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2017 GLOBAL PLATFORM
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

ISSUE BRIEF

Plenary

Coherence between the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change

1. Rationale

Economic losses from disasters are now reaching an average of US\$250 billion to US\$300 billion each year. Future expected annual losses are now estimated at US\$314 billion in the built environment alone. In 2015, the Global Assessment Report for Disaster Risk Reduction estimated that if this risk were shared equally amongst the world's population, it would be equivalent to an annual loss of almost US\$70 for each individual person of working age, or two months' income for people living below the poverty line: an existential risk for people already struggling for survival on a daily basis. Poverty cannot be reduced without reducing disaster risk, nor can prosperity be created.

This year, the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) will be organized around the theme of "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The HLPF has key roles in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and in promoting coherence. Also, this year Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will continue to work out modalities and methodologies for taking stock of progress in achieving the Adaptation Goal set out in the Paris Agreement which considers enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.

Coherent and mutually reinforcing approaches to implementing the international agreements are among the most valuable supports for strengthening the resilience of communities and nations. Taken together, they urge attention to a wide range of risks facing communities around the world, guide public and private investments towards greater resilience and push delivery towards maximum impact.

The Sendai Framework recognized that ensuring credible links between these processes contributes to building resilience and achieving the global goal to eradicate poverty; it is guided by the principle that policies, plans, practices and mechanisms need to aim at coherence across the agendas. Likewise, the principles of resilience and the Sendai Framework are recognized across the 2030 Agenda. These achievements in international agreement represent important advances but will need to be mirrored at the national and local levels if the full impact of coherent and mutually reinforcing action is to be gained.

The 2017 Global Platform Plenary on Coherence between the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change is a first opportunity to explore the practicalities of delivering resilience through coherence between the Sendai Framework and the broader 2030 Agenda. Outcomes of the

2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction can contribute to sharpened focus on disaster risk reduction and resilience in the HLPF outcomes and ministerial declarations.

This issue brief considers the fundamental elements of coherence, the general state of play and some entry points for further action.

2. State of Play

While none of the international agreements include indicators that specifically measure coherence per se, progress is recognizable through advances in a number of areas such as risk-informed planning and investment; multi-stakeholder partnerships and cooperation; and harmonized tools and metrics.

Comprehensive risk assessment is instrumental to integrated development planning and enables consideration of risks and trade-offs across sectors and interests. The Sendai Framework prioritizes the understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions (vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment) and sets a global target for disaster risk information and assessments. Improved quantitative and qualitative assessment methods and joint research initiatives are enhancing knowledge of the effects of disaster risk in a changing climate and how to manage uncertainty. Science and indigenous knowledge are also providing more complete understanding of how, for instance, diseases are spread; how degraded forest and land can be restored to provide risk reducing benefits; or, how agricultural-ecosystems can be managed to better ensure community resilience.

The 2030 Agenda points to the importance of coordination among relevant sectors and authorities. Regional initiatives have made important advances in promoting coherence in policy frameworks. In the Pacific, for example, small island developing States are pursuing an interconnected approach to implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the SAMOA Pathway, the Sendai Framework, and the Paris Agreement on climate change. In the European Union, both disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are integrated in policies and strategies, including critical infrastructure protection, agriculture, environmental protection and key financial instruments. National governments are looking at how to bring coherence across their domestic planning processes. In some cases mechanisms that facilitate joint problem solving and planning for disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development have been put in place; in other cases separate platforms or commissions mechanisms have been established. In general, the roles and responsibilities of the various authorities have yet to be clarified.

The indicators and mechanisms (including the monitoring instrument) that are used to track progress of the Sendai Framework global targets have been developed in coordination with those of the Sustainable Development Goals. For those Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13 (ending poverty; sustainable cities and communities; and climate action), governments have adopted the same indicators that were agreed through the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Sendai Framework Monitoring instrument and the national databases used to measure progress in

disaster risk reduction can also be drawn on to track progress in relevant aspects of climate change adaptation and the New Urban Agenda.

3. Current opportunities and entry points

Looking to the period between the Global Platform in 2017 and 2019, a number of global scale entry points for warrant attention.

High Level Political Forum

The 2017 High-level Political Forum will be organized around the theme of "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" and will take an in depth look at progress in several Sustainable Development Goals that are key for building resilience. Some entry points for highlighting how the Sendai Framework delivers outcomes for sustainable development consider:

- Goal 1. "End poverty in all its forms everywhere" includes the target to build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other shocks and disasters.
- Goal 2. "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" includes the target of ensuring sustainable food production systems to implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
- Goal 3. "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" includes the target of strengthening the capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.
- Goal 5. "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". Provides an opportunity to advances in gender-responsive disaster risk reduction as well as to support and give visibility to women's leadership in reducing disaster risk at national and local levels.
- Goal 9 "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation" includes the target to develop sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access to all.
- Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" presents opportunity for partnership in protecting marine resources and strengthening the resilience of coastal communities through protecting coral reefs and coastal ecosystems.

