

Session 1: Normative Dimension of Resilience

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Strengthening Resilience through Social-Ecological Justice

Abstract:

In complex and highly dynamic systems, resilience cannot simply be understood as a coefficient of the sum of adaptive capacity levels of critical sub-systems. Especially in complex social-ecological systems, the quality, degree and sustainability of resilience heavily depend on the synchronous anti-fragility of a multitude of system components. This is particularly true for larger urban or regional systems. While traditional resilience projects tend to focus more on the structural and asset-related aspects (e.g. infrastructure, energy grids, financial markets etc.) a number of newer projects aim to balance these with an inherently social-ecological perspective, i.e. a focus on the social and/or environmental vulnerability of urban and regional systems. And yet, what is still missing in the current debate is a distinctively ethical dimension. Hence questions of justice and fairness, rights and entitlements across social-ecological systems ought to be integrated if true and lasting resilience of the whole system is to be achieved.



Enablers:
Fair and stable global trading system
Adequate financing for development and stable financial system
Affordable access to technology and knowledge
Providing sustainable energy for all
Coherent macroeconomic and development policies supportive of inclusive and green growth

Enablers:
Sustainable use of natural resources (climate, oceans, forests, biodiversity) and management of waste
Managing disaster risk and improving disaster response

Inclusive economic development
Eradicating income poverty and hunger
Reducing inequalities
Ensuring decent work and productive employment

Peace and security
Freedom from violence, conflict and abuse
Conflict-free access to natural resources

Enablers:
Food and nutrition security
Access to quality health care
Access to quality education
Social protection systems
Addressing demographic dynamics to manage migration

Inclusive social development
Adequate nutrition for all
Quality education for all
Reduced mortality and morbidity
Gender equality
Universal access to clean water and sanitation

Enablers:
Democratic and coherent global governance mechanisms
Good governance practices based on the rule of law
Conflict prevention and mediation
Human rights protection
Women's empowerment

