

## GFDRR Advisory Group on Resilience to Climate Change

### Minutes of the Third Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, September 13, 2016

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The Third Meeting of the Advisory Group on Resilience to Climate Change (RCC) took place on September 13<sup>th</sup>, at the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva. The meeting brought together 21 participants from amongst members and observers of the Consultative Group of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) as well as from the GFDRR Secretariat. The list of participants and agenda are attached as annexes 1 and 2.

#### Session 1. Introduction and purpose of the meeting

Mr. Frank Bertelsbeck (meeting host, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC) opened the meeting and explained its two main objectives: (1) to discuss a strategy to scale up RCC within GFDRR; and (2) to agree on the way forward and come up with an action plan for the next CG Meeting in Marrakech.

#### Session 2. Setting the context for international efforts on climate resilience

Mr. André Wehrli (Global Programme Climate Change, SDC) provided an update on the international policy discussions around climate adaptation and disaster risk management financing, and emphasized that following scientific and policy consensus to closely align the two agendas, it was now time for practitioners to act. Mr. Frank Bertelsbeck followed with a brief description of the CG Meeting in Marrakech, and the planned side events at the Conference of Parties (COP)-22. Ms. Cristina Otano (Partnerships Manager, GFDRR) then presented the mode of operation of GFDRR as a Technical Assistance Facility influencing World Bank investments (as well as indirectly, those of other partners). Ms. Habiba Gitay (Climate and Policy Unit, World Bank) closed the session by giving specific examples of GFDRR's influencing leverage, namely in Bolivia, Morocco, Bhutan and Marshall Islands.

#### Sessions 3 and 4: Rationale for scaling up climate resilience and discussion

Ms. Sofia Bettencourt (RCC Coordinator, GFDRR) presented the rationale for scaling up RCC and the key advantages of GFDRR. This is further outlined on the draft Discussion Note and Presentations. The key points are summarized below:

- **Why scale up now?** After the success of the Paris Agreement, Sendai and SDG's in 2015, and looking forward to the COP22 in Marrakech, there is a **high political momentum** on adaptation. Development countries are in **urgent need** of technical and financing resources to confront the growing challenges posed by climate change. Having tied up their resources on economic and humanitarian crises and earlier commitments, **partners face significant resource constraints**. Thus, expectations of significant new funding are unrealistic, and the **partners' ability to ensure significant leveraging and cost-efficiency will be essential** to scale up assistance for adaptation. The **World Bank offers such an opportunity** as it expects to significantly scale-up investments in climate change through its Climate Change Action Plan, increasing the share of climate finance from 21 to 28 percent by 2020 (of a combined total portfolio averaging US\$50 billion a year).

- **Key advantages of GFDRR.** GFDRR has a **proven influencing ability**. In Fiscal Year 2015, with US\$70 million in technical assistance commitments, it influenced US\$3 billion in adaptation and disaster risk management investments - about half of the total World Bank portfolio supporting climate and disaster resilient development. It is estimated that an additional partners' contribution of US\$15-20 million a year could influence at least an additional US\$1 billion/year in climate resilient investments. GFDRR portfolio is also **increasingly addressing climate resilience**, aiming to have 65 percent of its grants addressing RCC by fiscal year 2022. As a **well-established and efficient mechanism** since 2006, GFDRR can approve technical assistance grants in just 2.5 weeks, and just-in-time grants in as little as 3 days. Moreover, **GFDRR is a Technical Assistance Facility (TA)** and has the necessary expertise to bring specialized technical teams and practical tools to support increase countries' resilience. As such, it does not compete - and in fact complements - other funds such as the Global Environmental Facility and the Green Climate Fund. For example, GFDRR provides technical assistance for preparation of programs that combine different financial sources including from global funds.

