Climate change is an existential threat to the planet and to sustainable development. It exacerbates disaster risk, leading to more extreme events that deepen poverty, increase inequalities and threaten a sustainable future of the planet.

The science is clear. Climate change impacts will continue to rise, unless there is a concerted global effort to increase ambition and action towards a climate-resilient world. The rate of increase in global average temperature is alarming, and these changes will continue for several decades, even if there are dramatic cuts in global emissions of greenhouse gases. Time is running out -- 2021 is a crucial year for raising ambition. There is an urgent need to scale-up climate actions, including an acceleration of global efforts to collectively reduce and manage risks.

This document describes UNDRR’s engagement approach and policy asks at the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or COP 26, which will take place in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November 2021.

RATIONALE FOR UNDRR’S ENGAGEMENT

Climate change is a major driver of disaster risk. In many contexts, more than 80% of disasters caused by natural hazards are climate related. These extreme events threaten especially the most vulnerable communities, rolling back development gains and increasing the need for humanitarian assistance. UNDRR has a critical role to play in helping countries reduce disaster risks, including by supporting adaptation efforts and mobilizing climate action. As UN focal point on DRR, UNDRR has the following comparative advantages:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** – UNDRR supports an enhanced understanding of risk that is informed by the latest data, helping countries transition from managing disasters to managing risks. Understanding the dynamic and systemic nature of risks, and the opportunities afforded by new approaches and new concepts of risk, will be the central challenge of the first half of the twenty-first century.

2. **DATA** – For more than two decades, UNDRR has been leading the development of a disaster loss database and analytics covering the systematic collection, documentation and analysis of data on losses caused by disasters including climate-related events.

3. **NETWORKS** – UNDRR is uniquely positioned to bring governments and long-established partners and communities (from academia, private sector, cities, civil society organizations) together to reduce disaster risk and losses and to ensure a safer, sustainable future.

4. **LEADERSHIP** – As UN focal point and lead for DRR, UNDRR’s mandate is to support Members States implement and monitor the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the global framework that aims to reduce existing risk and prevent the creation of new risks.

KEY COP 26 POLICY ASKS

In line with UNDRR’s risk reduction experience and mandate, for COP26, UNDRR calls on Parties and non-Party stakeholders to:

- Scale up actions to reduce current risks, and prevent the creation of new risks fueled by climate change; and

...
• **Draw on the expertise and experience of the DRR community to accelerate actions to reduce and manage risks from climate change**

For UNDRR success at COP 26 means *amplified ambition and tangible commitments* in both climate change mitigation and adaptation. UNDRR’s targeted areas of focus include:

1. **Adaptation** – scaled-up risk-informed adaptation with strengthened metrics
2. **Loss and Damage** – with strong focus on averting and minimizing risks now and in the future
3. **Finance** – accelerating risk-informed investment in the public and private sectors to support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute towards Paris and Sendai Framework targets.

**ENGAGEMENT TRACKS**
This COP26 engagement strategy will focus on three tracks: 1) formal negotiations to influence COP decisions and texts 2) UNDRR engagement in other COP events and partnership actions that will contribute to an increase in ambition 3) UNDRR activities that will support achievement of policy asks and advocacy aims.

- **Formal negotiations:** Through engagement with Member States, UNDRR will seek to influence outcome texts to highlight the need for more risk-informed approaches to climate action.

- **Partnership Events and Actions:** UNDRR will prioritise key activities and partner events that offer opportunities to reiterate UNDRR policy asks, and to highlight the benefits of integrated climate change and disaster risk management approaches.

- **UNDRR Activities:** UNDRR will embed consistent climate change policy messaging and programmatic approaches in global and regional activities, including MCR 2030, Global and Regional Platforms, Coherence Approach, UNDRR SEM, GRAF, GAR and other relevant processes.

The sections below provide a detailed description for each of UNDRR’s areas of focus, highlighting UNDRR’s program of work.
ADAPTATION AMBITION

Risks from climate change are complex and affect institutions, communities and ecosystems in an integrated manner. In addition, climate risks do not exist in isolation from other disaster risks. The following chart highlights COP26 negotiation focus areas and UNDRR priority policy asks for each of these. It also provides corresponding information detailing how UNDRR’s current work is already contributing to the COP focus area, programmatically and through advocacy and partnerships that aim to raise ambition.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>COP Negotiation Focus Area</th>
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| Scaling-up work to support climate change adaptation, including developing and implementing National Adaptation Plans | Ensure multi-hazard, systems-level approaches to assessing climate risks and adaptation needs and actions  
Improve metrics for measuring risk-informed adaptation  
Enhance technical and financial support to countries to develop bankable projects to access increased adaptation funding | Technical work in the areas of  
- Improving the assessment and analysis of systemic and cascading disaster and climate risks  
- Technical guidance and support to achieve risk-informed NAPs and climate-sensitive DRR strategies. (Coherence Approach)  
- Research in COVID-19 and systemic nature of risks  
- Classification and interoperability of risk, vulnerability and exposure indicators  
- Analytics on risk information in NAPS and applicability to wider sustainable development. | DRAFT Advocacy and Key Messages (for Parties, non-Party Stakeholders, COP Presidency, and Key Global Campaigns)  
- Ensure that NAP development and implementation are risk-informed, and prioritize implementation in areas most at-risk  
- In a more and more interconnected world, it is critical to look at climate and disaster risk comprehensively  
- Risk reduction and resilience building need to be central in adaptation planning  
- Require investment by governments in climate resilience as a cornerstone of future sustainable development  
- Inclusion of global standards for resilience in the screening criteria for all IFI investments |
**LOSS AND DAMAGE**
The Paris Agreement recognized that there is an urgent need for action now to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. Measuring climate related disaster losses in social and economic terms is a core competency of UNDRR which is well positioned to provide technical support to the Member states and the UNFCCC on this important emerging area of policy and action.

