



## **The Antalya Statement**

**March 3, 2015**

**Antalya, Turkey**

**An Expert Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in a Changing Climate: Lessons Learned about Lessons Learned, was convened by USAID, CCB/CU, WMO and TSMS with the support of NOAA and GFDRR\*\* in Antalya, Turkey, 10 to 13 February 2015.**

**“The best time to have planted a tree here was 20 years ago.  
The second best time is now.” -African Proverb**

So it goes for societal responses to hydromet disaster risk reduction  
in a changing climate.

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\*\* US Agency for International Development, Consortium for Capacity Building, World Meteorological Organization, Turkish State Meteorological Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in the Antalya Statement are those of the writers and participants and do not necessarily reflect the views of any of the supporting organizations.

**For more information please visit [CCB-boulder.org](http://CCB-boulder.org)**

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Ninety participants attended the Forum from 43 countries, drawn from government agencies, humanitarian organizations, NGOs, academic and applied science research institutions, practitioners and youth & young professionals.

## **Forum Participants Statement of Concern**

**A review of our own studies and others' experiences with hazards and disasters reveals a wealth of lessons that were previously identified but had not been implemented, only to be "re-discovered" during the next similar disaster...even when the subsequent disaster occurred in the same location as a prior event. A key insight is that a lesson "identified" is not automatically a lesson "learned".**

## **Possible Ramifications if lessons identified are not actually learned**

The following calls to action are drawn from a larger set of concerns expressed by Forum participants. Ignoring these concerns will enable "business as usual" mindsets and mental models to prevail in this time of critical environmental and social change. DRR response costs are ever-rising even as demands on DRR budgets intensify in this time of growing uncertainties about climate, water and weather high-impact and record-setting extremes. Thus, we are now forced to develop truly collaborative approaches to achieve short-term and longer-term development goals. Failing to heed these calls to action will likely result in both unintended and obvious negative consequences by expending scarce resources with little effect on risk reduction.

## **Six Calls-to-Action**

### ***1. "Lessons Learning" Process: The Need for a "Lessons Identified" Portal***

A user-friendly, innovative DRR knowledge portal should be established to focus specifically on collecting, verifying, cataloguing, archiving, transferring and sharing both positive and negative DRR-related lessons identified during previous DRR-related interventions. These lessons can then serve as the bases for more efficient and effective future interventions.

## ***2. Incentives For DRR Learning for Capacity Building (and Pilot Projects)***

Governments, development banks, UN, donors and implementing partners are called to improve the sustainability of DRR project outcomes by creating incentives (economic, financial and regulatory) for retaining past capacity building achievements of individuals and institutions. Transitions from pilot projects to longer-term DRR programs should from the beginning consider past successes and failures. They are also called to select, design and implement projects in a spirit of true collaboration with each other as well as with recipients to clarify from the start all participants' expectations of outcomes.

## ***3. Blend and Integrate DRR & CCA (Climate Change Adaptation): Fund "Orange"***

DRR and CCA communities are called to meaningfully blend their overlapping DRR-related activities in mutually supportive ways for longer-term sustainability. The phrase *Fund Orange* is meant to metaphorically encompass this call: if DRR activities are "red" and CCA activities are "yellow," then mutually supportive funding would target the blend in their overlap—it would fund the "orange." Demands on DRR and CCA funding are likely to increase with future increases in global climate uncertainties. The window of opportunity for DRR and CCA to act alone as primary colors is closing.

## ***4. Role for the Next Generation (Youth & Young Professionals)***

Governments, development banks, UN, donors and implementing partners are called to increasingly recognize, foster and support the active involvement of youth and young professionals as critical partners, acknowledging their key role in the DRR lessons learning process and as society's next generation of decision makers.

## ***5. Hydromet Warning Systems***

Early Warning Systems (EWSs) developers and operators are called to pay more attention to the systems' weaker links and to seek and listen to feedback on what works and what does not from the concerned groups and communities further down the end-to-end warning chain. Listening to feedback adds value to EWS use even if only by identifying the limitations of the current science. EWS developers and operators can only benefit by taking into account -- - at the outset of hydromet system planning --- local knowledge about the understanding of local to regional hydromet hazards and vulnerabilities as well as community-identified needs.

## ***6. Governments, Banks, and Donors need to Improve Coordination***

To enhance the use and value of limited resources, improved coordination among governments, donors and banks is a must! DRR financing institutions are called to match their interventions with specific end-users' absorptive capacity so as to foster people-centered development that highlights resilience and reduces vulnerability while building capacity at the community level. Doing so will reduce the risk of unwittingly supporting initiatives that operate at cross-purposes or provide unwanted or non-useful technological assistance (or both).