



# CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2019



A RACE WE CAN WIN



## BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE

### OUTCOME DOCUMENT

22 September 2019

The New School, New York City

*Creating a movement to deliver  
ambitious actions for a resilient future*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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[Adaptation Fund](#), [Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa](#), [Asian Development Bank](#), [Atma Connect](#), [AXA XL](#), [UN Climate Resilience Initiative \(A2R\)](#), [BSR](#), [CGIAR Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Programme](#), [Centre for Disaster Protection](#), [Climate Investment Funds](#), [Climate Justice Resilience Fund](#), [EAT](#), [EcoShape](#), [UN Food and Agriculture Organisation](#), [European Food Banks Federation](#), [FutureEarth](#), [Global Commission on Adaptation](#), [Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction](#), [Huairou Commission](#), [International Centre for Climate Change and Development](#), [ICF](#), [Local Governments for Sustainability](#), [iDE Global](#), [Insurance Development Forum](#), [International Development Research Centre](#), [Int. Fund for Agriculture Development](#), [Int. Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent](#), [Int. Institute for Environment and Development](#), [Int. Institute for Sustainable Development](#), [International Standards Organisation \(ISO\)](#), [InsuResilience Global Partnership](#), [Int. Institute for Sustainable Development](#), [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#), [Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change](#), [Luther World Relief](#), [Mercy Corps](#), [Near East Foundation](#), [Ocean Unite](#), [Overseas Development Institute](#), [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#), [Resurgence](#), [RMEL Community of Practice](#), [Slum Dwellers International](#), [Stockholm Environment Institute](#), [Stockholm International Water Institute](#), [Stockholm Resilience Centre](#), [Scaling Up Nutrition Movement](#), [Tebtebba](#), [The Lightsmith Group](#), [UN Conference on Trade and Development](#), [UN Development Programme](#), [World Bank Group](#), [Wetlands International](#), [World Food Programme](#), [Willis Tower Watson](#), [Women's Climate Centers International](#), and [Z Zurich Foundation](#).



## INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The Global Resilience Partnership convened over 50 organisations to come together at the [Building a Resilient Future Day](#). The Day was sponsored by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and hosted by The New School in New York on 22 September. It was attended by over 500 practitioners from governments, businesses, grassroots groups, civil society organisations, media outlets and academic institutions with many others joining online and sharing their commitments to building a resilient future.

The purpose of this document is twofold: first to provide a record of the rich discussion that took place during Building a Resilient Future Day; and second, to increase the momentum behind actions that help build resilience to the impacts that climate change is having on people, communities, economies and ecosystems.

This document responds to the [Call for Action: Raising Ambition for Climate Adaptation and Resilience](#) issued at the UN Climate Action Summit (UNCAS) on 23 September. It also builds on the [seven initiatives](#) launched at the Summit and [the eight action tracks of the Global Commission on Adaptation's Year of Action](#) launched on 24 September.

The Day ended on a high. After a closing panel discussion, the [North Coast Performers](#) improvised a performance to incorporate what the five speakers had said. They challenged audience members to think about what it takes to build a successful movement in their communities using comedy routines, slam poetry, and beatbox performance.

This document is designed to be of practical use to a wide range of stakeholders by:

- Helping build momentum for a wide set of actions that governments, civil society, communities, grassroots groups, knowledge organisations and businesses are taking;
- Identifying the main opportunities and challenges on advancing actions for resilience that leave no one behind;
- Connecting together a community of organisations from the local, regional and global levels actively working on resilience; and
- Providing a road map to next steps and events.

This document has six parts:

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- II. Sources of knowledge on resilience.
- III. Mapping of organisations and initiatives working on building a resilient future.
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## A. HIGH LEVEL MESSAGES FROM THE DAY

More than 500 participants met on this Day. Seventy actions were identified to support the UNCAS [Call for Action: Raising Ambition for Climate Adaptation and Resilience](#). In addition, the 500 gathered stakeholders emphasised that:

**Incremental change is insufficient:** Actions and initiatives must accelerate a **transformation** towards a resilient future that serves the most vulnerable communities and those most affected by climate change. If we fail on these commitments, we fail on the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

**Climate action should not become a silo:** Climate change is connected to food insecurity, conflict dynamics, inequalities and inequities. Single solutions and tools do not work. Actions must deliver positive results to climate, ecosystem services, livelihoods, and be inclusive and risk-informed.

**Risk-informed thinking and decision-making should be the norm:** Risk-informed development is the most effective step to strengthen resilience: Only by knowing the risks we face are we able to reduce them. Reducing risk means building resilient communities.

Participants also committed to actions that:

**Ensure social equity by empowering stakeholders – especially youth – for transformation:** Our success in resilience building hinges on involving youth, women, people living with disabilities, and indigenous communities, and empowering all stakeholders in the processes.

**Get money to where and when it matters to support the actions of grassroots groups in building a sustainable and resilient future:** Local communities become agents of change when they have control over funding and when they lead interventions within said communities.

**Accelerate the transformation of food systems to sustainably, healthily and equitably feed the planet:** Food systems are our most tangible leverage points for addressing climate change. Specifically, food systems transformations will need to focus on four things: planetary health; nutrition; gender and youth inclusivity; and financial inclusion.

**Ensure that nature based solutions (NbS) are the foundation of resilience to climate change:** NbS that conserve, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems offer cost-effective solutions to build resilience to climate change and mitigate GHG emissions.

**Leverage the power of cities for change** in ways that can support resilience while also improving equity, human well-being and nature's benefits. With almost 70% of the world's population projected to live in urban areas by 2050, cities are where the majority of both people and infrastructure are at risk – providing one of the greatest opportunities for change to deliver multiple benefits.

**Invest in the development of early warning, early action (EWEA) systems to save lives and protect assets from climate risks.** Without action, the number of people affected by climate change and needing humanitarian assistance is forecast to double by 2050. Investing in EWEA systems will significantly lower humanitarian costs and avoid disproportionate harm to communities on the frontlines of climate change.

**Strengthen partnerships and collaborations and break down silos:** With the emerging climate crisis the global community has no time to waste in learning from each other and bolstering multi-stakeholder partnerships to deliver and scale up actions towards a resilient future.

**Embed resilience in planning and policies of governments, international finance institutions and investors that are integral to climate and conflict risks:** We need to strengthen institutional capacities for resilience-building interventions and remove their policy and regulatory barriers.

**Publicise evidence on resilience best practice** that will deliver sustainable climate, health and livelihood outcomes: The evidence base of practices, methods and tools that promote equitable and inclusive resilience building already exists and is growing. This knowledge must be put to use.

## B. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DAY

Collaborative actions between diverse partners are at the heart of building a resilient future for all.

Climate-related disasters and shocks are occurring more often and chronic stresses are lasting longer. Climate change is affecting global systemic risks such as food insecurity and political instability. Cities, which house the majority of world's population, economic production and infrastructure, are feeling ever more impacts of climate change. Extreme weather events are exacerbating resource scarcity, forced migration, political instability and conflicts. To achieve global aspirations for a resilient future and avoid leaving behind the most vulnerable and marginalised communities, we must reshape the current approach to resilience building.

The social and environmental consequences of unsustainable development, already a problem, can only worsen without dramatic transformations towards sustainability. Negative impacts on health, food security, water supply, transport and economic growth are already happening. These are projected to increase even if the Paris agreement to limit the temperature increase to below 2°C is achieved. The IPCC 1.5°C report is clear: these temperature increases will hurt people living in developing countries the most. The number of people experiencing severe food insecurity has grown by more than 120 million since 2014 due to an increase in extreme weather events and political instability. 100 million people are at risk of being pushed into poverty by climate change by 2030, most in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. That number could reach 720 million by 2050.

The effects of climate change do not act alone and often present societal challenges through complex inter-relationships with other factors. Global to local inequalities in processes of politics, trade, land use and resource rights, loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems all present significant challenges to the prosperity of people and the future of the planet. Gender-based inequality is most problematic. Women tend to depend more on local production systems for their food security, fuel and other products and services, and thus are more vulnerable than men to the local-scale effects of climate change, but they are often denied the right to own or control these same resources.

Alongside action to limit emissions and transform towards low-carbon development pathways, urgent action on building resilience and adapting to climate change is vital for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In fact, tackling carbon emissions or sequestration alone threatens to further exacerbate social and environmental damage: we need integrated solutions.

To achieve a just climate transition, we need a shift towards resilience-based approaches that promote risk management and diversity in all its forms, seek non-linear transformational change, support local actors transforming their own futures in the face of change, and tackle distant causes alongside local, context-specificities.

### Objectives of Building a Resilient Future Day

The purpose of the Day was to reinforce the focus on resilience and the commitments made at the UN Climate Action Summit (UNCAS). It featured interactive sessions for participants to share the actions they are taking to achieve a transformed and resilient future. These enabled participants to learn from each other and to understand how to embed resilience into actions to address climate change and achieve the SDGs. The Day had four objectives:

1. To provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to commit to actions to build a resilient future, and to explore how breaking out of institutional and sector silos can deliver more.