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<td>Scaling-up action and support for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage</td>
<td>Avert and minimize loss and damage through increased financing for risk reduction efforts and risk-informed investments&lt;br&gt;  The application of comprehensive and integrated risk management approaches, including nature-based solutions is essential to reducing the impact of residual climate change risk on sustainable development</td>
<td>▪ Comprehensive Risk Management (under the Technical Expert Group on CRM)&lt;br&gt; ▪ Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF)&lt;br&gt; ▪ Good practices and innovative approaches on disaster risk reduction, environmental impact assessments and disaster risk management&lt;br&gt; ▪ Knowledge products on nature-based solutions&lt;br&gt; ▪ Capacity-development</td>
<td>▪ Scale-up action to measure and understand medium and long term residual risks to inform adaptation planning&lt;br&gt; ▪ Make better use of approaches such as forecast-based financing, shock-responsive social protection, and climate-risk insurance programmes&lt;br&gt; ▪ Actively engage communities, and especially youth who will be most impacted, in policy making on the choices and trade-offs required to manage medium and long term impacts of climate change on societies.</td>
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<td>Advancing work on adaptation and loss and damage metrics</td>
<td>Using and expanding disaster loss databases and risk analytics, in conjunction with DRR actors, to inform actions and investments on losses and damages</td>
<td>▪ Technical support to countries to establish and use disaster loss databases&lt;br&gt; ▪ Enhanced data analytics</td>
<td>▪ Improve methods for measuring financial risks of climate change. Building on existing methods and experience in measuring losses can help fast track this important work.</td>
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<td>Research on systemic risk and long-term climate impact and cost</td>
<td>Improve metrics and require factors such as sea level and irreversible climate change related losses and damages to be included in public and private climate change risk disclosures.</td>
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<td>Strengthen metrics and reporting to empower long-term investors, and particularly pension funds, to make informed decisions on medium and long term climate change risk exposure in their portfolios.</td>
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<td>Operationalization of the Santiago Network(^1)</td>
<td>Mobilizing disaster risk reduction (DRR) expertise under the Santiago Network for the implementation of relevant approaches at the local, national and regional levels</td>
<td>UNDRR engagement in the Santiago Network to provide technical support to countries</td>
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<td>UNDRR engagement in the Santiago Network to provide technical support to countries</td>
<td>Empower mechanisms like the Santiago network to fast-track climate action</td>
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<td>Capacity-development and access to analytical resources and knowledge products</td>
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\(^1\) Santiago Network under the UNFCCC aims to "catalyze the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts, for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimize and addressing L&D at the local, national and regional level, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change" ([Decision 2/CMA.2, para 43](#))
In the face of more intense, more frequent, and more unpredictable climate events, mobilizing the agreed $100 billion annually for climate action is crucial, as is ensuring that wider future investments in sustainable development are climate resilient.

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| Increase in risk-informed investment | Stepped-up technical and financial support for adaptation especially in developing and least-developed nations. Parties to promote risk-informed investment as a key pillar of climate change action. | • Increased investment in resilient infrastructure through engagement in Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure  
• Research on costs and benefits of investments in adaptation and DRR  
• Support for disaster and climate resilience building in the private sector (ARISE) | • Developed countries must fulfil their unmet pledge to mobilize $100 billion annually for climate action in developing countries and to ensure equity across mitigation and adaptation funding.  
• Policy action to require financial markets invest in understanding and disclosing climate related risks.  
• Donors should particularly focus increased technical and financial assistance towards the most vulnerable and least developed countries.  
• Our current investments are dangerously exposed to climate related risks that are not tracked or managed within current financial screening tools and disclosures. Urgent action to increase transparency is required to ensure the economy of tomorrow is sustainable. |

**FINANCE**

DRAFT Advocacy and Key Messages (for Parties, non-Party Stakeholders, COP Presidency, and Key Global Campaigns)

- Developed countries must fulfil their unmet pledge to mobilize $100 billion annually for climate action in developing countries and to ensure equity across mitigation and adaptation funding.
- Policy action to require financial markets invest in understanding and disclosing climate related risks.
- Donors should particularly focus increased technical and financial assistance towards the most vulnerable and least developed countries.
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| Scaling-up anticipatory financing | Sustained investments in institutional anticipatory and risk-informed financing mechanisms to support vulnerable countries to cope with more frequent and extreme climate shocks | - Research into financing and anticipatory action  
- Enhanced risk analytics to support early action in humanitarian contexts  
- Engagement in REAP and other relevant coalitions and partnerships. | - New climate resilient products and standards, as well as stepped up public and private sector investment in climate resilient risk-informed investment vehicles is essential.  
- Scale-up financial disclosure programmes and tools that address both climate and disaster risk  
- Strengthen fiduciary duty, corporate accountability and reporting standards for risk reduction  
- Integrate of climate and disaster risk into Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) mechanisms and related regulatory frameworks  
- Commitments to scale up mechanisms linking early warning, early action and anticipatory finance anchored on long-term resilience, to reduce the humanitarian impact of climate change |