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

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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
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

1971 – United Nations Disaster Relief Office

Promotion of disaster reduction, main focus on technical and scientific aspects. (IDNDR - International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction)

1994 – Yokohama Strategy & Action plan

First World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was held in Yokohama, Japan

1999 – UN ISDR

UN General Assembly adopted the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in December 1999 and established UNISDR, the secretariat to ensure its implementation

2002 – Johannesburg plan of Implementation

The World Summit on Sustainable Development was held and included a new section: ”An Integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management”


Building the resilience of nations and communities towards disasters


Goals of reducing mortality, minimizing economic and infrastructure losses, and getting countries to commit to DRR strategies
Similarities and Differences
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

**Climate Change Adaptation**

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Conference of the Parties (COP)

**Disaster Risk Reduction**

- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR); The Global Platform for DRR (GP-DRR)
- World Conference on Disaster Reduction
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

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<td>Risk management; Strong scientific basis; Environmental science perspective; Highly interdisciplinary; Vulnerability perspective; Long-term perspective; Global scale; Top-down approach.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>National communications to the UNFCCC; National Adaptation Plans of Actions (NAPA) for Least Developed Countries; New and emerging agenda</td>
<td>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)</td>
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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

Climate Change Adaptation

- 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

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

Reducing vulnerability
Enhancing resilience
“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.”
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.

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.

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

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.”

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

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