

Terms of Reference
UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience
(at UN ASG level)

Background

Reducing the risks of disasters from natural hazards is a critical pre-requisite for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Hence, the CEB¹ decided to establish a UN Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience (hereafter referred to as UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR) to ensure cooperation, coordination, and mutual reinforcement for coherent system-wide actions on disaster risk reduction.

Following adoption by the CEB of the revised *UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development* (hereafter referred to as UN Plan of Action on DRR²), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction is convening the UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR (at the level of UN Assistant Secretary-General) with the objectives mentioned below.

Objectives

The UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR will aim to:

1. Strengthen a UN system-wide coherence on implementation of a risk informed 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework³, Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other key international agreements;
2. Ensure that disaster risk reduction remains a strategic priority for UN System and Related Organizations as part of their respective strategic plans and associated policies and programmes at global, regional, country and local levels; and
3. Lead high-level advocacy and communications to integrate disaster risk reduction in all relevant UN programmes and activities.

Responsibilities

Based on regular progress reviews of the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on DRR, the UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR will have the following responsibilities:

- Oversee the strategic and policy aspects of the operationalization of the UN Plan of Action on DRR;
- Identify and address challenges, gaps and issues related to the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on DRR;
- Address issues related to UN system-wide policies and programmes on disaster risk reduction;

¹ The UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

² <http://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/49076>

³ The *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the *Paris Agreement on Climate Change*, as well as the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway*, together with relevant international agreements - such as the *International Health Regulations (2005)* - each address disaster risk and, taken together, they represent an opportunity to provide a more coherent and integrated international frame for managing risk to achieve sustainable development.

- Promote coherence on disaster risk reduction within inter-governmental processes (e.g. Climate Change, HLPF, QCPR, UN General Assembly/ECOSOC), key UN inter-agency mechanisms (in particular CEB bodies of HLCP, HLCM and UNDG⁴) and the UN Development System (UNDS);
- Communicate consistent messages at global, regional and country levels to encourage coherence between policy and practice of and gender sensitive and inclusive approaches to disaster risk reduction; and
- Advocate for financing and upscaling of disaster risk reduction related programming throughout the UN System.

Membership

- The UN SRSR for Disaster Risk Reduction will convene the UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR.
- Membership will be at the level of UN Assistant Secretary-General from all UN agencies, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and related organizations who have made a commitment to the UN Plan of Action on DRR.

Mechanisms to support the work of the UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR

A UN Disaster Risk Reduction Focal Points Group has been constituted with representation from the UN system and related organizations mentioned above, who have committed to the UN Plan of Action on DRR. This Group comprises technical/ working level representatives from all these entities.

Working modality

A meeting of the UN Senior Leadership Group on DRR will be convened by the SRSR for Disaster Risk Reduction in person at least once a year.

⁴ And other related UN inter-agency mechanisms such as ECESA, ECHA/IASC, EMG, UNWATER, UN Oceans, etc.