2. To highlight actions grassroots groups are taking in LDCs, and how they, and in particular women, can be part of decision-making to take these actions to scale.
3. To set out how the latest knowledge and understanding on resilience can be used to build and invest in adaptive, resilient communities and economies.
4. To provide an interactive space to explore and identify new strategies, collaborations, and partnerships to advance and track the implementation of resilience actions and initiatives.

The full programme of the Day is available [here](#).

## Action Sessions

Seven action-focused sessions were at the heart of the day:

1. [The Intersection of Climate and Conflict Risk: Accelerating Action to Achieve Resilience](#)
2. [Stepping up Actions to Build Resilient Food Systems](#)
3. [Empowering Resilience Programming in Action: Leveraging Capacities, Knowledge and Tools](#)
4. [Accelerating Resilience Through Scaling Nature-based Solutions](#)
5. [Early Warning, Early Action to Leave No One Behind](#)
6. [Financing for a Resilient Future](#)
7. [Resilient Cities, Infrastructure and Energy Systems: critical to transformative change](#)

## C. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DAY

### What actions can go to scale and deliver ambitious and transformative change?

Actions and initiative for building resilience to climate change are happening across all levels and sectors, with novel collaborations and partnerships developing at a fast pace. A full list of these actions and others shared with GRP is provided in Appendix I. Highlights of these actions are given below and in detail in Part III of this document:

#### *Governments and intergovernmental organisations are increasing their investments and efforts on building climate resilience.*

- The [LDC vision for 2050](#) was launched at UNCAS. This vision aims for the least developed countries to deliver climate resilience pathways by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. The LDCs are making their own commitments to achieve those targets, including the [LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative \(LDC REEEI\)](#), integrating climate development objectives and working with all of society to develop and prioritise efforts to channel support to the local level. Such an ambitious vision will require partnership on both sides, and the LDCs are calling on international communities for long-term collaboration to strengthen institutions and capabilities at the country level to support local communities.
- Egypt and the UK Governments, as co-leads of the Resilience and Adaptation strand of UNCAS, and in partnership with Malawi, Bangladesh, the Netherlands and Saint Lucia, have set out an actionable agenda for climate adaptation and resilience through a [Call to Action](#) that has so far been endorsed by over 110 countries and 70 companies and civil society organisations around the world.
- The UK government is investing GDP £9.6 million in the [Just Rural Transition](#) initiative aiming to support farmers by reforming food and agricultural policies to support sustainable food production, stewardship of land, forests, natural resources and ecosystems while enhancing resilient livelihoods and jobs. The UK has a new environmental land management scheme in which subsidies support biodiversity, clean water and other nature services.
- The UK launched the [Risk-informed Early Action Partnership](#) to make one billion people safer from disaster by 2025 by expanding warning systems and helping countries plan responses.
- The Fijian government has created sovereign green bonds and is investing in natural capital through planting mangrove forests for flood regulation in vulnerable coastal communities.
- Bhutan's efforts to preserve natural capital have led the country into becoming the only carbon negative country in the world with 100% clean energy and constitutionally written minimum for forest cover in the country (at 60% as a minimum).
- Myanmar's government launched a new environmental and climate change policy, as part of overall national development framework, that will support agriculture, fisheries, energy and transport sectors in sustainable growth and climate resilience. Specific focus has been put on land rights and land tenure as part of the efforts to restore degraded land.
- Donors – including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, European Commission, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, the UK, and the World Bank – have committed [USD \\$650 million for CGIAR](#) to scale up climate actions in food systems, including through crop breeding, seed systems development, improving gender equity in agriculture, improving livestock management and efforts to create a suitable enabling environment.
- With USD\$1.2 billion committed, the Climate Investment Funds' [Pilot Program for Climate Resilience \(PPCR\)](#) is driving innovation in 28 countries. The programme promotes adaptation and climate resilience in development planning and sector plans, helps governments in

climate-vulnerable countries set standards to develop resilient infrastructure, and supports some of the first credit lines for private sector banks to invest in resilience.

***Multiple interventions and actions focused on directing support to local communities, aiming for synergistic impacts on livelihoods, gender equality and landscape resilience.***

- The [Blue Lifelines for a Secure Sahel \(BLiSS\)](#) will reverse degradation of wetlands and drylands and build community resilience to climate change in the Sahel.
- Community-driven funds such as Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)'s [Urban Poor Fund International](#) will hand more control over development and climate funding to the urban poor.
- Organisations such as [Vi Agroforestry](#) will promote agroforestry in Kenya, contributing to increased food security, climate regulation, improved nutrition, gender equality, biodiversity, pollination and at least 7 SDGs.
- Women's organisations, such as [Swayam Shikshan Prayo](#), will support poor farmers with funds that qualify them to access governmental agricultural subsidies, allowing for more climate-resilient practices.
- An initiative led by Columbia University, [Adapting Agriculture to Climate Today, For Tomorrow](#), aims to enhance the resilience of rural communities.

***Novel partnerships are working across silos and creating new and strengthened partnerships***

- The Risk-informed Early Action Partnership ([REAP](#)) is a global partnership convening governments as well as humanitarian, development and climate stakeholders in order to advance the global agenda on promoting a more anticipatory approach to disaster risk management. This will save lives, protect livelihoods and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of response.
- Collaborative interventions, where governments work with non-governmental organisations, can foster structural and systemic change. For example, the SUN movement ([Scaling Up Nutrition](#)) is collaborating with governments to improve nutrition and consequently household and community resilience in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Gabon, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam. AGRA ([Growing Africa's Agriculture](#)) is partnering with SUN to include and scale up better nutrition.
- The [Ocean Resilience and Risk Action Alliance \(ORRAA\)](#), a multi-stakeholder collaboration, is working to unlock and incentivise private investments and blended finance into coastal natural capital in LDCs and SIDS. It will pioneer ground-breaking products that both address ocean risk and build resilience.
- [Mercy Corps is building partnerships with the private sector to marshal at least USD \\$40 million](#) in private sector funding to support 2 million people in vulnerable communities building resilience to climate change.
- The [Global Challenges Research Fund](#) has announced Climate Resilience Networks, a new programme starting in 2020 that aims to move from direct impacts to complex and diverse impacts; from stand-alone resilience to integrated development; and from existing partnerships to co-evolving partnerships.
- The IISD's [National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Global Network](#) is expanding the number of countries in the network, and permitting cross-border NAPs.



## What platforms are able to help follow actions over the coming year?

Actions need to be designed, implemented and resourced according to the existing, and growing evidence base of practices, methods and tools that promote equitable resilience building.

- Initiatives such as [BRACED](#) and [the GRP: Resilience Insights Report 2019](#) highlight the key steps for putting resilience into practice.
- In a similar vein, the Commission on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (SAI), the [EAT-Lancet Commission](#) and the [Food and Land Use Coalition](#) (FOLU) are showing how food and agriculture systems can be transformed to deliver climate, health and livelihood outcomes.
- [Adaptation Without Borders](#), a joint initiative of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) aims to harness international cooperation to govern and manage overlooked transboundary climate risks.
- [UN Climate Resilience Initiative and Network \(A2R\)](#), an initiative launched at UNFCCC COP 21, promotes three key capacities for climate resilience as a common frame for climate resilience in the UN System and for its partners to understand and manage climate risks and hazards at scale.
- The Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA), Ecoshape, Wetlands International and the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) are leading the [Accelerating Adaptation through Building with Nature in Asia programme](#), which aims to change water engineering practice towards incorporating nature's strengths in Asia. It will tackle national policy barriers and develop landscape-scale projects in 15 landscapes in 5 Asian countries.
- The Oxford University-led [Nature-based Solution Initiative \(NbSI\)](#), a research, policy advice and education programme, aims to understand the potential of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to address global challenges and to increase their implementation through the application of science.
- [When disasters and conflict collide](#), a project initiated by ODI, German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), has made significant advances in the understanding the intersection of climate-related disasters and conditions of violence, conflict and peace.
- The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in partnership with the Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), have conducted participatory research with government and communities in 12 countries to identify the conditions for effective NbS for adaptation and built [a searchable database](#) of more than 240 tools and methods.
- The second consultation on the [Global Standard for NbS](#) – recently launched by IUCN and facilitated by Friends of Ecosystem based Adaptation (FEBA) – is working towards creating a shared language for NbS, reducing the abuse of nature and ensuring the sustainable use and management of natural resources.
- The [Transforming Food Systems Under Climate Change initiative](#), convened by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), is involving over 100 organisations to provide a platform to catalyse transformation in food systems.
- [UNFCCC Global Climate Action Nazca portal](#) provides a platforms where non-state actor climate actions are collated. The soon to be launched [GRP](#) Resilience Solutions Platform will provide a similar function for resilience actions that can be linked to the Nazca portal.

