



Drought ‘Is The Next Pandemic’ UNDRR 17 JUNE 2021

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Shotlist

STORY: Drought ‘Is The New Pandemic’- UNDRR

TRT: 02 min 25s

SOURCE: UNTV CH

RESTRICTIONS: NONE

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH / NATS

ASPECT RATIO: 16:9

DATELINE: 17 JUNE 2021 GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

SHOTLIST

1. Exterior wide shot, Palais des Nations flag alley, nations’ flags flying, a sunny day.
2. Medium shot: TV camera on tripod with podium to rear, Room XIV, **Palais des Nations**
3. **SOUNDBITE (English): Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction: “Within the next 80 years, 129 countries will experience increased exposure to drought due to climate change impact alone and an additional 23 countries due to**

population growth and another 38 due to the interaction of population growth and climate change impact.”

4. **Wide shot, large screen TV showing speakers, podium with host in Room XIV.**
5. **SOUNDBITE (English): Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction: “If you just look at these numbers, there’s a really big number of countries will be exposed to drought. So this is a global issue, something like we’re seeing as a pandemic.”**
6. **Medium shot, journalist’s head in foreground, large screen TV to rear, Room XIV.**
7. **SOUNDBITE (English): Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction: “Drought can be the next catastrophe and there is no vaccine; if we do not act now, our exposure to drought risk threatens to derail our progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.”**
8. **Medium shot, participant, seated, texting on mobile phone with laptop showing press conference on screen.**
9. **SOUNDBITE (English): Dr. Roger Pulwarty, Senior Scientist, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: “We are seeing in places such as - and these cases are within the report – such as the Danube basin – drought and an increasing number of them affecting irrigation, hydropower generation and most critically, transportation, and we saw that on the Rhine as well itself.”**
10. **Medium shot, chairs in foreground, large screen TV to rear, showing press conference on screen.**
11. **SOUNDBITE (English): Dr. Roger Pulwarty, Senior Scientist, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: “The modernized view of drought is that this is not simply agriculture, that in fact the dimensions that we are seeing and especially in several developed regions are certainly the impact on the ability to export products and services, but also the direct impacts on the functioning and the supply chains on which all societies rely.”**
12. **Medium shot, large screen TV showing press conference on screen, podium speakers.**
13. **SOUNDBITE (English): Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction: “Prevention has far lower cost in humanitarian, financial and environmental ways than reaction and response.”**
14. **Medium shot, attendee, seated among chairs covered with security tape in respect of COVID-19 distancing requirements.**
15. **SOUNDBITE (English): Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction: “Drought resilience partnerships at the national and local levels will be critical to managing drought in a world where rainfall will become ever more unpredictable.”**
16. **Medium shot, profile, attendee, seated among chairs covered with security tape in respect of COVID-19 distancing requirements.**
17. **Medium shot, UNTV camera on tripod.**

Story

Drought is akin to a new pandemic, warns UN's top disaster reduction official

Drought is on the verge of becoming the next pandemic, the UN's top official for disaster reduction said on Thursday, in a call for concerted action and new transboundary alliances to tackle the growing global threat.

The appeal from Mami Mizutori – the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction – came as the UN agency she heads warned that drought affects more people than any other slow onset disaster.

The problem “will determine the course of human development in the coming years as the climate emergency worsens”, said the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

“Within the next 80 years, 129 countries will experience increased exposure to drought due to climate change impact alone and an additional 23 countries due to population growth and another 38 due to the interaction of population growth and climate change impact,” Ms. Mizutori said, speaking via Zoom during a press conference in Geneva.

“If you just look at these numbers, there's a really big number of countries will be exposed to drought. So this is a global issue, something like we're seeing as a pandemic.”

In a special report on drought by UNDRR, the agency insisted that its impact is widespread and underestimated on societies, ecosystems and economies.

The phenomenon affects millions of people and many sectors and domains – such as agricultural production, public water supply, energy production, waterborne transportation, tourism, health and biodiversity, all of which contribute to food insecurity, poverty and inequality, it noted.

While some of the world's most vulnerable communities are already affected by drought today, UNDRR warned that increasing temperatures and disrupted rainfall patterns threaten everyone and would require comprehensive mitigation plans by all countries.

“As the world moves towards being two degrees Celsius warmer, urgent action is required to better understand and more effectively manage drought risk

to reduce the devastating toll on human lives and livelihoods,” the Office said.

Echoing that message, Ms. Mizutori maintained that drought “can be the next catastrophe and there is no vaccine; if we do not act now, our exposure to drought risk threatens to derail our progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development”.

The threat is already present in highly developed regions, including western Europe, said Dr. Roger Pulwarty, Senior Scientist, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: “We are seeing in places such as - and these cases are within the report – such as the Danube basin – drought and an increasing number of them affecting irrigation, hydropower generation and most critically, transportation, and we saw that on the Rhine as well itself.”

Drought should no longer be viewed as affecting “simply agriculture”, Dr Pulwarty said, noting that “several developed regions” had seen a significant impact on their ability to export products and services, along with “direct impacts on the functioning and the supply chains on which all societies rely”.

Although many Governments were unwilling to invest in drought risk mitigation because “there is no glory” in it, Ms. Mizutori insisted that they should, as prevention “has far lower cost in humanitarian, financial and environmental ways than reaction and response.”

Among its recommendations, the UNDRR report underlines the merit of establishing a new global mechanism to support countries wanting to address transboundary drought risk, promote innovation and adaptive governance.

“Drought resilience partnerships at the national and local levels will be critical to managing drought in a world where rainfall will become ever more unpredictable,” Ms. Mizutori insisted.

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