As countries prepare national voluntary reviews, attention to disaster risk reduction in eradicating poverty could highlight, for instance experiences with social safety nets, gender responsive disaster reduction strategies and pro-poor, inclusive disaster risk reduction planning among others. Examples of coherent approaches to resilient infrastructure could highlight experiences where climate and disaster risk information has been applied to the design and operation of infrastructure or to the role of

protective infrastructure and green infrastructure in reducing direct economic losses. Lessons learned in managing coastal resources in, for instance, shared deltas could inform reports on Goal 14: “Life below Water”

Looking ahead, the 2018 HLPF provides opportunity to reflect on experiences related to the theme of “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. Progress will also be reviewed in several goals where coherent approaches can help to accelerate action: Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation; Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy; ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns; protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combatting desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss (Goals 6, 7, 12,15). Each of these has direct and immediate effects on disaster risk and point to where greater cooperation with environmental and natural resource managers can deliver mutually reinforcing outcomes. The vital goal of “Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” (Goal 11) will be reviewed as well and provides an excellent opportunity to share experiences in local level implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Climate Change

In 2017, Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will continue to work out modalities and methodologies for taking stock of progress in achieving the Adaptation Goal set out in the Paris Agreement which considers enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change. The Sendai Framework Monitor and data sets maintained by the national statistical offices are vital assets in planning for climate change and represent a significant resource for tracking progress in the Adaptation Goal of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In 2018 the first global stocktake of implementation of the Paris Agreement will be conducted. Parties will look at state of progress and revise ambition in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC’s), many of which already include clear consideration of adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Countries can further consider how to strengthen coherence with climate change through aligning the NDC’s to the four priorities outlined in the Sendai Framework.

Several other significant climate change related initiatives present opportunity to reinforce coherence between climate change, disaster risk and sustainable development. Work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change towards a 6th Assessment Report, for instance, presents further opportunity to clarify the impacts of climate change on disaster risk and the effect of disaster risk reduction measures. Global Multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the Climate Resilience Initiative: Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape (A2R), Global Resilience Partnership and the Partnership for Resilience offer opportunity to engage private sector, civil society and government at all levels through coherent and integrated efforts.

Global targets on national and local strategies

Efforts to achieve the Sendai Framework target of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 can have even greater, mutually-reinforcing impact when designed in coordination with similar exercises for climate change or development. Joint problem-solving and planning exercises are important entry points that encourage people from different sectors and backgrounds to bring their experience and expertise to consider options for reducing risk and building resilience. Nexus approaches such as Water-Energy- Agriculture, nature-based solutions and natural infrastructure, or early warning and management of global health risks present important opportunities to delivering multiple benefits for disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development.

At the local level, Sustainable Development Goal 11, “Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” includes targets and indicators drawn from the Sendai Framework including reducing numbers of deaths and people affected – with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations. This goal also targets the 2020 Sendai Framework target of cities and settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies, including resilience to disasters.

The New Urban Agenda built further commitment for adopting and implementing integrated, age- and gender-responsive policies and plans and ecosystem-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Putting people at the center and facilitating dialogue about risk can help ensure that patterns of exposure are understood and that varied needs and interests are considered. Diverse knowledge of risk including from women and men, scientific and local, indigenous, youth, persons with disabilities can lead the way to more innovative and appropriate responses

4. Ways Forward

As the issues and opportunities for promoting coherent and integrated approaches become clearer, steps forward could include practical and actions such as:

- (i) Prioritize implementation of Sendai Framework “Target e” as an opportunity to advance gender-responsive national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in coherence with sustainable development and climate change strategies.
- (ii) Urge that development of metrics for the Adaptation Goal in Paris Climate Change Agreement be developed in a way that allows for alignment with indicators of the Sendai Framework and SDGs.
- (iii) Ensure that Global Platform outcomes, and broad considerations, are brought to bear on the negotiations of the deliberations and outcome document of the 2017 HLPF.
- (iv) Urge countries to integrate disaster risk reduction considerations when preparing voluntary reviews for the 2018 HLPF and, in the upcoming 2018 Regional Platforms, integrate a focus and goals and theme of the 2018 HLPF “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” (while ensuring

that timing of the Regional Platforms is as early as possible to allow for their deliberations to be taken into account in the July session of the 2018 HLPF).

- (v) Highlight at the HLPF the lessons and experiences, including those shared at the 2017 Global Platform, that show how implementation of the Sendai Framework is delivering outcomes for sustainable development (for instance in the areas of supporting pro-poor community-led efforts to build resilience and strengthening social safety nets (SDG1); protecting livelihoods and productive assets essential for food security through improved early warning mechanisms and risk transfer (SDG2); improved preparedness for global health emergencies (SDG3); protecting coral reefs and coastal ecosystems for disaster resilience (SDG14) ; and in particular, advances in gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and supporting women's leadership in reducing disaster risk at national and local levels (SDG5).

- (vi) Highlight the strong political commitment and readiness of disaster risk managers to collaborate with sectoral ministries to build resilience, with particular attention given to the SDGs to be considered at the 2018 and 2019 HLPF namely Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 (clean water and sanitation; clean and affordable energy; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; and, terrestrial ecosystems) and Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16 (quality education; decent work and economic growth; reduced inequality; climate action; and peace, justice and strong institutions).