The 8th Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Dates: 6 –7 December 2022
(Sharm El Sheikh - Egypt)

Language: English / Arabic / French
Introduction

Seven years after the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and a year prior to the culmination of its Mid-Term Review (MTR), the world’s underlying vulnerabilities and inequities were violently exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At its seventh session, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) formulated measures to reduce disaster risk for the most vulnerable populations. The forum underlined, among other topics, the need for stronger synergies with the sustainable development and climate change agenda; the need for a transformative recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and the need for continued development and universal access to Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems.

With the above backdrop and following the conclusion of the GPDRR 2022, Climate Change Conference of Parties 27; and building on the outcomes of the Arab Regional Platform for DRR and previous Arab Partnership meetings, the ‘Eighth Arab Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)’ meeting will be held on 06-07 December 2022 with an aim to take stock and accelerate the implementation of the decisions and prioritized action plans emanating for the above key processes.

The first day of the meeting will focus on the outcomes and recommendations of the GPDRR 2022, Seventh Arab Partnership Meeting for DRR, Rabat Declaration, and the Arab States Prioritized Action Plan 2021 – 2024. The day will provide an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in the region through updates and exchanges from national governments and key stakeholders form the region and discuss the opportunities to move forward in accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

With the Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP) twenty seventh and twenty eighth session being held the Arab Region provides an unique opportunity for further strengthening the ability to reduce risk, adapt to climate change and build resilience. The second day of the meeting will focus on the outcomes of the COP 27 and way forward for the COP 28 (to be held in Dubai UAE, in 2023) in enhancing synergies with Climate Change Adaptation and resilience at all levels. It will also provide an occasion to discuss the way forward on implementing the ‘Early Warning For All’ initiative launched by the United Nations Secretary General. Presence of national Sendai Framework focal points along with national representatives from Meteorological departments and the World Meteorological Organization will provide a stage to discuss the scaling-up of early warning and early action through comprehensive disaster and climate risk management in the region.

The day will also provide opportunities for partners from UN, inter-governmental and regional organizations to share their updates and showcase their initiatives on climate and disaster risk reduction.
On the 08th December 2022, a Forum on Making Cities Resilient 2030\(^1\) initiative will be held with a focus on Urban Resilience Planning. The forum will be under the patronage of the Governor of South Sinai and hosted by the Sharm-el-Sheikh city government as the first Resilience Hub\(^2\) in Africa (to be announced in the COP27) under the MCR 2030 programme. It will bring together all Resilience Hubs across the world, Arab cities, national Sendai Framework focal points and key stakeholders to highlight the need for scaling up Cities Resilience in the context of Climate risk management and provide an opportunity to enhance city-to-city collaborations and peer-to-peer support along the resilience journey. \textit{(A separate agenda will be shared in due course)}

### Background of Arab Partnership for DRR

Following the Sendai Framework guidance, UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States has organized several coordination meetings with the aim of accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the region. The most recent declaration, the Rabat Declaration in 2021, which was adopted along with several stakeholder groups’ voluntary action statements, emerged as the outcome of a series of successful coordination meetings.

The aim of the biannual Arab Partnership for DRR meetings since 2017 has been to create a forum for technical and operational deliberations on the progress, challenges, and gaps in the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Arab region. This includes facilitation of regional discussion on innovative solutions towards climate risk management and DRR integration in the SDGs in the Arab region. These periodic discussions on the implementation challenges, gaps and solutions intend to inform the deliberations of the Arab Regional Platform conferences.

\(1\) Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) is a unique cross-stakeholder initiative facilitated by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) for improving local resilience through advocacy, sharing knowledge and experiences, establishing mutually reinforcing city-to-city learning networks, injecting technical expertise, connecting multiple layers of government and building partnerships.

The initiative aims to ensure that cities are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable by 2030, contributing directly to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11) "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, and resilient" and other global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, and the New Urban Agenda.

\(2\) Under the MCR 2030 initiative, Resilience Hubs are local authorities that have an established track record in disaster risk reduction and resilience and are committed to support and mentor other Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) municipalities.

The primary purpose of a Resilience Hub is to enhance city-to-city collaborations and peer-to-peer support. Resilience Hubs have a critical role in knowledge sharing, capacity building, and creating learning opportunities. They should inspire other local governments to commit to greater resilience. Currently, seventeen cities across the world established Resilience Hubs.

