



Concept Note

Interactive Session with Parliamentarians at GP2019

Opportunities for Engagement of Parliamentarians in a New Landscape of Risk-informed Sustainable Development

BACKGROUND

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a ground-breaking global commitment to end poverty and set the world on a sustainable path to inclusive development. The Sendai Framework, as part of the 2030 Agenda, provides a unique opportunity to risk-inform sustainable development and protect development gains from increasing disaster risk in a changing climate.
- The 2030 Agenda places people at the centre of the development process. It calls on governments, parliaments and other stakeholders to design and deliver laws and programmes that meet the needs of the people. Parliaments play a key role in building inclusive societies. By providing a link between government and the people, parliaments play a key role in voicing citizens' concerns, breaking down policy silos, upholding human rights, and ensuring that no one is left behind.
- The transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda including the Sendai Framework requires an unprecedented approach to engagement of parliamentarians. Risk-informed development requires greater and consistent political commitment from member states of the United Nations, with strong support from national legislatures. Parliamentarians have the power and the duty lead the way in protecting sustainable development gains and populations from disaster risk.
- The Sendai Framework calls for parliamentary action by developing new or amending legislation, setting budget allocations and holding governments accountable for their actions to reduce disaster risks and protect their populations. Through their legislative, oversight and budgetary roles, parliamentarians can play a key role in implementing the Sendai Framework at national level. By drafting legislation, holding governments accountable and ensuring risk-informed national budget allocations, shifting from ex post to ex ante financing, parliaments can be instrumental to create an enabling environment for investment that reduces disaster risk, fosters sustainable development, and triggers multiple social, environmental and economic benefits.

- As representatives of the people, parliaments have a responsibility to voice and strengthen the participation of all sectors of society and can play a key role as a 'bridge' between the government, civil society and constituents in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and SDGs. Parliamentarians can help strengthen inclusiveness and legitimacy of national DRR action, and support an 'all-of-society' approach as called for by the Sendai Framework.
- The UN Secretary General's Report (2018) on 'Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union' (A/72/791) highlights that 'national parliaments, through which people may hold their Governments to account, can be pivotal partners in our collective efforts to leave no one behind'. The Report also highlights that collaboration with parliamentarians can empower the UN to 'work more closely with the people of the world', noting that 'parliaments are uniquely placed to promote coherence between national and international agendas'.
- Against this background, UNDRR is in the process of developing a new strategy for engagement of parliamentarians for 2019-2021.
- The Global Platform 2019 poses a strategic opportunity to take stock of the evolving landscape, engage with parliamentarians attending the Platform, and seek their views on how parliamentary engagement in DRR and risk-informed development can be strengthened and reinforced. The event will seek to identify good practices and explore how parliamentarians can become agents of change for DRR, building on and contributing to the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda. Key outcomes of the event will inform the UNDRR strategy for parliamentary engagement 2019-2021.

EVENT DETAILS

- **Time:** 14 May, 08.30-10.30 AM
- **Room:** Conference Center Varembe, 9-11 Rue de Varembe, Geneva – Room Montreux
- **Objective:** Parliamentarians share good practices on parliamentary engagement in DRR and risk-informed development (through legislation, oversight, budget, advocacy) in the context of Agenda 2030 to inform UNISDR Strategy for Parliamentary Engagement on DRR in 2019-2021
- **Expected Outcomes:**
 - Sharing of good practices, experiences and lessons learnt among 15-20 parliamentarians on parliamentary engagement in DRR and risk-informed development, to enable cross-fertilization of ideas and identify opportunities for cross-regional collaboration
 - Good practices on parliamentary engagement in DRR and risk-informed development documented for future dissemination as part of implementation of UNDRR Parliamentary Strategy
 - UNDRR receives concrete feedback to inform finalization of 2019-2021 Strategy for Parliamentary Engagement on DRR by end June 2019

- **Expected participants:** Parliamentarians attending the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
- **Format:** Informal roundtable

DRAFT AGENDA

- Opening Remarks by Ms. Kirsi Madi, Director, UNDRR (5 min)
- Welcome & Introduction by Chair of the Session, Hon. Saber Chowdhury, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh & Honorary President, Inter-Parliamentary Union (5 min)
- Presentation by IPU on past & future work on DRR, by Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Manager, Program for International Development (5-10 min)
- Tour de Table/Roundtable Discussion (60 min)
 - o Moderated discussion & sharing of experiences/good practices in parliamentary engagement in DRR (see below for suggested guiding questions)
- Concluding Remarks by the Chair, Hon Chowdhury (5 min)

Guiding questions for roundtable discussion:

1. What are the main disaster risks faced by your country and your constituents?
2. How can disaster risk reduction contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in your respective countries? To which extent is disaster risk considered in national development planning?
3. What are the challenges and opportunities for parliamentarians to engage in DRR? Do you have any good practices to share from your country – for example in drafting legislation, setting budgetary priorities, scrutinizing executive branch’s implementation of agreed frameworks, or advocacy and communication with constituents impacted by disaster risk?
4. How could the role of parliamentarians be further strengthened in DRR? What are the tools and/or support would be required?
5. How can parliamentarians help make national disaster risk reduction and development planning more inclusive, and ensure that no one is left behind?