



22-26 MAY, 2017 | CANCUN, MEXICO

**2017 GLOBAL PLATFORM**  
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Plenary

## A Risk Informed Approach to Sustainable Development and Resilience for Countries in Special Situations

<b>Schedule</b>	Thursday 25 May 2017, 15:00 to 17:00
<b>Room and Venue</b>	Arena A
<b>Organizers</b>	UNISDR and the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)
<b>UNISDR and Mexico Focal Points</b>	Elina Palm, <a href="mailto:palm@un.org">palm@un.org</a> , 917-367-8104 Huw Beynon, <a href="mailto:beynon@un.org">beynon@un.org</a> , 917-367-9802
<b>Background and Rationale</b>	<p>At the core of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction lies an understanding that development can only be sustainable when it reduces exposure and vulnerability to disaster risk, avoids the creation of new disaster risks, and tackles underlying disaster risk drivers. These drives can include poverty and inequality, impacts of climate change, rapid unplanned urbanization, and non-risk-informed development, among others. In short, for development to be sustainable it must be risk-informed.</p> <p>In view of their exposure and vulnerability to disaster risks and the impacts of climate change, the Sendai Framework underscores that least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention. For a variety of economic and structural reasons, countries in special situations often face risks that exceed their capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.</p> <p>Countries in special situations often bear the brunt of climate change from the increasing intensity, frequency, and variability of extreme weather events, to drought and other slow onset disasters. The environmental, social, and economic consequences, including significant impacts on health, food security, and population displacement, are already being felt.</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries</p>

	<p>to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda therefore calls for a revitalised global partnership in particular solidarity with the poorest and with people in vulnerable countries. If countries in special situations are to reap the potential economic and social dividends of the 2030 Agenda, specific attention and partnerships are needed to build their capacity to withstand shocks, including natural and man-made hazards and the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>While each country faces its own specific challenges and opportunities, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, detail key areas of focus for each group.</p> <p>Implementing the Istanbul and Vienna programmes of action and the SAMOA Pathway with a risk-informed mindset is indispensable for countries in special situations to achieve their SDGs. As the vulnerability of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS to disasters is magnified by a changing climate, the sustainability of investments in infrastructure and transit networks, tourism, healthcare, renewable energy, information and communications technology, food security and agricultural sectors, among others, requires a deeper understanding of disaster risk. For SIDS and other low-lying countries, this must also include investments in coastal areas and coastal ecosystems.</p> <p>To this end, the Sendai Framework aims to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 (global target E). While progress has been made in developing national disaster risk reduction strategies and integrating disaster risk reduction into sustainable development strategies in some countries, work remains to be done to ensure that investments towards sustainable development in vulnerable countries are not undermined by natural and man-made disasters, nor do they generate new risks at a pace that exposes people and assets.</p> <p>Over the next four years, concerted and collaborative efforts are needed to build capacity of national and local governments, in partnership with civil society, to develop and implement multi-hazard risk-informed sustainable development policies. These should be informed by deeper</p>
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	<p>understanding of disaster including baseline data on key indicators such as current losses; practical and robust monitoring frameworks; national and local risk profiles; and available capacities. For such policies to be effective in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, international support should build upon existing capacities and tailor to national and local situations; taking full advantage of local knowledge and risk-reduction technologies.</p> <p>With effective national and local disaster risk governance structures in place, some LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS have encouraged and incentivised public and private sector investments in disaster risk reduction to enhance resilience. Successful examples should be shared, scaled-up, and adapted to enable countries in special situations to capitalise on the economic and social benefits on risk-informed investments.</p> <p>Through appropriate technical and financial support, and strong partnerships, countries in special situations can reduce their disaster risk and adapt to climate change while pursuing equitable and sustainable economic growth and social development in a way that does not generate new disaster risks.</p>
<b>Session Objectives</b>	<p>The objective of the Plenary Session is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore how countries in special situations can utilize the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to develop new and strengthen existing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;</li> <li>• Share experiences and practical examples of how countries in special situations have developed and implemented innovative approaches to disaster risk reduction tailored to their specific needs, vulnerabilities, and capacities;</li> <li>• Identify and share means to overcome the main gaps and obstacles that prevent many vulnerable countries from pursuing equitable economic growth and social development that does not exacerbate or generate disaster risk.</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion questions</b>	<p>What is your experience in applying risk-informed approaches in national development planning? What approaches has your country taken?</p> <p>How can greater support be galvanized for countries in special situations to undertake disaster risk reduction and build resilience, specifically within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals?</p>

