
United Nations Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

Report of the 3rd Meeting United Nations Headquarters, New York 19 July 2018

1. The Senior Leadership Group emphasized the need for the United Nations system to take urgent action to further integrate disaster risk reduction in the support provided to countries to achieve their sustainable development priorities across all sectors. To this end, the Group reiterated its commitment to strengthen collaboration on disaster risk reduction at country-level, in-line with the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, with a focus on providing coordinated and integrated support to countries to achieve target (e) of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction by 2020. This includes working as one to provide national disaster risk reduction counterparts with cohesive technical and capacity building support to develop and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies aligned to the Sendai Framework; providing support to prioritize disaster risk reduction in legislation with clear follow-up; assisting countries to access financing and science and technology to implement disaster risk reduction policies and strategies; and collectively supporting countries to integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into sustainable development strategies and climate change adaptation plans.

2. The reform of the United Nations development system was emphasized as an opportunity to further incorporate disaster risk reduction into country programming and strengthen collective support to countries on disaster risk reduction at national and local levels. The Senior Leadership Group concluded that the new generation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) should serve as the guiding document for a collective and coherent approach to disaster risk reduction at country-level. Then new UNDAFs need to be transformative, should have a multiplier effect, can incentivize the United Nations to deliver as one, and facilitate integration across government ministries and agencies. Their implementation should promote ownership of the Sendai Framework by all United Nations entities, define roles and responsibilities for disaster risk reduction within country teams, and support government capacity for integrating disaster risk reduction across all sectors of sustainable development.

Action Point: The Senior Leadership Group to feature disaster risk reduction in the revised UNDAF guidelines and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to join the United Nations Sustainable Development Group task team on integration.

3. Members of the Group also emphasized the importance of linkages between disaster risk reduction and the resilience agenda at the global, regional and national levels. To strengthen coherence on disaster risk reduction across the resilience agenda, the system-wide guidance on resilience requested by the Deputy Secretary-General was highlighted as an important opportunity, as well as national resilience strategies and ongoing work on the humanitarian-development nexus.

Action Point: The Senior Leadership Group to play a key role in bringing coherence into the DRR and resilience agendas, including through the United Nations Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies.

4. Given the transboundary nature of disasters, the Senior Leadership Group recognized need to strengthen collaboration at the regional level. Greater engagement in the development and implementation of regional and sub-regional strategies by Regional United Nations Development Groups (R-UNDG), as well as further collaboration on disaster risk reduction with Regional Coordination Mechanisms, were identified as priorities. Opportunities presented by the reform of the United Nations development system at the regional level were also highlighted. The regional reform could enable country teams and governments to capitalize on the analysis, data, and technical expertise of Regional Economic and Social Commissions and non-resident United Nations entities; enhance coordination between regional and national entities; and more systematically include regional and non-resident entities in the common country assessments and the UNDAF development process to support national disaster risk reduction efforts and promote coherence on trans-boundary disaster risks.

Action Point: Regional disaster risk reduction focal points, coordinated by UNISDR, to actively engage with R-UNDGs in the development and implementation of regional and sub-regional strategies.

Action Point: Develop a common position to advance disaster risk reduction in the work of the United Nations through the development system reform at regional level.

5. The Senior Leadership Group underscored the need and urgency to significantly increase the pace and scale of the United Nation's collective support to countries if target (e) of the Sendai Framework is to be achieved by 2020. The Group agreed to ensure that their organizations' support to countries in developing disaster risk reduction strategies follows the 10 key elements of alignment with the Sendai Framework to ensure consistency. The need for further work on inclusive strategies with gender responsive targets and indicators was emphasized, as well as women's participation in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies.

Action Point: The Senior Leadership Group to raise greater awareness of the United Nations Plan of Action within their respective organizations, particularly at country-level, and with national counterparts and donors.

Action Point: Conduct a comprehensive stock-take of progress towards target (e), as well as a mapping of ongoing disaster risk reduction initiatives, risk assessments, available assets, and tools and methodologies which can be shared across the United Nations system.