### *Co-designed and inclusive processes are key to implementing actions*

- **Understanding formal and informal power structures is key to effective implementation of actions.** Holistic approaches that integrate the needs of multiple groups provide many angles and track action results are needed. Building a common goal is also a key ingredient for keeping actions on track. For example, Mercy Corps' work in the Karamoja, Uganda is bringing together 14 pastoralist communities at the frontline of extreme drought to support peace building and climate resilience by focusing on their specific needs.

### **What is needed to ensure actions are inclusive<sup>1</sup> and put people at the centre?**

- Inclusive actions are built on **frequent stakeholder engagement**. They must go beyond token participation, passive engagement at the onset or completion of a project, or one-way communication flows. Transformative change means local communities become the agents of change and tailor and implement actions in accordance with their specific needs.
- **Inclusive actions must not be limited to the local level.** They need to span and build bridges across scales, from local level community programmes to national governments. For example, the [Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance](#) is empowering communities to act ahead of flooding events, through education programs and weather alerts, and is connecting these communities to national governments.
- **Traditional knowledge and traditional governance systems** need to be part of inclusive actions and can be catalytic to transformative changes when complemented with science and supported by NGOs, the private sector and policymakers. For example, [Tebtebba's](#) Enhancing Indigenous Peoples in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Program works with people, nature, indigenous knowledge and academic research to deliver climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions.
- **Technology can play a key role in ensuring inclusive actions.** The strategic use of information and communications technology (ICT) can foster community cohesion, communicate risks and underpin early warning systems. For example, Atma Connect has created a socially inclusive, neighbourhood-level [AtmaGo network app](#) that connects and empowers low-income communities in Indonesia to prepare for disasters and to overcome chronic challenges.

### **How to get money to where it matters and support grassroots groups?**

- Communities need long-term control over their own funding in order to become agents of positive change and to ensure that the solutions that are being developed are context-tailored, community-owned, and sustainable in the long run.
- To simplify access to funding we need to provide communities with technical and scientific support, decentralise financial instruments and aggregate local interventions to reduce transition costs.
- Governments, IFI's and investors need to increase support for community programmes to get money to where it matters. At the same time, these should be co-designed with community members and include women and youth from the start. A good example is ADEPA-WADAF's revolving funds for women cooperatives and traders in Senegal.
- Currently there are no private markets for financing adaptation. Investors do not know what opportunities are available. The [Global Adaptation and Resilience Investment \(GARI\)](#) group is

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<sup>1</sup> Involving youth, women, people living with disabilities and indigenous communities.

working with organisations such as [the American Society of Adaptation Professionals \(ASAP\)](#) to bridge this gap.

- Farmer access to credit is essential for resilience to climate change. Without credit, agriculture cannot evolve and adapt. Insurance is fundamental in creating these opportunities. The insurance sector needs to create partnerships, support communities and identify and manage the large-scale risks in the global food systems to drive capital to where it is most needed.



## D. ACTIONS AND MESSAGES FROM THE SESSIONS

This section provides details of the sessions. This includes the background and objectives for the sessions, the actions that were presented and the main messages that arose from discussions during the sessions.





## Opening plenary: Taking action to build a resilient future

*Lead: Global Resilience Partnership (GRP)*

*Co-hosts: GRP, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF), and Huairou Commission*

Description and objectives
<p>We are in a period of increased volatility and unpredictability. Climate-related disasters and shocks are occurring more often, and chronic stresses are lasting longer. Climate change is affecting global systemic risks such as food insecurity and political instability. To achieve a resilient future and avoid leaving anyone behind we must re-shape the current approach to resilience building. The objective of the Opening Plenary was to set the context and framing of the day on delivering ambitious actions on resilience and adaptation, to underscore how central a focus on local action and a people-centred approach is needed, and a geographic focus on LDCs and SIDS.</p>
Programme
<p><b>Moderator</b> - Andrew Revkin, Director, Initiative on Communication and Sustainability, Earth Institute, Columbia University</p> <p><b>Welcome</b> - Dr. David Van Zandt, President of The New School</p> <p><b>Opening Addresses - Why action on climate resilience and adaptation is urgent?</b> - HE Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Egypt, and Hon. Zac Goldsmith MP, Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and at the Department for International Development, United Kingdom</p> <p><b>UN perspective on climate resilience and action</b> - Mr Qu Dongyu, Director General, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation</p> <p><b>What does science say on the actions that are needed to build resilience and adapt to climate change?</b> - Professor Johan Rockström, Director of Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research</p> <p><b>Perspective from Fiji as SIDS and COP23 Presidency</b> - HE Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications, Fiji</p> <p><b>Perspective of Bhutan and as Chair of LDC Group in UNFCCC</b> - Mr. Sonam P Wangdi, Secretary, National Environmental Commission, Bhutan, and LDC Chair UNFCCC</p> <p><b>Perspective of Myanmar</b> - HE U Ohn Win, Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar</p> <p><b>Panel discussion on the priority areas for action on resilience:</b></p> <p>Denis Duverne, Chairman of AXA Group and the Chair of the Insurance Development Forum</p> <p>Bisola Akinmuyiwa, Slum/Shack Dwellers International, Nigeria</p> <p>Violet Shivutse, Chair of Huairou Commission and Shibuye Community Health Workers, Kenya</p> <p>Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility</p> <p>Fatema Sumar, Vice President, Oxfam America</p> <p>Tomasz Chruszczow, Special Envoy for Climate Change and High Level Champion for COP 24, Ministry of Environment, Poland</p>
Key Messages
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Investing in younger generation</b> is instrumental. Building capacity of youth, especially in the approaches of system-wide thinking that does not silo climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation is essential.</li> <li><b>Nature-based Solutions</b> deliver on their potential to build resilience. Investing in NbS can especially help the world's poorest, who are also the ones hit hardest by climate change impacts.</li> <li><b>Mainstreaming climate change risks into government policy</b> can help deliver integrated solutions that respond to local needs and create collaborations across ministries and sectors in a system-wide approach.</li> <li><b>Increased finance</b> is urgently needed to invest in <b>known resilient building solutions</b>, and to get significant portions of this investment to the local level, thus <b>getting money to where and when it matters</b>.</li> </ol>

## Session 1: The Intersection of Climate and Conflict Risk: Accelerating Action to Achieve Resilience

*Leads: International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Overseas Development Institute (ODI)*

*Co-hosts: Mercy Corps, Wetlands International, Stockholm Climate Security Hub, Near East Foundation (NEF), Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre*

### Description and Objective

Climate disasters and climate change can act as a threat multiplier, exacerbating conflict and fragility, which in turn can amplify vulnerability to climate stress. This climate-conflict nexus can lock populations into a perpetual cycle of poverty, fragility and risk. This session shared the experiences and commitments from different stakeholders living and operating in this intersection of climate and conflict risk. It highlighted a suite of actions that are being used – and scaled up – to build climate resilience in fragile, conflict-affected settings. These were used to identify how these could shape global policy and add urgency to the need for addressing conflict and climate in fragile contexts, and a call to action for the wider community based on today's pressing needs and future trends.

*Further detail, background, programme and speakers can be found [here](#).*

### Actions and Commitments (from session and identified after event)

1. [NAP Global Network](#), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
2. [Blue Lifelines for a Secure Sahel \(BLISS\)](#), Wetlands International
3. [GRP Innovation Challenge](#), Global Resilience Partnership
4. [ICRC Strategy 2019-2022](#) with focus on conflict affected communities, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
5. [Women and Water Diplomacy in the Nile \(WIN\)](#), Shared Waters Partnership (SWP), SIWI
6. [Adaptation Without Borders](#), ODI, SEI and IDDR
7. Climate Security Mechanism, UNDP and UNEP
8. [Commitment: Help 2 million programme participants improve their capacities to better adapt to changing and more variable climate conditions in fragile and conflict-affected contexts by 2022](#), Mercy Corps
9. Commitment: Incorporate climate resilience into all programming in fragile and conflict-affected communities [Near East Foundation](#)
10. Commitment: Advance understanding and deepen the evidence base of what types of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions are viable and appropriate in contexts affected by violence, conflict and fragility - [A call to action](#)

### Five key messages

1. **Conflict and fragility increase vulnerabilities to climate change**, and undermines the capacities of populations to cope with these changes, and must be factored into climate change programming.
2. While not itself a driver of conflict, **climate change can act as a threat multiplier**, interacting with existing causes such as weak governance and poverty, and history to exacerbate conflict risks.
3. To address these dynamics, **development and humanitarian interventions need to be climate-proofed**, and climate solutions must be conflict-sensitive. More broadly, climate change adaptation should be aligned with conflict prevention and recovery ambitions.
4. This is relevant not only for development, humanitarian and climate assistance, but also in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, and will **require the commitment of significant financial support to help the most vulnerable** to manage changing and overlapping risks – support which is currently limited in those fragile contexts most in need.
5. **Action is now happening** within the climate security, foreign policy, and UN Security Council arenas. But there is a role to play for others, such as the environmental peacebuilding, conservation and disaster risk reduction communities. A multidisciplinary approach is needed to tackle current and future risks.

