



22-26 MAY, 2017 | CANCUN, MEXICO  
**2017 GLOBAL PLATFORM**  
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION

## MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLES

### Background

The Fifth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be held from 24 to 26 May 2017 in Cancun, Mexico. The Global Platform aims to take stock of progress made over the first two years of implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 since it was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

This Global Platform will mark the first opportunity since 2015 that global leaders and stakeholders in disaster risk reduction will meet for the international community to review global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Global Platform), as recognized by the UN General Assembly, is the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and the review of progress in the implementation of international instruments on disaster risk reduction. It was established in 2006 and is now the world's foremost gathering of stakeholders committed to reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations.

The Global Platform is characterized by a format that facilitates dialogue and exchanges among all stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental. In addition to a Leaders Forum which brings together senior government officials, including heads of state and government, parliamentarians and leaders from the private sector, academia and civil society, the Global Platform will feature two Ministerial Roundtables where issues of high relevance to sustainable development and disaster risk reduction will be discussed. These roundtables will provide a space for substantive and strategic dialogue with the participation of an important number of ministers that will be attending the Global Platform.

### Timing and Venue

The Ministerial Roundtables will take place on Thursday 25 May from 17H00 to 19H00 and on Friday 26 May from 11H15 to 13H15, respectively.

## Participants

Each Roundtable will have 50 participants, 40 governmental and 10 non-governmental delegates. Each participant may be accompanied by one adviser. Ministers and participating in the Global Platform will be able to select which of the two roundtables they wish to attend. At least 10 other participants will be invited by the co-chairs to participate in representation of international organizations, the United Nations system and representatives of Stakeholder groups.

## Objective

The objective of the two Ministerial Roundtables is to provide an opportunity for focused discussions of substantive and strategic nature on key progress, priorities, actions and commitments in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as it relates to the following two topics:

### 1. Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Overall Economic Planning

One of the Sendai Framework's Guiding Principle highlights the fact that disaster risk reduction is essential to achieve sustainable development and two of its seven targets call for a substantial reduction in direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product and a substantial reduction in disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of public services by 2030. These targets will not be achieved if overall economic planning is not carried-out with a disaster-risk sensitive approach. Many countries regularly embark on multi-year economic planning efforts without taking disaster risk into consideration thereby potentially contributing to increasing the country's disaster risk stock, contingent liabilities and future economic losses. There are however good practices put in place by several countries that already integrate disaster risk reduction as one key element of the economic planning process.

#### Guiding Questions:

1. **What options exist** to incorporate disaster risk reduction efficiently into overall economic planning at national and local level?
2. Reflecting on the experience in your country; can you share some examples of progress and constraints on this issue?
3. What suggestions do you have for your counterparts in other countries to take this agenda of work forward?

### 2. Incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction Considerations into Sectorial Planning

The Sendai Framework calls on national governments to strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk and it underlines the importance of promoting

coherence across systems, sectors and organizations related to sustainable development and disaster risk reduction in their policies, plans, programmes and processes. Disaster risk usually has a cascading effect across sectors: environmental degradation can trigger floods or landslides that damage transportation and housing. This in turn has an impact on livelihoods and on people's economic well-being, potentially increasing poverty and food insecurity. Similarly, poorly risk-informed economic development can create perverse incentives that result in infrastructure that is highly exposed to natural hazards. It is therefore imperative for planners to address the underlying disaster risk associated with investments.

### Guiding Questions:

1. **How can Governments and others** overcome sectoral "silos" to incorporate disaster risk holistically?
2. Reflecting the experience in your country, can you share some examples of progress on this issue and how the constraints were overcome?
3. In your view, are there additional reforms that would contribute further to embedding disaster risk reduction effectively in planning?

### Structure

The ministerial round tables will be co-chaired by Mexico and UNISDR (with a format of "one plus one"). A total of 40 ministers and 10 representatives of stakeholder groups will participate in each round table. They will be invited to deliver a short opening comment and then participate in the ensuing dialogue. Participants will raise their name plate to request the floor. Interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish.

### Outcome Document

The outcome of the ministerial roundtables will be a summary report on the main points raised and recommendations and commitments made towards the implementation of the Sendai Framework. This outcome report will be a key input to the Global Platform Chair's Summary.