

Note: These concept notes are as received from partner organizations



**Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016
New Delhi, India
02-05 November 2016**

Concept Note for Thematic session

Event title	UN Coherent Support to Achieve Risk-informed and Integrated Sustainable Development
Event code	THEM-12
Date and Time	Friday, 4 th November, 13.00-14.30
Venue/ Room no.	Hall No. 1, Ground Floor, Vigyan Bhawan
Organizers	Lead: <i>UN Resident Coordinator Office, India</i> Collaborators: UN Country team, India, UN Development Group Asia-Pacific
Session Objectives	The objectives of the session are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliberate on how the UN system can coherently support countries in Asia in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR and pursue risk-informed sustainable development at country level to achieve the SDGs; • To discuss the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on DRR in Asia; • To strengthen partnership between the UN and countries to overcome existing challenges and bottlenecks in Asia.
Background and context	The Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction Reduction adopted at the 3 rd UN World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 has four priorities, two of them have a definite focus on mainstreaming DRR into development: Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; and Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience In April 2016, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), upon recommendation by the High Level Committee on

Programmes (HICP), endorsed the “*UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction: Towards a Risk-Informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development*” (The UN Plan of Action on DRR).

The endorsement of the UN Plan of Action on DRR reflects the UN system’s shared view on the need for all investments in development to be risk-informed in order to reduce economic and human costs of disasters, to protect development gains and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With ten out of the seventeen SDGs having targets related to disaster resilience, the role of disaster risk reduction in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is firmly established. Furthermore, through the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Member States committed to holding the global average temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C, with the aim to “significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change”.

The UN Plan of Action on DRR includes three commitments:

1. Strengthen system wide coherence in support of the Sendai Framework and other agreements, through a risk-informed and integrated approach;
2. Build UN system capacity to deliver coordinated, high-quality support to countries on disaster risk reduction;
3. Disaster risk reduction remains a strategic priority for UN organizations.

Commitment 1 emphasizes that UN initiatives in support of the SDGs will be risk-informed and contributing to reducing disaster and climate risk and that UN support to countries in implementing and monitoring the Sendai Framework is coherent and aligned with the support for the SDGs.

Nearly 40% of all the disasters triggered by natural hazard events in the world occur in Asia, but 88% of people affected reside in this region. Of the total number of people affected in Asia, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and India account for just over 40%, reflecting their population size and land mass. But after normalizing for population size and land area, Bangladesh, Philippines, India, the PRC, and Maldives (in this order) have been the top five countries affected since 2000. With 71% of UNCTs in Asia-Pacific receiving government request for support of national response to the SDGs¹, the question is how the UNCTs will implement the UN Plan of Action in response to government requests.

A thematic event is proposed at the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR for selected UNRCs and Government officials from the region to share

¹ UNDOCO, Analysis of 2015-16 UNDOCO IMS data

	<p>perspectives on how the UN would best address this need in the region.</p>
<p>Session format and programme</p>	<p>The session will be in the form of a panel discussion with panelists being UN Resident Coordinators and high-level Government officials.</p> <p>Chair: Chair of UNDG (or Asia-Pacific Regional UNDG)</p> <p>Tentative agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session’s overview by the Chair (5 minutes) • Panel discussion (60 minutes) • Questions and Answers, Plenary discussion (25 minutes) • Wrap-up (5 minutes)
<p>Intended main outcome and Key messages</p>	<p>Key Messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SDGs cannot be achieved without managing disaster and climate risks. With disaster resilience being the common thread of the SDGs, Climate Change Agreement, New Urban Agenda and other frameworks, it is an opportune and crucial time now to accelerate efforts to ensure that development as well as UN assistance for sustainable development in countries is risk-informed and resilient. • An integrated approach by governments in formulating nationally appropriate targets and indicators to measure progress against the SDGs and in the four Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework is required to ensure due consideration of disaster risk reduction in the implementation and monitoring of SDGs. • The UN Plan of Action on DRR with its three commitments provides an opportunity for the UN system at all levels - country, regional and global – to provide coherent and integrated support to governments in these challenging endeavors. • The UN’s decades of work in diverse Asian countries (higher and lower middle income developing countries as well as LDC and countries of special needs) has demonstrated the UN value added – in ensuring equality and right-based approaches and promoting innovations toward inclusive, resilient and sustainable development. • The Common Country Assessment and UNDAF (or UN Partnership Framework) are important instruments for Delivering as One coherent and integrated support to countries. Empowering and resourcing the UNRC mechanism is key to facilitate UN system and government collaborative efforts for meaningful consideration of risk and risk reduction in these instruments. • Innovative partnerships and financing for implementation of the Framework in Asia are essential to support countries achieve the SDGs

	and ensure substantial reduction of disaster and climate risks.
List of Speakers and their interventions	<p>Tentative list of panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Resident Coordinator in India • UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines • UN Resident Coordinator in China • Government of Indonesia (or Mongolia) (middle-income country perspective) • Government of Bangladesh (LDC perspective) • Government of India (Mr. Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA)
Technical Equipment	Projector, computer, microphones