## Session 2: Stepping up Actions to Build Resilient Food Systems

*Leads: Global Resilience Partnership, (GRP); Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), CGIAR/CCAFS*

*Co-hosts: World Food Programme (WFP), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, Vi Agroforestry, and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)*

### Description and Objectives

The global food system is vulnerable to increasing shocks and stresses. International efforts to tackle food insecurity are failing and after four continuous decades of decline in world hunger, we are seeing a rise. This session highlighted concrete and scalable actions across and within agriculture and food-related sectors, including the entire value chain from production to consumption. It included announcements of new initiatives and partnerships, and synthesised the critical and priority actions needed to build a resilient food system for an uncertain future.

*Further detail, background, programme and speakers can be found [here](#).*

### Actions and Commitments (from session and identified afterwards)

1. [Food Loss and Waste Reduction for a Better Climate](#), FAO
2. Commission on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (SAI) [by CGIAR Water, Land and Ecosystems Research Program](#)
3. [Just Rural Transition](#), UK DFID
4. [Low Carbon Livestock Coalition](#), FAO
5. [RECSOIL Recarbonisation of Global Soils](#), FAO
6. [Great Green Wall for Cities \(GGWC\)](#), FAO
7. [Climate Resilient City Region Food Systems \(CRFS\) Programme](#), FAO
8. Global Network Against Food Crises, FAO, WFP and EU
9. [Risk-informed Early Action Partnership \(REAP\)](#), UK DFID
10. [Early Action Focus Task Force \(EA FTF\)](#), FAO, WFP, IFRC, OCHA, START Network, CERF
11. [Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative' \(GGWSSI\)](#), African Union Commission
12. Ambitious Mainstreaming Targets as part of IFAD11, ensuring 25% of all programme of loans and grants (circa US\$875 million) is 'climate-focused', increasing the percentage of nutrition-sensitive projects from 33 to 50 per cent and increasing the target for gender transformational projects to 25 per cent, IFAD
13. Commitment: train women processors to enhance their resilience to climate change and build a resilient food system in Cayar (Sénégal) - [West African Association for the Development of Artisanal Fishery \(WADAF\)](#)
14. Commitment: train young female processors on new fish valorisation techniques in Saint-Louis, West African Association for the Development of Artisanal Fishery (WADAF)
15. Commitment: set up of revolving funds for women processors and traders in Guinea, for fishmongers in the Gambia and Senegal, ADEPA-WADAF
16. Commitment: [SUN Movement](#) to support Nutrition goals of AGRA (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa)
17. Commitment: Strengthened resilience and better livelihoods for Africa's farmers, AGRA
18. [Transforming Food Systems Under a Changing Climate](#), initiative that aims to catalyse transformative action in food systems in partnership with over 100 organisations
19. [Adapting Agriculture to Climate Today, For Tomorrow](#), Columbia University
20. BSR & GRP: Resilient Value Chains and Resilient Communities

### Five key messages

1. **Food system transformation** is a must to achieve the Paris Agreement and SDGs as agriculture is key for reducing GHG emissions from food systems and sequestering carbon.
2. **Dietary shifts** are a key lever for reducing food system GHG emissions and improving health, nutrition and resilience. Resilient food systems are nutrition-sensitive, equitable, planet-friendly and support rural

livelihoods. We not only need food systems that are resilient to climate change, we need food systems that are making people more resilient to climate change.

3. **Good nutrition** is key to resilience. Well-nourished individuals are healthier, can work harder and have greater physical reserves. Households that are nutrition secure are better able to withstand, endure longer and recover more quickly from extreme weather events and other consequences of climate-change.
4. **Transforming the food system is a very big challenge** that can only be addressed through a country- and people-driven, holistic and multi-sectoral approach. Farmers, cities and businesses are key levers in this transformation, and must partner with each other.
5. To **adopt an integrative approach** that combines climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive strategies we can tap into important synergies that have combined positive effects on planetary AND people's health:
  - Predominantly plant-based diets for well-nourished adults confer both improved health and environmental benefits ([as reported in 2019 by the EAT-Lancet Commission](#));
  - Increasing the diversity of crop varieties and livestock breeds increases resilience to heat, drought, pests and disease while also increasing dietary diversity and improving soil quality;
  - Paying greater attention to nutrient efficiency along the food chain such as better recycling of minerals and animal manure, use of by-products as feed or compost and recycling of waste are all effective ways to make food systems more resilient and efficient, and improve its nutritional quality.



## Session 3: Empowering Resilience Programming in Action: Leveraging Capacities, Knowledge and Tools

*Leads: Climate Investment Funds, Pilot Program for Climate Resilience; Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC)*

*Co-hosts: Resilience Measurement, Evidence and Learning Community of Practice (RMEL CoP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), GRP, IISD, IIED, Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI), Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, Lutheran World Relief, Huairou Commission, Women's Climate Centers International (WCCI)*

### Description and objectives

This was a 'learning marketplace' where organisations shared their evidence and experience to build capacity and strengthen resilience programming and outcomes. The session featured six opportunities in a café format, to learn from and discuss ideas with people working from global to local levels on resilience. Objectives were:

- To share evidence and experience-based learning about resilience programs and projects
- To engage in joint discussion, learning, and collaboration about what works well: good practices and lessons including common barriers to progress and how it may be possible to overcome them.
- To reflect on ideas about how resilience capacity building and programming can be tracked to support ambitious and transformational results.
- To identify at least two or three further opportunities for better work across and within sectors, institutions and countries.

Further detail, background, programme and speakers can be found [here](#).

### Actions and Commitments (from session and identified afterwards)

1. Mainstreaming climate risk into government planning and budget processes, GRP, GCA, World Bank and DFID
2. Establishment of women's climate centres at community level to enhance climate resilience and adaptation, WCCI
3. Applying [Cantarranas methodology](#) for community risk mapping, Huairou Commission
4. [Community Resilience Partnership Programme \(CRPP\)](#), Asian Development Bank
5. Locally-led adaptation finance, as part of GCA track, [Slum Dwellers International \(SDI\)](#)
6. [Devolved Climate Finance](#), IIED
7. Commitment: to secure tenure and increase access to basic services, housing and livelihoods, SDI
8. Commitment: to promote low carbon and climate resilient development by supporting sustainable landscapes and climate-smart urbanisation solutions, Climate Investment Funds
9. Commitment: LUCCC intends to extend its climate capacity-building network to more LDC universities, and offer capacity-enhancing short courses in multiple partner countries, [LUCCC](#)
10. [Resilience Measurement Evidence and Learning Community of Practices \(RMEL CoP\)](#)

### Five key messages

1. With the climate crisis, economic and social upheaval, natural disasters, and other shocks and stresses, the global community has **no time to waste before we start learning** from each other to improve resilience.
2. **Ensure participatory and inclusive engagement of stakeholders** including local communities and vulnerable groups to align climate resilience programming SDGs and national development priorities.
3. **Ensure social equity as an integral component of all resilience research and programming.** This requires deconstructing the concept of vulnerability and considering agency and power relations. This will lead to transformations that increase the resilience of those most affected by climate change.
4. **Scale up support to enable the most vulnerable countries** to sustain a systematic and programmatic approach to developing adaptation strategies and investing in resilience by supporting enhanced institutional capacities to generate and use accurate and locally-relevant climate information and services.
5. **Build on more than 20 years of combined experience** of partners investing in the most vulnerable developing countries, we call for all partners to step up efforts to strengthen resilience programming with an emphasis on systemic change, transformational results, social equity and gender transformation.

## Session 4: Accelerating Resilience Through Scaling Nature-based Solutions

*Leads: Wetlands International, IIED, IUCN*

*Co-hosts: Ocean Risk Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA), World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC), GRP, Tebtebba, WFP, FAO, Adaptation Fund, Guidance for Resilience in the Anthropocene: Investments for Development (GRAID-SRC)*

### Description

Nature-based solutions (NbS) refers to the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of natural ecosystems to help societies adapt to climate change. It is also often called ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA). It can reduce people's vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change. In addition to ecosystem-based mitigation efforts, NbS for adaptation are becoming increasingly prominent in climate change action.

In the session experts highlighted the links between nature and resilience, shared ongoing actions and announced new ones. It inspired future collaboration across sectors to use NbS as an affordable, scalable and available solution for transformative climate action while contributing to adaptation, mitigation, sustainable development and biodiversity goals.

