

# Why a Commission on Climate Change and Development?

Commission on  
Climate Change  
and Development

**The predicted impact of climate change on developing countries is cause for great concern. As is clear from the recent IPCC reports, these effects are already being felt, and high priority must be given to investment in adaptive measures as well as to mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Development gains are under threat, and communities that are already vulnerable to disaster risk are becoming increasingly exposed.**

## **A commission with a special focus**

Studies demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of risk reduction and disaster prevention, both in terms of lives saved and the limitation of economic losses. It has become clear that effective ways need to be found to integrate risk reduction and adaptation to climate change into development and poverty reduction plans in developing countries.

Against this background, the Swedish Government has decided to launch a Commission on Climate Change and Development, with a special focus on adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

The main tasks of the Commission will be to make proposals on how to integrate risk reduction and adaptation to climate change into the development and poverty reduction plans of poor countries, as well as proposals on how to frame Official Development Assistance so as to take account of climate impacts and the risk of disasters.

## **What are the objectives?**

The overarching purpose of the Commission on Climate Change and Development is to address the adverse effects on development caused by climate change and major natural disasters.

The work of the Commission is to concentrate on the following:

1) Identifying and analysing the incentives for and barriers to poor countries undertaking risk reduction and climate-proofing measures in their development cooperation, as well as contributing to

increased awareness of the need to integrate climate-proofing, risk reduction and adaptation measures into development and poverty reduction strategies. The focus is to be on weather-related disasters and climate-related impacts on development.

2) Discussing how best to combine long-term work on climate change mitigation with the immediate need to support adaptive measures in developing countries.

3) Identifying guidelines for international development cooperation in the fields of adaptation and risk reduction, taking account of local and national perspectives in developing countries.

4) Considering how to achieve policy coherence by integrating concerns for climate change into wider development efforts and drafting proposals for methods of conducting Integrated Analysis for Climate-Proof Development in development cooperation.

The Commission is also to:

- Assess the role and importance of ecosystems in disaster prevention and devise strategies to strengthen their capacity to meet climate change.
- Give special attention to the dangers that slum dwellers are exposed to and identify solutions to reduce their vulnerability.
- Give priority to slow-onset disasters such as prolonged droughts and chronic instability stemming from water scarcity.
- Assess whether and, if so, how risk management mechanisms in the insurance industry can be used for risk reduction and adaptive measures in developing countries.

The Commission will seek to establish an active dialogue with other ongoing initiatives and processes to promote climate change adaptation, such as those under way in the EU. Its report is intended to serve



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as an input to discussions between donor and developing countries on how to integrate the dimension of climate change into development efforts. It could also serve to facilitate the UN-led international climate negotiations.

### **Venues and timetable**

The Commission will gather four to five times over a period of 15 months, with the first meeting scheduled for *14–15 February 2008 in Stockholm*. Subsequent meetings will be held in different parts of the world, at venues that illustrate aspects of the Commission's task. The Commission will actively participate in relevant international conferences through workshops and lectures.

A main report will be presented in spring 2009.

### **Members of the Commission**

The Commission will be chaired by the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Ms Gunilla Carlsson. It will have 13 members from a broad geographical and institutional base, including the private sector. The members will participate in their personal capacity. A Secretariat in Stockholm will assist the Commission, which will also have access to an expert reference group.