#### Comments and Recommendation of participants during the meeting:

1. In general, members of the RCC Advisory Group **supported the proposed scaling up strategy**.
2. Participants recommended **emphasizing more GFDRR's unique advantages**:
  - 10 years of experience building expertise and know-how;
  - Unique influencing position within the World Bank and catalytic role;
  - Capacity to address Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation (DRM and CCA) to support Sustainable Development in an integrated way;
3. Participants advised GFDRR to:
  - Stress how GFDRR uses its financing instruments, tools, know-how and expertise to catalyze resilient investments and innovative ideas;
  - Illustrate how exactly GFDRR measures, calculates and arrives at its 'influencing' figures – i.e. how US\$15-20 million a year influences an additional US\$1 billion/year;
  - Better explain how GFDRR works seamlessly in partnership with the World Bank;
  - Describe how much of the total portfolio of the World Bank goes towards the different sectors to help clarify how GFDRR will integrate DRM and CCA into development activities;
  - Bring cost-effectiveness evidence of DRM and CCA;
4. Participants also recommended emphasizing **partnerships**, in particular synergies and partnerships within GFDRR, i.e. with other Thematic Areas of Expertise, and – where appropriate – also with other external initiatives such as the Global Preparedness Partnership, the 5-10-50 Initiative of UNDP, CREWS, etc.
5. Participants recommended that the scaling-up strategy needs to **clarify that resilience is understood as being climate and disaster resilient development** (i.e. making development climate and disaster resilient, rather than a goal by itself).
6. Members of the Advisory Group were encouraged to take this opportunity to break silos between DRM, Climate Change and Humanitarian Aid communities by reaching out and connecting to other

relevant colleagues within their agencies and administration to create a coalition of partners to move the scaling up forward.

7. It was agreed that the announcement of the RCC scaling-up strategy would not only be brought for decision making to the attention of the CG in Marrakech, but also aim for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun, Mexico in May 2017.

**Session 5. Proposed activities and experiences from partners.** This session, moderated by Mr. André Wehrli, opened with a presentation by Naraya Carrasco (Sr. DRM Specialist, GFDRR) explaining the proposed activities under the scaling-up RCC strategy. The presentation highlighted the following:

- **The proposed scaling-up strategy would follow the four priorities of World Bank's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), which in turn are aligned with the Paris Agreement.** To ensure consistency, GFDRR would focus its technical assistance for climate resilient development on the four priority areas of the CCAP:
  - Priority 1: Support Transformative Policies and Strengthen Institutions
  - Priority 2: Leveraging Financing for Resilient Projects and Programs
  - Priority 3: Scale Up Action in High-Impact Areas
  - Priority 4: Knowledge and Partnerships
- **The scaling-up strategy proposed expansion to more sectors, as well as a focus on vulnerable countries.** The GFDRR is looking to influence sectors such as infrastructure (roads), water, agriculture, and energy where countries, in partnership with the World Bank, are planning to invest in the coming years. Furthermore, it was proposed to have a focus on vulnerable countries and ecosystems.

#### Comments and recommendations of participants during the meeting:

1. In general, participants agreed that the **RCC scaling-up strategy** should expand to other sectors where GFDRR may have an opportunity to influence.
2. Scaling up Resilience to Climate Change should **remain demand driven and opportunistic**. Rather than targeting particular vulnerable countries and ecosystems, it should respond to country priorities and take advantage of IDA/IBRD priorities and opportunities. Focusing only on low-income countries, for example, could prevent support to vulnerable people in middle income countries.
3. **Participants also proposed that the scaling up strategy takes the following factors into account:**
  - Bring local policy conclusions and generated knowledge to international dialogues and *vice versa*;
  - Reach out to most vulnerable people by influencing household surveys, promoting risk-informed decision making at local level, and increased collaboration with Inclusive Community Resilience;
  - Include forecast-based financing (e.g. contingency funds);

- Include a focus on repeated small scale disasters (extensive risk), as well as on changes in mean climatic parameters and extremes;
- Support access to best global knowledge within and outside the World Bank;
- Build on other partnerships and expertise outside the World Bank;

### Agreed next steps

1. Participants will send any further comments on the draft Discussion Note by end-September 2016 (please send to Naraya Carrasco -- [ncarrasco@worldbank.org](mailto:ncarrasco@worldbank.org)).
2. Participants would discuss the scaled-up strategy with their capitals, and signal their interest to support to the GFDRR Secretariat (Naraya Carrasco ([ncarrasco@worldbank.org](mailto:ncarrasco@worldbank.org)) and to Switzerland ([frank.bertelsbeck@eda.admin.ch](mailto:frank.bertelsbeck@eda.admin.ch)) by end-September 2016. The intention at present is to build a coalition of potentially interested partners to reach agreement at the CG meeting as to whether the RCC strategy should be scaled up and how. Actual fund raising would only start after the IDA-18 negotiations are completed in December 2016.
3. GFDRR Secretariat will revise the scaled-up strategy note to incorporate comments received at the Advisory Group meeting, as well as any follow-up comments sent by end-September 2016, with a view to present it at the next Consultative Group meeting in Marrakech.