*Further detail, background, programme and speakers can be found [here](#).*

### Actions and Commitments (from session and identified afterwards)

1. Launch of [Ocean Risk Resilience Action Alliance \(ORRAA\)](#), AXA XL, Ocean Unite, GRP and Canada.
2. [Accelerating Adaptation through Building with Nature in Asia, the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries \(MMAF\)](#) [Wetlands International](#), [EcoShape](#) and the [Global Centre for Adaptation](#)
3. Participatory plant-breeding partnership - Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science and local communities
4. [Nature-based Solution Initiative](#), Oxford University
5. [Participatory research on ecosystem based approaches \(EbA\) with government and communities in 12 countries](#), IIED with IUCN and UNEP-WCMC
6. [Navigating a Changing Climate Initiative](#), World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC)
7. [Global Standard for NbS](#) second public consultation – IUCN and EbA
8. [Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Nature-based Solutions for Adaptation](#), IIED
9. [Nature-based Solutions Initiative](#), Oxford University
10. [Blue Lifelines for a Secure Sahel \(BLiSS\)](#), Wetlands International
11. [Think Climate Coalition](#), PIANC, the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure
12. [Building Urban Resilience to Water-Related Disaster Risk through Inclusive Design Adaptation Action](#), ONE Architecture & Urbanism
13. [Adaptive cities through nature-based solutions \('ACT on NBS'\)](#), EIT Climate-KIC and Resilience Brokers
14. [Incorporating NbS into WFP's work](#), World Food Programme (WFP)
15. [Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation](#), IUCN
16. [Scaling Up Mountain EbA](#), the Mountain Institute and IUCN
17. [Ecosystems Protecting Infrastructure and Communities \(EPIC\)](#), IUCN
18. ["Closing the Gaps in Great Green Wall: Linking sectors and stakeholders for increased synergy and scaling-up"](#), IUCN
19. [Enhancing Climate Indigenous Peoples in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Program](#), Tebtebba
20. [NBS for improved plant health](#), FAO

### Five key messages

1. **Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are effective for building local resilience** and need to be scaled up to accelerate adaptation and resilience-building. Measures that do not work with nature degrade ecosystems and increase disaster risks for the most vulnerable. Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems that are biodiverse can help societies adapt to climate change and provide significant mitigation, development and biodiversity co-benefits.

2. **Partnerships** are key in delivering and scaling up NbS actions. Governments and donors need to incentivise joined-up action by different sectors, putting healthy ecosystems at the heart of sustainable development. NGOs and the private sector should support communities and policymakers to implement NbS by providing capacity building and co-designing and delivering more investment in NbS. Scientists and researchers can provide scientific evidence and tools to implement effective NbS at scale. They should work with indigenous peoples and local communities to co-create new knowledge on how to best adapt through NbS.
3. **Local communities and indigenous people** are already implementing NbS. Their knowledge and customary land governance and resource management demonstrate effective NbS. Strengthening, recognising and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples to their land, territories and resources and obtaining Free Prior Informed consent (FPIC) for climate projects and programmes affecting them are a must.
4. **Policymakers need to remove policy and regulatory barriers** and prioritise NbS and its combined use with new infrastructure where possible. Removing barriers requires governments to change investment and procurement policies to incentivise integrated land use, sustainable land management and multi-purpose infrastructure. Governments need to break down sectoral silos and adopt integrated science-based and local knowledge-informed governance models that can reconcile different interests across sectors and scales. More funding needs to flow to local level and build local capacities to implement NbS.
5. **Robust NbS standards are imperative** to ensure quality and credibility and secure their effectiveness for both human well-being and biodiversity. A Global Standard on NbS will work towards creating a shared language for NbS, reducing the abuse of nature and ensuring the sustainable use and management of natural resources.

## Session 5: Early Warning, Early Action to Leave No One Behind

*Leads: WFP, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)*

*Co-hosts: organisations: DFID, FAO, Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), Google, GRAID at SRC, Huairou Commission, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)/LUCCC, International Standards Organisation (ISO), Mercy Corps, US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), ODI, SDI, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and Zurich Insurance*

### Description and objectives

Extreme weather events, which are forecast to be more frequent in a changing climate, have a disproportionate effect on the poorest, most vulnerable people. National efforts to adapt risk leaving behind the most vulnerable people because they have limited capacity to anticipate extreme weather events and cope with them. There is increased recognition that early warning, early action (EWEA) systems can reduce humanitarian needs after extreme weather events. However, financing remains fragmented, agency-specific and small-scale. The session had four objectives:

- Showcase effective approaches for EWEA for extreme weather events;
- Explore the challenges associated with EWEA systems and how to overcome them;
- Illustrate how organisations are ensuring that EWEA systems do strengthen resilience at the local level; and
- Explore institutionalisation of EWEA approaches, particularly at government and local levels and also in the humanitarian sector.

*Further detail, background, programme and speakers can be found [here](#).*

### Actions and Commitments (from session and identified afterwards)

1. [Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership \(REAP\)](#), UK, Egypt, Malawi, Saint Lucia, UN Development Programme as part of [Call for Action on Adaptation and Resilience](#).
2. [Zurich Insurance Commitment](#): USD\$1 billion for new resilience initiative and increase impact 10-fold to improve the resilience of 2 billion people
3. [Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance](#): Commitments include making 2 million people more resilient to flooding
4. Scaling up Forecast-based Financing/Early Warning Early Action & Shock-Responsive Social Protection with innovative use of climate risk information for disaster resilience in ASEAN, FAO with UNICEF, WFP, UN Women, SAVE, IFRC and German Red Cross
5. [Early Action Focus Task Force \(EA FTF\)](#), FAO, WFP, IFRC, OCHA, START Network, CERF
6. Climate Resilience Networks (to launch in 2020), GCRF and DFID.

### Key messages

1. Funding for disaster risk reduction must include **increasing investments in early** warning infrastructure, and governments and humanitarian agencies need to partner with local communities for a coordinated approach to implement early warning, early action (EWEA) systems.
2. **Increased financing for EWEA systems**, and it is essential that multi-stakeholder partnerships from local, regional, national and international levels, as well as the private sector, implement such systems to create a dialogue and share insight from all actors. As climate change causes disproportionate harm to poor and marginalised communities, investing in these communities to enhance their capacities and leadership in EWEA is crucial for enhancing long-term resilience building.
3. Implement **EWEA in new and known contexts** to keep pace with the dynamics of climate risk and vulnerability will require investment. Support this by analysing and evaluating the effectiveness of EWEA in fragile states and urban contexts and including vulnerable demographic groups and collective assets requires investment.
4. Resource overuse and population growth, combined with a changing climate, are likely to **increase the risk and intensity of vulnerability among populations** and thus the increased need for EWEA systems and long-term climate adaptation measures to strengthen the resilience of communities.



## Session 6: Financing for a Resilient Future

*Leads: Willis Towers Watson, Insurance Development Forum (IDF)*

*Co-hosts: GRP, Clarmondial, World Bank Group, SEI, Atma Connect, WFP, ODI, UNDP, IIED, Global Adaptation & Resilience Investment Working Group (GARI)/Lightsmith, InsuResilience Global Partnership, SDI, Mercy Corps, Huairou Commission, Centre for Disaster Protection.*

### Description and Objectives

The session shared efforts to increase the volume, quality and coordination of finance flows for adaptation and resilience from the public and private sectors. It explored innovative technologies, tools and finance mechanisms in the current climate landscape. This session issued a forward-looking challenge to give local actors access to a comprehensive, complementary suite of finance solutions that allow for holistic, comprehensive adaptation strategies. It explored how the different perspectives in climate finance can come together to reform and improve the current flows of finance to the local level, address vulnerabilities and ensure adaptation for all.

*Further detail, background, programme and speakers can be found [here](#).*

### Actions and Commitments (from session and identified afterwards)

1. [InsuResilience Global Partnership Vision 2025](#), the InsuResilience Global Partnership
2. [Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment](#), Willis Towers Watson
3. [Adaptation SME Accelerator Project \(ASAP\)](#), The Lightsmith Group
4. [Money where it matters: Accelerating Frontier Funds](#), IIED, CJRF, GRP, SDI, Huairou Commission
5. [Urban Poor Fund International](#), SDI
6. Tripartite Initiative (in the amount USD \$5 billion), launched by UNDP, IDF and BMZ.
7. Marshaling at least \$40 million in private sector funding by 2022 to help people prepare for, withstand and respond to a drastically changing climate, Mercy Corps

### Five key messages

1. **We need a whole of society approach to deliver resilient people, landscapes and economies** in the face of a changing climate. This will include processes, actions and responses led by i) the state, ii) private sector and iii) civil society. There is greater need for convergence and coordination of mechanisms across society.
2. **Prioritise local stakeholders** in financing mechanism design and programming, which will include simplified access requirements that match local capabilities and inclusion of local stakeholders in decision-making across the project cycle. It is essential to empower local actors according to need for improved access to climate finance. Any capacity-building must take a longer-term perspective to ensure a lasting institutional legacy.
3. **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) is essential** for capturing and sharing evidence of successful and unsuccessful approaches, as well as building trust between donors and recipients. Traditional knowledge and small-scale resilience already being implemented should be married with more sophisticated data, risk analysis and modelling and design thinking with ownership and genuine engagement of communities.
4. There is now greater **private sector engagement in adaptation**, via emerging investment vehicles such as micro-finance and insurance and programmes to direct investments into adaptation. We need to foster coalitions of private sector actors with technical expertise, adaptive technologies and capital to help bridge the current adaptation financing gap.
5. Despite the **adaptation financing gap**, there is **more capital for investment** and disaster financing to help fill this gap as evidenced by commitments made this week.

