

# CONCEPT NOTE

# CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

## VISION

*Climate and disaster risk reduction recognised and used as enablers of sustainable development*

Inter-governmental agreements adopted in 2015, notably the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, have reflected the evolving perception of risk and enhanced public awareness on the importance of disaster risk reduction to enable inclusive and resilient societies.

Despite some progress made in understanding the systemic nature of risk and the impacts of climate change, disaster risk keeps growing. The speed at which the problem grows far outweighs the speed at which solutions are being implemented. One of the reasons for this is that the learning landscape is fragmented and unconnected from the broader backdrop of accumulated knowledge, approaches, and tools that would ensure a sustainable effort in responding to the climate crisis and growing risks. In addition, there is no single global node that brings together climate and DRR practitioners to pursue a shared body of work.

The Centre of Excellence for Climate and Disaster Resilience (The Centre) will tackle this problem by providing an environment to accelerate knowledge exchange to explore, refine and distil learning on the systemic nature of risk. It will also focus on the role of policy, society, finance, science and technology in reducing risk and benefiting society.

The Centre is a joint initiative of the World Meteorological organization (WMO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). It will bring together the UN system, in particular the related specialized agencies, international financial institutions, the private sector, academia and science and other partners.

## ABOUT WMO

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, WMO and its National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, regional and global centres worldwide monitor and forecast the state of the Earth System and coordinate the exchange of data to provide vital weather, climate and water-related services to reduce multi-sectoral disaster risks, support humanitarian action and contribute to climate change adaptation. Furthermore, the agency fosters integrated and multi-disciplinary research to advance innovation in service delivery through supportive frameworks and capacity development activities.

## ABOUT UNDRR

As the UN focal point for disaster risk reduction (DRR), UNDRR brings decades of experience, and growing networks within the public and private sector, risk financing and investment, research and policy guidance on disaster and climate risk reduction that can be leveraged to support more effective management of the changing topography of global disaster risk.

## MISSION STATEMENT:

*To convene climate and disaster risk thought leaders and practitioners to advance science to services, joint-research, policies and capacity strengthening to achieve comprehensive disaster and climate risk management at the global, regional, national and sub-national level.*

The Centre will:

1. Initiate and facilitate inter-disciplinary research around key questions and data gaps related to disaster risk by convening experts from both the public and private sectors on emerging complex inter-disciplinary issues affecting social, environmental, economic, food security and financial systems at large;
2. Promote dissemination by partners of innovations and emerging good practices on disaster risk reduction, to produce concise, coherent, practical, action-based methods or services tailored for application by governments, regulators, the private sector and other stakeholders, to inform and contribute to policy guidance;
3. Promote dissemination and use of relevant products in collaboration with leading training and education institutes and research organizations, such as UNDRR's Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), WMO Regional Centres, UNITAR, and others outside of the UN, e.g. the International Science Council and university centres;
4. Identify and promote capacity development activities in collaboration with appropriate institutions

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Enhanced achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Accelerated practical application of good practice in multi-disciplinary systemic risk reduction by governments, the private sector and other stakeholders with focus on LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs.
- Methods and tools for the systematic cataloguing of hazard events and associated losses and damages.

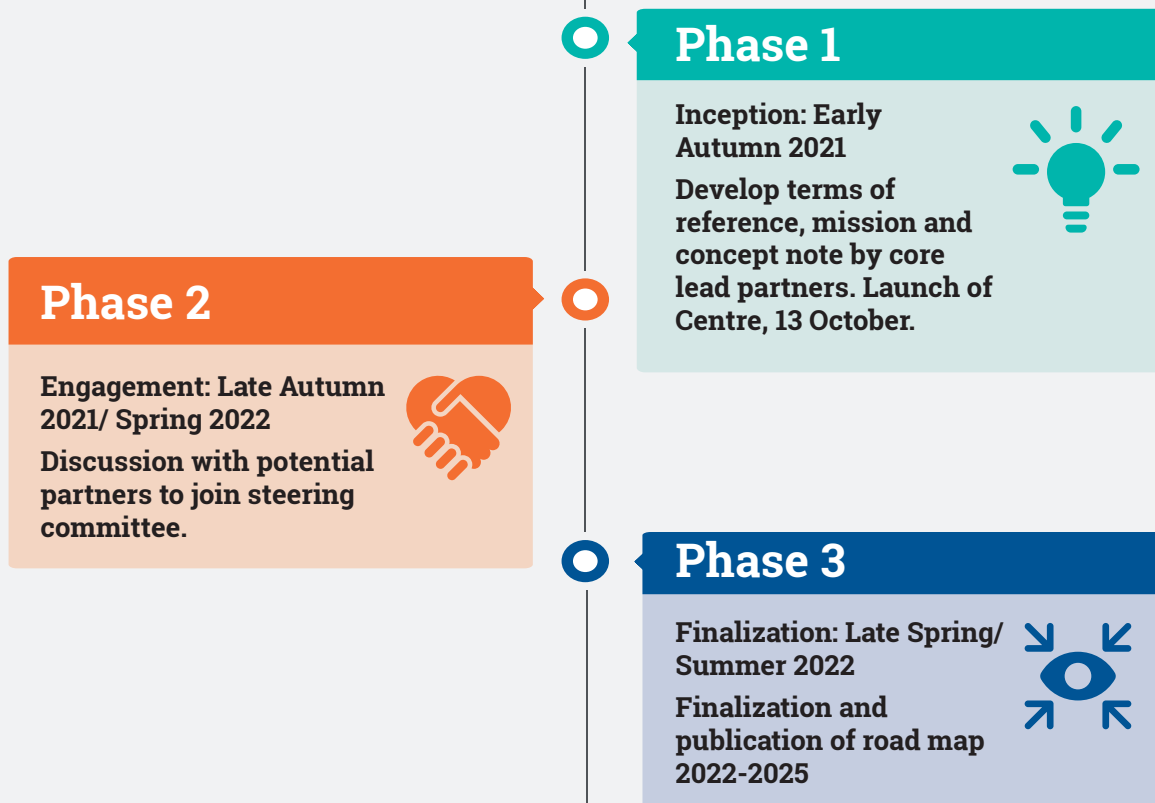
- Established process for effective knowledge exchange within PreventionWeb, the WMO Global Campus and other partners' knowledge management portals.
- Emerging approaches and key scientific and socio-economic issues relevant to reducing and managing the risks of losses and damages from climate and disaster risks in the context of uncertainties.

## THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK

The Centre will focus on cutting-edge research questions, learning, innovation, and data related to the following areas:

1. Urban and sector-specific resilience;
2. Coherent implementation of the DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) for resilient development;
3. Risk-informed financing and investment;
4. Innovative partnerships across public and private sectors;
5. Policy-relevant analysis and solutions to reduce losses and damages from climate change and other disaster risks and maximize the societal benefit where these conditions present opportunities;
6. Improving DRR for various conditions (climate, geomorphology, hydro, cities, coasts & deltas....)

# TIMELINE TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



## ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND GOVERNANCE:

The Centre will be hosted within WMO HQ in Geneva and overseen by the **Centre Steering Committee** co-chaired by WMO Secretary-General and the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR with senior representatives of the core-partner agencies. The Centre Steering Committee will be supported by working groups whose membership will be nominated by partner agencies and institutions. It is envisioned that experts nominated will be convened from: a) relevant national, international and regional organizations b) research institutes and academia, and c) policy, financial, environmental and fiscal sectors.

WMO and UNDRR are the core/lead partners for the initiation phase. Other relevant UN and other international organizations as well as technical and scientific organizations will be invited to engage after the launch of the centre.