Annex 1: List of Participants

Annex 2: Agenda

## Annex 1: List of participants

Country	Name	Official Title	Government/Institution
	Patrick Gremillet	Partnership Advisor / GVA Cluster Lead, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction	UNDP
	Marcus Oxley	Director	GNDR
Norway	Therese Marie Pankratov Uppstrøm	Advisor	
Australia	Leonie Oates-Mercier	Humanitarian Adviser	Permanent Mission
Germany	Thomas Lennartz	Advisor	GIZ – German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation
France	Michel Pre	Head of Unit Water, Soils, Pollution	French Ministry of foreign affairs and international development
Switzerland	Frank Bertelsbeck	Programme Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs - SDC
Switzerland	André Wehrli	Programme Officer, Global Programme Climate Change	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs - SDC
Switzerland	Ariadna Pop	1st secretary, Multilateral Division, Humanitarian Affairs	Swiss Mission to the UN and to the other international organizations in Geneva
Switzerland	Philippe Brunet	JPO DRR, Climate Change and Environment	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs - BTL
Mexico	Jonathan Josué Serrano Venancio	Deputy Director-General of Coordination, Analysis and Legal Framework for Risk Management	National Coordination of Civil Protection
	Tessa Kelly	Senior Officer, Multilateral and IFI Partnerships	IFRC
	Ajay MADIWALE		IFRC
	Chang Hun Choe	Senior Officer, Risk and Vulnerability, Disaster and Crisis Prevention, Response & Recovery Department	IFRC
	Habiba Gitay	Senior Environmental Specialist	Climate Change Group - WB
	Vladimir Tsirkunov	Lead Specialist	GFDRR
	Sofia Bettencourt	Lead Operations Officer	GFDRR
	Naraya Carrasco	Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist	GFDRR
	Cindy Quijada	Jr Professional Officer	GFDRR
	Nicolas Desramaut	Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist	GFDRR
	Cristina Otano	Sr Partnership Specialist	GFDRR

## Annex 2: Agenda of the meeting

Time	Sessions
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Session 1: Welcome and opening remarks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening and welcoming by the Co-chair Frank Bertelsbeck (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC).</li> <li>2. Introductions of participants.</li> <li>3. Objectives of the meeting (Frank Bertelsbeck, SDC).</li> </ol>
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Session 2: Setting the context for international efforts on climate resilience</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Global climate and development policy up date (André Wehrli, SDC).</li> <li>2. GFDRR at the COP22: CG and side events (Frank Bertelsbeck, SDC)</li> <li>3. GFDRR's mode of operation (Cristina Otano GFDRR).</li> <li>4. Examples of GFDRR grants (Habiba Gitay, World Bank).</li> </ol>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 12:00	<p>Session 3: Rational for scaling up climate resilience within GFDRR (Moderated by Frank Bertelsbeck)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Background presentation (Sofia Bettencourt, GFDRR).</li> <li>2. Discussion.</li> </ol>
12:00 – 12:30	<p>Session 4: Action plan for RCC scale up (Moderated by Frank Bertelsbeck, SDC)</p> <p>Discussion.</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	<p>Session 4: Action plan for RCC scale up / continued</p> <p>Next steps and guidance to CG.</p>
14:30 – 16:00	<p>Session 5: Potential RCC scaled up activities (Moderated by André Wehrli, SDC)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation of proposed activities.</li> <li>2. Experiences from Mexico and partners, identified gaps and niches.</li> <li>3. Potential themes including those mentioned in the 2<sup>nd</sup> AG meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expansion to other sectors (Infrastructure (roads), water, agriculture, energy).</li> <li>- Focus on vulnerable country groups</li> <li>- Focus on vulnerable ecosystems</li> <li>- Tools for resilience</li> <li>- Mainstreaming</li> <li>- Results based programs</li> <li>- Strengthen collaboration between CCA and DRM communities</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Links with inclusive community driven resilience</li> <li>- Others</li> </ul>
<b>16:00 – 16:15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16:15 – 17:15</b>	Session 6: Wrap-up and next step (Moderated by André Wehrli, SDC)
<b>18:30</b>	<p>Dinner at the invitation of Government of Switzerland</p> <p>Restaurant La Perle du Lac, Rue de Lausanne 126, 1202 Geneva. 5 min walking from WMO.</p>