## Session 7: Resilient Cities, Infrastructure and Energy Systems: critical to transformative change

Lead: [ICF](#)

Co-hosts: Adaptation Fund, Global Commission on Adaptation, GRP, ICCCAD/LUCCC, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), IDF, ISO's Climate Change Task Force, PIANC, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Resurgence, Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI), UNCTAD, Urban Systems Lab at the New School, Wetlands International; Climate Finance Climate Policy Initiative

### Description and objectives

This session brought participants together to discuss the latest knowledge and understanding of opportunities and challenges to building resilience in cities, infrastructure and energy systems. Experts started the discussion by providing tangible examples, stimulating interactive discussion in small groups. Expert provocateurs challenged participants to focus on what we know about building city and infrastructure resilience, what the potential challenges are to scaling up to achieve transformative results and strategies to overcome these challenges. Small groups discussed seven topics in depth: 1) Transport; 2) Energy; 3) Blue-green infrastructure; 4) Water; 5) Communications; 6) Community empowerment; and 7) Financing.

Further detail, background, programme and speakers can [here](#).

### Commitments

The session was not designed to capture actions as a list of existing and future actions and initiatives. These will be added to the compendium of actions. Instead the session identified the following commitments to:

1. Resilience building and adaptation measures already underway in cities across the world.
2. The power of sharing success stories from cities enhancing resilience via established networks
3. Work with diverse organisations and stakeholders within key infrastructure sectors to build climate resilience in key sectors, such as transport, energy and water and enhance system interdependencies.

### Five key messages

1. **As motors of the global economy and home to much of the world's population, cities play a vital role in securing a resilient future.** Critical infrastructure, including transportation, communication and energy systems, link cities to each other and to the global supply-chains that enable global trade in goods and services. This infrastructure provides the physical network on which we depend for the movement of people, freight and information. However, cities and infrastructure systems are also vulnerable to the effects of climate change – both from acute disasters and long-term changes.
2. **Cities, policymakers and industry have begun to** respond to these changes and prepare for future effects. The power of cities must be leveraged for transformative change to support resilience while also transforming them for liveability, equity, and human well-being. Quite simply, cities are where the majority of both people and infrastructure are at risk, and one of the greatest opportunities for transformative change.
3. **Cities are systems and thus resilience must take a systems approach** that cuts across sectors and scales. We must raise awareness of the need to integrate interconnected systems that are crucial to resilience: food, supply chains, transportation, government, information and infrastructure. **Nature-based solutions** are part of this and cost-effective approaches that provide multiple benefits for urban community resilience. **Water resilience** in urban systems while a challenge is an opportunity to connect solutions that are regional in scale.
4. **Effective urban resilience starts at the community level.** People want power over their communities and have local expert knowledge. Community knowledge can be leveraged to address problems locally and more efficiently. Communication is central to community urban resilience. ICT is a powerful and critical enablers for information flow about risks for early warnings and for evacuation.
5. **Transportation and energy infrastructure is critical** to functioning urban systems and finding innovative financing solutions for investing in **enhancing their resilience is critical**. Flows of capital can change quickly to protect valuable assets once urban climate change risks have been assessed.

## Closing plenary: Building a Movement for Ambitious and Urgent Action for a Resilient Future

Lead: Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Co-hosts: GRP, IIED, CJRF, and Huairou Commission

Description and objectives
<p>The objective of the session was for participants to experience how cultural performances can amplify urgency and inspire action by many to deliver a future resilient to climate shocks and stresses. The aim was to identify culturally appropriate tools and tactics for engaging others in their own contexts and learn from expert panellists and each other about what it takes to build a movement that delivers ambitious action for a resilient future for all. Its other objective was to have fun at the end of a long day!</p>
What happened
<p>This final session drummed up enthusiasm, commitment and momentum behind the ideas shared on building resilience throughout the day. Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre's Carina Bachofen and Pablo Suarez facilitated two interview panels followed by a talk on how joy and cultural resonance are needed to build a movement. The <a href="#">North Coast Performers</a> – a New York City hip hop improv comedy troupe, improvised a performance based on what the five speakers on the two panels had said. Speakers included Gebru Jember Endalew of Ethiopia, former chair of the LDC group at the UN climate talks, and Maria Fernanda Espinosa, president of the current UN General Assembly; José María Figueres, Chair of Ocean Unite and former President of Costa Rica; Sheela Patel, Mumbai-based chair of Slum and Shack Dwellers International; and Barney Dickson, Director of Strategy and Policy at the Global Commission on Adaptation.</p> <p>Audience members were challenged to think about what it takes to build a successful movement in their communities through a humorous talk and were invited to formed small groups to reflect how they could harness the power of open, participatory and culturally resonant approaches to engage more advocates to deliver a future resilient to climate shocks and stresses. The session ended with the entire audience joining the performers in collectively creating a beatbox-infused call to action on resilience.</p>
Key Messages
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Research shows that showing research does not assist in building a movement:</b> in addition to evidence from science, it is crucial to harness the power of resonant manifestations of art and culture in order to mobilise the power of humanity.</li><li>2. Stakeholders proposing climate resilience have much to <b>learn from past movements</b> that successfully pursued social justice, radically <b>transforming systems through innovative engagement approaches</b>.</li><li>3. <b>Strong alliances, partnerships and inclusion</b> are key to help deliver on an all-society approach.</li><li>4. There is no possibility to be resilient if we continue to expand the gap of inequalities – working toward achieving all Sustainable Development Goals from a system-wide perspective is crucial to leave no one behind.</li></ol>

## E. BUILDING A MOVEMENT TO ADVANCE ACTIONS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

The final session at the Building a Resilient Future Day focused on how to build a movement for a resilient future and help deliver the SDGs. UNCAS has provided the foundation and direction for this movement from three things: First, the [Call for Action: Raising Ambition for Climate Adaptation and Resilience](#); second, the launch of the Year of Action by the Global Commission on Adaptation; and third, to build on the existing Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action.

### UNCAS Call to Action

The outcomes from the Day respond to the [Call for Action: Raising Ambition for Climate Adaptation and Resilience](#) that was launched by Egypt and the United Kingdom and their coalition partners: Bangladesh, Malawi, the Netherlands and Saint Lucia. By 21 September 107 countries and 73 organisations and institutions, including many Building a Resilient Future Day partners, had endorsed/signed/whatever this call.

The Call sets a new bar for ambition on adaptation and resilience, and a new, urgent normal where we deliver adaptation for the vulnerable and scale up available finance as fast as we can. It is a normal where we respond to the science and bring adaptation into the mainstream, calling on everyone to integrate climate risk into how we imagine and build our future. The commitments to the initiatives profiled at UNCAS underpin the call. These include:

- African Adaptation Initiative (AAI)
- Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment (CCRI)
- Global Commission for Adaptation Action Track on Agriculture and Food Security
- InsuResilience Global Partnership
- Resilient livelihoods and landscapes
- LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE AR)
- Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)
- Mainstreaming climate risk into government decision-making

### 2020 - A Year of Action

Building on the momentum of the UN Climate Action Summit, the [Global Commission on Adaptation](#) is launching a Year of Action to accelerate and scale up climate adaptation solutions. Under the leadership of Ban Ki-moon, 8th UN Secretary General; Bill Gates, Co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and former CEO of the World Bank, the Commission has launched eight [Action Tracks](#): Finance and Investment, Food Security and Agriculture, Nature-Based Solutions, Water, Cities, Locally-Led Action, Infrastructure and Preventing Disasters. Together, these actions form a comprehensive platform for urgent, bold and equitable adaptation.

More than 75 national governments, multilateral banks, civil society organisations and private sector actors have signed on to support and deliver these initiatives. Together with its partners the Commission will mobilise political, technical and financial support for adaptation through both existing initiatives and new coalitions for change. The Action Tracks set ambitious targets for the coming decade.

