

Red Cross Red Crescent at the 14th Conference of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Poznan 1-12 December 2008

In the last couple of years the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Climate Centre has participated in the international negotiations on climate change organized by the UNFCCC. These negotiations aim to come to a new climate change agreement as a successor to the Kyoto-protocol. The Conference in Poznan is mid-term in an important but complicated negotiation process that should end with a new agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009. The new IFRC Secretary General Bekele Geleta, will lead the Red Cross Red Crescent delegation to the conference.

From the Humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction perspective a number of developments and observations are relevant in the preparation process towards Poznan. Risk management, risk reduction and risk transfer have been identified by governments as elements of the adaptation-part of the new agreement and this needs to be further defined during the Poznan Conference. With the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) the IFRC is working hard to engage the humanitarian actors in a coordinated way in the UNFCCC process. The IASC established last June an informal climate change taskforce, facilitated by the IFRC.. It is the intention of the IASC taskforce and the ISDR to come to a joint position paper around 17 October and to stimulate, through existing networks and structures, national consultation around this paper between the climate change negotiators and the humanitarian/DRR actors in a country.

The IFRC is involved in the all the main global processes, studies and activities related to the DRR/Humanitarian and Climate Change agenda.

The main message we bring to Poznan is:

1. Ensure that UNFCCC institutional enabling environments and regional supporting mechanisms for knowledge sharing, capacity building and technology support, link to and build on existing networks, mechanisms, tools and capacities for disaster risk reduction while integrating these into development planning at international national, sectoral and local levels.
2. Raise the profile of humanitarian concerns in the negotiations and develop text on protecting human life, ensuring security of populations and reducing the costs of disaster response and recovery through systematic reduction of disaster risks.
3. Substantially scale up contributions for disaster risk reduction action as an essential component of adaptation and ensure its integration into development planning and policies . Ensure that the criteria for funding are fully consistent with the principles of the Hyogo Framework.

The Red Cross Red Crescent will organize a side event on Early warning/Early Action during the first week of the conference. At this side event, which the IFRC will host and organize together with the Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), we shall demonstrate the first IFRC experiences of using seasonal forecasts for disaster risk management.

All National RC Societies interested to be engaged in the preparatory work for the meeting in Poznan and in Copenhagen next year are invited to contact with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, climatecentre@redcross.nl , +31 70 4455 703. There is a possibility for National Societies to participate in the IFRC delegation, at your own costs.