	<p>How can a risk-informed approach, as proposed in the Sendai Framework, facilitate comprehensive and integrated national and local sustainable development strategies that address the underlying drivers of the vulnerabilities in countries in special situations?</p> <p>What measures can be taken to accelerate the implementation of regional declarations on disaster risk reduction and regional Sendai Framework programmes of action/road maps in countries in special situations?</p> <p>How can existing bi-lateral and multi-lateral financial and technical support, as well as assistance provided by development banks, better meet the disaster risk reduction needs of countries in special situations?</p>
<b>Discussion agenda and structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening remarks by the co-Chairs (10 minutes)</li> <li>• Panellist's introductions and statements/presentations (25 minutes)</li> <li>• Interactive dialogue with the Panel (30 minutes)</li> <li>• Questions and inputs from the floor (30 minutes)</li> <li>• Final observations by the Panellists (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Summary and closing remarks by the co-Chairs (15 minutes)</li> </ul>
<b>Speakers and Co-Chairs</b>	<p><b>Co-Chairs</b>  Senator the Honorable Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Australia  H.E. Ms. Fathimath Thasneem, Deputy Minister of Defence and National Security, Maldives  Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, High Representative, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States</p> <p><b>Panellists</b>  H.E. Ms. Inonge Wina, Vice President of Zambia (statement delivered by Ms. Yande Prudence Mwape, Office of the Vice-President)  H.E. Mr. Desmond McKenzie, Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Jamaica  H.E. Mr. Krishna Bahadur Raut, Joint Secretary and Chief of Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal</p>
<b>Expected outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governments and stakeholders from LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS have a clear understanding of what needs to be done to develop national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.</li> <li>• Governments and stakeholders from LDCs, LLDCs, and</li> </ul>

	<p>SIDS increase their knowledge of successful national and local disaster risk reduction strategies developed and implemented in countries in special situations, and have greater awareness of innovative disaster risk reduction tools, technologies, and financing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The international community has a better understanding of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS's needs and capacities to develop and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, and how to better tailor their support to the specific requirements of countries in special situations, in terms of policy support, finance, and technology transfer.</li> <li>• Concrete input to the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development discussions on the theme "<i>Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world</i>".</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment / special announcement in support of the Sendai Framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment by all actors to accelerate the implementation of the disaster risk reduction components of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the Vienna Programme of Action, and the SAMOA Pathway, in line with the Sendai Framework.</li> <li>• Commitment by countries in special situations to develop or realign national and local disaster risk reduction strategies with the Sendai Framework by 2020, and integrate them with national and local sustainable development strategies, as appropriate.</li> <li>• Commitment by all countries to foster South-South and triangular cooperation around disaster risk reduction in order to build partnerships and maintain a culture of knowledge sharing and mutual capacity building in support of countries in special situations.</li> <li>• Commitment by donor countries to enhance international cooperation for disaster risk reduction through the provision of technical assistance, policy guidance, capacity building, technology transfer, and financing, tailored to the specific needs and existing capacities of countries in special situations.</li> </ul>
<b>Background documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Asia Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017-2030</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Paris Agreement on climate change</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development</u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Small States' Resilience to Natural Disasters and Climate Change - Role for the IMF</u></a></li> </ul>
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