## Scaling up action under the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action

The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA) supports implementation of the Paris Agreement by strengthening collaboration between governments and stakeholders to reduce emissions and increase resilience against climate impacts. Under MPGCA, a pathway on resilience and adaptation is planned for launch ahead of COP25 to help increase actions on resilience, and to capture these actions under this into the MPGCA's [Global Climate Action portal](#). This will build on, and develop, the existing narrative of climate resilience (Appendix IV) prepared by the climate resilience network, and mainstream resilience into the seven MPGCA themes: Transport; Land Use; Water; Cities; Energy; Oceans and Coastal Zones; Industry, and, Human Settlements.

After 2020, there is an opportunity for MPGCA to continue and to increase climate action, including on resilience. This would include supporting countries to formulate, implement, and (over)achieve their NDCs, and using the UNFCCC process to track climate action globally to make it both credible and inclusive.

## How do we become greater than the sum of our parts?

The opportunities from UNCAS, the coalitions that came together to organise Building a Resilient Future Day, the Year of Action launched by the Global Commission on Adaptation together with the ongoing MPGCA, all present significant opportunities for those working on resilience and adaptation within and across sectors to be greater than the sum of their parts. Based on the Day and feedback, five interlinked areas of climate action merit attention:

1. **Maintain and expand the coalitions** that came together to help organise the thematic sessions of the Day and use the existing informal Climate Resilience Network as a forum to do this.
2. **Increase the voice of grassroots groups, youth and indigenous people:** build on what was achieved at the Day, and elsewhere at UNCAS, to increase the presence of grassroots groups in decisions on actions and investments in resilience.
3. **Focus on implementing actions and meeting commitments** made at the Day and UNCAS. Start to track and learn from the implementation of these actions especially at the local level.
4. **Put knowledge on resilience practice and policy into use at scale**, and build country capacity, especially in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States around a shared narrative across and within sectors and actors and at all levels.
5. **Coming together at regional and global events** to share and learn and advocate for further action and investment into resilience. This will help build transformative change putting climate risk at the centre of all interventions and investments.

It was clear from the Day that there are already a range of initiatives, platforms and interventions working towards a resilient future. A common message from the sessions and the feedback from the Day is to build on and work through these rather than creating new ones. To support this GRP will produce a compendium of actions (Appendix I) and update a mapping of organisations and initiatives working on resilience (Appendix III).

## Global and regional platforms to advance action on resilience

The Day identified a number of existing platforms that are working on advancing actions and knowledge on resilience and adaptation. Whilst not comprehensive, the platforms and initiatives that were most commonly mentioned are listed below, in alphabetical order, with a short explanation.



[Global Adaptation & Resilience Investment Working Group \(GARI\)](#) - convenes private investors and other stakeholders to focus on practical approaches to adaptation and resilience investment.

[Global Commission on Adaptation \(GCA\)](#) aims to inspire heads of state, government officials, community leaders, business executives, investors and other international actors to prepare for and respond to impacts of climate change with urgency, determination and foresight.

[Global Resilience Partnership \(GRP\)](#) - is a collaboration of more than 50 organisations working towards a world where vulnerable people and places are able to thrive in the face of shocks, uncertainty and change.

[InsuResilience Global Partnership](#) - Vision 2025 outlines that governments, multilateral organisations, the private sector, and civil society will come together in an unprecedented way to protect 500 million poor and vulnerable people against climate shocks.

[Insurance Development Forum \(IDF\)](#) - is a public/private partnership led by the insurance industry and supported by international organisations. It aims to extend insurance use and its related risk management capabilities to build greater resilience of people, communities and businesses.

[Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change \(LUCCC\)](#) - aims to support all 48 LDCs to become able to adapt effectively to the adverse impacts of climate change.

[LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience \(LIFE-AR\)](#) - aims to develop an over-arching least developed countries vision for adapting towards a climate resilient future by 2050.

[Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance \(ORRAA\)](#) - is a multi-sector collaboration between governments, financial institutions, the insurance industry, environmental organisations and stakeholders from the Global South.

**Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP)** - was created by Pacific leaders to implement the [Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific](#).

[Resilience Measurement, Evidence and Learning Community of Practice \(RMEL COP\)](#) - is a growing network of experts who are collaborating to improve resilience measurement concepts, approaches, methods and their application.

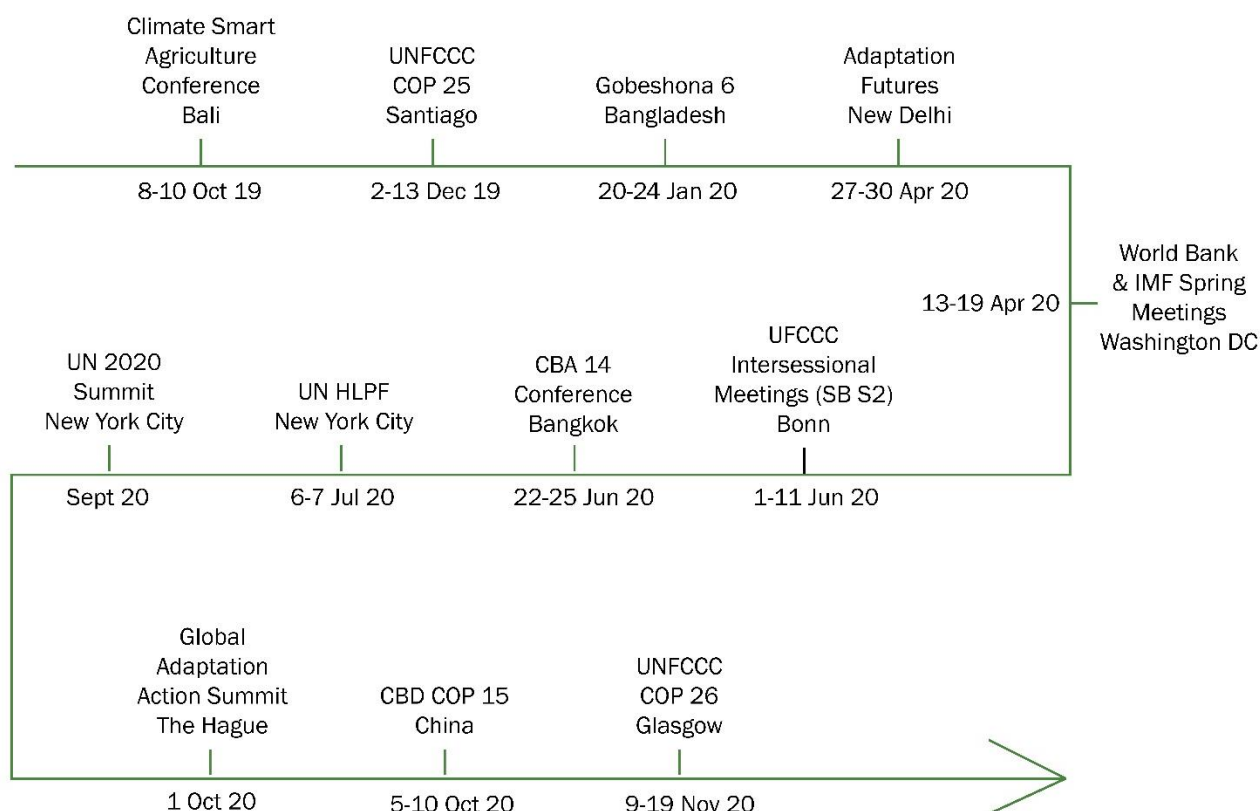
[UNFCCC Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action \(MPGCA\)](#) - the **Climate Resilience Network** and A2R are advancing actions on resilience and adaptation. A resilience pathway is being developed and current narrative on climate resilience attached as Appendix IV.

[UN Climate Resilience Initiative \(A2R\)](#) - promotes three key capacities for climate resilience as a common frame for climate resilience in the UN System and for its partners to understand and manage climate risks and hazards at scale across and within sectors and related SDGs.

## Next steps and roadmap of events

The immediate next steps from the Day are first and foremost to continue and begin to implement the actions that were presented on the Day to build a resilient future, where better understanding and sharing of knowledge, expertise and interventions will be essential. This will include refreshing the common narrative on climate resilience (Appendix IV). Next year presents more opportunities to raise the ambition of actions on resilience and adaptation and where the emerging resilience movement can engage and lead.

Figure 1 provides a roadmap of key regional and global events. This will be updated by GRP on its website alongside the compendium of actions and mapping of initiatives and organisations.



