment; (c) planning; (d) implementation; (e) and monitoring and evaluation.

Disaster Risk Reduction

- Addressing vulnerability related to all categories of hazards, including natural hazards and extreme events.
- Looking at risks more broadly than just those related to climate, like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis.
- DRR has the following elements of response: (a) pre-disaster response including prevention, mitigation and preparedness; (b) disaster emergency response; and (c) post-disaster response including recovery and development.

International Framework, Institutions and Conferences



Funding

Climate Change Adaptation

High political interest

Funding streams sizeable and increasing; Special Climate Change Fund; Least Developed Countries Funds; Hyogo Protocol Adaptation Fund; Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

Disaster Risk Reduction

Low to moderate political interest

Funding streams ad hoc and insufficient ; National civil defense/emergency response; International humanitarian funding; Multilateral banks; Bilateral aid

Assessment Tools

Climate Change Assessment Tools

Vulnerability Assessment

Risk Management

Monitoring

Mapping

Modeling

Disaster Risk Reduction Assessment Tools:

Disaster loss and damage databases

Risk Assessment

Other issues

Climate Change Adaptation

Disaster Risk Reduction

Approach

Risk management; Strong scientific basis; Environmental science perspective; Highly interdisciplinary; Vulnerability perspective; Long-term perspective; Global scale; Top-down approach.

Risk management; Engineering and natural science basis; Traditional focus on event and exposure and on technological solutions; Shift from response and recovery to awareness and preparedness; Short term but increasingly longer term; Local scale; Community-based.

Assessment Reports

IPCC Assessment Reports (International); Communication Reports (National); Biennial reports (National), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's)

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA); International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) World Disasters Report; International disasters databases (DesInventar, GAR Universe, etc.); Global Assessment Reports (GAR)

Strategies

National communications to the UNFCCC; National Adaptation Plans of Actions (NAPA) for Least Developed Countries; New and emerging agenda

UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction 1990-2000 (DNDR); Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction 1994 (ISDR); Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015)

Similarities and differences

Disaster Risk Reduction

- Encompasses all geophysical risks
- Builds upon past experience
- Focuses on extremes only
- Origins in humanitarian assistance
- Low to moderate political interests
- Funding streams ad-hoc and insufficient

Common Concerns

Reducing vulnerability
Enhancing resilience

Common Principles

Bottom-up approach, Capacity building, Relation with poverty reduction, Cross cutting developmental issues, Gender considerations, Sustainable Development Dimension;
Role of cities, regions and local authorities;
International Cooperation;
Timeframes (2015-2030);
Means of Implementation

- Climate related hazards only
- Long-term view
- Encompasses changes to average conditions
- Forward looking perspective
- Origins in science
- High political interests
- Funding streams growing and sizable

Climate Change Adaptation

“Resilience” in both communities

- Both communities emphasize on the importance of resilience in achieving global change and the importance of enhanced international support for adaptation and capacity building for developing and least developed countries.
- The absence of a common definition of “resilience” has been recognized internationally during the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit.
- From the climate change point of view, in 2010, resilience was understood as strengthening the capacities of both socio-economic and ecological systems.
- In the Paris Agreement, the concept of resilience features in building adaptive capacity and reducing vulnerabilities to the adverse effects of climate change.
- UNISDR defines resilience as “the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions.”

Integration of DRR in Climate Change discourse

COP13, Bali, 2007

The 2007 Bali Action Plan called for enhanced actions on adaptation, including disaster reduction strategy and means to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries

COP16, Cancun, 2010

The 2010 Cancun Adaptation Framework called for enhancing climate change related DRR strategies, taking into consideration Hyogo Framework, early warning systems, risk assessment and management, and sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance

COP17, Durban, 2011

Called for reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience

COP18, Doha, 2012

Called for enhancing the adaptive capacity of developing countries by addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts

COP19, Warsaw, 2013

Called for reducing climate change vulnerability and building the resilience of developing countries

In 2012, the IPCC Working Group II launched a special report on “Extreme Events and Disaster: Managing the Risk of Extreme Events and Disasters to advance Climate Change Adaptation”

Integration of Climate Change in DRR discourse

World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in Kobe in 2005

Hyogo Framework called explicitly for the integration of climate change strategies in DRR and argued that such integration would facilitate the identification of climate-related disaster risks

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2009

Focus on the importance of synergies between the two communities

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2011

Reiterated the importance of synergies between the two communities

UNISDR, 2013

UNISDR launched the “Implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action” which strongly encouraged the actors from both fields to coordinate their actions more closely

Conclusion

- Even though there appears to be clear linkages between the two processes, there is still a lack of clarity on how integration may be achieved.
- Issues of when, at what level, and to what extent coordination is required, as well as who should take the lead, need to be addressed.
- Coordination must occur between scientists, practitioners, policy makers and community level organizers that draw on different types of information and operate from different perspectives.

Thank you



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