



# At European Development Days – SIDE EVENT

## “Disaster risk reduction – early warning, early action”

23rd of October at 14:45–16:45, Hall A, Room A5

*A new global UN climate change agreement will be founded on national climate change policies, and so adaptation will mostly take place at the local level and should prioritise the most vulnerable communities and people, especially women and children. But are their interests and needs reflected in the final rounds of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations?*

The impact of climate change, especially the increase in weather-related disasters and epidemics, is already being observed and felt. Women and children in the world’s poorest communities are the most vulnerable. Action needs to be taken to strengthen their resilience to global warming.

Climate adaptation strategies can – in fact should – build on the existing capacities of people and families: their local knowledge, livelihoods and social networks. The international community should provide the policy context, backed up by solid financial mechanisms. It is crucial

that the new climate change agreement to be signed in Copenhagen will become a supportive instrument, not a stumbling block for local action. The Copenhagen agreement should build on the agreed UN Conventions on the Rights of Women and the Rights of the Child.

This side event will look into the existing adaptation initiatives from the perspective of the most vulnerable people. Examples of how their resilience can be bolstered will be presented, and compared and contrasted with the current direction of global and national policy developments.

### Speakers:

- **Avianto Amri** Disaster Management Specialist, Plan International, Indonesia
- **Marcus C. Oxley** Chairman of the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction
- **Steffen Stenberg** Deputy Director General of the European Commission Humanitarian Office, ECHO
- **Philip Mikos** Head of Unit for Natural Resources Management European Commission DG Development

Moderated by Madeleen Helmer Head of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre.

**Organizers:** CONCORD Sweden, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction, Institute of Development Studies, IDS, Plan EU Liaison Office, Plan Sweden, Red Cross EU Office, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, Swedish Red Cross, Save the Children Sweden