**Figure 1: Roadmap of Key Regional and Global Events**

## APPENDIX II. SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE

### Reports and Guidance

- **GRP Resilience Insights:** distils the latest evidence from GRP challenges and other resilience programmes to inform future resilience programming. <http://grpinsightsreport.info/>
- **Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) report** calls for urgent action on adaptation. It found that investing \$1.8 trillion from 2020 to 2030 could generate \$7.1 trillion in benefits. <https://gca.org/global-commission-on-adaptation/report>
- **UN Common Guidance on Resilience:** These shared principles guide the resilience-building efforts of the United Nations and inform assessment, planning and implementation.
- **Global report from the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU)** proposes a reform agenda and solutions to transform food systems. <https://www.foodandlandusecoalition.org/global-report/>
- **UNDRR Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR)** is a biennial global assessment of disaster risk reduction. The GAR focuses attention on disaster risk and its reduction. <https://gar.unisdr.org/>
- **BRACED:** The Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) Resilience Exchange is its flagship report. <http://www.braced.org/resources/>
- **OXFAM** has produced an instructive meta-analysis of their resilience Effectiveness Reviews called [Building Resilience](#).
- **Stockholm Resilience Centre** and its **Guidance for Resilience in the Anthropocene: Investments for Development (GRAID)** programme have range of useful guides and tools:
  - **Rethink:** an online magazine on resilience for global development. <https://rethink.earth/we-all-want-to-be-resilient-or-do-we/>
  - **Primer on resilience:** <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-news/2015-02-19-applying-resilience-thinking.html>
  - **Wayfinder:** an online guide for resilience assessment, planning and action. <https://wayfinder.earth/>
  - The Arctic Resilience Assessment. <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1838>
- **Mercy Corps** has a set of resources regarding their approaches to building resilience. <https://www.mercycorps.org/research/resilience>

### Platforms

- **Global Resilience Partnership:** is a partnership of over 50 organisations working on resilience. It maintains a Solutions platform and hosts Resilience Measurement Evidence and Learning Community of Practice (RMEL CoP) and the Ocean risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA). <http://www.globalresiliencepartnership.org>
- **REDDI:** The Resilience Evidence for Decisions in Development Initiative (REDDI) is focused on building better connections between the evidence-related needs of decision makers and the products of resilience measurement work. <http://fsinplatform.org/>
- **Resilience Evaluation, Analysis and Learning (REAL)** consortium is building the knowledge base on resilience programme design and implementation for USAID. <https://www.fsnnetwork.org/resilience-measurement-practical-guidance-series-overview>
- **Partners for Resilience:** Partners for Resilience (PfR) is an alliance of the Netherlands Red Cross, CARE Netherlands, Cordaid, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, and Wetlands International supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It takes an integrated approach to mitigate disaster risk and enhance livelihoods. <https://www.partnersforresilience.nl/en/>
- **Flood Resilience Portal:** The Flood Resilience Portal provides practitioners who live and work in flood-affected communities with easy access to the resources they need to build resilience to floods. <https://floodresilience.net/index.php>

- **InsuResilience Knowledge Hub:** InsuResilience aims to strengthen the resilience of developing countries and protect the lives and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people against the impacts of disasters. <https://www.insuresilience.org/knowledge-hub/>
- **Global Climate Action portal:** is an online platform established by UNFCCC for stakeholders to share and track the climate actions they are taking including from the UN Climate Action Summit 2019. <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/>

## APPENDIX IV MPGCA CLIMATE RESILIENCE NARRATIVE

*This narrative is based on one developed by the Climate Resilience Network<sup>2</sup>, a group of public, civil society and private sector organisations<sup>3</sup> working together under the Marrakech Partnership on Global Climate Action. It has been used to advance actions to build a more resilient future at COP 23 & 24, GCAS and ACW.*

### 1. Background

In the lead up to Paris, state and non-state actors committed to working together to build a carbon-neutral and climate-resilient society. These commitments appeared in the Paris Agreement, which set global ambitions to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience across and within sectors.

Successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be defined by how well countries can integrate cross-sectoral policies that contribute to reducing vulnerability using adaptation, disaster risk reduction and natural resource management tools. Yet effective integration that makes a difference and builds the resilience of the most vulnerable communities cannot be achieved by states alone. The Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action has been facilitating state and non-state actors to achieve progress on climate resilience together.

Collaborative action is already gaining momentum through new partnerships that bring together UN and international organisations, governments, communities, civil society, academia and the private sector in ways we would have never imagined a decade ago. This work is crucial to meeting the resilience-related ambitions of the Paris Agreement. The many entities involved need a shared simple narrative to maximise successes for the whole of society.

### Why climate resilience?

Climate change and associated extreme events such as drought, flood, storms, and cold and heat waves, weather variability and sea level rise are already affecting people, livelihoods, ecosystems and economies around the world. 2017 was not only the hottest year on record but also the costliest in terms of damage from severe weather and climate events. With extreme weather in 2018 and 2019 continuing to claim lives and destroy livelihoods there is an urgent need to scale up action and investment into climate resilience across and within sectors.

The IPCC Special Report on 1.5 Degrees expressed that urgency. The report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degree is a call to strengthen the global response to enhance climate resilience of all societies, but especially of those that are and will be most affected such as the poorest and most vulnerable. 100 million people are already at risk of being pushed into poverty by climate change by 2030, most in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Another 720 million will be at risk by 2050.

Overlapping conflict and climate change is one of most important development challenges today. The world's hungry and poor are increasingly concentrated in conflict- and climate-affected regions and by 2030 it is estimated that 80% of the world's poorest will be living in in fragile and conflict-prone areas.

The United Nations issued an alarming warning in July 2019, stating that climate crisis disasters are now occurring at the rate of one a week. These disasters, although less harmful than catastrophes such as cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique and the drought affecting India, cause death, displacement and suffering. Estimates put the cost of climate-related disasters at USD\$520 trillion a year, while the additional

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<sup>2</sup> For more information about the Climate Resilience Network and how to join please contact [info@a2rinitiative.org](mailto:info@a2rinitiative.org) and [info@globalresiliencepartnership.org](mailto:info@globalresiliencepartnership.org)

<sup>3</sup> UN Climate Resilience Initiative (A2R), Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Global Adaptation and Resilience Investment (GARI) Working Group, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), ICF, ICLEI – Local governments for sustainability, International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent (IFRC), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Lightsmith Group, Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII), NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre, UN Environment, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Wetlands International, Willis Towers Watson, and World Bank.



cost of building resilient infrastructure is only about 3 percent of the total cost, or USD\$2.7 trillion in total, over the next 20 years.

Implementing the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction require tackling climate risks. A shared understanding of climate resilience, with its essential capacities and its suite of risk- and sector-specific interventions, is essential for formulating and implementing coherent and converging climate actions at scale, hand in hand with mitigation efforts in priority areas.

#### *What is needed to build climate resilience?*

In the context of climate change, resilience involves the capacity of all actors to anticipate climate risks and hazards, to absorb the shocks and stresses and to adapt or reshape and transform development pathways in the longer term. If translated into a concrete set of actions with tangible outcomes, climate resilience can be achieved by implementing five broad sets of interventions and tools:

1. **Climate risk governance** structures and processes require the inclusion of immediate and long-term considerations of risk into climate policies and practices as well as risk measures within and across sectors.
2. **Risk monitoring and early warning systems.** Climate risk assessments and risk monitoring together with early warning and early action (EWEA) systems and forecast-based financing are essential.
3. **Vulnerability reduction and climate adaptation measures** within and across sectors, such as in the agriculture sector, including the implementation of climate-resilient agricultural good practices, along with climate-proofed infrastructure and nature-based solutions, ecosystem and landscape restoration.
4. **Risk sensitive and/or shock-responsive social protection** schemes and **risk transfer mechanisms** such as climate risk insurance.
5. **Emergency preparedness and response** including contingency planning, risk management coordination mechanisms and the capacity to respond across and within sectors.

Reshaping and transforming for climate resilience encompasses transformation and the recognition that people are not just passive parts of the climate: they have the ability to change the climate with how they care for the Earth and its life support systems.

#### *How to support climate resilience building together?*

To address the needs of the most at-risk populations, cross-sectoral and sectoral action by public and private and community stakeholders is urgently required in five areas:

1. **Including local contexts and the perceptions of climate risk of the most vulnerable people** in global and national decisions, policies, plans and interventions related to resilience.
2. **Raising understanding, awareness and advocacy** from global to local levels of the importance of building climate resilience for the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement in key sectors/themes/systems in line with other global policy processes and the overarching SDGs.
3. **Promoting climate resilience information, knowledge, good practices** as well as **available technologies and innovation** to facilitate and scale-up actions to build climate resilience.
4. **Mobilising targeted resources and investment** for vulnerable countries and especially the most vulnerable and more marginalised within those countries to develop their capacities for climate resilience.
5. **Analysing and tracking progress** towards building climate resilience within and across sectors, along a shared set of targets/indicators from existing global policy processes, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals - especially SDG 13.1 target on resilience.

We need continued efforts, through partnerships, blending climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response, with supporting policies, technologies, practices and long-term finance across and within sectors to bridge humanitarian, development and peace-building approaches for achieving better resilience to climate variability and extremes.

**APPENDIX I.           COMPENDIUM OF ACTIONS ON BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE**

**APPENDIX III.        MAPPING OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ORGANISATIONS AND  
INITIATIVES WORKING ON BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE**

Appendix I & III will be made available on the [GRP website](#).