6. Reviews of intergovernmental agreements in 2019 were identified as opportunities to further integrate disaster risk reduction in their implementation, including the mid-term reviews

of the SAMOA Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Secretary-General's Climate Summit and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Action Point: The Senior Leadership Group to approve common messages on the value of disaster risk reduction and the cost of inaction, which the United Nations system can use to promote coherence across these deliberations.

7. Members of the Senior Leadership Group emphasized that the United Nations system can do more to support countries to adapt to today's evolving and interconnected risk landscape and build resilience to current and future challenges. The Group highlighted that the unprecedented threat of climate change is exceeding the scope and coverage of existing disaster risk reduction policies and early warning systems, while economic losses are already undermining progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The pace of urbanization also provides a challenge in expanding coverage of urban disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts, and adapting approaches as many disaster risk reduction strategies and technical capacities were initially developed for rural areas. The need to better understand and respond to the relationship between risk, vulnerability and extreme poverty, as well as the links between disaster risk reduction and human-induced disasters, such as refugee crises, conflict, and technological hazards and new industrial risks, were also underscored.

8. Responding to the call by the Secretary-General for an integrated approach to risk analysis and prevention, the Senior Leadership Group welcomed the development of the Global Risk Assessment Framework by UNISDR to address links across a broad spectrum of risks and bring the United Nations system together to capitalize on its shared capacity for risk analysis. The United Nations' role in building national capacities to undertake integrated risk analysis was also raised. Members of the Group emphasized the need to make better use of available innovative technology, including through the Least Developed Countries Technology Bank and the SDG technology facilitation mechanism, and to strengthen the science-policy interface.

9. The Senior Leadership Group committed to enhance its level of ambition and to provide more sustained leadership to maximize the impact of United Nations' collective support to countries in implementing the Sendai Framework. The Group also commended UNISDR's leadership on promoting coherence between disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change adaptation.

Action Point: The Senior Leadership Group to provide feedback and inputs on the revised paper titled "Inputs from the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Point Group for the SLG's discussion and consideration" to be circulated by UNISDR, as well as the status table on national disaster risk reduction strategies.

Action Point: UNISDR to accelerate progress on the results framework for the Plan of Action.

Action Point: UNISDR to facilitate the follow-up on the commitments and action points agreed at the meeting.

10. It was agreed to hold the next meeting in the margin of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be held in Geneva in May 2019.

Annex I - Agenda

Item 1: Welcome and Introduction by Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

- SRSG’s visions and expectations on the United Nations Senior Leadership Group
- Outline the objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting
- Stocktaking on implementation of action points from the previous meetings

Item 2: National and local level perspectives on disaster risk reduction presented by Ms. Mia Seppo, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh

- How the coherence and disaster risk reduction integration looks like at national and local level
- How we can replicate the good practices opportunities and challenges

Item 3: Discussion

- Building on outcomes of the discussions on items 1 and 2, identify what are the concrete commitments each Senior Leadership Group member could make for implementing the United Nations Plan of Action

Item 4: AOB

Item 5: Wrap-up and Conclusion

- Next SLG meeting

Annex II - List of Participants

Chair: Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Special Presentation: Ms. Mia Seppo, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh

United Nations Economic Commission
for Europe

Ms. Olga Algayerova

United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye

United Nations Environment Programme

Mr. Jamil Ahmad

United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change

Mr. Ovais Sarmad

United Nations Women	Mr. Yannick Glemarec
World Food Programme	Ms. Valerie Guarnieri,
World Meteorological Organization	Mr. Wenjian Zhang
International Labour Organization	Mr. Sangheon Lee
United Nations University	Mr. Jakob Rhyner
United Nations Office for the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS	Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox
World Health Organization/Pan-America Health Organization	Dr. Ciro Ugarte
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	Ms. Roula Majdalani
United Nations Children's Fund	Mr. Hamish Young
CTBTO Preparatory Commission	Mr. Patrick Grenard
United Nations Populations Fund	Ms. Henia Dakkak
United Nations Office for Project Services	Mr. Dragan Micic
Regional Commissions Office New York <i>(On behalf of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)</i>	Ms. Yera Ortiz de Urbina
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Ms. Ana Persic
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	Ms. Mami Mizutori Ms. Kirsi Madi Ms. Shoko Arakaki Mr. Huw Beynon