

Parliamentarians Fact Sheet



Disaster risk reduction requires strong commitment and involvement of political leadership in every country.

UNISDR works with parliamentarians. More than 1850 Members of Parliaments from 163 countries and a Global Advisory Group and regional hubs have been set up. UN and regional parliamentary groups resolutions have included disaster risk reduction references. 20 legislators are DRR Champions along Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America committed to advance Sendai Framework implementation. UNISDR has strong partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and works with other specialized non – governmental organizations.

Genuine agents of change

In any democratic society the role of Parliament is crucial. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians have a key role and responsibilities in contributing to the primary responsibility of each State to prevent and reduce disaster risk.

Parliamentarians also have the responsibility to hold governments accountable for the commitments they have assumed at international level.

Patterns in occurrence and intensity of disasters in last decades show that disaster risk is already undermining the capacity of many countries to make the capital investments and social expenditures necessary to develop sustainably.

HOW DO THEY CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCE DISASTER RISKS

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, sets clear outcomes, goals, principles and priorities to the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

- **Support the implementation of Sendai Framework at national and local levels.** Through their genuine advocacy, legislative and monitoring functions, parliamentarians are enabled to build in consensus and to take actions to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks.

- **Adopt and review legislation and regulations to reduce disaster risk.** An efficient and effective governance to disaster risk reduction management needs stronger laws, regulations and public policies, from prevention to recovery and rehabilitation stages, including: clear vision, plans, strategies, competences and responsibilities attributed, guidance and coordination within and across sectors, participation of relevant stakeholders, financial, technical and administrative incentives, mechanisms and institutional structures to implement national and local platforms, follow up and publicly report on progress on national and local levels.
- **Increase sustainable development through disaster risk management.** Changing the way disaster risk has been managed up to now can contribute decisively to reduce poverty. The development, strengthening and implementation of relevant laws and policies need to aim at coherence, as appropriate, across climate change, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction agendas.
- **Strengthen the participation of all sectors of the society.** Disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership. Sendai Framework calls for empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest.
- **Allocate budgets to reduce disaster risk reduction.** The budget is one of the most significant acts of Parliaments. Sendai Framework sets provisions to promote mechanisms for disaster risk financial and fiscal instruments, transfer and insurance, risk-

sharing and retention and financial protection, as appropriate, for both public and private investment. Similarly allocations for critical infrastructure (schools, hospitals, roads and means of transport and communications, water and power plants), social protection, emergency and recovery from disasters.

- **Promoting transparency and accountability on what the government does.** Sendai Framework foresees the importance of transparency in actions taken to implement through sharing and disseminating non-sensitive disaster risk information. It encourages that monitoring and assessing disaster risk management consider the 2020 targets, indicators and time frames.
- **Enhance international cooperation to reduce disaster risk.** Sendai Framework advocates to complement national action and capacity, through international cooperation, in particular between developed and developing countries and between States and international organizations. Parliamentary work is critical when donor countries adopt their cooperation and risk informed assistance policies.
- **Work in a holistic manner.** Sendai Framework underpins the need to integrate a gender, age, disability, migration and cultural perspective in all laws, regulations, policies and practices. It stresses too the complementarity that exists among disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development agenda, and the need to be considered in a coherent manner while preparing laws, regulations, plans and public policies to reduce disaster risk.
- For more information visit:
<http://www.unisdr.org/partners/parliamentarians>

About UNISDR: UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports the implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Action 2015-2030*.