

Plenary Session 1

National and Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies Paving the Way for Action by All

Concept Note

Schedule	May 25, 2017 at 9:00-11:00am
Room and Venue	Arena A
Organizers	UNISDR
UNISDR and Mexico Focal Points	Shoko Arakaki (Arakaki@un.org), Sahar Safaie (safaie@un.org)
Background and Rationale	<p>Why is this topic important?</p> <p>The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 marks a crucial shift from managing disasters to managing risk and establishes resilience-building as a common denominator of the 2030 Agenda. Coherence and linkages between implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit and Habitat III New Urban Agenda, are critical to ensure efficient use of information and resources for robust decision making, planning, and investing in building a resilient future.</p> <p>To achieve the disaster risk reduction outcome at national and local level, the strong political leadership and commitment and involvement of all stakeholders at all levels are required to pursue the goal of the Sendai Framework: “Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience”.</p>

Pursuing this goal, requires a strategic approach and a well-defined plan to ensure the efforts are coordinated and resources are efficiently used across all sectors and stakeholders. Reflecting this foundational requirement, Target e of the Sendai Framework calls for “substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020”.

The Plenary 1 of the main program of the global platform covers the high level key elements that enable development of DRR strategies at national and local level.

What gaps need to be filled?

As of summer of 2016, based on HFA reports, inputs from UNISDR regional offices and web-based search, 147 (73%) of countries have some sort of national level DRR legislation, strategy or plan. 51 countries don't have any kind of national level document to serve implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction. The situation varies in different regions. For example, there are more countries in Asia and Americas with a DRR strategy or plan, 88% and 68% respectively, while in Arab States more than half of the countries don't have any national level document on DRR.

The table below shows the regional situation based on the title of documents (DRR legislation, policy/strategy, or National DRR plan).

Region	# of Countries in the Region	# with Legislation, Policy/Strategy or Plan	None
Africa	44	30	14
Asia	52	46	6
Arab States	22	10	12
Americas	35	29	6
Europe	48	32	13

On the contrary, majority of the local level governorates do not have any form of strategy or framework towards disaster risk reduction, and where-ever they exist, they are designed to address disaster response. Based on the local HFA reports, most European local governments, illustrate direct implementation of national disaster risk management strategies at the local level – with some level of changes. Conversely, local governments from other regions primarily Asia, Arab States and Middle East implement disaster preparedness and response measures through ad-hoc decisions at the local level. These ad-hoc approaches

	<p>have attributed to lack of full implementation of risk management policies, the overlap of such plans with other measures, as well as blurred responsibilities of local authorities. This is especially true with regard to cross boundary impacts affecting multiple regions or Member States.</p> <p>Majority of the existing DRR legislations and strategies are focused on managing disasters through preparedness and response and do not include a comprehensive set of measures for disaster risk reduction. Many of the existing national DRR strategies and plans are not actionable due to lack of dedicated financial resources, technical and institutional capacities, or accountability measures such as targets, timeline and indicators. In most countries, if DRR and CCA strategies exist, they are not coherent and contribute to silo thinking and placing excessive demands on local actors.</p> <p>Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction provides a comprehensive set of requirements and guidance for National and Local DRR Strategies throughout the document but most specifically in the Guiding Principles section and Paragraph 27. In fact, its important to note that all four priorities for action are relevant and applicable when it comes to development of national and local DRR strategies. According to Sendai Framework, the core requirements of DRR strategies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Be based on legislative or regulatory frameworks to mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors;▪ Have a governance mechanism that is transparent and inclusive for effective and efficient management of disaster risk▪ Promote policy coherence and compliance notably with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, and between national and local level,▪ Guide public and private sectors by defining roles and responsibilities for whole of society;▪ Have clear time frames, targets and indicators;▪ Be based on comprehensive assessment of disaster risk and well as technical, financial and administrative disaster risk management capacity at the local and national levels to inform the DRM measures;▪ Have explicit objectives and measures aimed at preventing the creation of risk, reducing existing risk, and strengthening economic, social, health and environmental resilience;▪ Be supported by sufficient and stable financial resources dedicated to implement the strategy▪ Have mechanisms to build technical and institutional capacities of the actors
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- Have strengthened mechanisms to follow-up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress;

While these core requirements would ensure the necessary fundamental shift in the approach for DRR strategies, many countries need to update their existing DRR strategy or plan accordingly to ensure achievement of the risk reduction targets by 2030.

This means reaching the global target (e) of increasing national and local DRR strategies and plans requires significant effort and investment by the national and local governments and the international community.

What factors contributed to the success, how can successes be brought to scale or accelerated?

Effectiveness of DRR strategies in reducing disaster risk is contingent upon strong leadership and governance mechanism to have a process that is multi-stakeholder and a design that leaves no body behind including women and youth, children and youth, person with disabilities, older persons, indigenous, and migrants. It embraces DRR efforts of non state actors and stakeholders both public and private sector and every unite of the society including families and individuals. The process engages all sectoral public and private entities and other stakeholders to understand their risk, determine specific roles and responsibilities and accountability, and encourages action to manage the risk. Effective DRR Strategies include articulation of coherence with CCA and sustainable development and the measures to ensure national and local disaster risk reduction and resilience building is incorporated into operations and budget of all relevant sectors with established mechanisms to follow-up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress.

