

Building Climate Resilience and Adaptation in LDCs and SIDS

Increasing Ambition for Local, Inclusive and Empowering Actions at the Climate Summit

Friday, 12th July, 1:15 to 2:30pm, Conference Room B

The side event was organized by the IFRC on the margin of the HLPF 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development, and was co-sponsored by Ireland, Egypt, the UK, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Malawi, Trinidad and Tobago, St Lucia, Turkey, among others.

It gathered all major stakeholders who are involved in negotiations related to climate resilience and adaptation in LDCs and SIDS, leading to the Climate Summit next September 2019 in New York.

Its attendance was full, and included, in addition to participants, other delegations from Canada, Europe (EU Delegation, Germany, Africa (Equatorial Guinea), SIDS (Maldives, St Kitts & Nevis) and Asia (New Zealand, Japan), UN bodies (UNISDR, UN Habitat, UN Rep in East Timor, UN OHRLS, FAO, WMO, WFP, and UNV), as well as NGOs and Civil Society.

The main points expressed and take-aways were:

- **Climate Resilience is at the center of efforts to deliver the SDGs** (Ireland). RCRC Climate Centre stated that resilience is the “one stone that can kill several birds”.
- **There is a climate emergency with LDCs and SIDS at the frontline.** Ambassador Perks (Malawi) shared telling statistics (90% deaths from disasters occur in LDCs and MICs). St Lucia described in very real terms the existential threat to their Islands caused by the effects of this climate emergency. RCRC Climate Centre was clear on need for early action. IFRC and the UK stressed that the cost of doing nothing outweighs the cost of preparing and adapting. We need action now to both build resilient future and halt climate change.
- **We must change our approach and include vulnerable populations.** We must not leave anyone behind. But we must shift our thinking from seeing people as powerless, but as agents of change. People and grassroots should be at the center of the decisions making process. ICCCAD puts it clearly: “Solutions that do not consider rights, responsibilities and access for resources and opportunities with a comprehensive gender lens, informed by sex and age disaggregated data are destined to even exacerbate the existing inequalities and unjust social and environmental regime that have catalyzed climate change.”
- **Scaling up public and private finance** for adaptation as the amount of money available for adaptation and resilience is woefully insufficient, including “incentivizing resilient investments - pricing climate impact risk into infrastructure and systems decision-making” (UK). The Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) also stressed that “funding should reach where and when it matters – to action at the local level. Volume, access and quality of finance – and not just one of these – need to be considered. Turkey (ICLA) noted that “There is a need to accelerate and scale up local climate finance for cities and local governments as a strategic priority.” Lastly, the RCRC Climate Centre stated that “Mobilizing domestic finance is vital for building resilience at scale (donors must ensure systems and financing conditions can and do reach the most vulnerable, mainstreaming international funds in domestic budgets, and while partnering with local level actors and local action).
- **Learning from what works is crucial.** The experiences of Bangladesh, Malawi and St Lucia offer important lessons from countries which are actually experiencing the impacts of climate change.