In Africa, Sharm-el-Sheikh city embarked on its journey towards resilience and expressed its intent to establish a Resilience Hub under the MCR 2030 initiative. Globally, city of Dubai, UAE established the first Resilience Hub and Sharm-el-Sheikh is successful in establishing the first Resilience Hub in the Africa region.
AGENDA

Day 1: December 06, 2022

08:30 - 09:00  Registration of Participants

Opening Session

09:00 - 09:30  ▪ Welcome remarks by Government of Morocco (TBC)
▪ Opening remarks by Ms. Paola Albrito, Director, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

09:30 – 09:40  Setting the scene of the meeting by Mr. Sujit Mohanty, Chief, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Regional Office for Arab States

Session 1  Taking Stock of Sendai Framework Implementation

09:40 – 10:00  Outcomes of the Seventh Session of the Global Platform for DRR, Bali-Indonesia / 5th Regional Platform for DRR / 7th Arab Partnership Meeting for DRR
Presentation by Mr. Fadi Jannan, Deputy Chief, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Regional Office for Arab States

10:00 – 10:20  Progress so far on the Prioritized Action Plan 2021-2024 for Disaster Risk Reduction
Presentation by (TBC)

10:20 – 10:45  Coffee Break

10:45 – 13:00  Update from governments on the implementation of Sendai Framework/ Prioritized Action Plan 2021-2024 / Rabat Declaration
(The update will focus on progress in national/ local strategies, National Platforms, Sendai Framework Monitor, disaster loss databases, early warning systems)
Open discussion

13:00 – 14:00  Lunch Break

Session 2  Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement

14:00 – 14:10  Update on Major Stakeholder Groups’ Voluntary Action Commitments by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Regional Office for Arab States
14:10 – 15:15 Update from Stakeholders on their progress in implementing their Voluntary Action Commitments and in finalizing their TORs and proposed action plans:
- Arab Science and Technology Advisory Group for DRR
- Arab Civil Society Group for DRR
- Arab Children & Youth Group for DRR
- Arab Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies Stakeholder Group for DRR
- Arab Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Group for DRR
- Private sector alliance for disaster resilient societies (ARISE)
- Arab Media network for DRR

15:15 – 15:30 Open Discussion on challenges, opportunities and concrete recommendations to strengthen stakeholders’ engagement with the governments to support the implementation of Sendai Framework at regional, national and local levels

15:30 – 17:00 Mid Term Review for the Sendai Framework in the Arab Region – Findings / High Level Forum 2023
Presentation by UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States

17:00 – 17:15 Summary of day one

17:15 – Coffee Break
## Day 2: December 07, 2022

### 09:00 – 09:10
Recap of Day 1 and introduction of the agenda for Day 2

### Session 3  COP27 – COP28: The Road from Sharm El Sheikh to Dubai

**09:10 - 10:10**
COP27: Outcomes / Key findings & Implications on DRR
Presentation by *UNDRR*

The Road to COP28
Presentation by *(TBC)*

Case study on a Coherent Strategy for DRR at the National level
Presentation by *(TBC)*

### 10:10 – 10:40
Open Discussion

### 10:40 – 11:00
Coffee Break

### Session 4  Early Warnings for All: Implementing the Global Commitment

**11:00 – 13:00**
Introducing Early Warning for All Action Plan
Presentation by *WMO / UNDRR*

Disaster Risk Knowledge & Management
Presentation by *UNDRR*

Scaling-up early warning and early action through comprehensive disaster and climate risk management
Presentation by *UNDRR *(TBC)*

A National Perspective on building connections between Disaster Risk Management and National Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems
Presentation by *(TBC)*

### 13:00 – 13:15
Open Discussion

### 13:15 - 14:30
Lunch Break

### Session 5  UN & Regional Organizations Updates on DRR / Climate Change

**14:30 – 15:30**
Updates from UN and Regional organizations on DRR

**15:30 – 16:30**
Transforming Governance for a Resilient Future
Presentation on Global Assessment Report 2022 by *UNDRR*

Regional Assessment Report 2023 Updates
Presentation by: *UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States*
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<td>17:00 – 17:20</td>
<td><strong>Closing Remarks</strong> - Government of Morocco/ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
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**End of Meeting**

17:20 - Coffee Break