The most critical enabling elements for developing and implementing the DRR Strategy are:

- i. Strong governance mechanism to manage the process of developing DRR strategy and enable implementation
- ii. Comprehensive understanding of disaster risk and coping capacities to inform the DRM measures
- iii. Sufficient and stable financial resources dedicated to implement the strategy
- iv. Technical and institutional implementation capacities
- v. Strengthened mechanisms to follow-up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress

Session Objectives	<p>The objective of the Plenary 1 of the Global Platform 2017, is to use successful country examples to provide evidence and guidance on two high level and foundational matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The rationale and importance of prioritizing the development of national and local DRR strategies by 2020 that comprehensive and in coherence with development planning and climate change adaptation 2. Enabling mechanisms required to implement DRR strategy, focusing on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Strong governance mechanism to manage the process of developing DRR strategy and enable implementation ii. Comprehensive understanding of disaster risk and coping capacities to inform the DRM measures iii. Sufficient and stable financial resources dedicated to implement the strategy iv. Technical and institutional implementation capacities v. Strengthened mechanisms to follow-up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress 						
Discussion agenda and structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening remarks by the co-Chairs (10 minutes) 2. Panellist's introductions and statements/presentations (25 minutes) 3. Interactive dialogue with the Panel (30 minutes) 4. Discussant(s) interventions from the floor (3 minutes) 5. Questions and inputs from the floor (25 minutes) 6. Final observations by the Panelists (5 minutes) 7. Summary and closing remarks by the co-Chairs (15 minutes) 						
Final List of Speakers	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">CHAIRS: <u>Governments:</u> H.E. Kiren Rijuju, State Minister, INDIA</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><u>Governments:</u> H.E. Joaquin Roa, Minister, National Emergency Sector Ministry, PARAGUAY</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><u>Stakeholders:</u> Ms. Denisse Ugalde Alegria, Mayor of Tlalnepantla, Mexico (<i>Local Authorities Group</i>)</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">SPEAKERS Dr. Mataki, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Solomon Islands</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management</td></tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Kathy Oldham, Head of Service, Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA's) Civil Contingencies & Resilience Unit, Greater Manchester</td></tr> </table>	CHAIRS: <u>Governments:</u> H.E. Kiren Rijuju, State Minister, INDIA	<u>Governments:</u> H.E. Joaquin Roa, Minister, National Emergency Sector Ministry, PARAGUAY	<u>Stakeholders:</u> Ms. Denisse Ugalde Alegria, Mayor of Tlalnepantla, Mexico (<i>Local Authorities Group</i>)	SPEAKERS Dr. Mataki, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Solomon Islands	Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management	Kathy Oldham, Head of Service, Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA's) Civil Contingencies & Resilience Unit, Greater Manchester
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	<p>Discussant: Maryam Golnaraghi, Director Extreme Events and Climate Risks Programme, The Geneva Association Ms Farah Kabir, Chair of GNDR Global Board, Country Director ActionAid Bangladesh</p>
Expected outcomes	<p>The expected outcome of the Plenary 1 is to (i) bring the focus of Sendai implementation on developing DRR Strategies as the first milestone, and (ii) catalyze action for collaboration beyond the silos between DRR, CCA and development as well as sectors and stakeholders.</p> <p>The session will achieve this outcome by reaffirming the rationale and importance of prioritizing the development of national and local DRR strategies and providing practical evidence and guidance on enabling mechanisms required to implement DRR strategy, focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong governance mechanism to manage the process of developing DRR strategy and monitor implementation and progress • Comprehensive understanding of disaster risk and existing DRM capacities to inform the DRM measures • Sufficient and stable financial resources dedicated to implement the strategy • Mechanisms to build technical and institutional capacities of the actors to be able to implement measures • Strengthened mechanisms to follow-up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress; <p>The outcome will be supported by the following resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The session issue brief paper • A Think Piece on National DRR Strategy covering the core requirements and enabling elements of the process for developing national DRR strategies. • Relevant guidelines on critical issues related to DRR strategies including (all available at GP in consultative version): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Words into Action Guideline on National and Local DRR platforms ○ Words into Action Guideline on Local DRR Strategies ○ Words into Action Guideline on Local Authorities ○ Words into Action Guideline on National Disaster Risk Assessment ○ Words into Action Guideline on Governance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Words into Action Guideline on Build Back Better <p>The outcome will be reiterated as an input for the Chair's Summary highlighting the contribution of disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the Sendai Framework to the theme of the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world"</p>
Commitment / special announcement in support of the Sendai Framework	TBD (will be looking at the WCDRR commitment, also awaiting UNISDR strategy on knowledge management and capacity development)
Expected number of participants	
Technical Equipment Required	<i>List number of mics required (fixed and mobile), any need for PPT projector, screen, video equipment, laptop and any special equipment required.</i>
Background documents	<p>This GP is an opportunity to build on the past and existing understanding of various topics in the context of Sendai Framework and make the leap from What to How: "how to move into implementation of the Sendai Framework, starting with developing national and local strategies that are in coherence with climate change and sustainable development plans"</p> <p>The objectives of this Plenary will be delivered through four mechanisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 85Min of the session with the speakers and interventions from the floor from member states and stakeholder to highlight key messages ▪ The 4hours preconference session on May 22, 3:00-7:00pm ▪ Background documents/knowledge products that are provided as intellectual support to the session. Ideally these should be selected carefully to target the critical challenge and Ideally the issue brief would act as a chapeau <p>Preconference Session on May 22, 3:00-7:00pm</p> <p>UNISDR and UNDP are organizing a pre-conference workshop to compliment the Plenary 1 with an opportunity for country representatives and stakeholders to discuss in more depth various aspects of process and design of national DRR strategies.</p> <p>Background documents</p> <p>A Think Pieces on National DRR Strategy is produced by a small group of experts to provide a bit more insights on various core requirements of National DRR Strategy as outlined by the Sendai Framework. It also provides recommended</p>

	approach for the process of updating or developing national DRR strategies. The Think Piece is meant to be a basis for discussion and consultations with member states and stakeholders to guide the efforts on developing a Words into Action guideline on National DRR Strategies.