



Working Session

International Cooperation in Support of the Sendai Framework Implementation

● 11:45 – 13:15 ● Wednesday 24 May 2017 ● Arena E, Moon Palace Resort ●

CONCEPT NOTE

Status of DRR Investments

Economic losses from disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones and flooding have reached an average of US\$250 billion to US\$300 billion each year (GAR, 2015). The development impacts of disasters (economic damages and losses, and welfare effects) are further higher. At the same time, development assistance for disaster risk reduction continues to be a small fraction of the total international aid finance. While US\$ 3.3 trillion was spent on development assistance between 1991 and 2010, only US\$ 106.7 billion was spent on disasters during the same period. Almost two-third of this amount was spent on disaster response and over 20 percent on reconstruction and rehabilitation. The amount allocated for disaster risk reduction was just a little over 10 percent (US\$ 13.6 billion).

Thus, of overall aid financing over 20 years, the amount spent on disaster risk reduction accounts for just 0.4 percent of the total amount spent on international aid, implying thereby that, for every US\$ 100 spent on development aid, just 40 cents has been invested in defending that aid from the impact of disasters (Kellett and Caravani, 2013). These estimates do not even include the non-economic losses of communities including the impacts of displacement in the context of disasters.

Why International Cooperation?

Disaster mortality and impact on lives and livelihoods is concentrated in developing countries. For small island developing states (SIDS), future disaster losses represent an existential threat.

Investments in disaster risk reduction help protect and promote development. Disasters exacerbate poverty - on average every year floods and drought alone are responsible for the extreme poverty of about 25 million people (Hallegatte, Stephane et al., 2016). Without adequate disaster risk reduction, economic losses can wipe out development gains and increase poverty.

Thus, given their different capacities, as well as the linkage between the level of support provided to them and the extent to which they will be able to implement the Sendai Framework, developing countries require an enhanced provision of means of implementation, including adequate, sustainable and timely resources, through international cooperation and global partnerships for development, and continued international support, so as to strengthen their efforts to reduce disaster risk (Sendai Framework).

Form and Structure of International Cooperation

International cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources, and can be achieved in diverse ways. It forms a critical element in

supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk.

1. Coherence across post-2015 frameworks and agreements

The years 2015-2016 saw the adoption of a series of post-2015 frameworks and agreements, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the World Humanitarian Summit, and the New Urban Agenda¹.

This provides the global community a unique opportunity to achieve coherence across policies, institutions, goals, indicators and measurement systems for implementation and ensure credible links, as appropriate, between these processes. The enhanced and revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, led by Governments, is a vehicle for strengthening international cooperation for implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

This also presents various actors and stakeholders engaged in disaster risk reduction an opportunity to enhance their coordination. For instance, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) adopted a revised *UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development*. This is a unique tool through which the United Nations commits to, among others, provide coherence in its support to the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development through a risk-informed and integrated approach.

2. Technology transfer and partnership building

In addressing economic disparity and disparity in technological innovation and research capacity among countries, it is crucial to enhance technology transfer, involving a process of enabling and facilitating flows of skill, knowledge, ideas, know-how

and technology from developed to developing countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

To achieve this, it is important to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge and sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanism, including through global technology facilitation (SDG Target 17.6).

These means of cooperation have proven to be key to reducing disaster risk and there is a need to strengthen them further. This is also crucial for sharing of knowledge and good practices, innovation, and access to information. Partnerships play an additional important role by harnessing the full potential of countries and supporting their national capacities in disaster risk management and in improving the social, health and economic well-being of individuals, communities and countries (Sendai Framework).

3. Financing and investments in disaster risk reduction

Financing from a variety of international sources for developing countries and enabling institutional and policy environments at all levels are critically important means of reducing disaster risk.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda calls for strengthening international cooperation to support efforts to build capacity in developing countries, including through enhanced official development assistance (ODA), while welcoming efforts by countries to set nationally defined domestic targets and timelines for enhancing domestic revenue as part of their national sustainable development strategies.

New and innovative forms and instruments of investments are essential to promote international cooperation for disaster risk reduction. Risk insurance works as a key financing mechanism that serves to reduce financial vulnerabilities and can

¹ A significant agreement in 2016 was the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, hailed as the single largest real contribution the world has made so far towards keeping the global temperature rise "well below" 2 degrees Celsius

(<http://web.unep.org/kigali-amendment-montreal-protocol-another-global-commitment-stop-climate-change>)

play a role in building resilience to disasters at different scales.

Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are required to enhance the resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. These can be drivers of innovation, growth and job creation. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, protect affected populations, and prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation.

Focus of International Cooperation

Disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs), SIDS, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels.

Such vulnerability requires the urgent strengthening of international cooperation and ensuring genuine and durable partnerships at the regional and international levels in order to support developing countries to implement the present Framework.

Monitoring International Cooperation

Monitoring the progress of international cooperation has been explicitly mentioned among the SDGs as well as the Sendai Framework.

The Sendai Framework Target F seeks to 'Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030'.

Issues and Challenges

The achievement of effective international cooperation is faced with certain issues and challenges, including:

- Linkages across geographic boundaries (i.e. communal, local, national, regional, North-South, South-South, triangular);
- Barriers and handicaps in technology transfer;
- Achieving adequate balance among the three dimensions of sustainable development, e.g.

Decoupling of growth from natural resource consumption and negative environmental impacts, and often competing mandates between international organizations/ UN system as well as priorities;

- Monitoring of international cooperation across different international frameworks and agreements;
- Sustainability of international cooperation, including financial sustainability.

In addition, the role that international cooperation can play in better linking and coordinating humanitarian and crisis response with recovery and disaster risk reduction needs to be further explored.

Session Objectives

The Working Session on International Cooperation at the 2017 Global Platform will focus on the various dimensions of international cooperation to achieve the goal and objectives of the Sendai Framework, in particular:

1. What are the good practices and success stories in achieving international cooperation, including technology transfer?
2. What are the barriers in executing North-South, South-South and triangular partnerships?
3. How do good practices and success stories in achieving international cooperation inform national and local disaster risk reduction strategies?
4. How can international cooperation be sustained?

The session will also seek to generate commitments from panellists and participants to strengthen international cooperation and global partnership.

Expected Outcomes

- A guiding document on enhanced understanding of international cooperation as a key means to achieve the goal of the Sendai Framework;
- Compilation of good practices of cooperation and coordination;
- Commitments

Background Documents

1. United Nations (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
2. UNISDR (2015). Making Development Sustainable: The Future of Disaster Risk Management. Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).
3. Watson, Charlene et al. (2015). Finance for reducing disaster risk: 10 things to know. ODI and UNDP
4. Hallegatte, Stephane et al. (2016). Unbreakable: building the resilience of the poor in the face of natural disasters. Climate Change and Development series. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.
5. United Nations (2016). UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development.
6. Peters, Katie and Thomas Tanner (2016). Resilience across the post-2015 frameworks: How to create greater coherence. ODI
7. UNISDR (2015). Disaster risk reduction and resilience in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.
8. Kellet, Jan and Alice Caravani (2013). Financing Disaster Risk Reduction: A 20 Year Story of International Aid. GFDRR and ODI

Session Focal Points and Information

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Working Session:

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