

Speaking points “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies- Building resilience”

Venue: 10 July 2018 from 09:00 to 11:00 AM in Conference Room 4

Key messages

- Climate Effects for SIDS and LDCs cannot be avoided, so they must adapt, paying particular attention to the effects of climate change on Goal 2 Food and Goal 3, Health as well as differential effects on the poor.
- Economic activity in many [tropical countries] [LDCs and SIDS] is closely tied to healthy ecosystems and biodiversity (e.g. coral reefs), many of these systems are threatened by CC and other human activity.
- Educated people are probably more resilient to disasters. A suitable pathway to resilience may be to build human and financial capacity for problem solving.
- Climate Change may drive migration and reduce resilience by eroding a countries' human capital

Threats we need to be resilient to

- Coastal erosion due to sea level rise
 - Increased exposure of coastal infrastructure such as ports and roads
 - Saline intrusion of groundwater reservoirs
- Droughts and dry periods
- Livelihoods exposed to coastal hazards
- Earthquakes, volcanoes, floods
- Economic crises, trade wars, derisking and DDoS

Good practices

- The coast road to the airport in Samoa: combined BAU Government funds, development financing and climate funds to make it resilient to the expected effects of sea level rise and increased cyclones
- Private Sector use of solar and other alternative energy sources and increased energy efficiency

- Training Small and medium sized Caribbean businesses in continuity – how to re-open as soon as possible.

Recommendations

- Focus on Human wellbeing, not just the size of the economy.
- Build human capital for resilience:
 - Education generally and specifically on hazards and appropriate action are vital support education and research. E.g. RISE-PR, Comm sec alliance SDSN.
 - Open source information on hazard and risk allow better preparation. So Governments should make data and information available without cost.
- Build physical capital for social and economic development:
 - Mainstream climate adaptation into construction of civil infrastructure the Global Climate fund should be financing climate-adapted buildings for key civil infrastructure (lifelines) such as hospitals, clinics, schools, ports and roads.
 - Regulate new construction
- Economics
 - The IMF should expand its current studies on resilience and create pathways to resilience for small islands
- Review existing sources of development finance & retool existing loans; renegotiate loans for CC adaptation and investigate new uses of debt to address vulnerabilities and increase sustainability including debt reduction, debt swaps or reassigning debt repayments to Climate Funds or to programmes that build resilient infrastructure or livelihoods.

Points for discussion or reflections

- Liability for loss and damage. –may pertain regarding the contribution of energy companies, or states to economic losses caused by sea level rise, tropical cyclones and ocean acidification.
- Need to build national capacity for managing resilience to drought. Many Climate change effects will be first experienced in the tropics, in countries with less capacity to adapt and many of which are in special development situations. This will create increased motivations to migrate from rural to urban areas and from affected countries to others less affected. Drought and change in rainfall amounts and patterns are likely to have the highest effect.