Water Disasters
Activating International Initiative

Second UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters
November 18th, 2015 UN HQ, New York
The Challenge

- Understanding disaster risk
  - Data & Information – The monitoring challenge

- Strengthening disaster risk governance
  - Processes & Structures – The awareness and institutional challenge

- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
  - The resources challenge

- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response
  - Forecasting, warning & protection – The communication challenge
WHYCOS - WMO global framework programme aiming at:
- improving basic observation activities and data management
- strengthening international cooperation and data exchange

Implemented through independent but coordinated basin-wide regional components
Potential for cooperation - IFI
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<th>Issues</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Secure reliable baseline info for monitoring, warning &amp; response</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Decide on acceptable risk (damage/yr, fatalities/yr, disruption)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Decide on optimum combination of measures with regard to uncertainties</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bring the science base to the understanding of the decision makers</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reach affected people (Multi Hazard EWS)</strong></td>
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Integrated Multi Hazard EWS

1. To **identify** effective strategies and actions to promote and strengthen

2. To **facilitate** the sharing of good practice and making available to governments and key stakeholders policy-relevant

3. To **promote** synergies and partnerships between and among stakeholders at national, regional and international levels

4. To **advocate** the usefulness of MHEWS in regional and international contexts
Lessons learnt

In light of the different aspects to be considered (economic growth, demographic pressure, climate variability and change), **water management strategies for DRR** should reflect:

- **Comprehensive vision**
- **Adaptive strategies**
- **Flexible measures**
- **Frame short term decisions in long term perspective (”no regret” solutions)**
Johannes Cullmann
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